

Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Fish investigation for Old Walls Hydro Electric Scheme on the West Webburn

Investigation into the impact of Jordan's Leat Weir as a barrier to migratory fish which supplies Old Walls Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Location Map and Fish site details



West Webburn @ Challacombe Farm SX6943079590

West Webburn @ Grendon Bridge SX6880678498

West Webburn @ Lower Cator Bridge SX6894076450

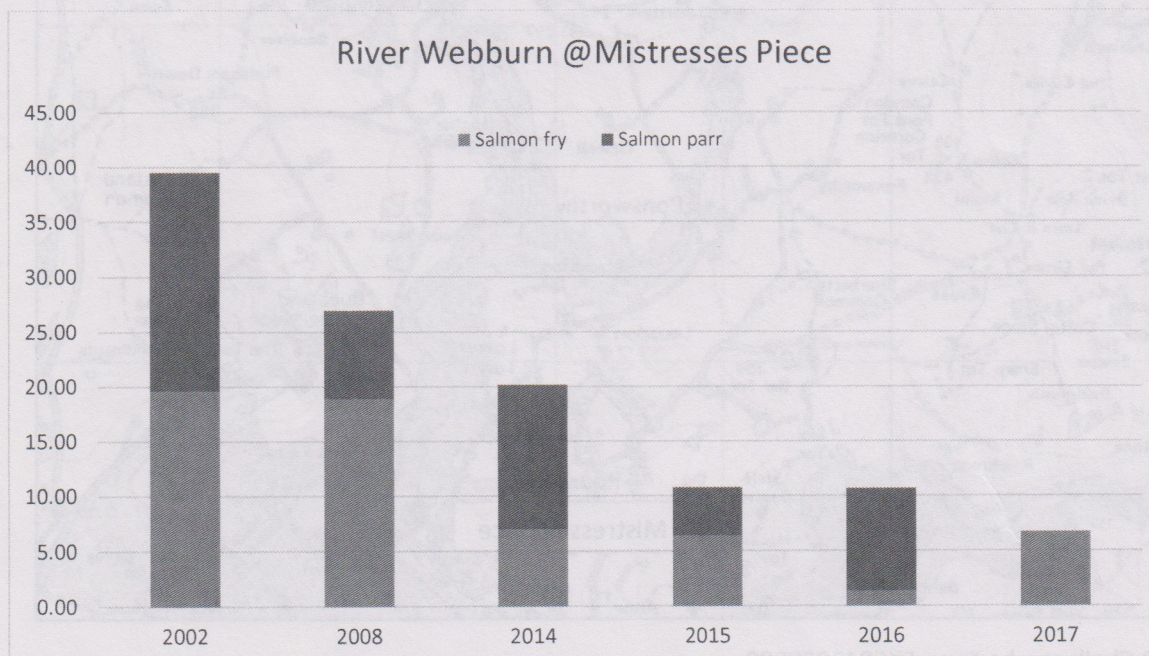
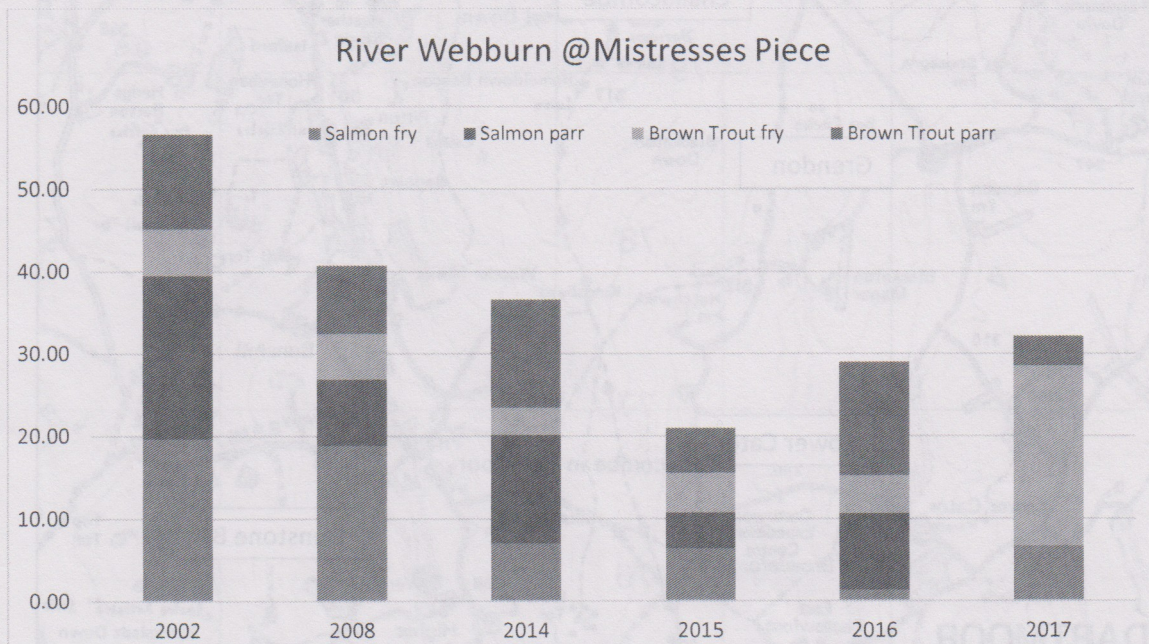
East Webburn @ U/S Dunstone Bridge SX7180076040

