



"Improving the quality of fishery management in Scotland, by providing appropriate training for people involved in fishery management at all levels, from volunteers to full-time professionals"

Scottish Branch Newsletter

June 2011

2011 Annual Bailiffs Seminar

This year's annual bailiff's seminar in Stornoway was extremely well attended, with over 60 representatives of the DSFB bailiff network present. Our host, the Western Isles DSFB, organised a superb 2 days, with a range of interesting talks from enforcement and legal experts, including the Procurator Fiscal, Wildlife Crime Officer and Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency. A lot was learned from these sessions. This was followed by an enjoyable dinner at the Caberfeidh Hotel and a field visit next morning to the Creed River, where we were shown an example of fishery management through combined community effort, undertaken by Stornoway Angling Club. The bailiffs examination was convened at Stornoway, as well as at regional venues elsewhere in Scotland, and 46 Bailiffs attended this year's examination. It is worth remembering Roger Barnes input to developing the Bailiff's Course, and IFM acknowledge Roger's legacy by awarding the Roger Barnes Memorial Cup to the bailiff who achieves the highest mark in each year's examination. **Chris Conroy, the Naver, Fishery Manager**, was awarded the trophy at Stornoway for the 2010 examination. A full list of winners from previous years is as follows:

2003 Robert Mackay, Caithness
2004 Gordon Mackenzie, Western Isles
2005 Adrian Hudson, Dee
2006 Richard Miller, Deveron
2007 Steven McKillop, Urr
2008 William Rosier, Lochaber
2009 Debbie Parke, Nith
2010 Chris Conroy, Naver

The course is now well established, and serves as the minimum entry requirement for those wishing to become a water bailiff. The course also counts as a module for those wishing to complete the IFM certificate course. Successful candidates receive a formal certificate, and a new enamel badge was designed for all candidates who successfully complete the course. The badge has been circulated to all candidates who have successfully completed the examination to date.



If anyone who has completed the course and does not yet have a badge, please let me know at asfb@btconnect.com

Brian Davidson

New bailiff training manual

Work is underway to revise the existing bailiff training material to take account of new legislation. The manual is currently being re-designed and examinations from 2012 onwards will be based on the expanded material. IFM will convene a final examination, based on the existing training manual, on **Saturday 3 December 2011**. Further details on regional venues will be confirmed in the autumn. If you wish to take the examination, please contact me at asfb@btconnect.com

Brian Davidson

Training

ASFB and RAFTS have recently embarked on a member's survey to assess further training needs and priorities amongst the fishery management sector. It is hoped to have these ideas available shortly and consider between ASFB, RAFTS and IFM how any prioritised training areas can be facilitated and delivered. Informal feedback suggests that there is certainly demand for a range of regional workshops to deal with specific training needs – particularly aimed at the bailiff network. The survey will hopefully help us prioritise this, and training in a range of other areas, including technical, governance, management, enforcement and practical areas.

Brian Davidson

Standardised Bailiff Notebooks

IFM, in collaboration with ASFB, is in the process of producing a standardised bailiff notebook and warrant card holder. This will follow the general style and format of the package used by the River Tweed Commission.

RTC Notebook & cover



Consistent and methodical incident and offence recording is critical to effective law enforcement, and the notebook is the core foundation of any evidence that a bailiff may have to submit in court. It is proposed that the finalised notebook will be issued to all interested DSFBs and bailiffs, and one idea is to convene a ½ day workshop looking at best practice in terms of incident/offence recording. Further details on the workshop will be provided in due course.

Brian Davidson

Riverfly - from the bottom, up!

Several years ago one of the Club Committee members and I attended a “kick sampling” course run by the Tweed Foundation, hosted by Kenny Galt and Craig Macadam. This was an excellent introduction into understanding the different invertebrates that inhabit our river, as well as providing an excellent measure when it comes to water quality. We have on several occasions carried out “kick samples” when providing demonstrations to the local Scout Group, as well as part of the Club’s induction nights and the surprise on their faces always makes me smile.

Generally, anglers’ make the perfect guardians of the river environment and

when I heard about the Riverfly Partnership Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (AMI) I couldn't wait to get a session arranged. The Club are very fortunate in that our Treasurer is an expert when it comes to securing funding and in April 2011 we hosted the course and 13 members from within the Catchment were trained, thanks to "Awards For All Scotland". The funding was used to commission the course and purchase the material required to carry out the monitoring.

The day started with a Health and Safety talk and some further information around the techniques employed, then our local Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) representative walked us through know issues across the catchment as well as explaining how to report incidents to the local office. Then the group donned their waders and carried the equipment to the site where our practical training was to begin. There was a definite urgency from the Group and you could tell this was something that they were all excited about. Louis Kitchen our instructor carried out the demonstration, then the group was split into pairs and away they headed.

