

Association of Salmon Fishery Boards Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland

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ASFB News

Fish Movements & Transfers – The Scottish Government will be introducing fish movements and transfers secondary legislation in August following the powers created in the Aquaculture & Freshwater Fisheries Act, 2007. This is an attempt to create a risk assessment and licensing system to

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control fish movements to prevent the introduction of non-native species into all Scottish water bodies, except those in the Tweed District. These controls exist in England and Wales under the Section 30 regulations which are managed by the Environment Agency and on the Tweed by the Tweed Commissioners. The new regulations will apply to all fish species other than salmon and sea-trout whose introductions are currently controlled by District Salmon Fishery Boards. The ASFB has acknowledged that it needs to demonstrate equally robust controls on stocking of salmon and sea-trout in an attempt to ensure stocking, where evidence

suggests it can be effective, takes place responsibly. The ASFB is working in parallel with the Scottish Government to create a framework for decision making and has already agreed to implement a definitive policy of a complete presumption against the transfer of salmon or sea-trout between catchments. We will have a robust policy in place for 2009.

Strathy Project – The decision to close the Strathy Netting station in 2007 resulted in efforts being made to run the station as a research and monitoring facility to monitor salmon condition and performance at sea using new techniques being developed by Professor Chris Todd at the University of St Andrews. Plans have had to change following the sudden death of Simon Paterson who has been the tenant at Strathy for many years and whose knowledge was vital to the success of the project. Discussions are ongoing concerning active monitoring of fish from other sources and various long-term alternatives to Strathy are currently being considered by the management group. Several fishery boards had pledged to support this work and we hope and expect that this support will be called on this year but will be advising on progress. If

the project does go ahead we will be producing regular 'real time' bulletins on the performance of the fish being monitored by the project.

Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA) – Discussions are underway about how to secure the future of ACA in Scotland and there is the possibility of support from Fishery Boards who could use a wide range of legal services that might be provided by ACA. Several Boards have already joined ACA on a temporary basis pending a decision by ASFB on how to engineer the best working relationship with the organization in 2009. The ACA has currently engaged Bob Younger to assist them on a part-time basis with their investigatory work in Scotland. It has now been agreed with ACA that the organization will remain active in Scotland in its current form and not be absorbed into the 'Angling Unity' initiative being pursued in England & Wales. Details of how to join the ACA in Scotland can be obtained from the ACA. Web: www.a-c-a.org. Current ACA cases under investigation are:

Incident/location	Status
River Irvine: Flood defence work at Gallstone	Awaiting final SEPA assessment and will consider compiling claim
River Ericht: Abstraction by land-based rainbow trout farm	Awaiting QC's opinion on proceedings against abstractor for Board/Club
Loch Awe/Lochy: Escape of rainbow trout	Conference with QC to consider proceedings. Seeking interdict
River Forth: Fish mortality at power station intake	Possible meeting with Scottish Power. Fol request regarding complaints against Scottish Power
Rotten Calder (Clyde): Sewage and agricultural pollution	Pursuing SEPA files and compiling claims against Scottish Water and polluting farmer
River Irvine: Agricultural pollution	Claim sent to farmer
River Bladnoch: Acidification	Investigation of case against forestry causing acidification in headwaters of salmon SAC
River Ugie: Chemical pollution	Claim sent to chemical firm

Ness DSFB – Spring Salmon Conservation Regulations – The Ness DSFB has announced that it is making an application to the Scottish Government to apply conservation regulations for compulsory catch and release



on the Ness system from the start of the season up until the end of June and from September 1– October 15, to conserve spring fish at the beginning and end of the season. The Board have considered that the response

to the voluntary code has been insufficient (spring fish release rate 36%) and, having warned anglers that it intended to resort to statutory measures, it now intends to do so. If successful the order will be in place for the 2009 season.

Spring 2008 – Spring salmon fishing in Scotland in 2008 appears to have been better again after the weaker run of 2007 though fisheries managers still are maintaining a highly precautionary approach to exploitation of early running stocks. Once again the presence of larger fish has been noted with at least 70 fish being caught on the River Tay over 20lbs and 6 of over 30lbs.

