

Proposed adjustments to the Kielder release schedule.

This document provides information on 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 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.

As the table below shows, our project and routine work require access to the river at different times of the year for a variety of reasons. We need to ensure the safety of our staff and a reduction in Kielder releases is one of the main ways to facilitate this.

We hope this information helps people to understand the reasons for the timings of the reduced releases and that having advanced notice of this is useful.

Details of the proposed adjustments:

What?	When?	Why?	Impact
Riding Mill fish counter repairs requiring the radial gates to be raised	24 - 28 June or 1-5 July. We hope to complete the work in just one of those weeks, but it may take the full two weeks.	The fish counter provides us with an independent estimate of the numbers of salmon and sea trout migrating upstream of the site. This data is used to estimate the performance of the returning stocks. Management decisions and actions to protect and conserve of Atlantic salmon on the River Tyne are based on this data.	5m ³ /sec release starting the day before the works commence. The release needed may vary slightly depending on natural flow conditions
Fresh water pearl mussel (FWPM) collection	mid 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 2-3 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
Salmon and sea trout Broodstock collection	5, 6, 12 and 13 November	Required for the Kielder Salmon Hatchery	Release from Kielder will be reduced to 1.5m ³ /sec