



## **HOWSHAM FISH MONITORING**

**Assessment of fish passage through the  
Archimedes Turbine and associated by-wash**

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## Executive Summary

An Archimedean screw turbine has been installed at Howsham Mill on the River Derwent in Yorkshire. In order to determine whether fish will move down a by-wash in preference to the turbine and therefore if a by-wash channel is required for downstream fish passage, fish were electrofished out of the river, prior to being placed at the head of the turbine/by-wash. Fish then moved downstream through either the turbine or by-wash. Fish naturally moving downstream were also caught after passing through the by-wash or turbine to determine the movement preferences of naturally migrating/moving fish.

The results show that fish experimentally introduced at the head of the turbine and by-wash do not show an active behavioural preference for passing down a by-wash channel over passing down an Archimedean screw turbine. Fish introduced at the head of the turbine and by-wash passed down each in proportion to the proportional split in flow. This is true for all species tested. There was no difference in size for fish passing down the by-wash or turbine, except for pike where it was found that fish passing down the by-wash were, on average, larger than those passing down the turbine.

Fish naturally moving downstream similarly showed no clear and statistically significant preference for the by-wash or turbine when compared to the number that would be expected to pass through each as a result of neutral, inactive downstream drift.

The findings question the need for a by-wash channel at sites where an Archimedean screw turbine is installed, due to the extremely safe passage environment that Archimedean turbines provide, compared to traditional hydropower turbines.

Passage through the screw caused no damage at all to a broad range of fish species and sizes.

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## 1. Introduction

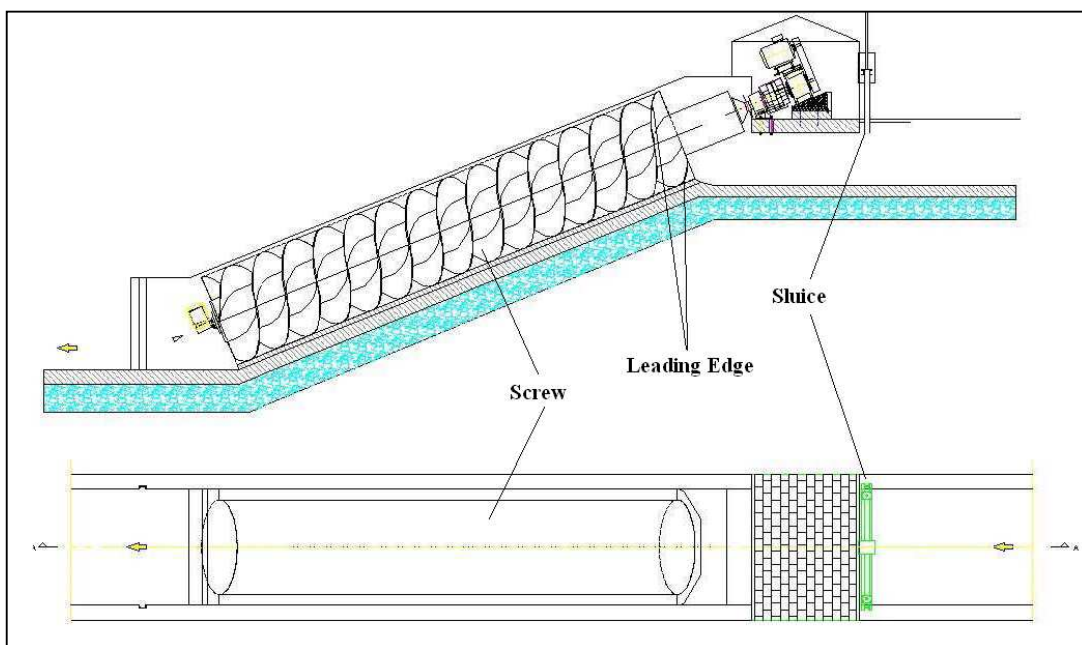
Howsham weir is a low-head weir on the River Derwent, in North Yorkshire. Fish populations in the river are primarily coarse fish, with a small population of trout also present.

