

**Frances Cooper**

**Looking after salmon spawning areas.**

So the crucial time of year is really from the autumn and through the winter months when they'll return from the sea to spawn and they will choose these gravel areas, the same ones that we like to go into the river to paddle, and that paddling can cause quite a bit of damage to the gravels and in particular to the eggs that are laid by the salmon in nests which are called redds and they're very vulnerable even to very slight amounts of damage so it would be great if people could stay out of the river through those autumn, winter months, and try to keep the dogs out as well, because even dogs playing in the river can cause damage. Another concern for salmon are dams which we sometimes build in the river, a lot of the areas where they spawn are quite shallow, these gravelly areas and quite often people like to build dams across but it is a problem for the salmon, they then need to be able to get past that dam and head on up the river, and quite often they can't. I know we're very familiar with pictures of salmon leaping dramatically up waterfalls and over barriers but they need a depth of water to be able to do that, and typically that depth of water won't be there when we've created a dam, so they just can't get over the barrier, which means that they will be stopped in that one place in the river and then they are very vulnerable to predation.