



# *Kyle Lines*



## *The Newsletter for Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries December 2015*

### *Better Catches in the 2015 Season*

Salmon catches for the Kyle district in 2015 have shown a marked improvement compared to the dreadful results of 2014. Indications suggest the final figure for 2015 will be in the order of 3,000 salmon and grilse compared to a little over 1,600 in 2014. Fish counter figures from the Shin and Cassley show a more mixed picture with, at the time of writing, available data indicating that the Shin is slightly below whereas the Cassley is considerably up on their five year averages. It should be noted that fish counter data has yet to be formally verified. At the time of writing this newsletter in early December, the Scottish Government has yet to formally respond to its latest consultation on the classification of rivers. Kyle Fisheries will forward news of any further conservation measures emanating from the Scottish Government as soon as we receive information.

### *Shin Broodstock Collection Goes Well*

Kyle Fisheries staff successfully caught the required number of broodstock to obtain circa 150,000 eggs for the Kincardine Hatchery in early November. By early December stripping was completed and all fish safely returned to the river. Some changes have been made to hatchery procedures, in particular the number of crosses between the cock and hen fish have been increased to maintain the genetic diversity of the fish used for stocking. This aim of these changes is to better reflect the diversity present in wild populations within the stocked fish.



### *Diebidale Report Received*

The scoping and optioneering report for the dam at Diebidale on the River Carron has been received by the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust. Access for salmon and sea trout to upstream areas is currently limited due to the inadequate fish pass in the dam structure. Consideration is now being given to future applications for funding in order to progress the findings of the study.

### *Peatland Restoration Receives a Boost*

Regular readers of *Kyle Lines* will be aware that as part of the Pearls in Peril Project Kyle Fisheries staff have undertaken some actions with the aim of restoring areas of peatland. It is hoped that such actions will help to restore a more natural hydrology to our rivers. The major partner in the PIP project locally is Forest Enterprise Scotland who helped train Kyle Fisheries staff and provide equipment to facilitate restoration. Kyle Fisheries has been delighted to be informed by Neil McInnes, Environment Manager for the North Highland District of Forest

Enterprise Scotland, that 'The North Highland Forest District of Forest Enterprise Scotland has been successful in winning £985k of funding from the Peatland Action Programme this year, building on the success of the 2014 award, which saw £1.2m spent in the Shin and Oykel catchments on mire restoration. These large scale projects are a vital landscape-scale contribution to ecosystem restoration following the inappropriate afforestation programmes of the 1970's and 80's'. Kyle Fisheries understands that a proportion of the latest award will be spent within the Kyle catchment.

### *Non Native Invasive Species Update*

A mink was recently killed in the Evelix area highlighting the need for vigilance in ensuring that this damaging species does not develop significant populations. Kyle Fisheries is currently engaged with a project co-ordinated by Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland aimed at further developing eradication and control programmes of key invasive species. Please report any mink or invasive plant sightings to the Kyle Fisheries office using the contact details below.



### *In Brief*

Best of luck to those planning to fish on the 11<sup>th</sup> January as the new salmon season on the Kyle rivers commences. Please let Kyle Fisheries know of any early success...

Kyle Fisheries will produce and distribute a full annual report early in the new year...

### *2016 Diary Dates*

- 7<sup>th</sup> April Kyle Trust Ordinary Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> April Kyle Board Annual Public Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> June Kyle Board and Trust Ordinary Meetings
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November Kyle Trust AGM
- 4<sup>th</sup> November Kyle Board Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

### *Keep in Touch*

The key phone number for the office is 01863766 702 and the email contacts are [admin@kylefisheries.org](mailto:admin@kylefisheries.org) and [director@kylefisheries.org](mailto:director@kylefisheries.org)

# Merry Christmas!

[www.kylefisheries.org](http://www.kylefisheries.org)

