

ASFB – RAFTS Monthly update



October 2014

Please find below our monthly update which for the first time details the recent work of both ASFB and RAFTS. Please forward this to anyone you think might be interested.

Key Activities/Outcomes for October 2014

Scottish Government/Parliament/Agencies

- **Marine Scotland:** ASFB and RAFTS have been in regular contact with Marine Scotland on a number of issues including: the wild fisheries review; spring conservation measures; marine renewables, aquaculture and beaver reintroductions.
- **SEPA:** RAFTS attended the Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group (DPMAG) meeting. Items for discussion included pilot catchment work as well as potential approaches to target setting for the second phase of RBMP
- **Beaver-Salmon Working Group:** ASFB attended a further meeting of the BSWG in order to draft various chapters of the final report. The final meeting is scheduled for November and the report is due to be completed by the end of the year.
- **Marine Strategy Forum:** ASFB attended the MSF which is a stakeholder group designed to inform Marine Scotland policy on a number of marine issues. Updates were provided on marine planning, marine protected areas, marine renewables and the developing SG aquaculture planning project. ASFB highlighted the urgent need to ensure significant ongoing funding and coordination for the national research strategy for interactions between marine renewables and migratory fish.

Review of Wild Fisheries Management

- The [final report and recommendations](#) have now been published. This will be discussed in detail at the ASFB-RAFTS AGM and Members meeting.
- ASFB attended the Dee DSFB annual meeting to provide an overview of the wild fisheries review.
- ASFB and RAFTS held an initial meeting with Marine Scotland to discuss the implications of the wild fisheries review.

Aquaculture

- ASFB met with the Chairman of SNH, Ian Ross, who has taken over as chairman of the Interactions Working Group (part of the Ministerial Group on Sustainable Aquaculture) to discuss a range of issues relating to aquaculture interactions.
- ASFB attended a meeting designed to improve communication and joint working between wild fish organisations and the industry in Loch Torridon.

Renewables Developments

- Three further offshore wild developments were consented in the outer Firth of Forth/Tay area. ASFB objected to these developments as there remain a number of uncertainties relating to potential interactions with wild fish which can only be addressed through the national strategy into strategic research for offshore marine renewables and anadromous fish. ASFB are a member of the steering group for this strategy.
- Scoping comments were provided for the Lashy Sound tidal energy development
- Short responses to the following proposed developments were issued: Crossburns Wind Farm; Kype Muir Wind Farm; Beinneun Wind Farm Extension; Proposed Margree Wind Farm; South Kyle Wind Farm; North Hill Wind Farm and Paul's Hill II Wind Farm. Detailed responses, where appropriate, will be provided by the relevant DSFB/Fishery Trust.

In-river barriers

- ASFB continues to assist RAFTS with the project management of barriers and fish passage issues in Scotland. RAFTS currently manages six projects concerning the easement or removal of in-river barriers to fish migration. These six projects encompass thirteen currently impassable structures, and funding for scoping, design and physical works is provided through regular applications to the SEPA Water Environment Fund. A further three applications by RAFTS to the WEF are currently under consideration.
- RAFTS also continues to provide significant input to the objective setting stage of the second River Basin Management Plan. Specifically, our prioritisation of barriers is being used as comparison against the current high priority barrier objectives with the plan, and additional information gathered by member trusts is helping to amend Water Framework Directive classification and therefore inform SEPA priorities.
- Details of current works may be viewed [HERE](#).

Bailiffing

- The Bailiff Development Group met on 16 October. This was a well-attended and productive meeting hosted by Scottish Government. The Group received an update on the Wild Fisheries Review, and discussed a range of other matters, including the future role of bailiffs; the 2015 bailiffs conference; continued professional development; apprenticeships; volunteers and how to work more effectively with procurator fiscals. The group will be working with Scottish Government in making the work of the group more visible.
- The next bailiff's examination is planned to take place on 4 March 2015 at the same time as the Bailiffs Seminar (4/5 March 2015).

Pearls in Peril LIFE Project

- Installation of 530 small tree enclosure fencing along tributaries in Upper Deeside has progressed steadily. These will create tree cover and leaf litter input in future years in locations where fencing larger woodland compartments are not possible due to conflict with other land management.
- Plans for a PiP demo site for woodland planting to benefit riparian enhancement in Glen Clova are currently being developed.
- The PiP Project Officer arranged the hydromorphological survey, liaised with landowners and arranged the CAR licence that resulted in removal of three boulder fishing croys on the River Dee at Aboyne by the River Dee Bailiffs. This work restores natural process to the stretch of river and provides habitat for FWPM and salmonids.
- The hydromorphological assessment and restoration options for the River Dee at Banchory was received and the landowner has agreed to have 16 croys removed.

- A site meeting with Cairngorms National Park Authority staff for removal of 13 sections of rock armour bank protection (total length 873m) and to reconnect three palaeochannels was a success. The outcome of the planning application will be decided by the end of November.
- The hydromorphological surveys on the rivers Naver and Mallart are now complete and the draft reports and restoration options appraisals are being reviewed.
- The PiP project Riverwatcher undertook second round site visits to 4 SAC's in West Sutherland and in a site visit to North Harris SAC and found evidence of wildlife crime.
- Met with Lochinver Police to discuss local wildlife crime

Scottish Mink Initiative (SMI)

- Quarterly report for July –September in preparation
- Coordinator was interviewed for BBC Radio Scotland's '[Out of Doors' Programme](#) (11/10/2014)
- Coordinator met with new PhD students who are undertaking research linked to SMI objectives at University of Aberdeen to provide induction to SMI
- Coordinator met with RSPB to try to establish greater raft coverage in NE Aberdeenshire

UDN Project

- ASFB are part of the steering group for the UDN research project which is part-funded by a number of DSFBs across Scotland. If you notice any fish with head lesions or *Saprolegnia*-type fungus, from any river in Scotland, please contact Sandra Schlittenhardt (07704 128707) - sandra.schlittenhardt@stir.ac.uk.

RAFTS Project Development

- Attended the final steering group meeting of the EU Interreg Controlling priority Invasive non-native species and Restoring Biodiversity (CIRB) project.
- Project concept for multiple INNS project in northern Scotland was accepted by Heritage Lottery Fund and a Stage 1 application invited
- Discussed potential inshore fisheries management project on the west coast with the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust.

Training Courses

- RAFTS facilitated a Fluvial Geomorphology course at Marine Scotland Science, Faskally on 13th and 14th October delivered by Professor Malcolm Newson of Tyne Rivers Trust. The course was attended by 15 individuals from a wide range of organisations across Scotland, England and Ireland, and feedback from delegates was very positive. This was the second Fluvial Geomorphology course to be held this year, and RAFTS hopes to facilitate an advanced course in April 2015.

Upcoming dates and events

- ASFB and RAFTS AGM & Members meeting 2015 will take place on **Wednesday 5 November** at Perth Racecourse.
- ASFB will again be represented on Country Sports Tourism Group – **next meeting 27 November**.
- RAFTS Board meeting **29 January 2015**
- Annual Bailiffs Seminar planned for **4/5 March 2015** – hosted by Ness DSFB
- Next Bailiff examination – **4 March 2015**
- ASFB/RAFTS meetings and conference planned for **18/19 March 2015**