Red vents in salmon - A widely noted feature of last year's run of grilse were reports of fish with distended and bleeding vents. There have been sporadic reports of some fish being affected by this again in 2008. The likely cause is infestation of *Anisakis simplex*, a naturally occurring worm

which is often found in wild fish and can cause problems in humans if the fish is eaten raw. For further information on red vents



contact: David Bruno at Fisheries Research Services – d.bruno@marlab.ac.uk

NASCO - The 25'th Annual Meeting of NASCO was held in Gijon in Northern Spain from 3-6 June. This was the first meeting at which the new regime of reporting by the NASCO signatories was attempted with this year's theme, in the form of a Focus Area Report, being Fisheries Management. Habitat Restoration and Aquaculture will be the subject of Focus Area Reports in 2009 and 2010. There has been no significant change in the advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on the status of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic with advice being maintained that "*reductions in exploitation are required for as many stocks as possible to increase the probability of the stock complexes meeting conservation limits. Furthermore, due to the different status of individual stocks within the stock complexes, mixed stock fisheries*

present particular threats to stock status". This continues to have implications for Scotland given our absence of widespread conservation limits and the continued prosecution of some still substantial mixed stock fisheries. Scotland however has reported to NASCO that it intends to develop a conservation limit approach to managing Atlantic salmon stocks and will address the issue of the remaining mixed stock fisheries in the forthcoming review of these fisheries that will form part of the new Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries. Further advice on the NASCO proceedings can be obtained from: www.nasco.int

Spey Fishery Board - In August 2007 the Spey Fishery Board commissioned EnviroCentre to report on water transfers and abstractions throughout the River Spey catchment, following new proposals by Scottish Water and Scottish & Southern Energy to take yet more water from the area. Substantial quantities are already transferred out of the catchment from the Upper River for hydro-electricity production and large amounts lower down are abstracted for public water supplies, distilleries and fish farms. Scottish & Southern Energy are proposing to reduce the compensation flow down the River Tromie (one of the schemes which compensates the River Spey for water transferred for hydro-electricity production) to help fulfil the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Furthermore Scottish Water has dug exploratory boreholes near Aviemore, with proposals which may lead to the replacement of the area's existing water supply from Loch Einich with a borehole supply next to the Spey. The Envirocentre Report has now been completed and is the first time a holistic study of water resources within the River Spey catchment has been undertaken. It provides an assessment of the cumulative impact of the existing water transfers and abstractions, as well as the new proposals and their implications for the river. The Envirocentre Report can be downloaded from www.speyfisheryboard.com.

Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries - The final document and implementation plan are to be launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, at the Scone Game Fair on Friday 4'th July at 11am in the members enclosure. Details from: Valerie.Lusk2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Annual Bailiff's Seminar - this was held at Dryburgh Abbey Hotel on 17/18 March and was well attended by bailiffs and managers from across Scotland. A series of interesting talks were provided followed by field visits on day 2. Next year's event will take place on Deeside.

Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland

Fisheries Management Planning (FMP) – All members completed their preparatory contracts for Fisheries Research services in March 2008 and are now beginning to prepare and implement their own fishery management plans. When these plans are prepared they will provide an excellent and comprehensive basis upon which the management of our

important fish and fisheries can be based. Crucially, these plans will be available for others to see and allow shared

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objectives to be identified and opportunities for effective delivery of actions to be identified. Already, RAFTS has been able to gather additional funding to support the implementation of fishery management plans from 2008. The confirmation of a grant of £400 000 from the Scottish Government to support fishery management planning for the next 3 years is the most important and tangible acknowledgement of the value of these plans to Scotland's environment and fisheries. This award is of fundamental importance in underpinning the whole fishery management planning process and is hugely welcomed.