River Webburn @ Mistresses Piece SX7182072150

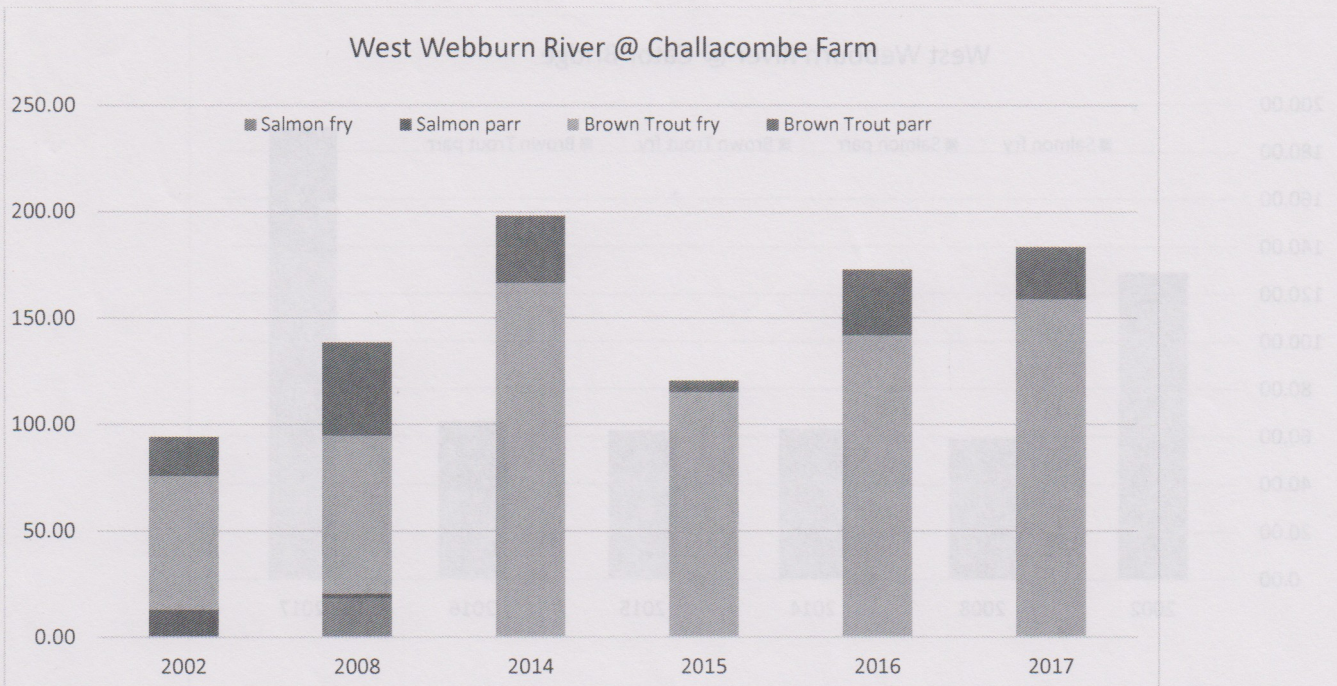
The Environment Agency has data from 5 fish survey sites spread over the Webburn Catchment. Three extra years surveys have been carried out recently to help our understanding of the situation.

The best way to present this data is in graph form. The graphs have prepared to show Salmon and Trout together and a separate graph just showing Salmon and the decline is clear to see at all sites please see below.

