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## Fly Fishing - Scotland, North Esk 8-14.3.2020

**Fly fishing trip to one of Scotlands premier salmon rivers - the North Esk. Fishmaster will arrange a hosted fly fishing trip to the Stracathro beat on 8th-14th March 2020.** Jouni Rauha will work as a host for this fishing trip. The previous years same period there has been caught a good number of spring salmon, also called as springers.

**North Esk.** The North Esk is one of Scotlands premier salmon rivers and is located in the eastern part of Scotland. It runs through the valley of Glen Esk, over the dramatic gorges at Edzell Loups, then across Morphy Dyke and finally enters the sea just North of Montrose. River North Esk is well known for its early run salmon and the best spring fishing season is from March until May. The North Esk is a very beautiful river which suits well for fly fishing. Overall, the main stem of the river is around 45 km with tributaries like the West Water providing additional fishing.

**Fly Fishing - Stracathro Beat.** Our fly fishing group of four persons will fish exclusively the private Stracathro beat. Stracathro is one of the best beats of the river. It is situated about 11 km from the sea, and about 3 km below the Edzell Loups. It can all be fished from the north bank, on which stands a large and comfortable fishing hut. The beat starts at the confluence of the North Esk with its major tributary, the West Water. It is double banked for all but the last 400 metres of its two kilometres and comprises eleven well defined pools.

This is superb fly water, with easy access to the pools given the right water height. The beat fishes well throughout the season, and even in low water fish can be taken in the deeper pools. This is especially true of the Junction Pool, where many salmon will collect until conditions are suitable for ascending the West Water. Stracathro is a beautiful beat, with stunning backdrops, excellent fishing and easy access. The spring fishing on the Stracathro beat is fly fishing only and catch and release.

**Fly Fishing Tackle.** For fly fishing for salmon on the North Esk we recommend 12-14 ' feet double handed rods for lines #8-10 and suitable fly reels with good quality brakes. Floating, sink tip or intermediate shooting heads are most used fly lines but please bring also sinking shooting heads for possible high water conditions.



**Flies.** Good salmon fly patterns for North Esk are: Dee Sheep, Willie Gunn, Black Sheep, Black & Yellow, Black & Orange, Munroe Killer, Cascade, Monkey, Allys Shrimp and Garry.

**Accommodation.** Accommodation for guests will be in a nice Scottish house close the Stracathro beat. In the cottage there is a toilet, a shower, a large living room, a well equipped kitchen and several bedrooms. We will cook the meals together in the accommodation or dine at pubs.

**Travel Arrangements.** Fishing trips to the North Esk are hosted trips. Anglers will first take flight to Edinburgh. At the airport they will meet the host Jouni Rauha and continue to the North Esk with a rental car, it is about two hours drive to the destination.

**Trip length:** 5 fishing days/6 nights

**Group size:** 1 host + 3 persons

**Fishing trip includes:** Fishing, Guiding, Accommodation

**Fishing trip excludes:** Flights to Edinburgh, Rental car, Meals

**General information.** Please book flights for yourself. Try to find a flight that will arrive to Edinburgh 13-16 on Sunday afternoon to avoid waiting at airport. After you have booked your flights, give the flight numbers and schedules for Jouni Rauha by e-mail: [jouni@fishmaster.fi](mailto:jouni@fishmaster.fi). Please pack the luggage into a big soft bag, it's easier to back it into a car.

## Trip Schedule:

**8.3. Sunday.** Gathering at the Edinburgh airport in the afternoon. Try to find a flight that will arrive to Edinburgh between 13-16 hours on Sunday afternoon. Meeting host Jouni Rauha from Fishmaster and other fishermen at the airport. Car transport from Edinburgh to the North Esk. Arrival to the North Esk destination in the afternoon/evening. Showing the house and Stracathro beat. Evening dinner in accommodation or at local pub.

**9-13.3. Monday - Friday.** Fly fishing for salmon at Stracathro beat. Breakfasts at accommodation, lunch at at accommodation. Dinners at local pubs or in the accommodation.

**14.3. Saturday.** Leaving the accommodation in the morning and heading back to the Edinburgh airport. Flight back home according to everyone's flight schedules. Try to find a flight that will departure from Edinburgh airport between 11-14 hours on Saturday.



## North Esk - Flies

Tube flies with 4-7 cm wing is normal size

### **Black Sheep**

Tag: Red  
Butt: Red  
Body: Black floss  
Rib: Silver  
Hackle: Blue  
Wing: Black and Yellow arctic fox  
Head: Red or black conehead



### **Willie Gunn**

Body: Black floss  
Rib: Silver  
Front hackle: Blue  
Wing: 1/3 yellow arctic fox  
1/3 light orange arctic fox  
1/3 black arctic fox  
Head: Black



### **Dee Sheep**

Tag: Red  
Body: Black floss  
Rib: Oval Silver  
Front hackle: Blue soft hackle  
Wing: Bright Yellow and Black arctic fox  
Electric Yellow Angel Hair  
Head: Red



### **Golden Killer (Black & Yellow)**

Body: Gold  
Wing: Yellow and Black arctic fox  
Yellow angel hair between yellow and black hair



### **Cascade**

Tag: Red and yellow bucktail, 4 pearly flashabou accent  
Body: 1/2 silver, 1/2 black floss  
Rib: Oval Silver  
Wing: Black squirrel, 2-4 silver flashabou accent  
Front hackle: Yellow and Orange hackle  
Head: Black



## North Esk - Tackle List

### General

Warm hat with bill  
Polarized sunglasses  
Long sleeve shirts, sweaters, fleeces  
Short sleeve shirts, t-shirts (several)  
Underwear  
Warm, long underwear to use under waders  
Fleece pants, fleece shirt  
Long pants  
Warm socks, several  
Sandals or camp shoes  
Raingear or wading jacket  
Sunscreen  
Camera, memory cards, extra batteries, battery charger  
Backpack (to carry camera & other gear )  
Small flashlight  
Mobile phone  
Garbage bags or waterproof bags for laundry and wading boots.  
Books, magazines  
Passport  
Airline tickets and other travel documents  
Pre-trip information, maps, Fishmaster phone number (+358-400-824530)  
Cash, English pounds for meals, drinks, rental car etc.  
Credit card  
Notebook and pen  
Toiletries, including; tooth brush, shampoo, hand lotion, bandages  
Razor  
Pain killers, Prescription medications  
Adapter for electronic equipment

### Fishing Equipment

Fly rods, rod tubes (Rods 12'-14' # 8-10)  
Fly reels, reel covers  
Spare spools  
Fly lines, leaders  
Fly boxes, flies  
Waders, wading belt, repair kit for waders  
Wading boots  
Pliers (rustproof)  
Hook hone/file  
Extra spools monofilament: 0.30, 0.35, 0.40  
Needle clippers  
Hemostats  
Tape measure