



## **Director's Report November 2013.**

The Cromarty Firth Fishery Trust helped sponsor an evening conference at the Royal Society Edinburgh on the marine phase of the salmon life cycle. The 'Lost at Sea' event was fully booked and attended by a fishery managers and anglers. Presentations by Marine Scotland, NASCO, Atlantic Salmon Trust and St Andrews University described the current understanding of the marine phase of the salmon's life cycle and factors determining abundance.

Trapping is underway at Loch na Croic. So far, the pattern of reduced numbers of grilse but reasonable MSW salmon numbers which we saw in the rod catch seems to be repeated in the trap catch.

An open day was held at Loch na Croic on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. The event was well attended and gave an opportunity for people to see salmon close up and learn how the Blackwater hatchery operation is used to mitigate for the impacts of hydro electric development.

On a site visit to examine river restoration works on the Peffery, sea trout were seen spawning in a gravel bed created at one of the restoration sites upstream of the weir at Strathpeffer sewage works. This shows that the works to make the weir passable to sea trout have been successful, opening up large areas of habitat which has been unused for many years.

### ***Projects / research***

Two Glasgow University research projects are ongoing at Loch na Croic. Genetic samples are being taken from adult fish to identify family groups for next summer's research programme.

One project is looking at the effect of slow or fast river growth of parents on the success of their offspring in different environments. The other is looking at the genetic fitness of salmon parents of different ages; from 2 year old precocious parr through to 5 year old multi-sea winter salmon.

***Meetings attended / consultations***

IFM / SFCC / UHI meeting  
RAFTS regional meeting  
TCV Apprenticeship meeting  
Loch na Croic Open Day  
TCV Green Gym hatchery visit  
SSE hatchery visit  
Highland Council Peffery flooding meeting  
Alness weir site visit  
Royal Society of Edinburgh Lost at Sea Conference