An Archimedean screw turbine was recently installed at the site for the generation of electricity. The Archimedean screw is a hydraulic screw turbine that operates at low rotational speeds of 28-30 rpm. These turbines are typically between 1.5-3.5 m in diameter and are particularly well suited to low head sites of up to 8 m. The length of the screw is determined by the head height (vertical drop) of water. A diagrammatic representation is given in figure 1. Over a dozen such turbines have been installed in the UK since 2006.

A number of studies (Fishtek Consulting, 2007, 2008, Vis Advies 2007, Spah 2001) have all concluded that fish can pass through safely and that the risk of injury is very low indeed. Assessment of the impact of an Archimedes screw turbine on salmonids (Fishtek Consulting, 2007) showed that in over 1000 passages of fish through the turbine, across the full range of operating speeds, there was no damage to trout ranging in size from 8 to 63 cm. Smolts passing through the turbine naturally also suffered minimal damage with light, recoverable scale loss observed in a few individuals.

This study was designed to assess the impact on a range of coarse fish species and to address the question of whether or not fish actively avoid passing down the screw in preference for a by-wash.

**Figure 1: Diagram of an Archimedes hydraulic turbine, shown from the side (top) and overhead**



## **2. Methods**

### **2.1 Experimentally introduced fish**

A range of fish species were electro fished from the River Derwent below Howsham Weir and kept in 1000 litre holding tanks with river water pumped through. The turbine outflow was netted with a bespoke fyke net and a by-wash established to determine if fish use the by-wash in preference to passing through the turbine.

The by-wash (see figure 2) was created in the side of the turbine intake channel, 2 m before the leading edge. A notch 50 cm wide x 50 cm (below water level) was cut into the stone work with a bell mouth entrance leading up from the floor of the forebay tank. The by-wash was open to the atmosphere with no dark passages that might deter fish from entering. Total flow in the by-wash was calculated using the equation for a rectangular thin-plate weir with side contractions, given in the Environment Agency Fish Pass Manual. (See appendix for calculation). The by-wash flow of 312l/s equated to 10-15% of the maximum turbine flow, considered to be a reasonable proportion of total flow for a by-wash channel.

Fish were subsequently introduced to the intake area immediately upstream of the turbine and by-wash, through a 200mm diameter pipe with an escape window cut in the end (see insert, figure 2). Underwater video cameras were installed in the intake area and by-wash to monitor fish behaviour.

Fish introduced to the intake area were netted after passing through either the screw or the by-wash. They were examined for any signs of damage and kept in tanks overnight for assessment. They were then passed through again after resting overnight to determine if there was any impact from multiple passages through the screw. Screens were installed to prevent introduced fish from escaping from the intake area, upstream into the river.

The turbine was switched off one hour after fish were introduced and any fish remaining in the intake area that had not passed down either the turbine or by-wash were netted out, measured and counted.

All passages were analysed together to give a total number of fish passages through either the turbine or by-wash. Prior to full analysis, the data was checked to ensure there were no statistical differences in the data-set between the first and second passage.



**Figure 2:** photo showing the pipe used to introduce fish to the intake area above the turbine and by-wash, and the escape window at the end of the pipe (inset).

A chute was created to transfer fish from the exit of the by wash into a netted holding box with a volume of 1m<sup>3</sup>, sited in an area of low flow to ensure fish were not forced against the netting and damaged. This is shown in figure 3.



**Figure 3:** photograph illustrating the chute and holding box.

A wide range of species were used in the study. The number of individuals of each species introduced into the intake area at the head of the turbine/by-wash, or passing through naturally and their maximum lengths are given in table 1. Pictures of some of the larger pike and barbel after passing through the screw are shown in the appendix.

