



Director's Report May 2013.

May brought continued cold and very wet conditions. The planting of unfed fry was delayed by around three weeks but was completed by the end of the month.

The smolt run was also delayed by the cold conditions and will continue into June. High water kept the barrage gates at Achanalt open for most of the month. Despite the difficult conditions almost 5,000 smolts were trapped at Achanalt, transported and then released below Tor Achilty Dam.

Bailiffing patrols were increased during May and will continue for the remainder of the summer.

Carcass tags have been distributed to most anglers in the region.

Projects / research

On the River Bran 1,000 salmon smolts were tagged with electronic PIT tags and on the Blackwater almost 2,000 were tagged.

A few dry days towards the end of the month allowed the spraying of giant hogweed in the Balnagown catchment.

Trees which were planted on the Orrin, Peffery and Blackwater are growing well. We are planning a project with the Forestry Commission to investigate the benefits to fish habitat of introducing large woody debris to streams. Large woody debris is a feature of natural rivers with well established bankside habitat. It can be very important in cleaning gravel, providing cover and retaining nutrients.

Meetings attended / consultations

Fish Autopsy course Stirling University

Hatchery open day

RAFTS Invasive Species Database training day

IFM Committee Meeting

SEPA Peffery project site visit

Cromarty Management Committee Meeting.

TCV Apprenticeship Meeting.

Forestry Commission Large Woody Debris Meeting and site visit.

Rivers and Lochs Institute Steering Meeting

Strath Bran Hydro