

Proposed adjustments to the Kielder release schedule 2025.

I am writing to inform you of proposed adjustments to this year's Kielder release schedule.

As with previous years the Environment Agency has various scheduled projects and essential in-river works. These works require a reduction in Kielder releases to ensure the safety of our staff and contractors.

To reduce impacts on river users we are keen to communicate these proposed changes to you in advance.

Our project teams will endeavour to stick to proposed dates, however weather conditions and operational health and safety constraints may cause cancellations of the work. If this happens the releases from Kielder will revert to the usual release schedule.

The nature of our work may also involve some additional amendments to the schedule which are not listed below. Where possible we will try to keep changes to a minimum and coordinate planned in-river works to optimise use of each adjustment to the release.

Details of the proposed adjustments:

What?	When?	Why?	Impact
Reduced flows to help facilitate coarse fish and lamprey migration.	Last week in March to second week in April. Dependent on weather and natural flow conditions. If flows are naturally high, then lower releases will not be beneficial.	This period is key for the migration of coarse fish to spawning areas upstream including over obstacles such as the footings for Wylam Bridge.	Compensation flow release for 2 - 3 days.
Juvenile Fish Population Surveys	*Early July to early August. *Exact date can only be determined two weeks in advance due to a range of biosecurity factors and continuity of datasets. Best endeavours will be made to undertake the surveys during the same period as FWPM collection activities below.	Work is undertaken to monitor juvenile fish populations, understand fish species distribution across any given catchment, support permitting activities whilst also contributing towards developing an understanding of the overall health of the river.	Work will take a full week (Mon-Fri), during which the release from Kielder will be reduced to compensation flow.
Fresh water pearl mussel (FWPM) broodstock and larval collection	Early July to early August when FWPM release their larvae.	FWPMs are a critically endangered and protected species, so it is vital that this work is carried out to help secure their future.	Work will take between 3-5 days, during which time the release from Kielder will be reduced to compensation flow.
FWPM broodstock return	September to November		Work will take between 2-3 days, during which time the release from Kielder will be reduced to compensation flow.

What?	When?	Why?	Impact
Salmon and sea trout Broodstock collection	All week commencing 3 November. If significant rainfall is forecast w/c 3 November, operations may need to be postponed by one week. If the required number of fish have not been collected further programmed releases may need to be adjusted w/c 17 November.	Required to enable the Environment Agency and Kielder Salmon Centre to meet legal requirements and environmental improvements to aquatic populations.	Release from Kielder will be reduced to between 1.32m ³ /sec and 2.5m ³ /sec on these dates.