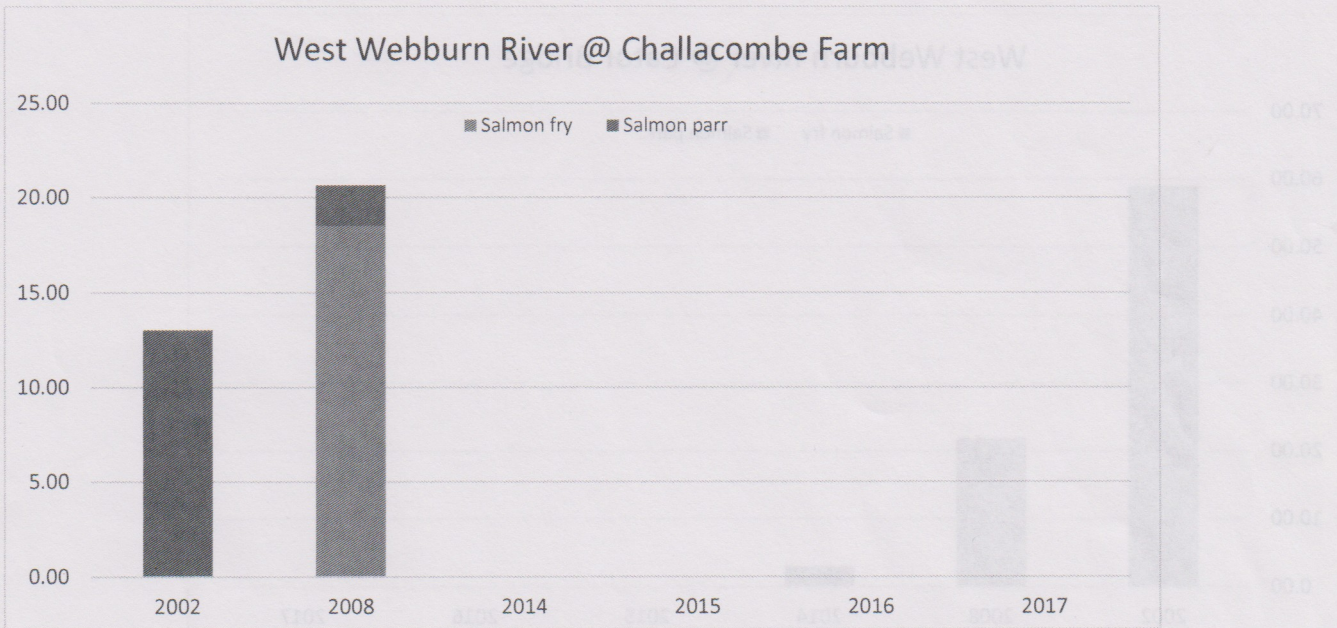
All graphs show fish as a density/100m².



