



Director's Report May 2014.

The Wild Fishery Review process is ongoing. There will be more regional meetings during June to gather information for the review. An update was given by Andrew Thin to the Scottish Government Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. It can be viewed by following the link below.

http://www.scottishparliament.tv/category.aspx?sort=date&vid=0_68flhfjp

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

There have been a number of visits to see fishery management activities in the Cromarty Firth region during May. A group of Swedish and Finnish biologists visited with the Forestry Commission to look at tree planting and large woody debris projects on the Blackwater and instream restoration works on the Peffery. It was interesting to find they were using similar techniques in Scandinavia to restore instream habitats in rivers which had been damaged by management for log rafting.

Projects / research

Tree planting was completed in Strath Rannoch with 15,000 native trees planted along the banks this spring by bailiffs and Conservation Volunteers.

Smolt trapping on the Bran has been helped by good flow conditions over the peak of the run in early May. By the end of the month over 8,500 had been trapped, transported and released below the hydro scheme.

The Forestry Commission felled and installed some large trees in the Strath Rannoch burn as part of an ongoing large woody debris research project.

Egg baskets, which were planted out to test the survival of salmon eggs at more than 40 sites were recovered during May. This year's survival has been excellent with 100% hatch at most sites and 80% at the only site with any significant mortality.

The Board is preparing a bid to carry out a radio-tracking project on the Black Rock this summer. The work is required by the CAR licence for the new hydro scheme and will look at the behavior of adult salmon and their spawning success.

Meetings attended / consultations

Wild Fishery Review Meetings

SEPA / SSE freshet review meeting

Dee DSFB fish passage visit to Conon

Forestry Commission / Scandinavian biologists site visits to Conon and Peffery

SEPA AAG visit

TCV planning meeting

Black Rock radio tracking planning.