

## Recaptured Flowerdale (Loch Gairloch) sea trout, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

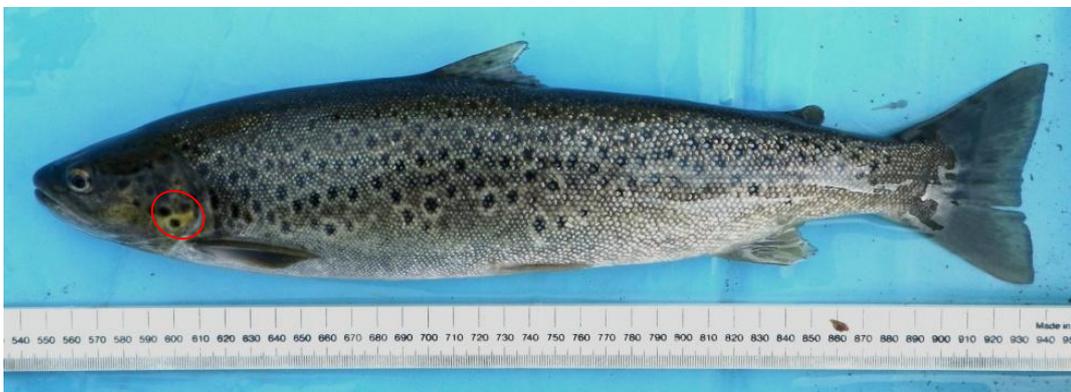
Match the spots!

From distinctive scale pattern, this fish (the longest fish caught on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021) can be recognised as one seen before in September 2019. Note that this fish was in pre-sawning colouration when caught in September 2019 and was silvery again in April 2021.

This fish had a split tail in September 2019; this appears to have largely healed (not seen in photo or noted in records for 30 April '21). The dorsal fin, which was already eroded in 2019, appears to have partially grown back from the base, however it is damaged again. Note also that the ventral fin was a bit damaged in 2019 and has grown back a bit. In terms of growth, this fish has increased in length by 141mm over one summer and two winters and almost doubled in mass.

That is above average growth for a Flowerdale sea trout!

*(below) Sea trout 384mm, 660g, just one louse, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 maturing ?female . . .*



*(below) Sea trout 525mm, 1295g, 50 lice, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Most likely this fish spawned again in 2020. Photo by Coll Mackenzie.*



There are other examples of recaptured Flowerdale sea trout on the WRFT website; for some examples please see: <http://www.wrft.org.uk/files/wrft%20sea%20trout%20monitoing%20report%20April%202021%20v5.pdf> (compare the growth of the female trout on p21 and p22 of this report).

Please contact WRFT if you would like to help with sea trout sampling in Wester Ross area. Thank you to Coll and other volunteers for their help on 30<sup>th</sup> April '21.

*Peter Cunningham, May 2021*

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