**Table 1: Species used in the study, including the maximum length for each species**

Species	Number of fish used	Maximum Length (cm)
Pike ( <i>Essox lucius</i> )	53	77
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	10	61
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	52	48
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	14	30
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	8	34
Grayling ( <i>Thymallus thymallus</i> )	11	28
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	14	22
R.Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	10	32
Salmon ( <i>Salmon salar</i> )	1	14
Bullhead ( <i>Cottus gobio</i> )	3	8
Gudgeon ( <i>Gobio gobio</i> )	4	15
Ruffe ( <i>Gymnocephalus cernua</i> )	1	11
Minnnow ( <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i> )	6	9
Eel ( <i>Anguila anguila</i> )	1	46

**2.2 Fish naturally passing downstream**

At night, the screens placed upstream of the intake area were removed. All fish naturally passing through the turbine or by-wash passed into the netted holding boxes immediately downstream, where they were subsequently caught, identified and measured for analysis. This was performed for 3 nights and due to the low numbers of fish, the data was amalgamated to produce one data-set for the fish naturally passing downstream

**2.3 Statistical Analysis**

All data was analysed using Microsoft Excel or Minitab (version 14). In all cases, data was checked for normality of error and transformed where necessary. If data was still judged to be non-normal, appropriate non-parametric tests were performed.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Fish introduced experimentally – fish numbers

The number of individual fish of each species passing down the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area varied depending on the species and also in some species, on the size of the individual fish. The number of fish passing down the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area is given in table 2.

**Table 2: Number of individual fish of each species passing down the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area**

Species	Turbine	By-wash	Remain in intake area
Pike ( <i>Essox lucius</i> )	46	7	0
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	3	0	6
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	29	7	14
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	13	0	1
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	4	0	3
Grayling ( <i>Thymallus thymallus</i> )	11	0	0
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	13	0	0
R.Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	4	0	1
Gudgeon ( <i>Gobio gobio</i> )	1	0	0
Eel ( <i>Anguila anguila</i> )	1	0	0

From table 2 it is clear that the number of fish passing down either the turbine or by-wash is highly dependent on the species of fish. The majority of fish however passed down the turbine, as opposed to using the by-wash. A large proportion of chub and barbel also remained in the intake area. The proportions of the main species passing through the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area are given in table 3.

**Table 3: Proportion of the main species used in the study passing through the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area**

Species	Turbine	By Wash	Remained in intake area
Pike ( <i>Essox lucius</i> )	86.7	13.3	0
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	58	14	28
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	33	0	67
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	92.8	0	7.2
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	57	0	43
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	100	0	0
Grayling ( <i>Thymallus thymallus</i> )	100	0	0
Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	80	0	20

In order to test whether there was a significant difference in the number of fish passing down the turbine or by-wash, or remaining in the intake area, chi-squared tests were performed on the number of fish utilising each route (data as given in table 2). This was done for the species of fish for which there was sufficient data (pike, chub, perch, trout, grayling, roach, lamprey and barbel). The results are given in table 4.



**Table 4: Results from chi-squared tests on the raw numbers of fish passing down the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area. Chi-squared critical values (2 degrees of freedom): 5.99 at  $\alpha = 0.05$ , 9.21 at  $\alpha = 0.01$ , 13.82 at  $\alpha = 0.001$**

Species	X <sup>2</sup> value	Significant?	Route favoured
Pike ( <i>Essox lucius</i> )	69.5	Yes (p<0.001)	Turbine
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	15.16	Yes (p<0.001)	Turbine
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	6	Yes (p<0.05)	Remain in intake
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	22.4	Yes (p<0.001)	Turbine
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	3.71	No	--
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	26	Yes (p<0.001)	Turbine
Grayling ( <i>Thymallus thymallus</i> )	22	Yes (p<0.001)	Turbine
Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	5.2	No	--

From table 4 it is clear that in all but one case (barbel) in which there was a significant difference observed, the species in question showed a significantly higher number of fish moving through the turbine, as opposed to the by-wash or remaining in the intake area.

However, the results presented do not consider the number of fish passing through the turbine and by-wash as a function of the flow through each possible passage. The split in flow between the turbine and by-wash was approximately 85:15. It would therefore be expected that under conditions of null behavioural selection and neutral flow drift, approximately 85% of the fish would pass down the turbine and 15% would pass down the by-wash.

