

## Salmon Fry and Parr – the Future of the River

As reported in the Chairman's Report for 2010 most members will know the reason why the river was opened for catch and release for salmon fishing this year was based on the salmon fry counted as part of an extended electro fishing program conducted over the past number of years.

A recent electro fishing trip to the head waters of one of our tributaries shows how important these small waters are to the future of the river. From the attached photos you see just how small and shallow a stream can provide both spawning gravel for the returning salmon and shelter and food for the fry.



The electro fishing team in action



A healthy juvenile salmon

It is absolutely critical that we maintain vigilance to ensure that these waters are kept clean, free from obstructions and unscrupulous individuals who see it as their right to take fish off the redds at spawning time.

It also important that anglers play their part by handling all fry, parr or smolts caught with great care in returning them to the water.

While the incidence of parr being caught today while fishing for trout or salmon is a great indicator of the future health of the salmon stocks it can be difficult to tell the difference between a small trout and a parr. A good guide to the differences and identification can be found at [http://www.fishingnet.com/parr\\_recognition.htm](http://www.fishingnet.com/parr_recognition.htm)

Regardless of whether it is a salmon or a trout all fish being returned should be handled with care – you never know whether the fingerling going back today could be the 2lb seatrout or 20lb springer on the end of your line in a few years time.