



Kyle Lines



The Newsletter for Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries

May 2016

Record Fiag Smolt Catch

For a number of years rotary screw traps have been deployed in four Loch Shin tributaries as part of ongoing attempts to increase smolt escapement from the upper catchment. Historically the two most productive traps have been Tirry and Fiag each of which typically yields in the order of 2,000 smolts per year, although as with all things related to wild fish there are considerable annual fluctuations. At the time of writing this edition of *Kyle Lines*, however, the 2016 total captured at Fiag stands in excess of 7,000 which is by some considerable margin the highest total recorded from that river



Hugh & Audrey PIT tagging smolts in the Fiag 'office' (also known as Hugh's stock trailer)



Rotary Screw Trap at Fiag

since the traps have been deployed. In stark contrast, the usually reliable Tirry has so far only yielded a few hundred smolts. It is hoped that the increased numbers of smolts emanating from the Fiag are a sign that more adult salmon are returning to the upper reaches of the Shin system and spawning successfully. Unverified counts from SSEs fish counter at Shin Diversion Dam show an increase from a rolling five year average of 43 in 2008 to an average of just below 250 at the end of 2015. Only the River Tirry has been stocked with fry from the hatchery in recent years.

First Reports of Tagged Salmon Recaptures

The first report to Kyle Fisheries of a tagged salmon that has been caught for a second time has been received from Finlay McCulloch of Braelangwell Estate, River Carron. The salmon, estimated at 7lb, was first caught in the Kennel Run by Gruinards rod Ronan Kennedy on the 5th April. It was recaptured by a Braelangwell rod on 2nd May a short distance upstream in the Morail Pool. Several other tagged fish have been observed in pools when water conditions have been conducive to fish spotting. Please keep an eye out for tagged fish and report the tag number and colour of tag to the estate where you caught it or to the Kyle Fisheries office. It is anticipated that a report will be produced after the close of the fishing season.



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2015 Annual Report Published

An extensive report outlining the activities of both the Board and the Trust has been produced and is available from the Kyle Fisheries website at <http://www.kylefisheries.org/ProjectsAmpNews> Other publications including newsletters etc. produced by Kyle Fisheries are also available for download.

Tirry Fry Stocked

The upper reaches of the Tirry catchment on the Shin have recently been stocked with circa 150,000 fry from the Kincardine Hatchery. The purpose of stocking salmon into this tributary is to try and maintain a smolt run in support of the ongoing work aimed at improving smolt escapement in the Upper Shin catchment. The fry are the progeny of broodstock collected from the main stem of the River Shin in the autumn of 2015.



John releasing fry on the Upper Crask

New Legislation in Force

Since 2002 the sale of rod caught wild salmon has been illegal. Since 31st March this year any wild salmon caught and retained in net fisheries in Scotland are legally required to be fitted with carcass tags in accordance with rules laid out by the Scottish Government. All tags are uniquely numbered and display the name of the fishery they have been allocated to.

In Brief

Rosehall and Gledfield schools were recently visited as part of the education delivery of the *Pearls in Peril Project*...

A potential extension to the *Pearls in Peril* project is being considered with the prospect of additional riparian improvement work for the Oykel...

Kyle of Sutherland Angling Association has a new Secretary, please see their website for details <http://www.kosaa.co.uk/dnn/ContactUs.aspx>

2016 Diary Dates

- 13th June Kyle of Sutherland DSFB Ordinary Meeting
- 3rd Nov Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust Annual General Meeting
- 4th Nov Kyle DSFB Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

Keep in Touch

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