



Cromarty Junior Angling Project 2017

With a grant from the SSE Fairburn Community Wind Farm Fund the Cromarty Firth Fishery Board delivered another successful Junior Angling Project to three local primary schools. The aim of the project was to increase junior angling participation within the Cromarty Firth region and to enhance children's enjoyment and understanding of their local environment.

Following on from the success of the school angling days the Cromarty Firth Junior Angling Club was created so that children could gain more experience and further develop their angling skills.

School angling days were organised for three primary schools, Strathconon, Marybank and Tarradale. Children were given the opportunity to experience angling at the trout loch on the Brahan Estate. This took place within a safe controlled environment, with a qualified fishing coach and fishery board staff. Children received instruction in fly fishing, spinning and bait fishing, before they were let loose to have a go at fishing for themselves with the support of coaching staff.





Bushcraft skills and river ecology were also included as part of the angling days agenda. The children enjoyed learning survival skills which complemented their experience of learning to catch fish. Throughout the day children were encouraged to be responsible and sustainable anglers and to respect and engage with their environment.





Over the three school day angling sessions 56 children attended from Marybank, Strathconon and Tarradale primary schools. The children had a wonderful time on the Brahan Estate and managed to catch a good number of trout. The children were inspired on these days with many having not only learned how to cast a fly but also successfully catching trout. To maintain the enthusiasm generated by the school angling sessions the Cromarty Firth Junior Angling Club was created.





The Cromarty Firth Junior Angling Club had four fishing visits in 2017 to Tarvie Fishing Lochs. Each session lasted two hours and was open to children from schools that had already attended angling days. Dingwall Academy S1-S3 pupils were also among the attendees. A member of staff from the Cromarty Firth Fishery Board attended Dingwall Academy Sports Fresher Fair day to promote the Cromarty Firth Junior Angling Club, 30 pupils from that event expressed an interest in joining the Junior Angling Club.



In total over the four visits 85 children attended the Junior Angling Club with a good number from the Academy. Fishery Board staff, local

angling club members and parents helped supervise children to have a fun safe experience in angling and at each session many trout were caught.



A Winter programme of events for the Angling club was organised and included a hatchery visit and a fly tying demonstration class.



The Cromarty Firth Junior Angling club intends to continue to meet once a month in 2018. The aim of the club is to promote angling for children within the Cromarty Firth Catchment so that children learn to use and value their local natural environment. We aim to raise funds to support this initiative in 2018 and to encourage links with local angling clubs.