

Hampshire Avon Fish Counter

Knapp Mill, May 2026



Figure 1 – A ~90 cm salmon emerging from the Fish Pass. 19/05/26

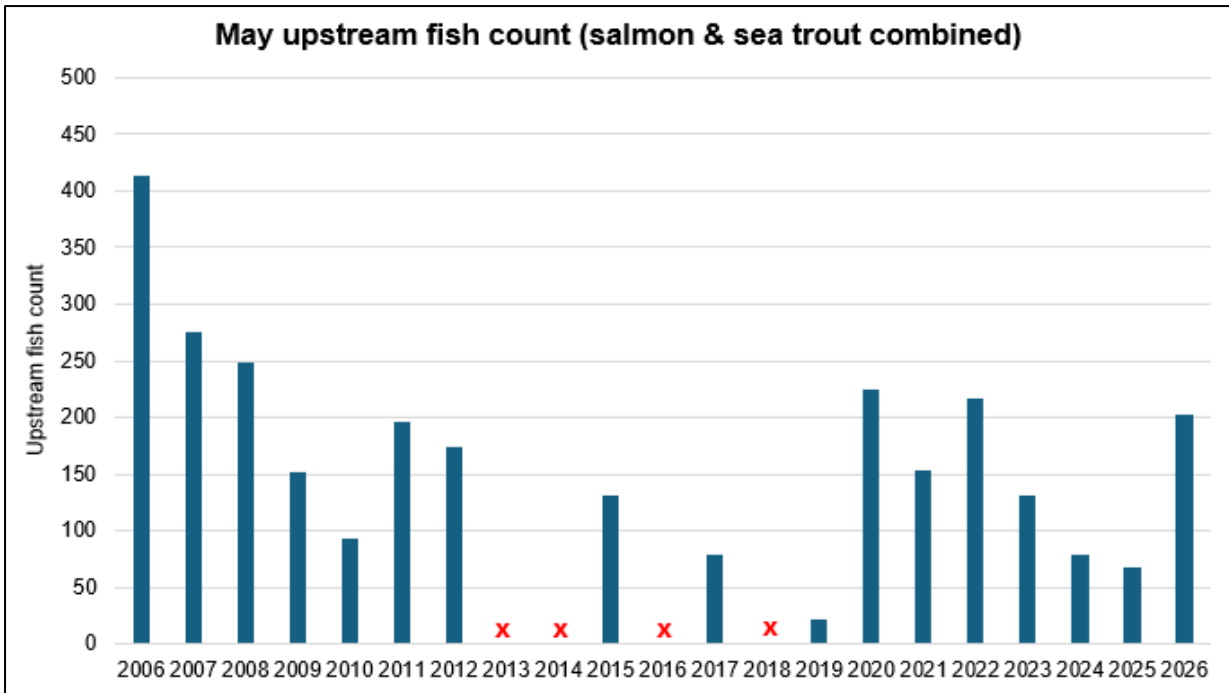
Summary

The counters at Knapp Mill operated without fault during May. The cameras installed within channels 17 and 18 have been successful in allowing us to identify the majority of fish during the month. Detailed images in these large weir channels have typically been quite tricky to obtain, so this is a big help in building the picture of how species are split throughout the year. Even motion detection has worked well so far on the channel 18 camera, picking up salmon almost in real time. This also acts as a useful back up should the counters experience downtime.

