



Kyle Lines



The Newsletter for Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries

August 2016

Diebidale Second Phase to Proceed

Funding has been received from the Water Environment Fund for further investigations aimed at improving fish passage at Diebidale on the River Carron system. In 2015 work was commissioned to assess the broad range of options which could potentially improve fish passage. The new investigations to take place are largely designed to increase understanding of the amounts of sediment contained in the lochan which could subsequently be released if remedial action is taken. It is anticipated that this phase will be completed by early 2017.



Conservation Limits

The Scottish Government introduced conservation limits for salmon fishery districts in time for the 2016 season. Currently, the Kyle of Sutherland fishery district is effectively split into two areas: Oykel SAC which includes the Cassley and the Kyle tidal waters down to Bonar Bridge; and the non-SAC sections of the district. For the 2016 season both were classified as Category 1 fisheries. The latest information suggests that Conservation Limits will be applied to individual rivers for the 2017 season and that as much local information as possible will be incorporated into the assessment as possible. To this end, Kyle Fisheries has supplied data to Marine Scotland Science in response to consultation requests. The latest data supplied relates to scale reading information from the River Oykel. Scale reading has been a topical subject recently as the SFCC scale reading training workshop, conducted by Dr Ron Campbell of the Tweed Foundation, was hosted at the Kyle Fisheries office earlier this year (see picture right, courtesy of Sean Dugan of SFCC). Kyle Fisheries Director, Keith Williams, is currently a member of two working groups which aim to improve data provision and use for the purposes of the production of Conservation Limits.



Shin Smolt Passage

After a busy smolt run period an important meeting attended by representatives of Kyle Fisheries, SEPA and SSE was held in Dingwall in July. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of recent efforts to increase numbers of smolts successfully exiting Loch Shin. Currently, key Upper Shin tributaries such as the Fiag and Tirry are downgraded under Water



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Framework Directive rules as Lairg Dam is considered to be a severe obstacle to successful downstream passage of smolts. The meeting concluded that manipulating flows during the smolt run is not currently successful enough to meet the criteria required and efforts are now turning towards implementing other forms of long-term mitigation such as trap and transport.

Diseased Fish Tested

Salmon showing signs of disease have been seen on several Kyle rivers this season. While seeing an occasional diseased fish is a feature of most seasons and is a natural occurrence, testing can be undertaken to attempt to ascertain the cause of problems should numbers be considered unusually elevated. Recently, a salmon caught on the Oykel with a head lesion was tested by Marine Scotland Science's Fish Health Inspectorate. Results for a number of diseases can take a considerable amount of time to become available but to date no obvious culprit for causing the damage to the fish has been identified.



PIP Gets Extra LIFE!



The European LIFE fund has granted an extension to the time period that the *Pearls in Peril* project will cover meaning that funding can be utilised until March instead of the end of August.

Weather permitting, it is hoped that extra tree planting and ditch blocking on the River Oykel can take place in the early winter months.

In Brief

Keep an eye out for salmon with Floy tags near the dorsal fin, and let the office know the number and colour of the tag if you catch one!...

See <http://www.kylefisheries.org/ProjectsAmpNews> for details of salmon carcass tagging regulations...

2016 Diary Dates

- 28th Sep River Workers Autumn meeting
- 3rd Nov Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust Annual General Meeting
- 4th Nov Kyle DSFB Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

For more information on any of the meetings, please see the website or contact the office.