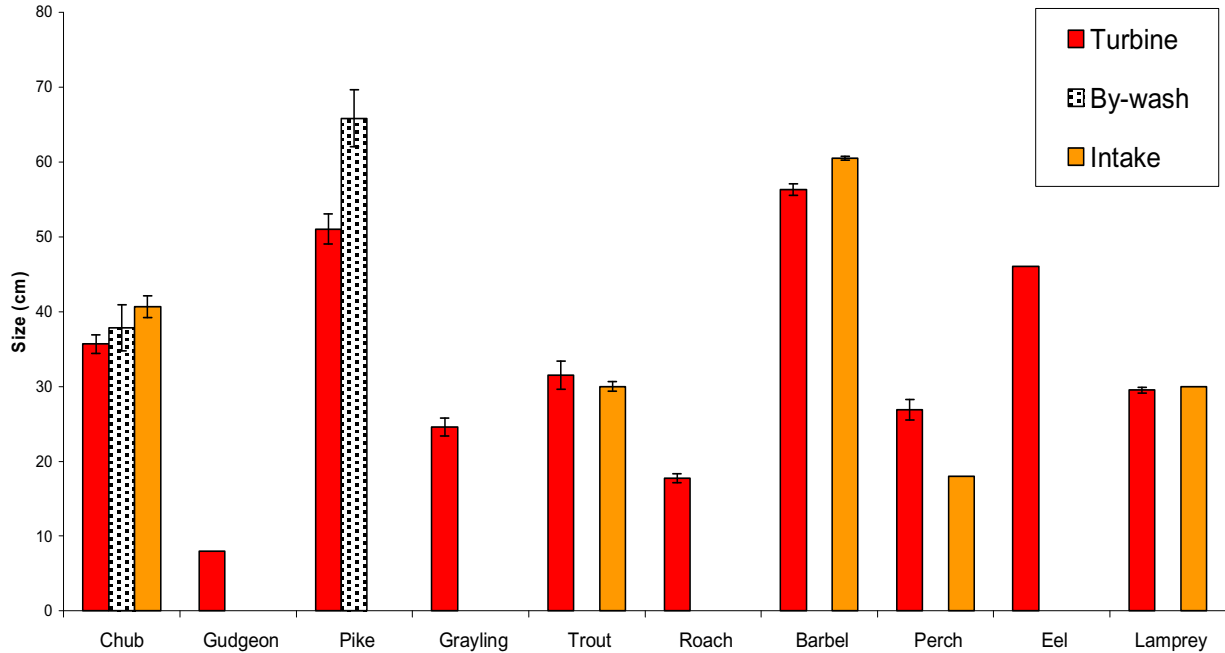
The number of fish actually passing down the turbine and by-wash was tested (using chi-squared tests and the data presented in table 2 and assuming a 85:15 split in flow between the turbine and by-wash). This was carried out for the species for which sufficient data was available (see previous) and the results are given in table 5. It is clear from the results in table 5, that the number of fish using the by-wash is in proportion with the flow and therefore unlikely that fish are actively choosing the by-wash route in preference to the turbine.

**Table 5: Results from chi-squared tests comparing the number of fish actually passing down the turbine or by-wash, compared to the number expected as a result of neutral downstream drift. Chi-squared critical value (1 degree of freedom): 3.84 at  $\alpha = 0.05$**

Species	X <sup>2</sup> value	Significant?	Route favoured
Pike ( <i>Essox lucius</i> )	0.13	No	--
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	0.56	No	--
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	0.53	No	--
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	2.29	No	--
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	0.71	No	--
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	2.29	No	--
Grayling ( <i>Thymallus thymallus</i> )	1.94	No	--
Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	0.71	No	--

### 3.2 Fish introduced experimentally – fish sizes

In addition to the number of fish of each species passing down the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area, the size of fish passing down each route or remaining at the head of the turbine was investigated. The results are summarised in figure 4.



**Figure 4: The average size (+/- one standard error) of fish of various species either passing down the turbine or by-wash or remaining in the intake area upstream of the turbine**

Where sufficient data was available for a species, Kruskal-Wallis tests were performed to determine whether there was a significant difference in the size of fish passing down the turbine or by-wash channel or remaining in the intake area. Due to the low numbers of individuals often passing down the by-wash or remaining in the intake area, this could only be performed for pike, chub, barbel or trout. The results are summarised in table 6.