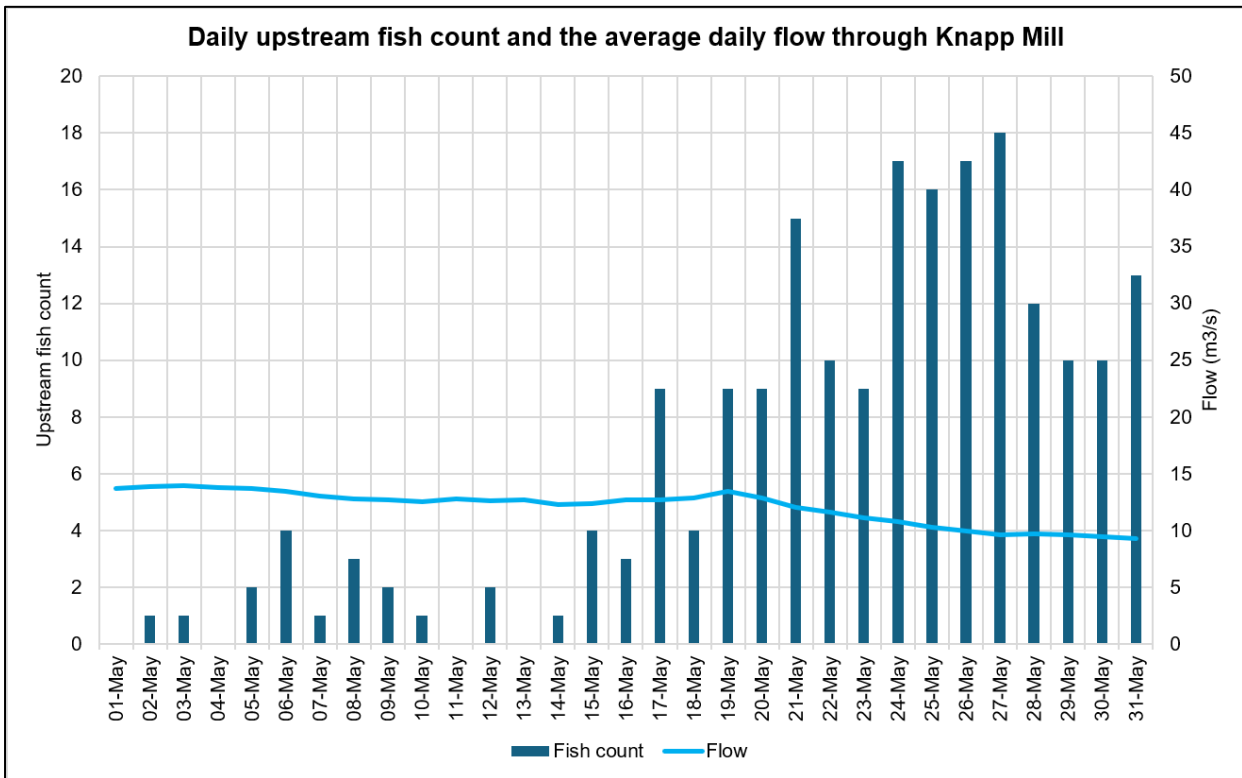
203 salmonids were recorded moving upstream during May, which is 122% of the long-term average for the month. Of these, 115 were identified as salmon and 9 as sea trout. Additionally, 5 fish were recorded moving downstream through the counters.

Once again, there were no significant spikes in flow in the Hampshire Avon. The same, of course, wasn't true for water temperature which rose from a daily average of 13.2°C on May 19th to 21.8°C just a week later on the 26th. From the 26th through to the 29th, the 09:00 water temperature at Knapp Mill was >20°C; the first occurrence of this on record for any date in May.

Data

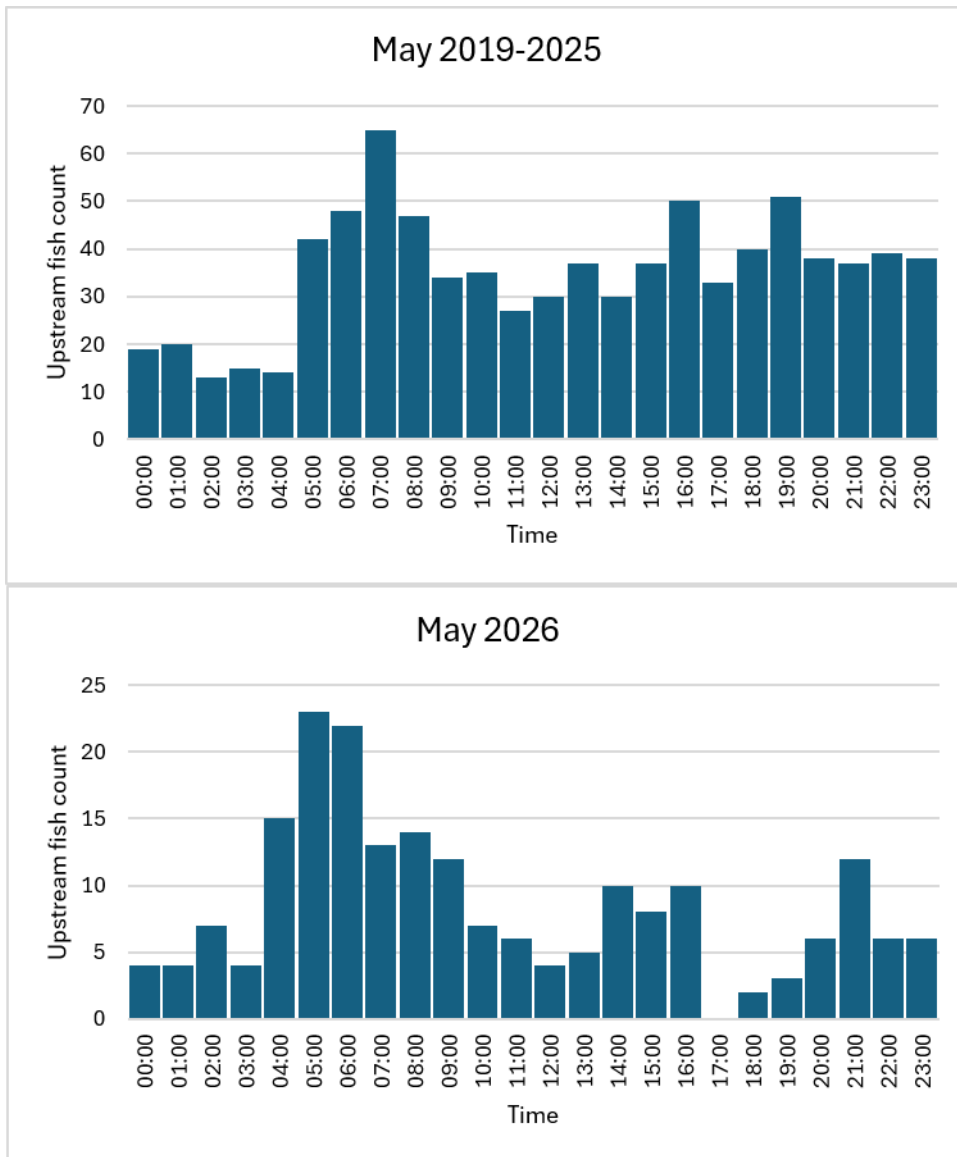


Graph 1 - A comparison of the total upstream fish count in May across each year (excluding 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018).



Graph 2 - 2026 upstream fish count each day in May alongside the flow through Knapp Mill for the same period. This data combines both salmon and sea trout.

Last year we looked at fish timings on a monthly basis, and noted that May was typically the only month when salmonid activity up the counters remained relatively high through to midnight. In all other months it significantly reduces by 19:00 GMT at the latest. Graph 3 shows that this year there was a slight variation from the long-term trend, with more of a preference for the early morning and very little movement in the early evening.



Graph 3 – Timings of upstream fish movement through the counters during May. All times are in GMT.

Gallery

Below is a collection of images taken from the counter cameras. Figure 2 offers a sense of scale for any images taken within the fish counters.



Figure 2 – Overhead view of the Turbine House (left) and Fish Pass (right). The distance between neighbouring electrodes, as indicated by each yellow line, is 45 cm.



Figure 3 – Some of the numerous salmon heading upstream through channel 18 during May. Provided the water remains reasonably free of debris, the motion detection on this camera can pick out these fish as they pass.

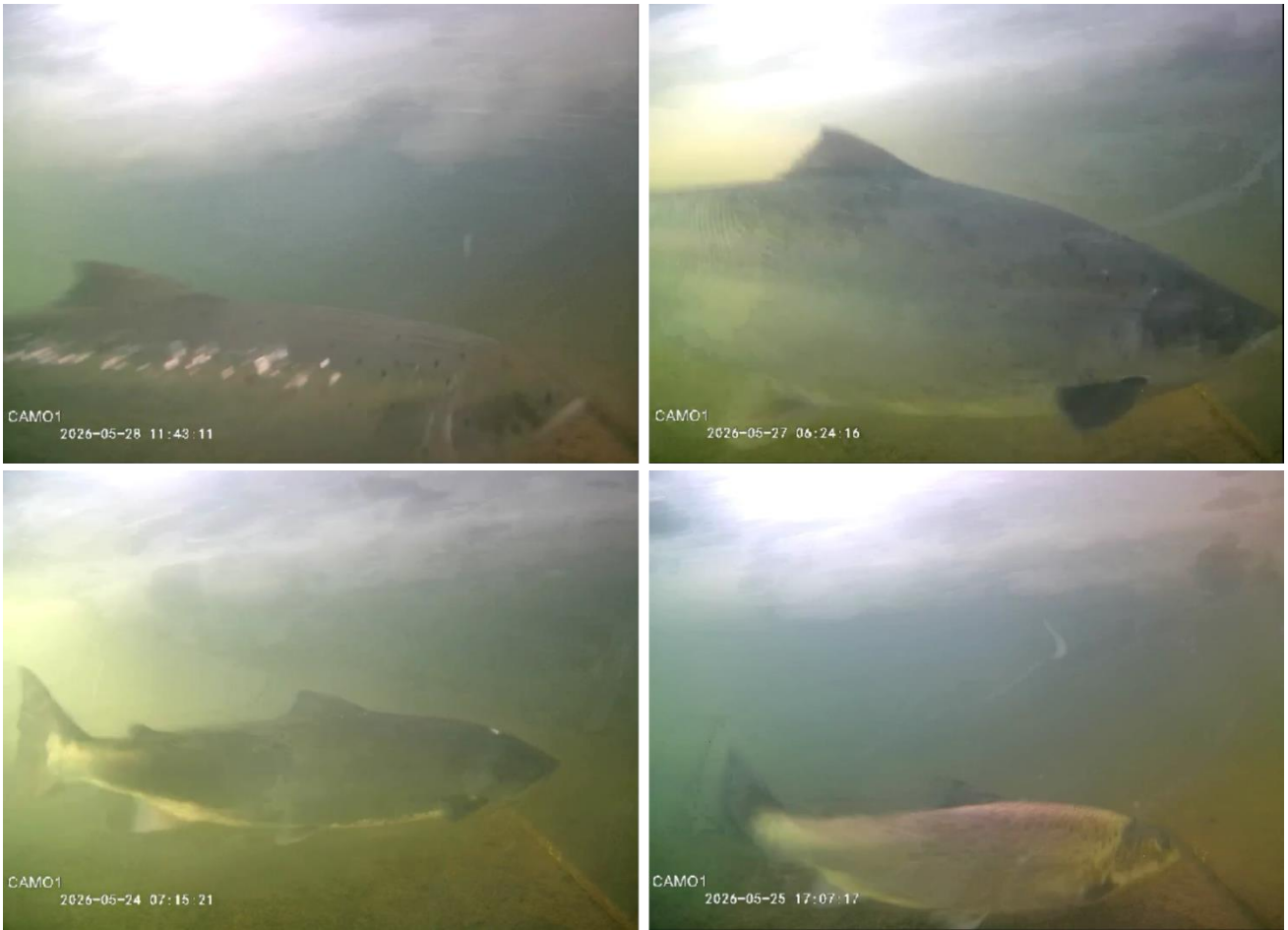


Figure 4 – Three salmon and a sea trout (bottom right) moving upstream through channel 17. 99% of the salmonids recorded during May migrated using the weir route, with only two small trout seen at the Turbine House.



