



FINDHORN
NAIRN
LOSSIE

*Findhorn,
Nairn &
Lossie
Fisheries
Trust*

Newsletter

*Summer
2012*

INNS Project Launched by Highland MSP Fergus Ewing

The Trust has received a 5-year grant from the SEPA WFD Restoration Fund to promote awareness and control of giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. The grant, part of a nationwide programme co-ordinated by RAFTS, provides funds for training, equipment and chemicals. Thus far, the Trust has provided training for 20 estate workers, bailiffs, volunteers and Trust staff. This pool of qualified sprayers will contribute a few days' spraying to the Trust in return for the training.

On 8th March, Fergus Ewing MSP officially launched the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust's Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) project near Howfords Bridge on the River Nairn.

May saw the first spraying for giant hogweed on the Nairn, undertaken by Kilravock Estate using Trust equipment. Spraying, stem injection and personal protection equipment are available on loan to landowners, proprietors, farmers, clubs, individuals and farmers on the Findhorn, the Nairn and the Lossie, please contact the office. Limited supplies of Roundup™ are also available (free) from the office.

The Trust has now co-ordinated and liaised with most of the proprietors and owners on the upper reaches and during May and June extensive areas of giant hogweed have been treated throughout Geddes, Cawdor and Kilravock Estates.

The Trust has also tackled the Mosset Burn, in the Findhorn catchment, with assistance from local farmers and local volunteers.

The Trust would like to thank all who have been and continue to treat INNS: your efforts, while sometimes seeming fruitless, are critical to the goal of eventually eradicating these weeds. However, hogweed seeds can remain viable for several years so further treatments will be necessary in future years.

We hope you take heart from the more co-ordinated approach that has been implemented this year.

Trust Chairman Seymour Monro, Trust Director Bob Laughton, Fergus Ewing MSP, RAFTS Chairman Andrew Wallace launch the INNS campaign on the River Nairn, March 2012 (Photo by Beth Dunlop)



Fish Disease

Along with 12 other local landowners, ghillies, bailiffs and Trust staff, Albert Duffus (Findhorn Superintendent) and Diana Usborne (Proprietor) completed the Trust-sponsored Marine Scotland Science, Fish Health Inspectorate training in tissue sampling of diseased fish. The course covered how to obtain, store and transport tissue samples from diseased and damaged fish. If you are interested in this course, please notify the office and we may run it again.

What to do if you see diseased fish

The confirmation of a salmon suffering from Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) on the River Spey earlier this year increased the need for more information and awareness of salmon disease and other potential infections to our valuable fish resources. Little is known about the cause of UDN but it may well be present at low levels in most years. The disease manifests as lesions or ulcers on the skin particularly around the head and gill covers. Any anglers capturing salmon or sea trout with ulcers or lesions please take some photos, particularly of the head region, and forward to the Trust. Please also include date, location, length and/or weight and if possible take some scales and place them in paper envelope.

It is also important to try and get some samples and if possible, keep the fish alive until the Trust can take tissue samples, which might tell us what is wrong with the fish. If the fish is dead, please keep it cool (not frozen) and notify the Trust ASAP (within the hour). Our local authorities advise that dead or despatched fish should be put in bin bags and then into a wheelie bin. If there are more than two or three fish, they should be taken to the nearest council tip.

Anglers and proprietors should also take appropriate measures for disinfecting their equipment to reduce the chance of spreading diseases using appropriate disinfectants such as VIRKON. The Trust can supply a limited amount VIRKON which is also readily available online.



Albert Duffus and Diana Usborne successfully completed the Fish Disease training course in March 2012 (Photo by Bob Laughton)

Ian Mackay Obituary

The Trust was saddened by the loss of Ian Mackay to cancer in December 2011. