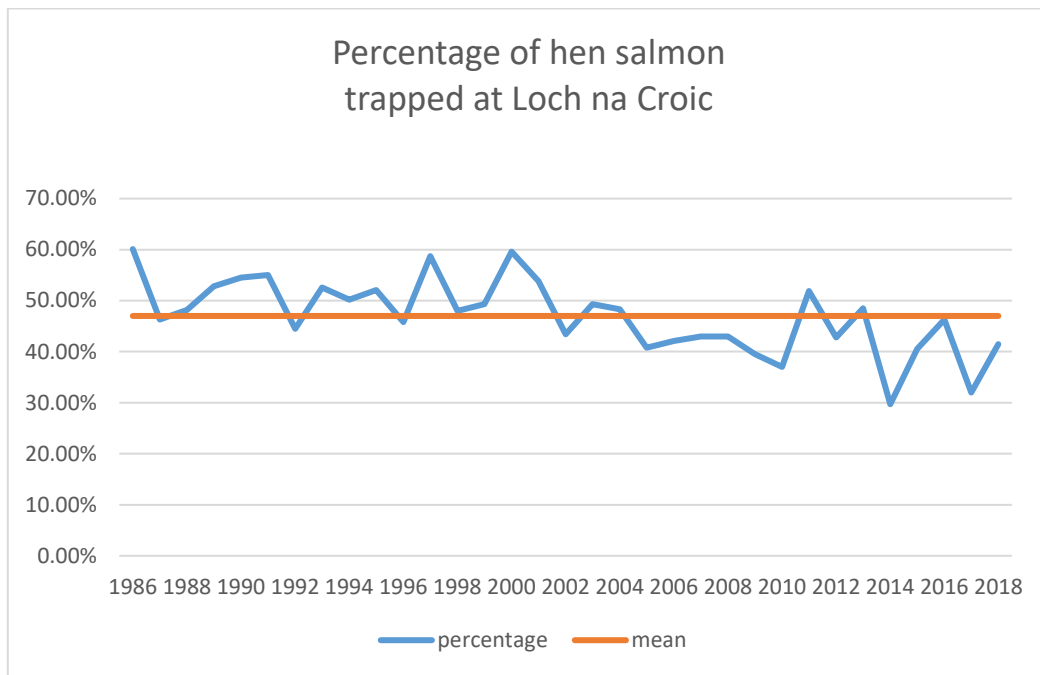


November/December 2018

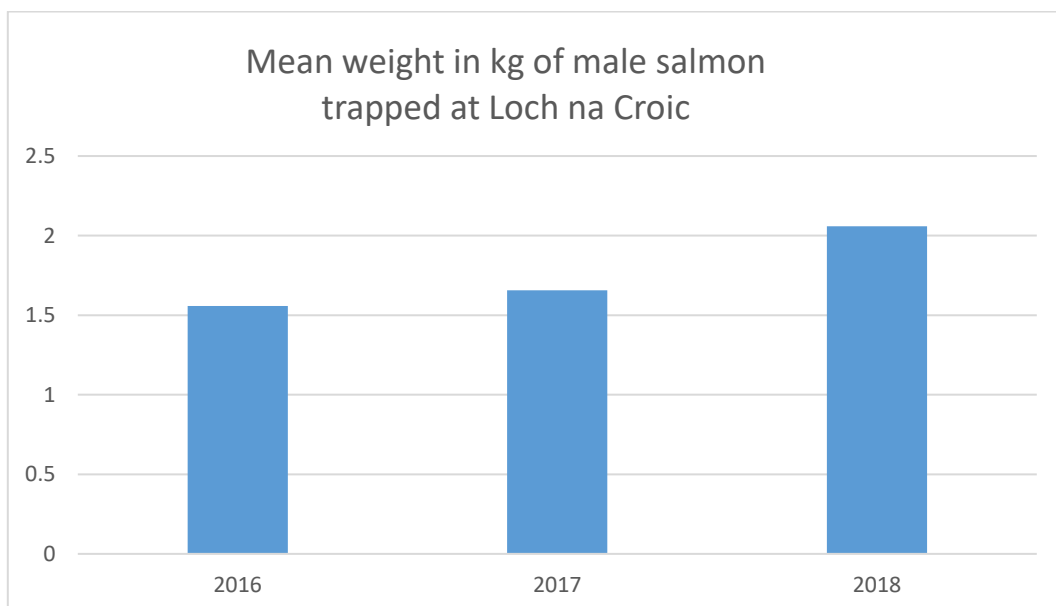
The fish trap was opened on the 8th November and closed on the 13th December. The screens are now lifted.

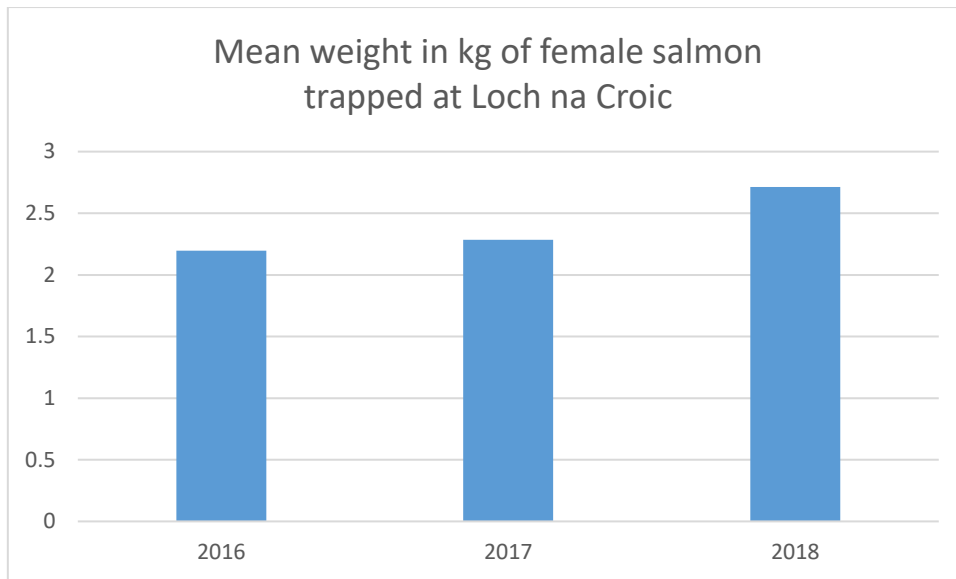
A total of 592 fish (5 year mean 676) were caught consisting of 246 hens (5 year mean 257) and 346 males (5 year mean 418)

The percentage of hens trapped increased to 41.5% from 32% in 2017.

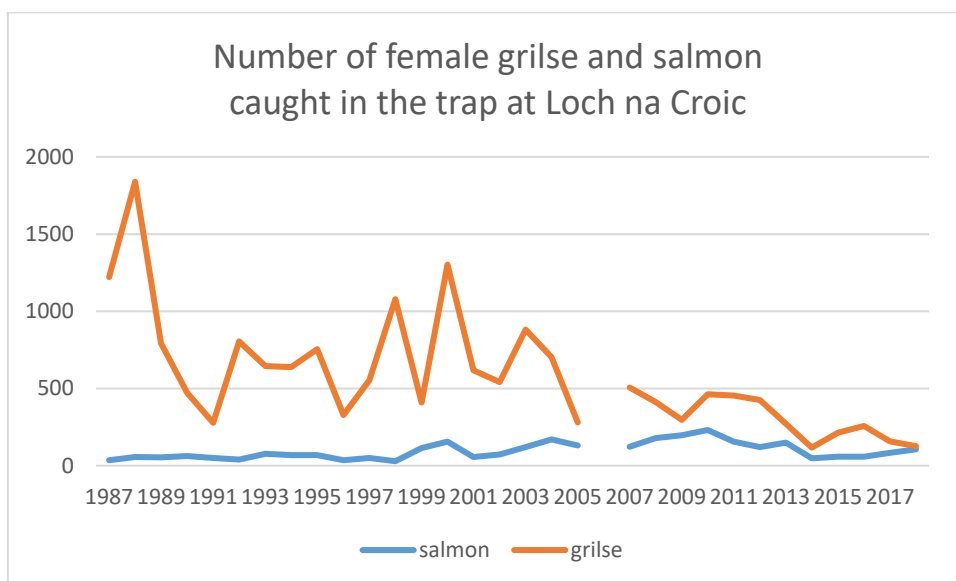


Since 2016 the majority of the salmon caught in the trap have been weighed and measured. This year saw an increase again in the mean weight and lengths of both male and females. The females were 430g and the males 402g heavier with both sexes 31mm longer compared to 2017.





The proportion of the females returning as grilse continues to decline with this year seeing almost a 50/50 split between the number of 1SW and 2SW fish caught.



A total of 679,200 salmon eggs and 343,875 grilse eggs have been laid down in the hatchery. This makes a total of 1,023,075.

Further to that a fish rescue was carried out on the 19/11/18 below Luichart Dam. A total of 3 hen Bran grilse and 2 hen Bran salmon were stripped yielding a total 7000 grilse and 14400 salmon eggs.

Board staff assisted a PhD student from Glasgow University at Loch na Croic. A total of 120 families were stripped as part of the project.

Equipment for the proposed tree planting project, which has been kindly donated by the Highland Aspen Group, has been delivered. A second load along with the poly tunnel is expected in the New Year.

The Orrin trap was closed on the 13/12/18.

A hatchery open day was held in November and proved popular with a total of 17 people coming along to watch the salmon being trapped and stripped.

Board staff have had the help of a volunteer for the past month. Charlie Bond has been a great help and proved to be a willing and capable worker.

The clearing of non-native trees on the River Blackwater was carried out. Buffer strips of 30m are to be cleared on both banks beside burns on Forestry Commission land.

Information on the activities of board staff can be found on Twitter @cromartyboard or on Facebook at 'Cromarty Firth Fishery Board and Trust'.