**Table 6: Summarised results of Kruskal-Wallis tests examining size differences of pike, chub, barbel or trout passing down the turbine or by-wash, or remaining in the intake area**

Species	H value	Significant?	Direction of significant response
Pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> )	5.98	Yes (p=0.014)	Larger fish through by-wash
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	4.67	No (p=0.097)	--
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	5.79	Yes (p=0.016)	Larger fish remained in intake area
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	0.55	No (0.459)	--

From figure 3 and table 6 it is clear that for most species there was insufficient data to test for size differences in the fish utilising each passage route. However, on average, the pike passing down the by-wash were larger than those passing down the turbine. Larger barbel also appear to hold in the intake area, whilst smaller barbel pass downstream through the turbine.

### 3.3 Fish naturally passing downstream – fish numbers

A much smaller total number of fish passed downstream naturally than were introduced experimentally into the intake area. The number of fish of each species passing down either the turbine or by-wash is given in table 7.

**Table 7: number of individuals of each species passing down the turbine or by-wash under conditions of natural flow**

Species	Turbine	By-wash
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	4	0
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	3	0
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	1	0
Ruffe ( <i>Gymnocephalus cernua</i> )	1	0
Bullhead ( <i>Cottus gobio</i> )	1	2
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	1	0
Gudgeon ( <i>Gobio gobio</i> )	2	2
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	1	0
Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	3	2
Salmon smolt ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	1	0
Minnnow ( <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i> )	4	2

The data presented in table 7 was statistically analysed (using chi-squared tests) to determine whether fish showed a preference for using either the turbine or by-wash when passing downstream under conditions of natural downstream movement/migration. The results are presented in table 8.

**Table 8: Results from chi-squared tests on the raw numbers of fish naturally passing down either the turbine or by-wash. Chi-squared critical values (1 degree of freedom): 3.84 at  $\alpha = 0.05$**

	X <sup>2</sup> value	Significant?	Route favoured
Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	6.67	Yes (p<0.05)	Turbine
Chub ( <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> )	5	Yes (p<0.05)	Turbine
Barbel ( <i>Barbus barbus</i> )	1.67	No	--
Ruffe ( <i>Gymnocephalus cernua</i> )	1.67	No	--
Bullhead ( <i>Cottus gobio</i> )	1	No	--
Roach ( <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> )	1.67	No	--
Gudgeon ( <i>Gobio gobio</i> )	0.67	No	--
Perch ( <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> )	1.67	No	--
Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra</i> )	1.13	No	--
Salmon smolt ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	1.67	No	--
Minnnow ( <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i> )	2	No	--

From table 8 it is clear that most fish naturally passing downstream do not show a statistically significant preference for using either the turbine or by-wash. However this could be due to the low numbers of fish observed. For the two species that did show a preference, both species (trout and chub) moved downstream through the turbine and not the by-wash.

