



Director's Report June 2012.

June brought a continuation of cold weather with persistent east winds. Despite difficult conditions some beats have caught reasonable numbers of mainly multi-sea winter salmon. By late June the Tor Achilty fish pass count was ahead of last years.

Stop logs were re installed at Orrin Falls to allow salmon passage

A local man was arrested by bailiffs in possession of three sea trout on the lower Conon.

A bid is being prepared with RAFTS and SNH for EU LIFE funding. It will combine all the Trust's invasive species and mink projects into a single funding package and if successful will provide a significant source of funding for five years.

Salmon fry are being fed on for release into the Orrin in late summer.

A visit took place with the Woodland Trust to look at options for restoring native woodlands to the upper reaches of the Alness at Kildermorie.

A visit took place to Glen Ord Distillery to examine options for restoring migratory fish passage in the Logie burn.

A meeting took place at Inverness College to further the development of a new research institute intended to support evidence based management of rivers and lochs.

Projects / research

A fry index electro-fishing survey of the Allt Graad took place in late June.

Preparations were made for the Glasgow University / Marine Scotland juvenile salmon project. Egg boxes were lifted and electro-fishing sites selected and marked out for sampling in July.

Marine Scotland started electro-fishing work for a project to examine the effect of flow regimes on juvenile salmon. The initial findings would suggest that there may be an advantage in stocking the Lower Orrin with some fed fry.

Himalayan balsam clearance is continuing, with work parties from The Conservation Volunteers and also Dingwall Environment Group. Significant reductions in the extent of balsam have taken place in areas cleared last year.

SEPA restoration funding has been approved for continued works on the Peffery.

Trust staff assisted the Lochaber Fishery Trust with the poisoning of American signal crayfish in two quarry ponds at Ballahulish. We can only hope that we will not have to apply the experience gained locally.

Meetings attended / consultations

Glasgow University / Marine Scotland NERC project planning meeting
Dingwall Environment group meeting and balsam clearance x2
IFM Scottish Branch Meeting
Lochaber Crayfish eradication
Ferintosh Environment group Lynn Mink presentation
Renewal of Boards Insurance policies with Clarke Thompson Ltd
Blackmuir pond plant survey
Inverness College Rivers and Lochs Institute meeting
SFCC meeting
Inverness Canoe Club meeting and newsletter article
Orrin windfarm extension
Scottish Government Code of Good Practice for fisheries management
Strath Rusdale hydro development
Glen Ord Distillery visit
Peffery SEPA restoration application
Wyvis hydro development
Glen Morie windfarm
Western Isles – Beaully power cable consultation