



Director's Report September 2014.

September brought a return to warm dry conditions and a month of low flows. This gave difficult angling conditions throughout the month which were reflected in rod catches. A late run of grilse continued to come into the rivers throughout September. The Tor Achilty Dam count is close to the 5-year average and the number of PIT tagged fish recorded passing through the dam is very similar to that of recent years.

Diageo completed works for the new Teanninich Distillery off take at Alness weir. They have agreed to carry out further works to restore the pool height below the weir, this will improve both the effectiveness of the fish pass and allow easier passage up the face of the weir.

Electro-fishing survey work on the Meig above Corrie Feol over the last 4 years has shown a spread of the distribution of salmon. This year is the first year returning adults would be expected since the restoration of the fish pass. Despite a summer of low flows the count through Meig Dam is double last year's and well ahead of the 5-year average. (See below)

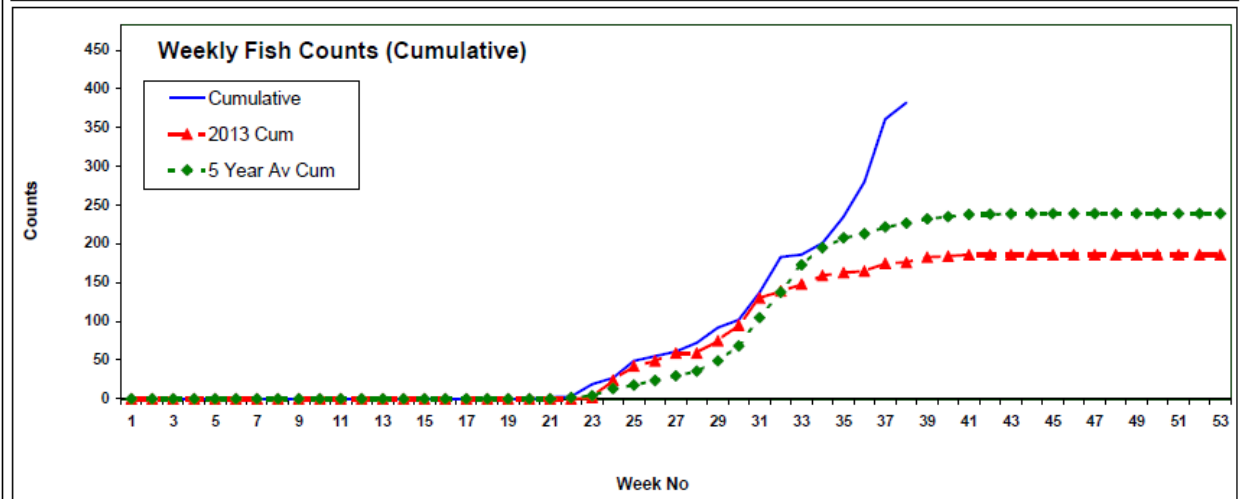
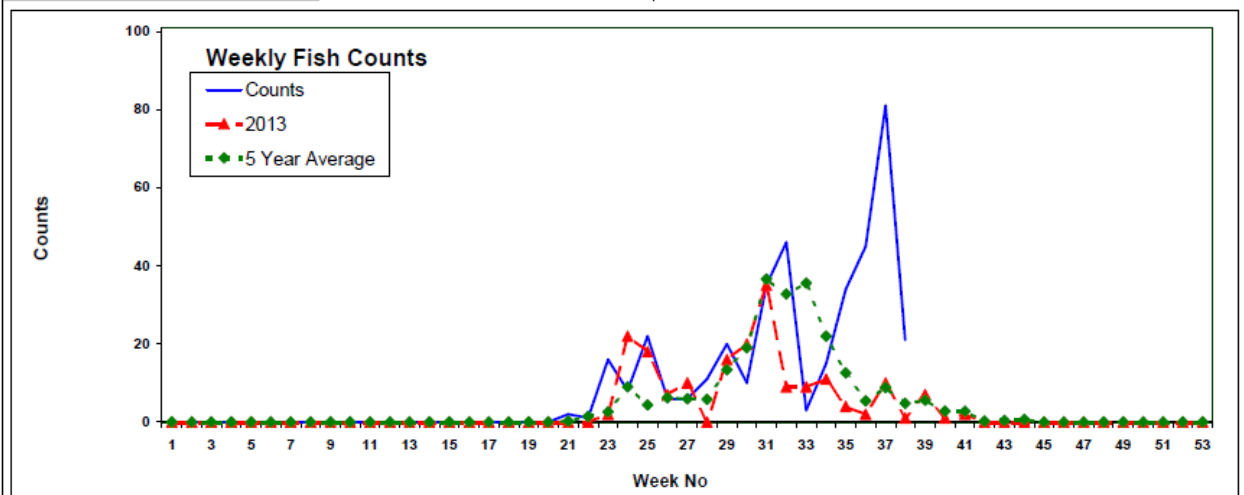
The Wild Fishery Review process is reaching its conclusion. The final report will be published in October and a link will be provided on the Board's website. RAFTS and ASFB have set up a working group which will look at possible implementation of recommendations.

Meig Fish Pass - Salmon

Year 2014

Week 38

Figures for Week No.	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
38	15-Sep-14	16-Sep-14	17-Sep-14	18-Sep-14	19-Sep-14	20-Sep-14	21-Sep-14
Salmon Ascending	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Kelts\Descending	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Weekly	Cumulative					
Figures for 2014	21	382					
Figures for 2013	1	176					
5 Year Average	4.80	226.6					



Projects / research

The Allt Graad radio-tracking project started in September. To date 9 fish have been tagged and are being tracked. Rainfall is now needed to encourage fish movement and to bring in some fresh fish for tagging.

The drought in September gave excellent conditions for juvenile electro-fishing surveying. As well as survey work on the Upper Meig, contract work was completed on the Allt Graad and Allt na Caorach.

An experiment is planned with Marine Scotland Science to test fish passage through a pipe arrangement called a 'Beaver Deceiver', which can be used to reduce flooding at beaver dams. This will be done at Loch na Croic and the pipe will run between two tanks allowing fish passage at different heads and pipe lengths to be investigated.

We have been asked to act as a partner with the Forestry Commission in a proposed EU Northern Periphery Partnership project. The first scoping meetings will take place in October.

Meetings attended / consultations

Wild Fishery Review
Moray Firth Trout Initiative
Marine Scotland Science beaver dam meeting
Cromarty 1ary school visit
Alness weir visits
Allt Coire nan Laough hydro consultation
N-Power Allt Graad site visit