



November 2011

Welcome to the ASFB-RAFTS electronic newsletter. Below you will find updates on the recent work of ASFB and RAFTS, the latest news, events and publications.

ASFB & RAFTS Activity

ASFB and RAFTS priorities have included the production of guidance for Boards and Trusts in dealing with a range of issues and the finalisation a new annual members' survey.

ASFB

- Alan Wells met with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) to discuss and gain feedback on the input of the WI DSFB to the planning process for aquaculture and wind farm developments. In addition, Alan Wells and Brian Davidson met with Marine Scotland Science to discuss the production of guidance for Boards in dealing with applications for wind farms, marine renewable developments and run of river hydro developments.
- Andrew Wallace and Alan Wells attended a meeting with Stewart Stevenson to discuss the situation on the Tay, where an unknown number of feral beavers have been illegally introduced into the wild. The RAFTS and ASFB position is that the Tayside Beavers should be removed, as the genetic and disease/infestation status of these animals cannot be properly assessed. We also highlighted that such illegal activity could undermine the credibility of all the methodical and logical work going on with the Knapdale trial. The Minister confirmed that the Tayside introduction was in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but has yet to reach a conclusion on the future of these animals.
- Alan Wells attended the Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group, which included an update on the priority catchment works, a review of the available guidance on diffuse pollution and setting the future priorities for the group.
- Alan Wells visited the Western Isles, Cromarty, Kyle of Sutherland, Ness and North & West DSFBs to learn more about the local issues and priorities for these Boards and to update the Boards on ASFB's work.
- Brian Davidson is working with the Poaching Sub Group set up under the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime initiative to report on current salmon enforcement areas. This work has ensured that fish poaching in general is classified as a wildlife crime along with other activities such as raptor poisoning, hare coursing etc. In conjunction with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, we are exploring the potential for a mechanism to co-ordinate through ASFB the gathering of intelligence on poaching through a formal protocol.
- Alan Wells attended the NASCO Salmon Summit in La Rochelle France. Alan's report from the event can be found [here](#).
- Alan Wells attended a public meeting in Brechin, following the Scottish Government decision to turn down the Esk DSFB's application for a delay to the start of the salmon netting season in the South Esk District for a period of five years.

RAFTS

- **Invasives & Biosecurity Programme – conference update:** The RAFTS Invasive Non Native Species and Biosecurity Programme is made up of £4.5 million of projects that cover a large proportion of Scotland – [Read More](#).
- **Scottish Mink Initiative:** The Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) represent Scotland's independent River Trusts at a national level. Part of its Biosecurity program aims to eradicate breeding mink in north and north east Scotland through the Scottish Mink Initiative (SMI) – [Read More](#).
- **Genetic studies on salmon (FASMOP):** As the current FASMOP project is winding down, a major focus is currently on delivering the individual final reports to each of the participating Fisheries Trusts and Boards – [Read More](#).
- **Post smolt sweep netting – a challenging year:** The RAFTS Managing Interactions programme aims to promote improved coordination and management of wild fisheries and stocks with the aquaculture industry – [Read More](#).
- **Galloway Fisheries Volunteer Scheme (GFVS):** In 2011 the Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) started a three year volunteer project named Galloway Fisheries Volunteer Scheme (GFVS) which will enable local volunteers to assist and learn from the work carried out by GFT – [Read More](#).
- **Kirkcudbright Dee Eel Restoration Project:** The European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) has a complex life history which is believed to begin in spring and early summer in the Sargasso Sea, 5000 km from Scotland – [Read More](#).
- **RAFTS governance & structure:** During 2011, RAFTS has completed an initial programme of tightening up its governance framework through the development of a number of corporate policies and good operating practices, relating to our staff and financial resources - [Read More](#).
- **Nick Chisholm's Greenland Diary – salmon tissue sampling:** Nick Chisholm, the Annan Fishery Trust & Board Environmental Manager, spent some time in Greenland, taking tissue samples from salmon caught by the local fishermen, as part of a wider NASCO sampling programme – [Read More](#).
- **Wester Ross Fisheries Trust – Anglers Information service:** WRFT have applied to the RBS Community Force for funds for the construction of an Anglers' Information Service as a website that will provide up-to-date information for anglers (and others interested in the natural environment) about hill lochs, the species they contain and advice on how to get to them – [Read More](#).

