



Director's Report October 2013.

The first Board AGM held under the new Aquaculture and Fisheries Act took place as a public meeting in Maryburgh Hall on the 11th of October. The new arrangements worked well and the minutes of the meeting are available from the website. Following an ASFB Directors meeting, a bid has been prepared for Scottish Government funding to produce plans for catchment scale riparian woodland restoration. The first phase of the Cromarty Firth Fishery Management Plan is coming to an end and the production of a second phase for consultation is underway. We would welcome input on any particular issues which Board members would like to see considered in the second phase of the plan.

The Moray Firth Trout initiative has secured £3,000 funding from the Nineveh Trust to support next spring's tree planting works on Cromarty Firth Rivers.

A funding application has been made to the Forestry Commission to support volunteer involvement in clearing rhododendron from the banks of the Alness.

Projects / research

A visit took place with SSE staff to look at the most up to date hatchery technology used by Marine Harvest. This will help to plan the refurbishment of the Contin Hatchery which is due to start in 2014.

The writing up of this year's electro-fishing reports and entry of data into the SFCC database is underway.

Spraying of Japanese knotweed and rhododendron regrowth was completed for the year.

Contin Hatchery and Loch na Croic have been prepared for this year's broodstock collection and Alness broodstock have been collected by rod and line.

SFCC training courses on Geographical Information System and Databases for Fisheries were attended by Natalie as part of her apprenticeship.

A project has started with the Atlantic Salmon Trust to review the assessment and modeling of salmon stocks. This will help with the production of Conservation Limits for individual river stocks. We will apply this process to some of the data from the Conon system where we have counter data, juvenile data and smolt production estimates.

Meetings attended / consultations

Cromarty Board / Trust Management committee
Cromarty Board AGM and Public meeting
Dingwall Academy Rural Skills visit
Kildermorie site visit
SEPA Flood Management Meeting
SNH meeting
Loch Ailort site visit
ASFB / RAFTS AGM
Luichart windfarm consultation report
Invergordon Port Authority consultation
ASFB Directors meeting