



Director's Report July 2013.

July brought a prolonged drought and soaring temperatures. This gave difficult fishing conditions but fish still came into the rivers, often running very hard in the warm low water conditions. By late July the count through Tor Achilty Dam was over 620 compared to a five year average of 370 at the same time. There have been no more reports of fish with symptoms of UDN which is associated with cold water conditions in spring and autumn.

Projects / research

The low water conditions did not prevent the start of electro-fishing in mid July. The field work for a joint research project with Glasgow University and Marine Scotland was completed. A catchment scale survey of the River Balnagown is underway and is showing the importance of barriers to migration in this system.

A funding application has been prepared for a two year extension of the mink project. There were a number of mink sightings in July and traps have been deployed.

Despite the drought, trees planted this spring along the Orrin are established and growing well. Conservation Volunteers have been busy all month clearing Himalayan balsam from riverbanks throughout the region.

Meetings attended / consultations

IFM Council Meeting
IFM Training Committee
Salmonid / beaver working group meeting
RAFTS salmon stocking workshop
Brahan hydro consultation
Dingwall Environment Group
Marine Scotland Offshore Renewables workshop
IFM bailiff exam
Luichart windfarm monitoring
Nigg quayside extension consultation