



## **Director's Report October 2012.**

Natalie Young started as a Fishery Management Apprentice through a scheme run by The Conservation Volunteers. Natalie has already proved a valuable member of the team and has been involved in hatchery work as well as a bailiffing operation which led to the arrest of a Dingwall man caught taking sea trout out of season.

A fish trapping open day at Loch na Croic was well attended and other guided visits have taken place for Invergordon Academy, Dingwall Environment Group and The Conservation Volunteers.

A useful meeting took place with representatives of local angling clubs to plan next year's carcass tagging project.

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

Trapping at Loch na Croic and at Orrin Dam has been effected by very low flows and cold conditions during November. Over 750 salmon were caught by the end of November but large numbers of fish remain downstream waiting for rainfall.

Fieldwork for two Glasgow University research projects took place at Loch na Croic in November.

Broodstock for the Alness and Allt Graad was also stripped during November.

Further meetings took place to develop a new Rivers and Lochs Institute which will be based in the new University of the Highlands and Islands campus in Inverness.

The Moray Firth Trout Initiative was launched in November. This project will develop trout conservation and education projects and has attracted funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

*Meetings attended / consultations*

Scottish Fishery Coordination Centre Electro-fishing workshop

Moray Firth Trout Initiative meeting

Otters and Fisheries conference

SEPA North Highland Area Advisory Group

Association of Salmon Fishery Boards AGM

Institute of Fisheries Management meeting

Highland Invasive Species Forum

Carcass tagging meeting

Forestry Commission rivers meeting

Luichart Windfarm site visit

Inverness College Rivers and Lochs Institute meeting

Fish passage at Glen Ord Distillery.