



Director's Report September 2012.

Grilse continued to enter the region's rivers but in smaller numbers than the main runs of late July and August. By the end of the month 968 had passed through Tor Achilty dam and 47 PIT tagged fish had been recorded. There were a lot more PIT tagged grilse recorded this year than last and the PIT tag decoder shows an upstream movement of MSW salmon late in the season.

Projects / research

September was a busy month for electro-fishing. Contract survey work was carried out for several proposed new hydro schemes.

This year's electro-fishing survey of the Upper Meig above the Corriefeol fish pass was completed in September. The survey shows a continuing improvement in natural salmon spawning upstream of Corriefeol. The same sites were surveyed as last year, in 2011 salmon fry were absent at 18 of the sites fished, in 2012 they were present at all but 8 sites.

With funding from the SEPA restoration fund and the Moray Firth Sea trout Initiative, Board staff and Conservation Volunteers completed the planned programme of instream restoration works on the River Peffery. A total of 16 instream structures were built and already have created a variety of depth and meandering within the channel.

We are working with The Conservation Volunteers to set up a new Fishery Management Apprenticeship which will start this winter.

Rhododendron regrowth on the Orrin was sprayed in late September and Japanese knotweed was sprayed and stem injected.

Preparations were made for the Institute of Fishery Management conference in Edinburgh and the launch of the Code of Good Practice for Fishery Management.

The code is available on the Board's website at www.cromarty.dsfb.org.uk it is written to be easily followed and contains essential information on fishery management and salmonid biology which should be read by as many anglers as possible.

Meetings attended / consultations

IFM planning for Edinburgh conference

Rivers and Lochs Institute steering group meeting at Inverness College

Dingwall Environment Group volunteer days on Peffery x2

TCV programme planning meeting

Scottish Fishery Coordination Centre meeting

Cromarty Management Committee Meeting

SEPA Balnagown weirs site visit

Cromarty DSFB Board meeting

Moray Firth sawbill management planning meeting with Glasgow Caledonian University

Orrin windfarm extension report.