Re-introduction of European Beavers - The Scottish Government has finally authorised the trial of a re-introduction of the European Beaver into Knapdale in Argyll. The ASFB and RAFTS expressed serious concerns about this re-introduction on grounds of the potential problems that large numbers of the animal might create for fish passage and damage to riparian habitat. These concerns were expressed in a carefully worded letter to the Minister, Mike Russell, with an emphasis on ensuring that the project properly tested impacts on salmonids and which had a clearly articulated exit strategy. A further concern has been that the proposed pilot area is not in an area of migratory salmonids and therefore it will be impossible to assess the potential impacts on migratory



fish. The decision has now been made and several beavers, sourced from Norway, will be placed in quarantine for 6 months before being re-introduced. Both ASFB and RAFTS will continue to

press for a proper assessment of impacts and for an exit strategy if the re-introduction proves problematical. It is also worth mentioning that there are at least 2 beavers on the loose in Scotland at present (released illegally), neither of which can be apprehended!

Crown Estates Funding – RAFTS has recently had approved an agreement with the Crown Estates who will provide £75000 over the next 3 years. This money will come through RAFTS to support projects which are part of the fishery management plan implementation process for the West Coast Fishery Trusts.

Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) - RAFTS have recently received the sum of £15000 to support genetic sampling and analysis by all fishery trusts in 2008. This work will be to

support and inform local management but will also provide materials for the SALSEA Merge project. This grant is the largest single award ever provided by the AST to a freshwater project.

Scottish Natural Heritage - Pearl mussel work - A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed confirming a joint project between RAFTS members and SNH to monitor pearl mussels in 2008. The project has a total value of £28000 which will be distributed to relevant trusts dependant on the scale of work.

RAFTS Conference – following the success of the RAFTS Fisheries Management Planning Conference at Birnam in March which was attended by 140 delegates, we have set a provisional date for the next RAFTS General Committee (10 March 09) and RAFTS Conference (11'th March, 09). Details of the conference will be provided later in the year but please put this date in your diary.

Forth Fisheries Trust/Board - The Forth are pleased to announce the appointment from 1st June of Patrick Fotheringham (formerly Director of Salmon and Trout Association Scotland and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (UK) as their new Director. This is a new role which will involve running the existing Board and the newly constituted Trust in parallel. He can be contacted on: 07788 416788. Email psfotheringham@btoopenworld.com. Tom McKenzie retires as Clerk to the Board but will continue to provide assistance on a limited consultancy basis.

Biosecurity planning project and recruitment opportunity: RAFTS is close to finalising an exciting 3 year project to develop biosecurity plans across its membership and support the development of a rapid response protocol for non-native species reporting in Scotland. The project officer post will be advertised and recruited this summer but those wishing to register an interest, and to receive further information when available, can advise RAFTS of this now. This post will be funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Scottish Government.

Institute of Fisheries Management

Bailiff examination – IFM co-ordinated the bailiff examination which was convened on 17 March. 56 candidates sat the examination and results have now been issued.

Development Officer (DO) - IFM National have now appointed a UK-wide DO to assist with training development. Whilst this will be a national post and spread quite thinly, there will be scope for the role to provide some input in Scotland.

Branch resources - IFM Scottish Branch had a very useful meeting with the IFM National Chairman and Training Committee Chairman. Amongst other things discussed, it is hoped to create a specific formal bailiff membership category in Scotland and for funding raised in Scotland through this route to help deliver a clear service for this sector. It is hoped to collaborate with the ASFB on the best way to achieve this, and discussions are underway.

Events – The Galloway Trust and Annan DSFB collaborated with the Wild Trout Trust and IFM by holding two open events in Galloway and Annandale to discuss issues associated with stocking fish and the implications of genetics. These were well attended and it is hoped to convene further events later in 2007 and early 2008. East Lothian Angling Association will be taking this up in early 2009.

