



Website; www.cromarty.dsfb.org.uk

Director's Report March 2014

General

The first meeting of the Scottish Government Wild Fisheries Review Group took place in March. The scope and timetable of the review have been agreed and over the next 6 months the group Chairman Andrew Thin will be collecting information and then making recommendations to Scottish Government on the future structure of fishery management in Scotland. A presentation to the ASFB / RAFTS conference outlined the review process and emphasised its collaborative nature. Throughout the review updates can be found on the website below, which will also describe mechanisms to contribute to the process.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/wildfisheriesreview>.

Projects / research

This year's egg planting has now been completed, the remaining eggs have hatched and will be stocked out as unfed fry in late April and early May.

Mink volunteers have been contacted and the network of mink rafts is active and ready to monitor spring mink movements.

This year's rhododendron clearance on the Alness at Ardross Castle has been completed.

Bailiffs are tree planting on Forestry Commission land at Strath Rannoch a main tributary of the Blackwater. The Forestry Commission has supplied 15,000 trees and the Moray Firth Trout Initiative has sourced funding for TCV to work alongside the Bailiffs planting the trees. Felled conifers have been stacked to build tree shelters to protect some of the trees from deer whilst others are being planted in tubes.

Opportunities to help the work of the Board and Trust are to be publicised by the Easter Ross Local Biodiversity Action Plan group as well as on our own website. They include helping with; mink project, invasive plant monitoring / clearing, electro-fishing surveys, tree planting, river clean up days, collecting scales and keeping angling diaries. See website for details.

Meetings attended / consultations

ASFB / IFM Annual Bailiffs' Conference
Highland Invasive Species Forum
RAFTS Members and planning meeting
SEPA
Highland Council Seashore Project Meeting
1st Wild Fisheries Review meeting
Teanninich Distillery meeting
ASFB / RAFTS Conference
Easter Ross Local Biodiversity Action Plan Meeting
Scottish Fishery Coordination Centre Management Committee
ASFB Directors Group Meeting
IFM Bailiffs exam marking
Moray Firth Trout Initiative Angling Development Project Meeting
IFM Scottish Branch AGM
Allt na Caorach hydro consultation