

# Salmon in Ormarsá and Deildará 2003

## 1. Ormarsá

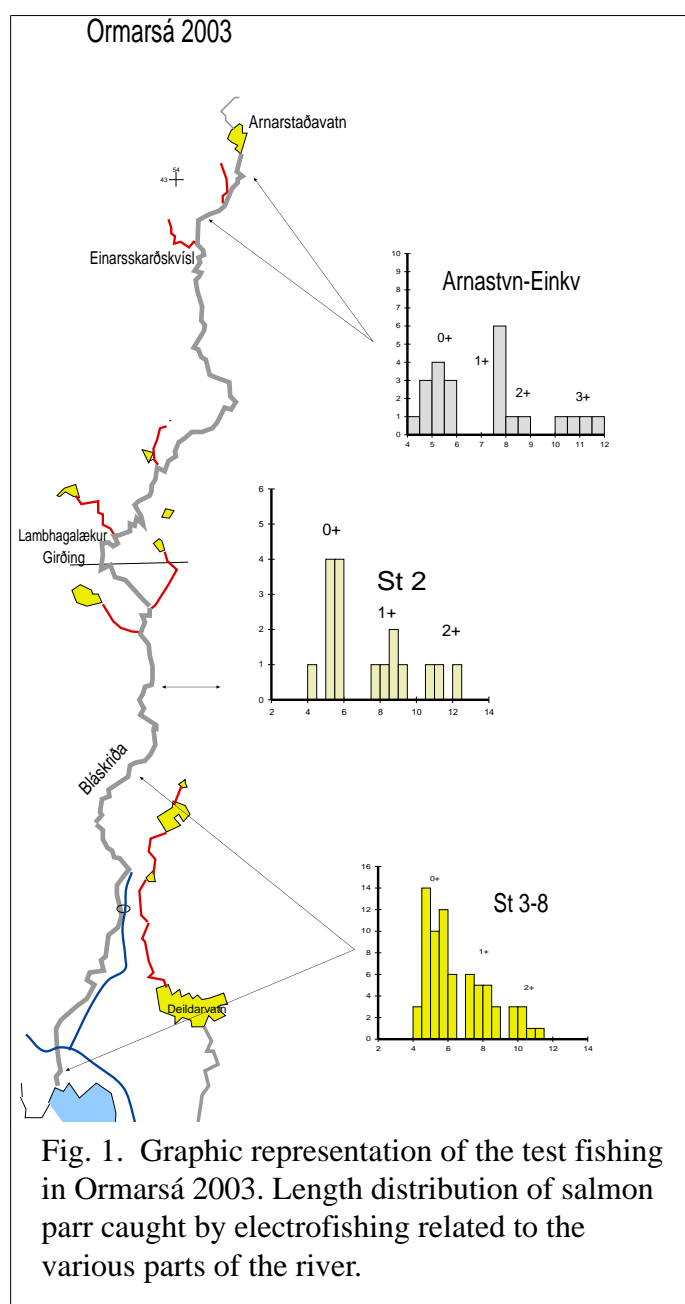
The river was investigated august 24- 26, 2003, fished with electricity and age samples taken from salmon parr.

## Results

The catch of salmon parr at various sites is shown graphically in fig.1 and listed in table 1.

## General

The summer 2003 was exceptionally warm in N-Iceland, fig. 4 shows the mean daily temperature at Raufarhöfn in June - August 2001 - 2003. These favourable conditions were reflected by dense bottom vegetation in the rivers and very good growth of parr. As there have been many consecutive warm years the size by age of parr is the best ever recorded. In fact, growth of parr is comparable to or even better than in the most productive rivers in W- Iceland.



## The fishing sites:

### 1. The stretch Arnarstaðavatn - Einarsskarðskvísl.

The river was fished at two sites, from a site approximately 1 km below Arnarstaðavatn down towards Einarsskarðskvísl. Total area fished was 130 m<sup>2</sup>. The parr population was normal. 0+ salmon parr were found in great numbers. The 0+ parr were exceptionally big, 5.2 cm on the average.

### 2. Above 22

The river is here 25 m wide, shallow with a coarse bottom. Dense moss vegetation and high density of parr at all sizes.

### 3. Bláskriða

Very few parr were caught, difficult to catch due to dense moss vegetation.

Table 1. Mean length at age, and number of salmon parr caught at various sites in Ormarsá august 25-28th 2003. Number of fish in brackets.