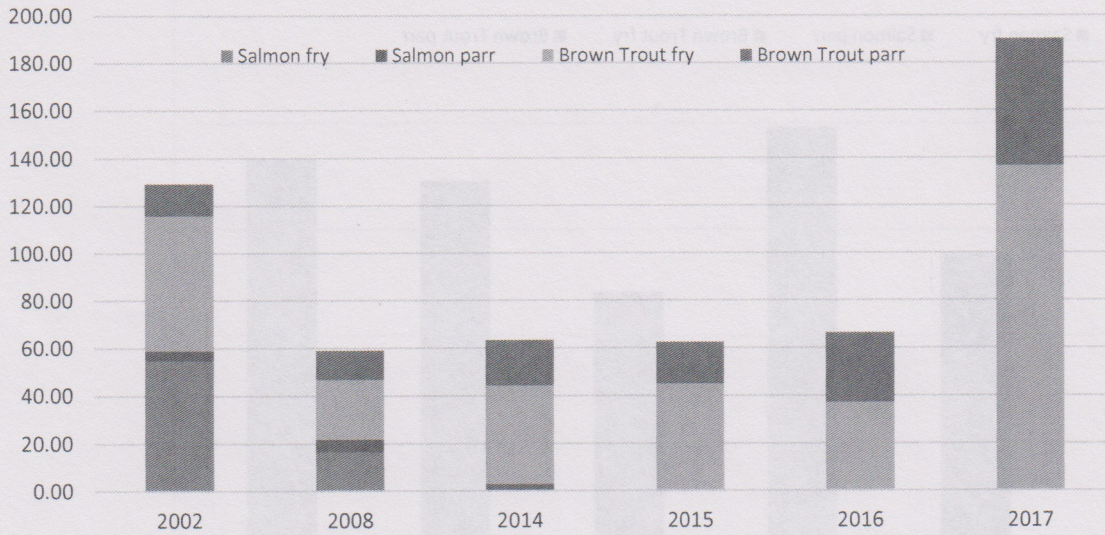
West Webburn River @ Challacombe Farm



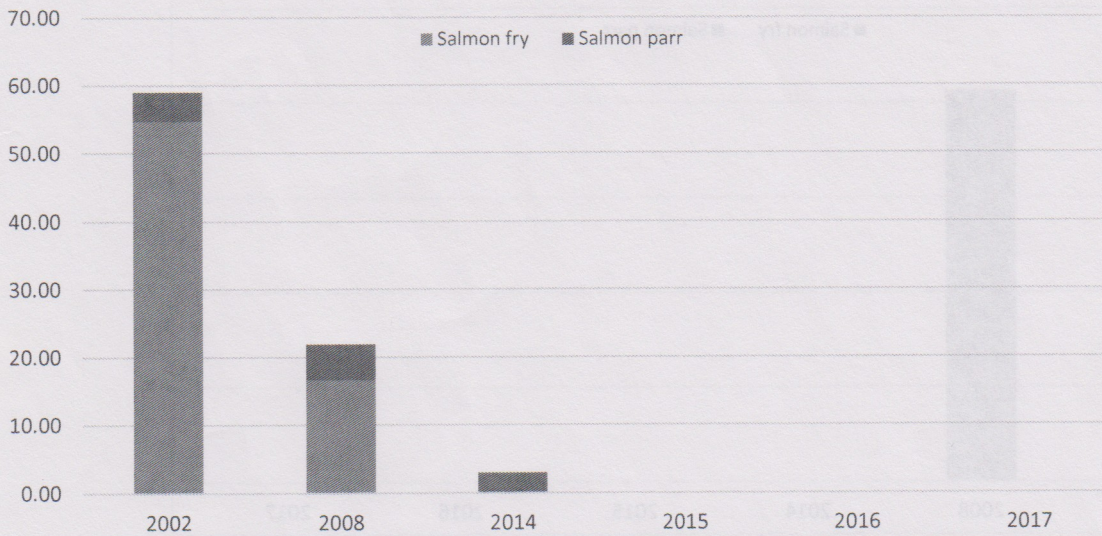