Latest News

Minister visits Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Stewart Stevenson MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change, recently accepted an invitation from the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board (NDSFB) to visit the Nith catchment to witness the Board's work and its management of the river and its tributaries – [Read More](#).

So Many Fish.....So Few Catches!

The Tweed Foundation has just produced an answer to a frequently asked question: "How Long Do Salmon Stay Catch-able?" Particularly pertinent this autumn as the Tweed is positively stuffed with fish, but the numbers are not translating into catches for anglers – [Read More](#).

River Dee Trust – Auction (1 November 2011)

The River Dee Trust is holding an online auction to raise funds to support and further work on the River Dee. The auction can be found at www.riverdee.org/auction/auctionwelcome.asp - [Read More](#).

Survey to cast light on salmon caught by rods (26 October 2011)

For nearly 60 years Government scientists have collected data on salmon and sea trout caught round the Scottish coast, but not how many rods catch them – [Read More](#).

Race to save the salmon (15 October 2011)

At the 'Salmon Summit' in La Rochelle, France, scientists confirmed that wild Atlantic salmon are dying at sea in alarming numbers. Southern stocks including some in North America and Europe are threatened with extinction – [Read More](#).

Scottish Government supports dialogue between wild and farmed fish groups (11 October 2011)

Scotland's salmon farming industry and wild fish organisations have agreed to enter a facilitated discussion process to support the development of a positive way ahead for both sectors – [Read More](#).

Supersize salmon are the reel deal (27 September 2011)

Huge salmon are being caught in Scottish rivers this year, leading angling experts to claim the king of fish are growing bigger than they have for decades. Fishermen have been stunned by the size of salmon weighing more than 30lbs that have been landed from rivers including the Tay, the Dee and Tweed – [Read More](#).

ASFB welcomes continuing restraint of anglers in 2010's record rod catch of salmon (23 September 2011)

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) has welcomed today's publication by Scottish Government of the official 2010 catch statistics for salmon, confirming that the rod catch for 2010 was the highest since consistent records began in 1952 – [Read More](#).

Farewell, dams. Hello, salmon? (22 September 2011)

A symbolic turn for salmon habitat restoration in Washington State was marked over the weekend as government officials, tribal members, scientists and engineers gathered for the beginning of the largest dam removal ever in the United States. Two hydroelectric dams are to be dismantled, restoring the Elwha River on the Olympic Peninsula to its natural course – [Read More](#).

Salmon can sniff out predators (14 September 2011)

New research shows that salmon can identify their most common predators, simply on the basis that that predator has previously eaten salmon. Even young fish can do this, despite never having encountered that particular predator before – [Read More](#).

Events

15 Nov: ASFB Annual General Meeting

24 Nov: RAFTS Board Meeting

26 Nov 2011: Hatchery Open Day– River Conon – [More details](#).

3 December 2011 – IFM bailiffs examination – [More details](#).

13 Dec 2011: The Atlantic salmon's ocean odyssey: implications for fishery managers, Fishmongers' Hall, London – [More details](#).

Publications (ASFB/RAFTS)

ASFB response to preliminary consultation for offshore cable corridors between NE Scotland and NE England (Oct 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB-IFM guidance on use of standardised Water Bailiffs Notebook (Sep 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB response to appeal to CAR licence variation for Sandy's Mill, River Tyne (Sep 2011) ([pdf](#))

RAFTS response to appeal to CAR licence variation for Sandy's Mill, River Tyne (Sep 2011) ([pdf](#))

Publications (other)

Kettle-White, A.H.J., MacIntyre, C.M., Stanworth, H.A. & Donnelly, A. on behalf of the Argyll Fisheries Trust (2011). **The Scottish Beaver Trial: Survey of fish populations 2009**. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.467 (iBids No.7062) ([pdf](#))

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