



Kyle Lines



The Newsletter for Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries - May 2015

Loch Shin Smolt Trapping

Kyle Fisheries staff have spent a very busy April and May trapping salmon smolts at a number of sites on Loch Shin tributaries. A combination of rotary screw traps (see picture right) and letterbox traps have been used to capture smolts. A proportion of smolts captured are being tagged using small PIT tags with groups of fish being released back into their river of capture or alternatively transported by road and subsequently released into the main stem of the River Shin. The tags are read automatically by a receiver placed in the fish pass at Shin Diversion Dam thus giving a record of the smolts successfully exiting Little Loch Shin and details of any adults returning a few years from now. SSE have deployed a smolt 'curtain' in Loch Shin to guide smolts into the fish pass and hopefully improve the numbers of smolts successfully exiting the Upper Shin catchment. The aim of this exercise is to assess the potential management interventions available to improve fish survival for the Upper Shin. The project is a collaborative effort involving Kyle Fisheries, SSE and SEPA.



Be Alert for Diseased Fish

Most years see isolated reports of diseased salmon in the British Isles. 2015 has proved no exception with concerns being raised about possible UDN outbreaks affecting salmon in a few rivers. Please see www.gov.scot/resource/0042/00425990.pdf for pictures of the signs of the disease. Additionally, the Dee and Spey are currently reporting high numbers of eels being seen dead or close to death (picture below courtesy of River Dee Trust). Typically these fish are displaying severe lesions. If you come across a diseased fish please make contact with Kyle Fisheries staff. If at all possible please keep the fish alive as diagnosis is much more difficult, or even impossible, after the fish has died.



Diebidale Weir Application Submitted

Kyle Fisheries has recently submitted an application to SEPA's Water Environment Fund to finance a scoping and optioneering exercise for remedial action to the weir at Diebidale Lochan. If the funding application is successful an engineering assessment will be undertaken and the potential solutions identified over the summer months.

Fishery Management Plan

An updated fishery management plan has been drafted and is available from the website. Please download a copy of the draft from <http://www.kylefisheries.org/Policies> and let us know your thoughts. Please note that it is still a draft at this stage and can be changed in response to views expressed.

Wild Fishery Review

The Scottish Government has announced the next round of consultation as part of the Wild Fisheries Review. The changes in management structures likely to result from this process are likely to have a profound effect on how fisheries operate in Scotland and Kyle Fisheries would strongly recommend that individual anglers, proprietors and other interested parties respond to the consultations. Key websites to visit are: <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Wild-Fisheries-Reform-18e4.aspx> and <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Wild-Fisheries-Reform-18e4.aspx> Kyle Fisheries will be considering its response in due course.

In Brief

Congratulations to John Audsley who recently passed his bailiff exam with flying colours... John also passed his SVQ Level 2 Introduction to Electro-fishing exam in conjunction with Iain Gollan, Phil Blowers and Audrey Campbell... The family of the late Fraser Campbell of Tain who was a well-known casting instructor is disposing of a large quantity of fishing tackle - get in touch if you wish us to forward details... KOSAA which controls a considerable amount of tidal fishing has vacancies for membership. Initial contact for potential members can be made via director@kylefisheries.org

2015 Diary Dates

Kyle Ordinary Trust Meeting - 22nd June, 6.30pm.
Kyle Ordinary Fishery Board Meeting - 23rd June, 9.30am.
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 and the 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*.