West Webburn River @ Challacombe Farm

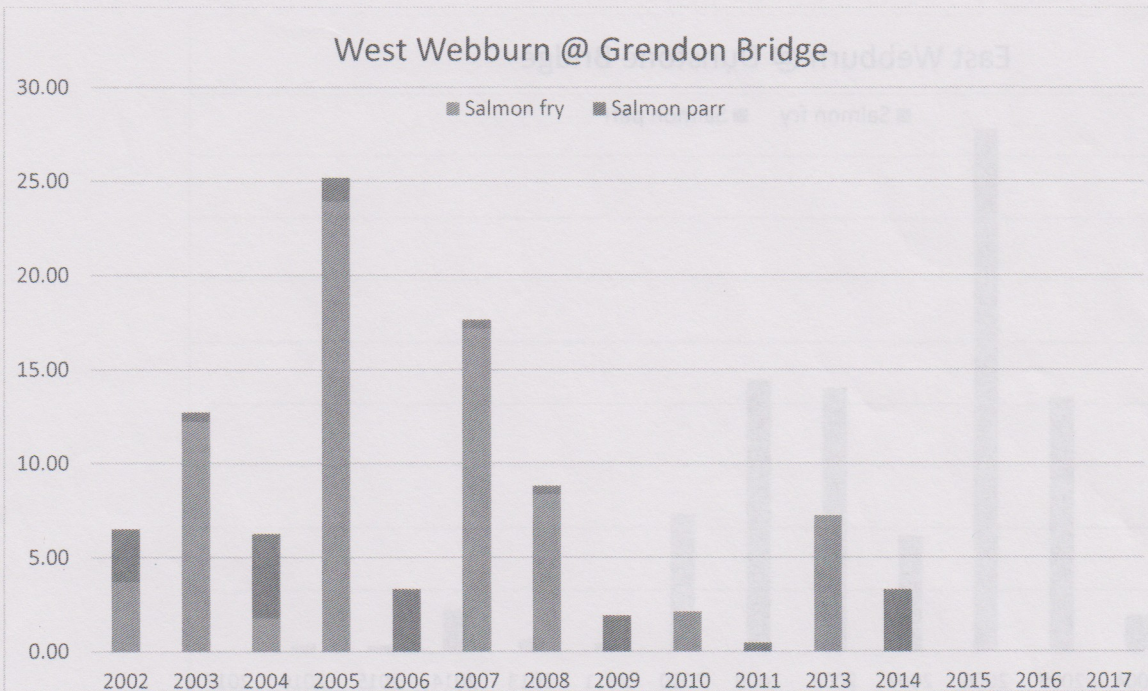
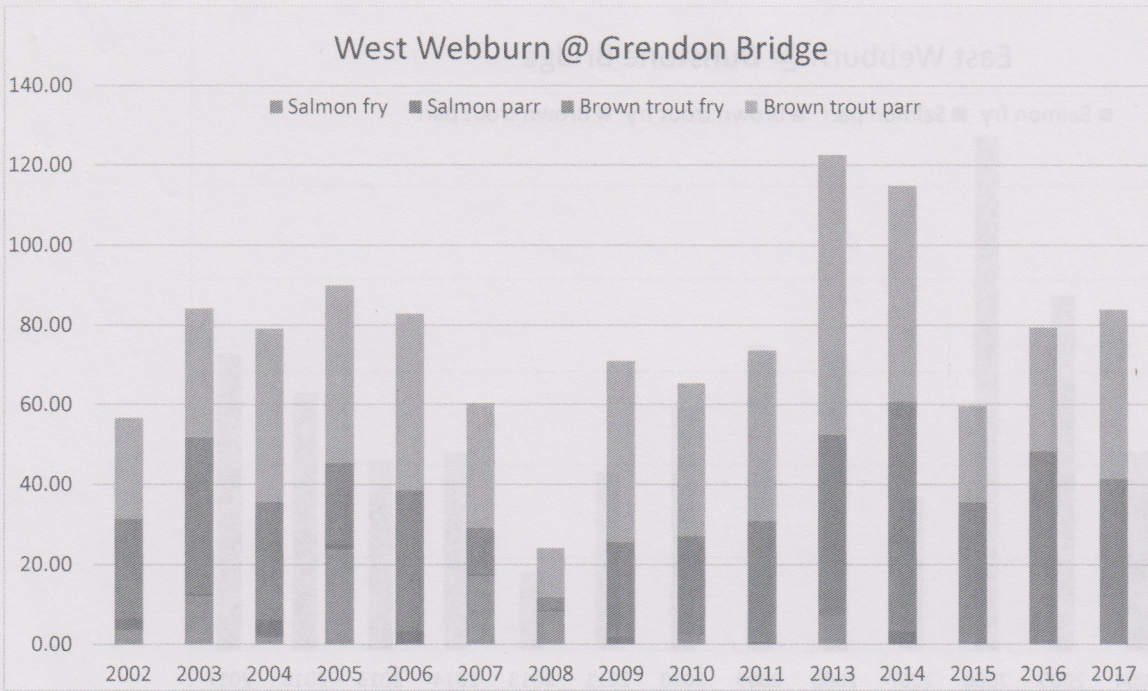


