



Cromarty Firth Fishery Board,
Galbraith, Clark Thomson
House, Fairways Business Park,
Inverness, IV2 6AA

September 17th 2024

Marybank Weir Removal (River Balnagowan, Cromarty Firth) Press Release

Cromarty Firth Fishery Board have successfully secured funding for the complete removal of the Marybank Weir on the Balnagowan. This project was highlighted as a priority over a decade ago, yet it has been challenging to secure funding to complete this.

Ongoing discussions with Balnagowan Estate led to their full support of the project and In November 2023, we applied to the Open Rivers programme to secure funding for this project to go ahead. We are pleased to announce that the application was shortlisted earlier this year with the full bid being awarded this summer.

Ultimately, we hope that by removing this redundant weir, which is known to negatively impact fish migration, sediment transport and natural river hydrology, we will increase both the available habitat to native freshwater fish communities and allow easier access upstream to Atlantic salmon and Sea trout.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank project partners who have supported this removal, including Callum Paterson (Balnagowan Estate), Jen Campbell (Scotsburn Farm), Hamish Moir (CBEC Eco-Engineering), Kevin Mackenzie (K.J. Mackenzie, Garve).

Finally, thank you to the Open Rivers programme (www.openrivers.eu) for making this project a reality. The European Open Rivers Programme is a Dutch grant-giving organisation dedicated to restoring rivers. The programme offers grants to support projects that lead to the removal of small dams and the restoration of river flow and biodiversity. The programme is funded by Arcadia.

Please watch this space for incoming photos and videos of the demolition process once begun. These will be posted to our website at <https://cromarty.dsfb.org.uk/news/> and our socials at www.facebook.com/CfFisheries





Figure 1: Marybank Weir on the Balnagowan, pre demolition, summer 2024.