



Website; [www.cromarty.dsfb.org.uk](http://www.cromarty.dsfb.org.uk)

## **Director's Report February 2013**

### *General*

Dry cold conditions with little snow gave ideal conditions for egg planting and rhododendron clearance. Following problems with flows on the Allt Graad, SEPA organised a flow trial experiment with Npower to help prevent sudden changes in flow. Sudden drops in flow can be damaging particularly in late spring when fry are emerging from the gravel. There was a sediment discharge into the Orrin from the Aultgowrie Burn following a landslip caused by frost.

### *Projects / research*

Egg planting in the Upper Orrin and Upper Meig was completed in February, which is earlier than usual thanks to excellent conditions. Egg planting for the Glasgow University NERC project started in February and will be completed in early March. With funding from SNH, we will be helping to test a new online biodiversity actions database. This will be useful to help record all the Board and Trusts project work as well as promoting the work we do to a wide audience.

With support from the SEPA restoration fund and trees supplied by the Forestry Commission, the river banks of the upper Peffery are being planted with native trees. This will help to restore nutrients, stabilise banks and reduce summer temperatures. More tree planting will take place in March on other rivers with trees being supplied by Forestry Commission and The Woodland Trust.

A 'Mayfly in the Classroom' training day was attended by staff. The Trust will be funded to carry out this project in number of local schools in 2013 by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A river and classroom visit will take place, children will then make their own mayfly hatching aquaria. After learning about river ecology and conservation they will release the mayflies and caddis flies they rear back into the wild.

*Meetings attended / consultations*

Dingwall Environment Group AGM

Mayfly in the classroom training day

Fairburn Forestry meeting

Inshore fisheries conference

Institute of Fisheries Management meeting and bailiff's exam setting

SEPA fisheries workshop meeting

LBAP Forum

Pefferly restoration planning meeting

Highland Biodiversity meeting

Rivers and Lochs Institute meeting

Scottish Mink Initiative steering group meeting

Forestry Commission Longart & Garbat restructuring consultation