Site No	Location	Areal (m <sup>2</sup> )	Density				4+Fish/100 m <sup>2</sup>
			0+	1+	2+	3+	
1	Below Arnarstaðavn..	130	5.2 (11)	7.7(7)	8.7 (1)	10.9 (4)	18
2	Above 22	50	5.2 (8)		10.4 (4)		24
3	Blaskrida	100	4.3 (1)	7.3(1)	8.9 (4)		6
4	Pool 14	50	5.4 (21)		10.1 (2)		46
6	200 m Below Foss	60	5.8 (9)	9.2 (2)			18
7	Pool 4	70	4.6 (3)	7.9 (14)			24
8	Bridge	70	4.7 (11)	7.7 (4)			21
Total:		530+	(64)	(28)	(11)	(4)	20

#### 4. Above pool 14, below a small island in the river.

High densities of 0+ parr, dense moss.

#### 6. Where the road comes to the river 200 m below Foss.

Very good population of 0+ parr, no 1+ and very few older fish. Growth is very good. the 0+ fish almost 6 cm long, compared to 3.5 cm in bad years.

#### 7. Above fishing pool no. 4.

High densities of parr. Bottom was covered with moss close to the shore. Catch figures do not reflect true density as the parr are hidden and protected by the dense moss.

#### 8. Below the bridge at the estuary.

Good population of 0+ and 1+ parr, very good growth.

### Comments

Parr density in Ormarsá is high and growth is very good, the best ever recorded. During the electrofishing a lot of large parr, pre- smolts or even true smolt was registered. When caught, they were released and are not included in the fishing data.

The growth was so good that the parr came 'out of sync' so to say. The parr became too big, and seemed to smolt in the fall. Unusually high densities of pre- smolts, large parr, were noticed in late summer. In the beginning of September they disappeared and fishermen reported that they had migrated down the river. This behaviour is not reported earlier from icelandic salmon rivers and the consequences are unknown.

The parr production in Ormarsá 2003 was very good and from that point of view the outlooks for 2004 are good.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of 2 SW salmon has increased (except in 2002), being close to 1/1 in 2001 and 2003 (fig 3.). This is also the case for other salmon rivers in the general area.

Year	1 SW	2 SW
74	68	55
75	71	46
76	108	39
77	195	80
78	74	212
79	50	69
80	4	120
81	47	7
82	11	34
83	62	25
84	23	50
85	168	16
86	155	195
87	120	155
88	191	87
89	139	125
90	64	122
91	114	42
92	280	55
93	157	209
94	60	109
95	153	10
96	89	92
97	109	32
98	85	35
99	47	59
00	129	20
01	109	124
02	153	46
03	105	128

Table 2. Catch of grilse (1 SW) and salmon (2 SW) in Ormarsá 1974-2003

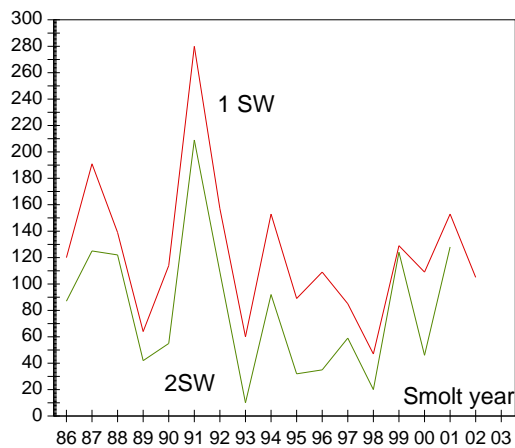


Fig. 3. N. of 1 and 2 SW fish originating from the smolt-year- classes 1986-2002.

## 2. Deildará

The river was fished at two sites August 26th, 2003. The river seemed in a very good state with high densities of parr in good condition. Growth was very good.

Salmon parr were found in the tributary to Deildarárvatn showing that salmon spawn in the inlets of the lake.

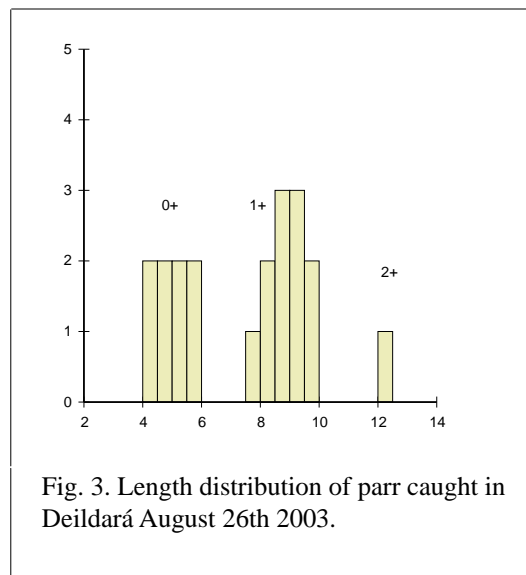


Fig. 3. Length distribution of parr caught in Deildará August 26th 2003.