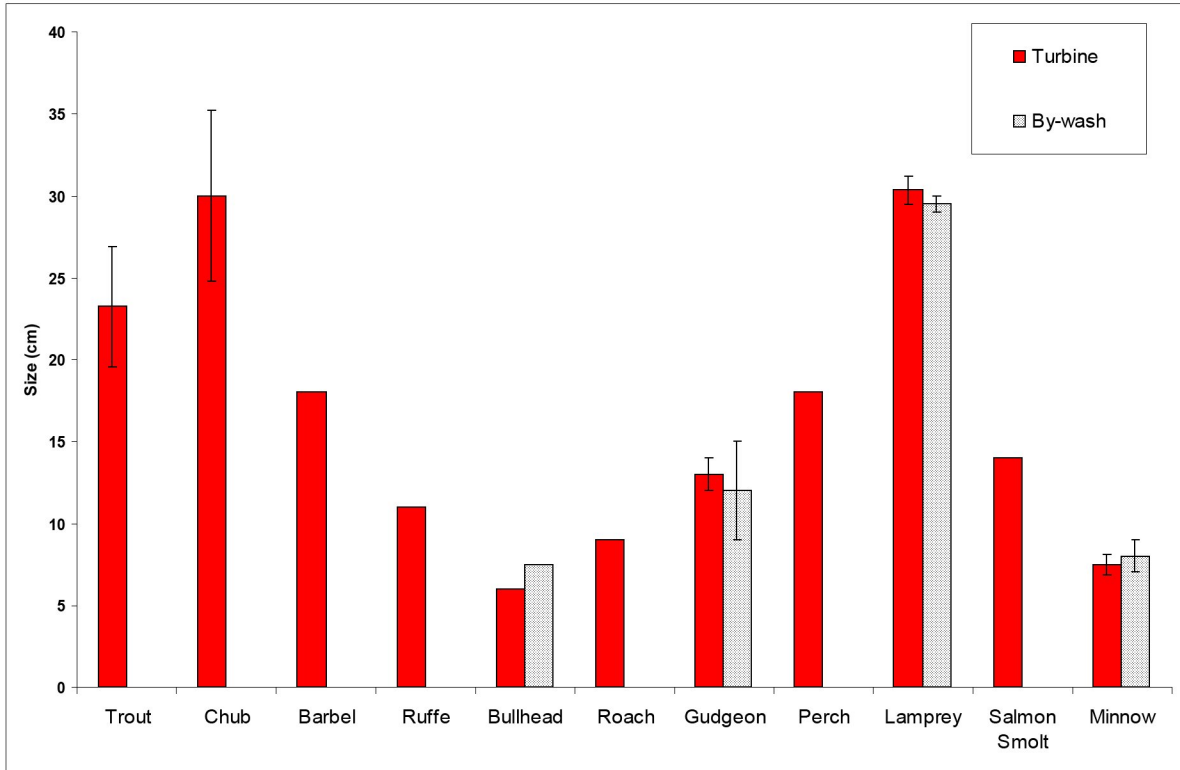
Under conditions of neutral downstream drift and null behavioural selection it would be expected that fish would pass down the turbine and by-wash in proportion to the flow allocation between the two passage routes, which at this site was 85:15.

Combining together the counts of all the individual fish from the various fish species moving downstream gave a count split of 22 passing through the turbine and 8 through the by-wash. This is not statistically significantly different from an 85:15

split that would be expected if fish were simply drifting/migrating downstream with the flow, rather than preferentially choosing either the turbine or by-wash channel ( $\chi^2 = 3.20, p > 0.05$ ).

**3.4 Fish naturally passing downstream – fish sizes**

In addition to the number of fish of each species passing down the turbine or by-wash, the size of fish passing down each route was investigated. The results are given in figure 5.



**Figure 5: The average size (+/- one standard error) of fish of various species naturally passing down either the turbine or by-wash**

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Fish introduced experimentally

From the results presented, it is clear that fish do not actively use the by-wash when moving downstream after being introduced to the area immediately upstream of the turbine. Fish passing down through the by-wash do so as a result of neutral downstream drift and the proportional split in flow between the turbine and by-wash. This was confirmed by analysis of video footage of fish within the intake area. Although analysis was difficult as a result of high turbidity, pike entering the forebay tank were observed drifting into the by-wash with the flow, rather than actively swimming down it.

It is likely that weaker swimming species or those adapted to short bursts of activity such as pike are swept through the turbine or by-wash due to the water velocity. More active swimmers such as chub and barbel can withstand higher velocities and simply resist the flow and as a result may not pass down either the turbine or by-wash. This was confirmed by the presence of individuals of these species within the intake area after the turbine was switched off. A similar result was observed for large salmonids tested in an Archimedean screw turbine on the River Dart. Large individuals introduced at the top of the turbine sometimes remained upstream of the device for protracted periods of time (Fishtek Consulting, 2007).

A significant difference in size for fish passing through the turbine vs. those passing through the by-wash was only found for pike. On average, pike passing through the turbine were smaller than those passing through the by-wash. It is difficult to determine the exact cause for this, however, critically there were not significantly more pike passing down the by-wash than would be expected by chance.

