

# Catch & Release - Fish of the Month

The Western Isles Fisheries Trust have announced the October winner of the Catch and Release programme as Jack Mitchell of Harthill, West Lothian.

Jack was on a three day holiday fly fishing for Sea trout on North Uist when he managed to capture a hefty hen Salmon (length 40 Inches) estimated to weigh between 20 and 25 lbs.

The huge fish was tempted by a silver stoat fly tied by Tom Galbraith (Jack's companion), to a pattern used by former local ghillie, Ian Smith. The fish was caught on loch Trosabhat (Horisary system) during a day of gale force winds and heavy rain, which meant that fishing from a sheltered bank, was the only sensible option.

The Salmon was hooked on light Sea trout tackle and gave a tremendous battle. After approximately 15 minutes the fish was careful-



Jack Mitchell with a 40 inch long hen Salmon which he caught from loch Trosabhat (North Uist) on Friday the 27th of October.

ly landed, quickly measured in length, photographed and gently returned to the water.

Phil Bell of Lochmaddy Hotel checked the catch records going back over 30 years and this Salmon is the heaviest reported to the hotel.

North Uist Estate factor, George Macdonald was surprised by the size of the Salmon, particularly because loch

Trosabhat is predominantly a Sea trout loch and the occasional

Salmon that have been caught there in the past have been Grilse of between 3 and 6 lbs.

During their visit Jack and Tom also landed and returned several Sea trout weighing between 2 lb 8 oz and 3 lb. They are looking forward to returning next season to continue their fishing exploits on North Uist waters which have already spanned 15 years.

Well done Jack on the capture and return of what is the largest reported Salmon caught in the Hebrides this season.

This has landed Jack the October 'Fish of the Month' trophy, along with a tackle voucher for £75. His catch will also automatically be entered for fish of the season which will be judged in late November.

Tight Lines  
Donnie Maciver  
Angling Promotion  
Officer

Western Isles Fisheries  
Trust



Tom Galbraith (Jack's fishing companion) returning the huge hen Salmon.