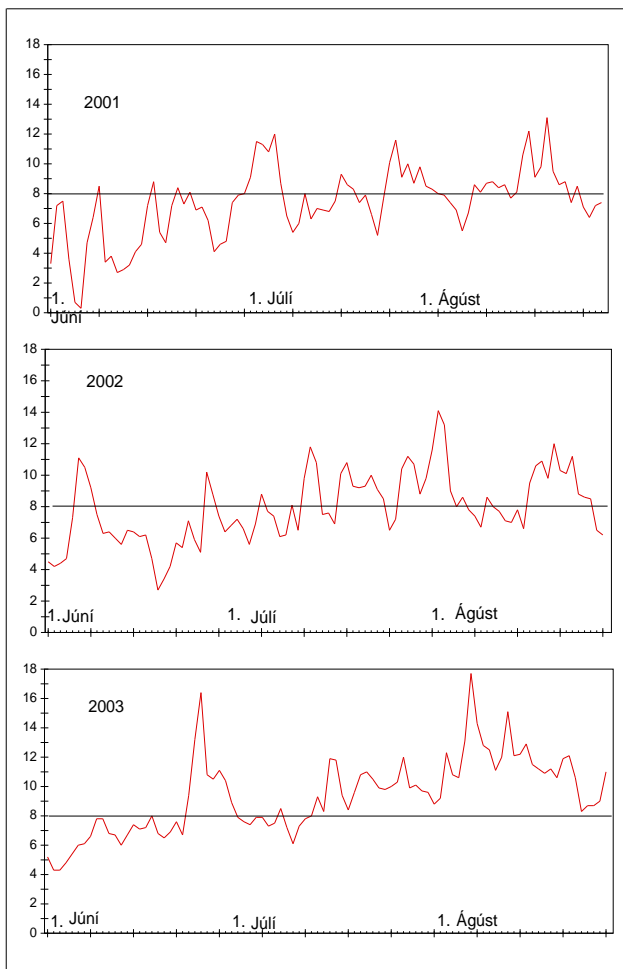


Fig. 4. Mean daily temperature at Raufarhöfnin in June, July and August 2001-2003.

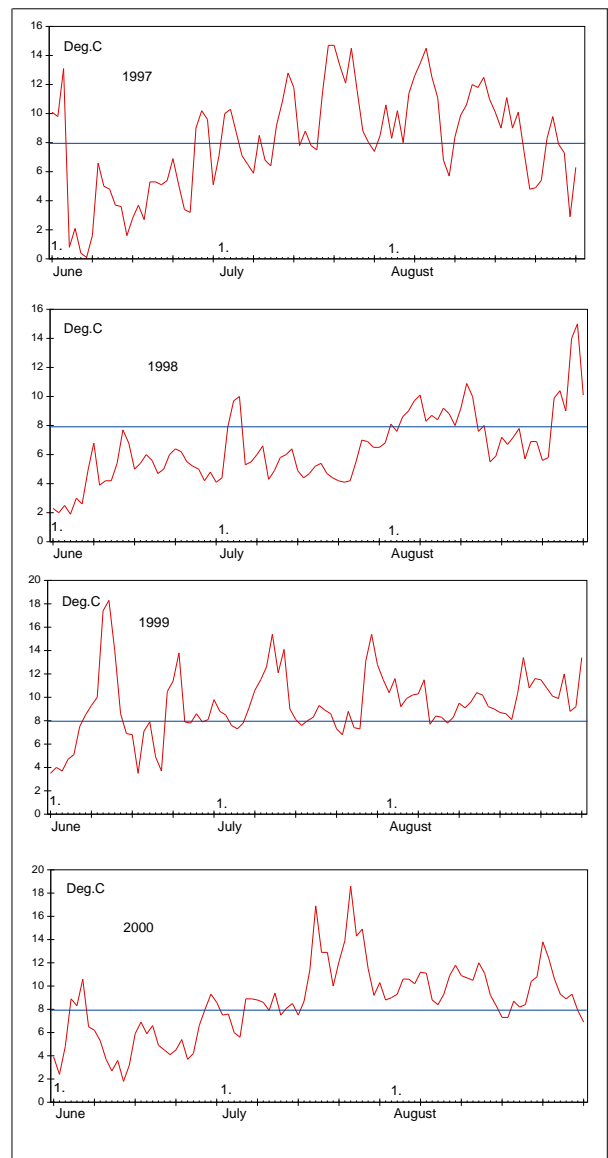


Fig. 5. Mean daily temperature at Raufarhöfnin in June, July and August 1997-2000.