West Webburn River @ Cator Bridge

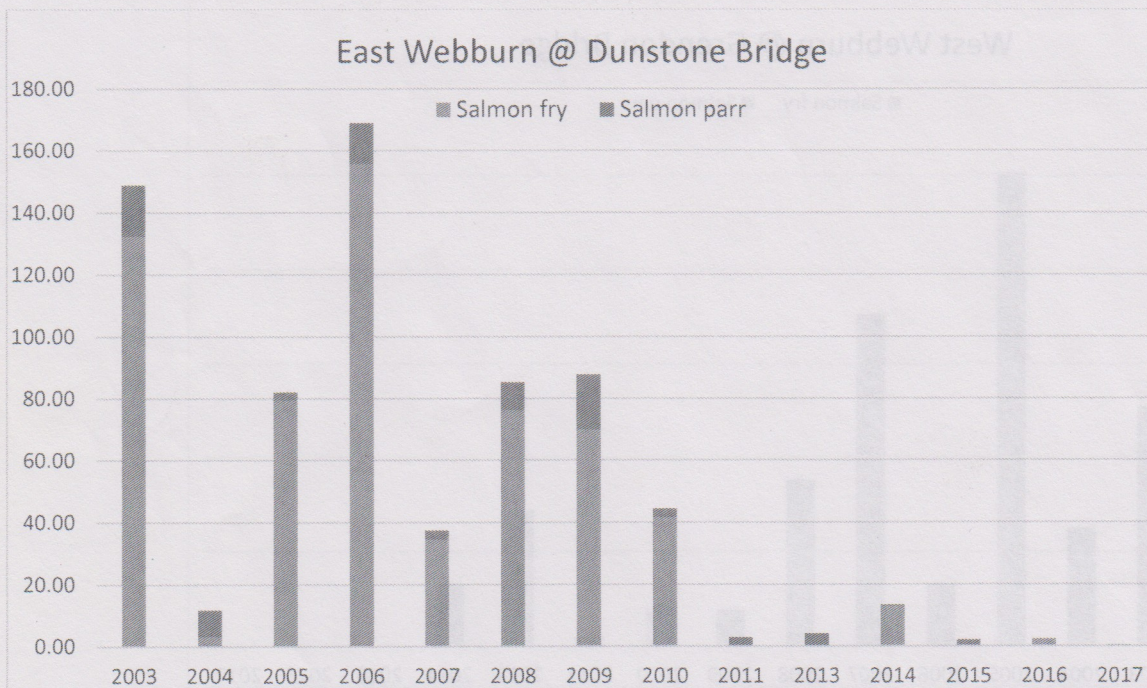
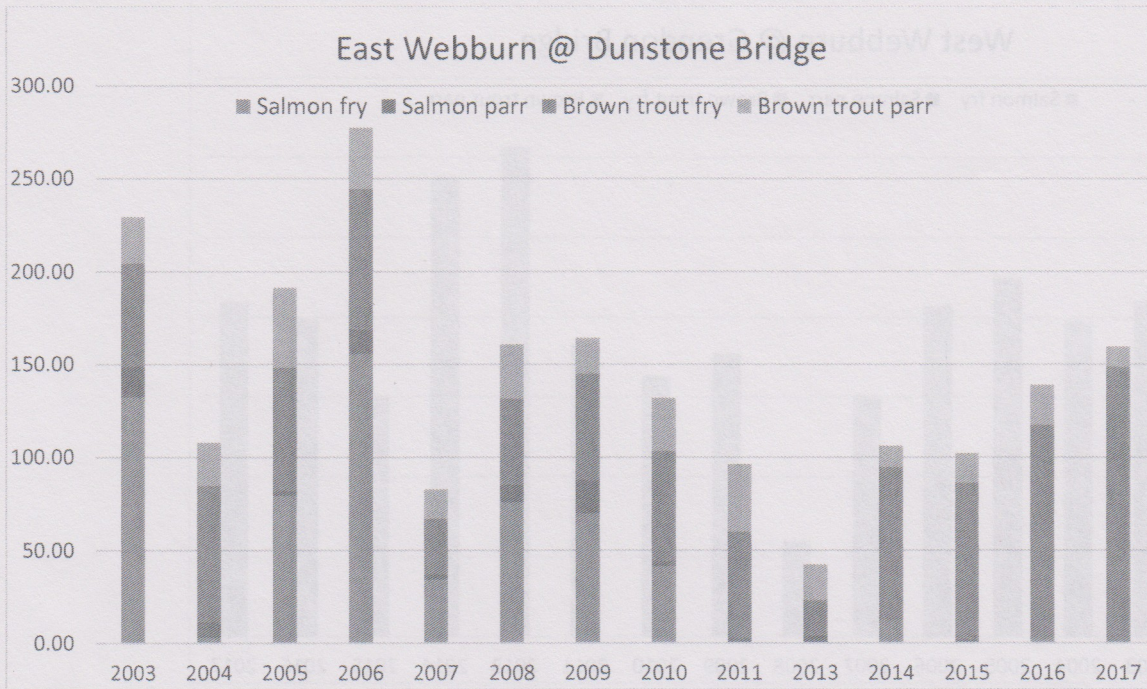


West Webburn River @ Cator Bridge





The data analysis clearly shows that the decline in salmon numbers are catchment wide across all Webburn fish. Similar surveys results showing a decline in salmon have been found in other tributaries of the Dart in recent years. The report therefore has no evidence that the salmon decline is caused by Old Wells Hydro-electric Scheme. The Old wells hydro scheme may have a local impact on fish movement and improvements to the screens to stop ingress of fish are needed. Similarly a Westcountry Rivers Trust Report in 2014, was not able to demonstrate any negative impact on migratory fish due to the weir at Jordan's leaf. Brown trout numbers have remained good. This helps to show that the water quality and habitat have not contributed to the decline in salmon.



Conclusions

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