Aquaculture

S.Argyll Area Management Agreement Report – The S.Argyll AMA has agreed for the first time to publish key data on the performance of the various aspects of the AMA. This is a major development for the Tri-Partite Working Group (TWG). The report will include data on: sea-lice management performance against target thresholds; escapes; fisheries restoration planning and wild fisheries catches and catch and release rates; etc. All involved are to be congratulated on this step forward which we hope will lead to greater transparency about progress with the TWG. Clearly there are sensitivities surrounding this information but the parties have agreed to post this report on the TWG website:
www.tripartiteworkinggroup.com.

Escapes – Scottrout Ltd, Scotland's major freshwater trout farming company whose record of containment has been extremely poor over recent years, have reported a further escape of rainbow trout in Loch Lochy in mid May. The incident is currently under investigation by FRS. This follows a series of escapes over many years, culminating in the recent escape in the spring of 4000 3-4Kg rainbows many of which entered the River Awe. It has been reported to us that Scottrout may be in the process of being acquired by a competitor. In conjunction with the Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA), the Argyll Board and the Loch Awe Improvement Association are considering legal action against Scottrout over some of these recent escape incidents.

Reports

Revised Gyrodactylus salaris Contingency Plan -
www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1062/0058772.pdf

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR), Practical Guide - provides information on the regulatory regimes and levels of authorisation including General Binding Rules. Web link:
www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/wfd/regimes/car_practical_guide.pdf

Shieldaig Project Review June 2006 – June 2007 Fisheries Research Services) – latest findings of the Shieldaig sea trout project. enquiries@marlab.ac.uk

Tay DSFB Annual Report – 2007 – latest work of the Tay Board. Email: d.summers@btinternet.com

Annan DSFB 2008 Newsletter & 2007 Annual Report – latest activities of the Annan Board. Email: nick@annanfisheryboard.co.uk

Investigation of interactions between seals and salmon in freshwater (Isla Graham – Sea Mammals Research Unit) – Copies available from Isla on: 07770 735229. Email: isla.graham@st-andrews.ac.uk

Salmon Related Literature Published in 2007 - A useful compendium of current scientific literature on salmon research published by NASCO. Copies from this office.

Conferences

Wild, free and coming back? The Return of key species to Scotland - 16/17 September – 2 day conference to examine the action required to achieve further re-introductions of key species. Details: www.thewildland-network.org.uk

Scottish Aquaculture: A Sustainable Future—Edinburgh; 21/22 April 2009. The theme of sustainability will be explored under the four broad themes of the environment, fish health and welfare, the role of science within regulation and policy, together with the socio-economic impact of aquaculture.
www.sarf.org.uk/symposium.htm

6th International Charr Symposium - Stirling University 15th to the 20th June 2009 with a 2 day excursion to visit notable Arctic charr sites in the Scottish Highlands Further information from: C.Adams@bio.gla.ac.uk

New Staff

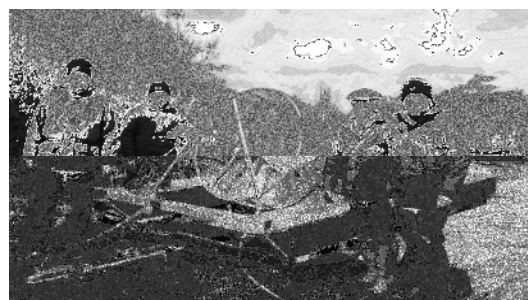


A warm welcome to Coreen Scott who joins RAFTS and ASFB as administrator and book-keeper. Coreen has a background in financial administration in the legal and banking world and will also be helping out more generally in the office. She will currently be working 2 days a week and can be

contacted at the office or on:
Email: coreen.asfbrafts@live.co.uk

Meeting Dates

ORGANISATION	DATE
ASFB Executive Committee	8 July 2008
ASFB Council	12 August 2008
RAFTS General Committee	16 Sept 2008
ASFB Executive Committee	30 Sept 2008
RAFTS Executive Committee	21 October 2008
ASFB AGM	11 November 2008
RAFTS AGM/Conference	10/11 March 2009



Rotary Screw Trap and team on River Snizort, Skye