



Kyle Lines



The Newsletter for Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries - July 2015

Diebidale Application Success

An application to SEPAs Water Environment Fund for the funding of a scoping and optioneering assessment of the barrier to fish migration on the Diebidale River, part of the River Carron, has been successful.

The application was possible due to the extensive habitat work undertaken by Kyle Fisheries staff during the summer of 2014 in order to obtain sufficient data for a bid to be submitted. Considerable spawning and nursery habitat for salmon and trout is potentially available upstream of the barrier.



Better Spring Catches

After a very slow start to the season, initial indications suggest salmon catches for the Kyle District are likely to be in the order of 500-600 fish up to the end of May which is more in line with what would normally be expected. This represents an improvement on the very low catch of under 350 for the same period in 2014. At the time of writing in early July, some grilse and sea trout are putting in an appearance in addition to summer salmon. Most reports suggest that fish are generally in good condition with many fish weighing in the mid-teens of pounds.

Netting Buyout

Funds are still required to complete the nettings buyout being undertaken by the Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board. If you are willing to make a donation please contact us at the Kyle Fisheries Office or alternatively click on the Kyle Netting Buyout button on the homepage of www.kylefisheries.org

Oykel Temperature Network

Kyle fisheries staff have been helping to install a network of temperature probes in the Oykel catchment as part of a national long term monitoring programme. The photograph to the right shows Iain Malcolm of Marine Scotland Science preparing to install a probe.

To learn more about the project see:

www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Monitoring/temperature



Wild Fishery Reform

A reminder that the Scottish Government's consultation regarding the reform of fisheries management in Scotland remains open until August 7th. Key websites to visit are:
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Wild-Fisheries-Reform-18e4.aspx>
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Wild-Fisheries-Reform-18e4.aspx>

Pearl Mussel Encystment Survey

Elizabeth Clements of Glasgow University, assisted by Kyle Fisheries staff, recently undertook surveys on a number of Kyle rivers to assess numbers of juvenile pearl mussels (glochidia) on the gills of salmon and trout parr. The pearl mussels require either salmon or trout to complete



their life cycle but it appears that the choice of host species can be highly variable between rivers. The good news from the Kyle rivers is that a number of glochidia were spotted on the gills of fish suggesting that recruitment may still be taking place. Eventually the glochidia will drop off the gills into - we all hope- a suitable new home in the bed of the river. Pearl mussels are becoming increasingly rare within Europe and many populations that still survive consist largely of elderly individuals. The recruitment of juveniles into such populations is

therefore of paramount importance. In the picture above the light coloured areas of the gills of the fish in question are glochidia (picture courtesy of Brian Shaw, Spey Foundation).

In Brief

Many thanks to Alasdair Laing of Association of District Salmon Fishery Boards and Andrew Wallace of Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland for attending the recent Board and Trust meetings...

A preliminary date of 28th September has been set for the autumn meeting of river workers...

2015 Diary Dates

River Workers - 28th September, 6.30pm. Further details available shortly.

Kyle Trust AGM & Ordinary Meeting - 5th November, 6.30pm.

Kyle Fishery Board Annual Meeting of Proprietors - 6th November, 9.30am.

Keep in Touch

The key phone number for the office is 01863 766 702.

Email contacts are admin@kylefisheries.org and director@kylefisheries.org

Please get in touch with any news snippets you want to include in future editions of *Kyle Lines*.