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Percentage of female salmon in the upstream migrations
on the River Axe, Devon

by

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Year	Age Class - Sea Winters				Overall
	1	2	3	Previous spawners	
1963	46.4	75.0	35.0	81.5	62.7
1964	60.8	74.6	87.5	70.6	67.2
1965	39.5	57.8	41.7	76.5	47.6
1966	50.0	69.2	46.4	60.0	58.1
1967	65.0	77.8	64.3	83.3	68.8
1968	54.3	85.1	72.2	100.0	75.3
1969	50.0	85.2	77.8	83.3	62.5
1970	62.1	86.4	80.0	80.8	75.0
1971	65.7	84.3	100.0	100.0	77.8

The fish were sexed by external characteristics and any errors will be most marked in the 1 sea-winter age class (grilse). This age class shows a higher proportion of male fish with an almost equal number of fish of each sex in certain years. In the 2 sea-winter age class (fish from the same smolt runs as the majority of salmon taken off west Greenland) the ratio of females to males has been around 5 or 6 to 1. The numbers of 3 sea-winter fish are relatively small on the Axe. Previously spawned fish are, as one might expect, mainly females. In all age-classes there has been a tendency for the proportion of females to increase over the past four years.

