



Director's Report April 2012.

After a warm spell in late March, April was cold and wet throughout the month. This delayed this spring's smolt run. By the end of April 3,500 smolts had been trapped at Achanalt on the River Bran and released below Tor Achilty Dam.

The stocking of unfed fry started in late April in difficult conditions several days being lost because of high water. Fry planting will continue into May.

There were two pollution incidents on the Allt Graad when significant discharges of sediment took place. SEPA are investigating these incidents. At Allt Gharagain on the River Bran, unlicensed excavation of the bed of the river took place which is also under investigation by SEPA.

Bailiffing patrols are underway. The patrol boat has been serviced and is ready for coastal patrols. Ricky Gobalec passed the IFM Certificate examination in Scottish Law and Bailiffing and can now be warranted.

Projects / research

A project with Marine Scotland to investigate the influence of flows on salmon production is underway. Experimental sections of the Orrin and Blackwater were stocked with fry for the experiment.

There have been a number of mink sightings in the region and two were trapped during April.

An application has been made to the SEPA restoration fund for continued restoration works on the Peffery this summer.

The first sites for the Riverfly Anglers Monitoring Initiative have been sampled by anglers and ghillies.

Meetings attended / consultations

Dingwall Environment Group
Blackmuir Pond Perch Eradication
West Sutherland Fisheries Trust Conference
Moray Firth Sea Trout Project Management Committee
SFCC Management Committee
IFM Conference Committee
Marine Scotland Science Seminar
Hatchery Open Day
Cromarty Board and Trust Meetings