The 3 minute "kick sample" didn't seem to take that long, but the team members carrying out the "kicking" would argue with that statement! It didn't take long for the groups to re-appear, trays brimming with bugs (and a Stone Loach, typical anglers!) and the simple monitoring technique was being employed. Counting up the number of invertebrate that fell into the following target groups; Cased caddis, Caseless caddis, Ephemeridae, Ephemerellidae, Heptigeniidae, Baetidae, Stoneflies and Freshwater shrimp. The AMI recording sheets are easy to follow and by entering the information, along with the "trigger level" provided by SEPA, the group now

have a mechanism for determining variations in water quality as well as the evidence which can be provided to SEPA. Our afternoon started by returning to the "classroom", the microscopes were deployed and the groups started to examine the contents of their trays. I was amazed at how intense this part of the course was and I could only imagine what they were all thinking. The identification started and it was very clear that I was among anglers, they all wanted to know what the different nymphs would hatch into!

At the end of the Day Louis summarised what we had achieved during the course and the potential sample sites agreed across the catchment.

http://www.riverflies.org/index/riverfly_monit.html

Fen Howieson

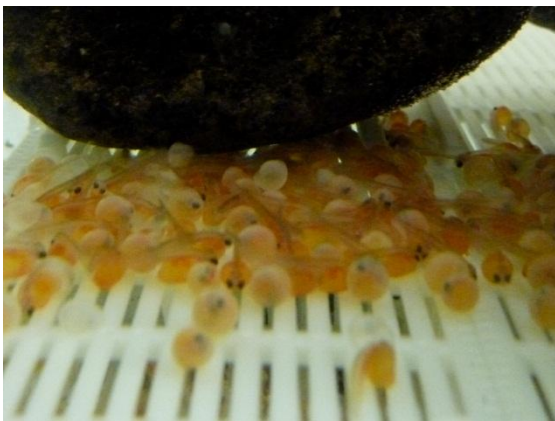
Fish in the Classroom

The River Forth Fisheries Trust (RFFT) continued our "Fish in the Classroom" Project during spring 2011. Now in its third year of running covering twelve schools within Clackmannanshire, Stirlingshire and one Edinburgh school Cramond Primary, where I was lucky enough to be involved.

The project's aim was to enhance learning outcomes within the Environmental Studies curriculum, as a result it is hoped that students will develop skills in science-based understanding leading to enhanced social and environmental responsibility.



The Project runs over a period of approximately 8-12 weeks, with 250 Trout eggs introduced into a classroom hatchery (aquarium). Dr Jo Girvan (RFFT Biologist) gives an excellent presentation to the pupils, introducing the life cycle of salmon and sea trout, their habitat requirements, threats to survival, conservation actions and encourages the pupils to participate. It was very encouraging to see how knowledgeable so many of them were. The pupils are given advice on how to care for the eggs then left responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the water temperature is maintained at the optimum level throughout the growth period.



The staff and pupils at Cramond Primary deserve a great deal of credit for achieving a nearly 100% survival rate through-out the growth stages.

The classes were provided with a salmonids workbook where they could record answers to questions about trout and salmon, their local river and document the development of the trout in their "trout diary". Like some of the other schools, Cramond Primary produced a wall display showing the salmonids life cycle.

The final stage of the project was the release of the fry into The River Almond on the 24th March and the sun came out to make it a great afternoon. We split the fry into a number of bags for the children to carry down to the river and our procession drew a lot of interest from the members of the public keen to enquire what the excitement was about. The release was made on a quiet stretch of water and the pupils were arranged into

two groups. There then followed a further talk by Jo on what behaviour to look out for from the fry as they were released into the river.

This was an excellent Project to be part of and one I hope to expand on during 2012.

Fen Howieson

Salmon carcass tagging - the way forward for stock conservation?



Carcass tagging of salmon has been used as a means of controlling and monitoring exploitation of stocks for a number of years in America and Ireland. The Carcass tagging of net caught salmon has recently been introduced in England and Wales.

[Link](#)

There is increasing interest in Scotland in exploring this option as a fishery management tool. It has been used successfully on angling club waters in the Kyle of Sutherland and Forth Fishery Board Regions.

Each angler can be issued with a set number of tags and a log book for the season. The tags are uniquely numbered and are linked to the angler and log book so that they are not transferrable. Tags can be colour coded so that they can be only used at certain times of year or for certain species. This allows local

conservation policies to be followed so that fewer tags may be issued for use in the spring or for sea trout over a size limit.

Such a scheme makes bailiffing much easier and more effective as anglers have to carry their log book and unused tags with them when fishing. It will also make catch return figures much more robust and reduce the under reporting of catches which has taken place in some areas.

Simon McKelvey

IFM national conference 2012

Scottish Branch has been invited to host the 2012 national IFM Study Conference. The provisional theme is '**Evidence Based Fishery Management**' and this will be a 2 day event, based in Edinburgh, with the option for field visits on day 3. The programme and venue are currently being planned, and the event will take place in September or October 2012. Full details of the programme, venue and other details will be provided in due course.

Dates for your diary

- **27 August 2011**

Conon electro fishing

Contact Simon McKelvey 07887 845648

conondsfb@aol.com

- **5 September 2011**

IFM Committee, Clunie, Pitlochry

New members always welcome, contact

asfb@btconnect.com if interested

- **26 November 2011**

hatchery open day, River Conon

Contact Simon McKelvey 07887 845648

conondsfb@aol.com