Figure 5 – A couple of large salmon moving through the counters within an hour of each other during the early morning peak in activity.



Figure 6 – Three more salmon and a sea trout (top right) at channel 18. Images show the best detail when the fish slow down, and they had a tendency to pause in this position relative to the camera for some nice headshots.



Figure 7 – This trout moved up and down the fish pass three times over the course of 40 minutes, ending up back where it started at the upstream end of the counter. 27/05/26.



Figure 8 – A ~65 cm salmon at the upstream end of the fish pass. 26/05/26.



Figure 9 – An additional camera, installed for the summer at the lowest section of the fish pass, sees fairly constant fish activity. Mostly it's a shoal of dace that like to hang around in the flow, but chub and roach sometimes make an appearance too.

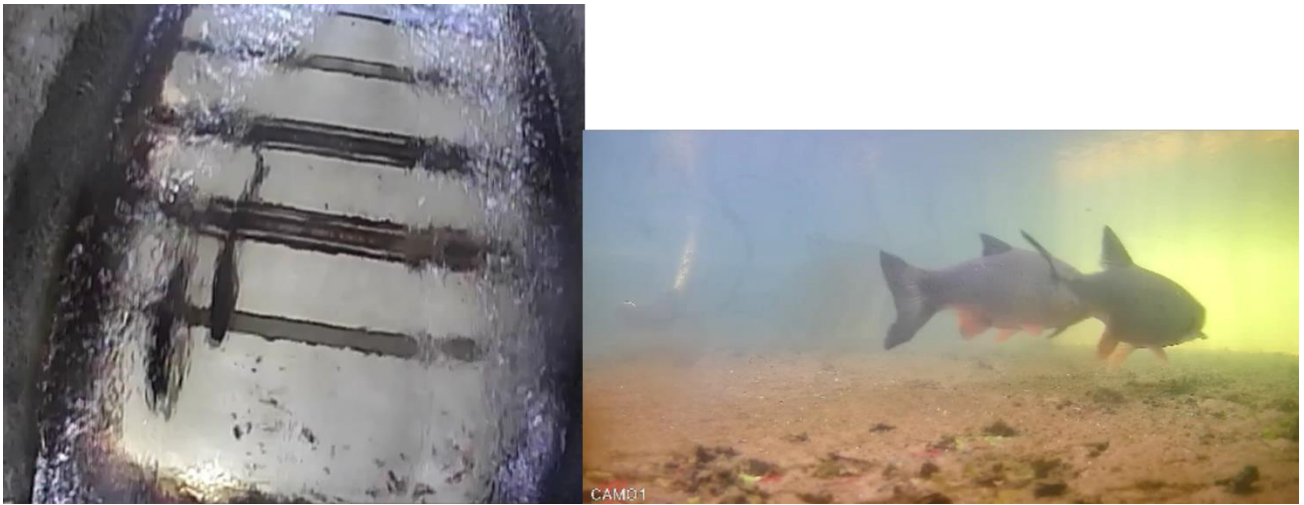


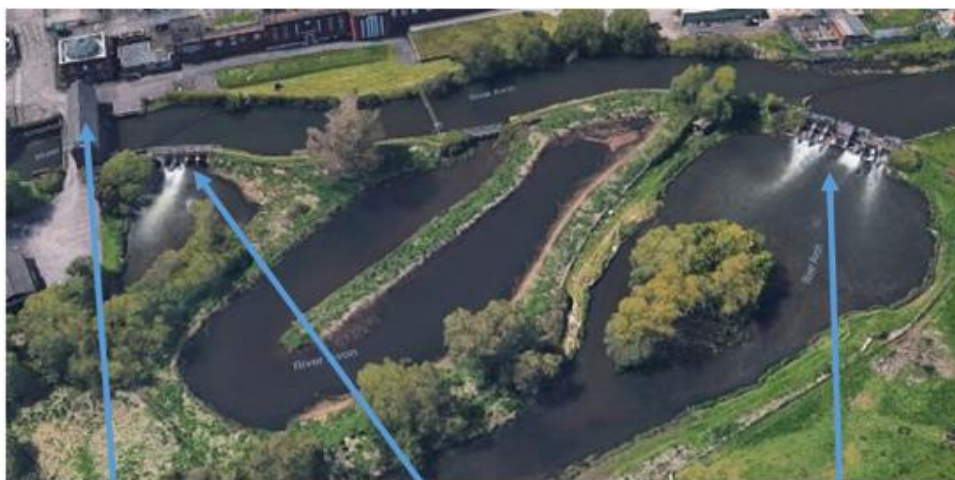
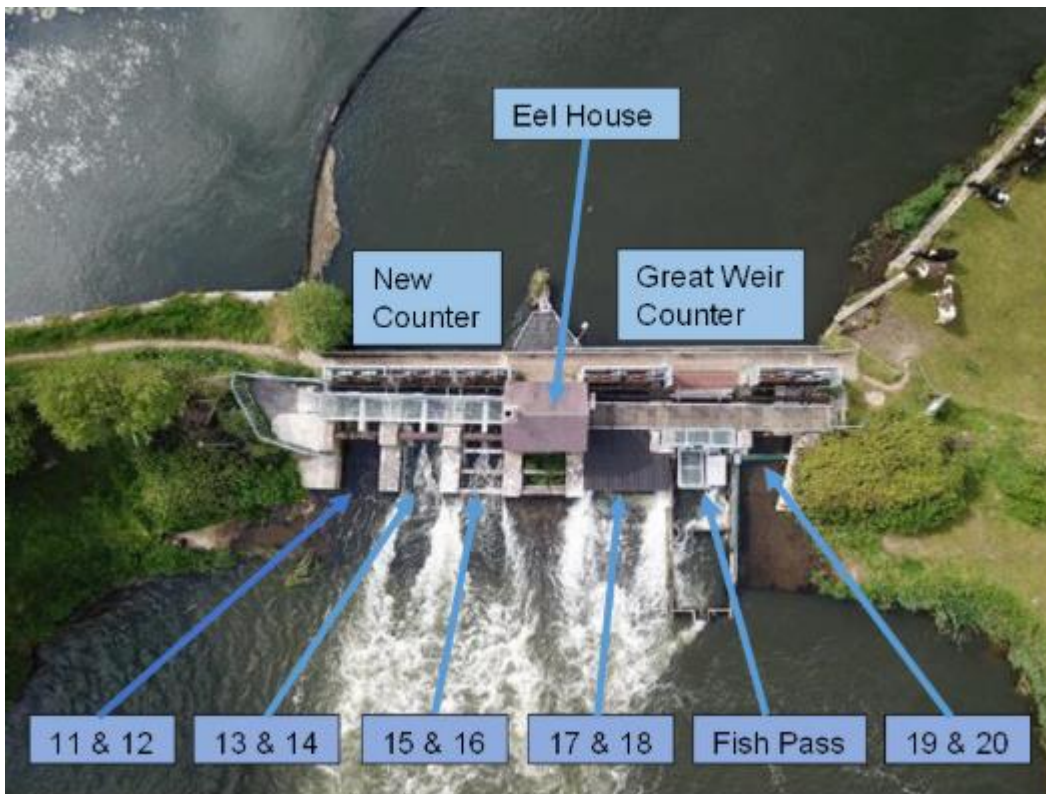
Figure 10 – Two roach making their way up the fish pass together on a warm afternoon. 22/05/26



Figure 11 – If at first you don't succeed... this perseverant barbel took two attempts to scale channel 18. Later the same afternoon another barbel made it look slightly more effortless. 20/05/26

For further information

Contact: KnappMill@environment-agency.gov.uk



Route 1 – Turbine House
Open to fish movement throughout the year in all flow conditions.

Route 3 – Side Weir
This weir unfortunately has no fish counters and so an unrecorded number of fish may use it when the hatches open in high flows.

Route 2 – Great Weir
Majority of fish pass through this structure as it sits within the main channel. The fish pass is located here.