



# Kyle Lines



*The Newsletter for Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries March 2015*

## *Off the Mark at Last*

After what seems like a very long wait to get the 2015 season properly underway, notwithstanding a few near misses on the River Oykel, the first salmon of the season reported to Kyle Fisheries staff was caught on the second of March from the River Carron. The Bridge Pool on Gledfield was the location, with Callum Beattie doing the honours. The fish was around the 7lb mark and was caught on a Collie Dog. If anybody is aware of any other fish taken in the catchment then please let us know. Elsewhere in Scotland, salmon appear to be generally scarce although it remains very early in the season to be drawing too many conclusions.

## *Oykel Drain Blocking*

As part of the Pearls in Peril Project Kyle Fisheries staff have been busy blocking forestry drains in the upper reaches of Oykel tributaries.

The purpose of blocking the drains is to restore wetland areas, reduce sediment inputs and to help decrease the speed of run-off during periods of heavy rainfall. The picture to the right illustrates how water is being held back by the plastic piling dams in the drains.

Typically, piling is inserted every twenty metres or so although this can vary depending on the nature of the surrounding land. As part of the same project Forestry Commission Scotland have been busy felling to waste a large block of poorly situated commercial forestry in the Benmore area. Once felled, drains will also be blocked and the area allowed to return to peatland habitat which should in turn have beneficial effects on the aquatic environment. It is hoped that other activities such as native tree planting will be undertaken in the near future by Kyle Fisheries staff.



## *Salmon at Sea Presentation Set for Laing*

With the poor salmon catches of 2014 still all too fresh in the memory a presentation evening by Tony Andrews of the Atlantic Salmon Trust, sponsored by Bell Ingram, entitled *Salmon at Sea - Problems and Some Solutions* promises insights into the difficulties faced by salmon in the marine environment. The talk will be given at Kinvonvie Hall, Laing Community Centre commencing at 6pm.

## *Consultations*

Following on from the report of the Wild Fisheries Review there have been a number of consultations regarding regulations to reduce the numbers of salmon killed. Most readers of *Kyle Lines* will be aware that it is now illegal to kill a wild salmon prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April anywhere in Scotland. The latest Scottish Government consultation concerns proposals to make it illegal to kill wild salmon at any time of the year except under licence. How exactly the proposals would work in practice is presently unclear but the proposals do have the potential to radically alter the way fisheries operate. Further information on the consultation which closes on 30<sup>th</sup> April can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/4158>

Another consultation currently underway relates to the River Basin Management Plan produced by SEPA to implement the EU Water Framework Directive. If you want to learn more about this consultation which closes on 9<sup>th</sup> April please see: [http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river\\_basin\\_planning/scotland.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/scotland.aspx)

The above represent the start of what is likely to be a steady stream of consultations over the next year or so. *Kyle Lines* will endeavour to keep you up to date at all times.

## *In Brief*

The Moray Firth Trout Initiative reported the results of scale readings from trout caught on Loch Shin by members of Lairg AC in time for the club's recent AGM. The results show how slow growing many of the trout caught are...

There have been a few mink sightings to the north of the Kyle catchment in recent months, please get in touch if you see one locally...

Donations for the netting buyout appeal are still required, contact the office if you can help...

## *2015 Diary Dates*

Kyle Ordinary Trust Meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm.

Kyle Fishery Board Public Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am.

Salmon at Sea, by Tony Andrews - Lairg Community Centre, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm.

Kyle Ordinary Trust Meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 6.30pm.

Kyle Ordinary Fishery Board Meeting - 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 9.30am.

Kyle Trust AGM & Ordinary Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm.

Kyle Fishery Board Annual Meeting of Proprietors - 6<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am.

## *Keep in Touch*

The key phone number for the office is 01863 766 702 and the email contacts are [admin@kylefisheries.org](mailto:admin@kylefisheries.org) and [director@kylefisheries.org](mailto:director@kylefisheries.org)

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