The implications of these findings are that the presence of a by-wash is not necessarily beneficial to fish moving downstream in the vicinity of a screw turbine. When presented with the possibility of using a by-wash channel, rather than passing down the turbine, none of the fish species examined in this study showed an active selection of the by-wash channel.

No damage was caused to any fish as a result of passage through the screw. However, some fish had pre-existing damage (see Appendix), displaying old wounds from an attack by piscivorous fish, probably pike as there were a lot of pike in this section of the Derwent.

#### 4.2 Fish naturally passing downstream

Far fewer fish were caught as a result of natural downstream movements within the river, however it is evident that larger fish including trout, chub, and perch passed through the turbine, with only minor species and river lamprey netted in the by-wash. Fish did not preferentially choose the by-wash over the turbine or vice versa, when comparing the actual numbers of fish passing downstream to those that would be expected to pass through as a result of neutral downstream drift.

A salmon smolt was also caught after passing naturally through the turbine (see Appendix). This suggests that adult salmon are occasionally ascending the weir and spawning upstream, or stocking of fry/parr has been conducted in recent years.

The number of fish caught in this study that were naturally moving downstream was low however. As a result, the power of the statistical tests performed was limited when compared to the results from fish introduced experimentally into the intake area above the turbine.

A study in Holland (Vis Advies, 2007) found that most of the larger fish passing downstream opted for a fish pass, over the turbine. However, the average size given in the report of 5.6 cm for the turbine and 11.2 cm for the by-wash is partly a result of the large numbers of small bream swept through the turbine. However, the flows through the turbine were much greater than the fish pass and on this basis one would expect far more fish to pass through the screw than actually did. The lead author of the Vis Advies study (Mr. T. Vries) concluded that while large fish avoided the turbine, the bar screens in front of the screw may have deterred eels from entering.

It would seem likely that the screens also deterred or physically prevented larger fish from passing through and therefore it is not accurate to conclude that larger fish actively prefer the fish pass route to the screw as they may well have been avoiding the bar screens. Furthermore, the site also had a large by-wash beside the screw that was not netted during the study. Fish passing down the by-wash would not have been detected as moving downstream.

## 5. Conclusions

It is apparent from the results that the addition of a by-wash at the site of an Archimedes turbine is unlikely to be beneficial for fish moving downstream in the vicinity of the turbine. Fish do not appear to actively choose to use the by-wash in preference to the turbine. Rather, fish drifting downstream with the flow and passing through either the turbine or by-wash do so in direct proportion to the split in flow. Fish strong enough to resist the downstream flow remain at the head of the turbine and in a natural situation may move upstream and away from both the turbine and by-wash.

None of the fish that passed through the device either experimentally or naturally suffered any damage at all. It was noted that the netted holding box had to be maintained in a region of low flow to prevent small fish from being pressed against the mesh by excessive water velocities.

## 6. References

Environment Agency Fish Pass Manual

Fishtek Consulting (2007) Fish Monitoring and live fish trials. Archimedes Screw Turbine, River Dart. Phase 1 Report: Live fish trials, smolts, leading edge assessment, disorientation study, outflow monitoring.

Fishtek Consulting (2008) Archimedes Screw Turbine Fisheries Assessment. Phase II: Eels and kelts.

Spah, H. (2001) Fishery biological opinion of the fish compatibility of the patented hydraulic screw from Ritz Atro. Bielfield, Germany.

Vis Advies (2007) Dir. Vries, T. Vis Advies BV, Gebouw Vondelparc 1, Vondellaan 14, 3521 GD Utrecht, Holland



## 7. Appendix



Figure 6: chub displaying scars from previous damage, possibly inflicted by a pike or piscivorous bird



Figure 7: lamprey displaying indications of damage from a pike attack



**Figure 8: salmon smolt caught passing naturally downstream through the turbine**



**Figure 9: 60cm barbel after passing through turbine**



**Figure 11: 73cm pike after passing through turbine**

Equation for rectangular thin plate weir with side contractions:

$$Q=1.75(b+0.003)h^{1.5}$$

Q=flow. b=width of slot. h=depth of water.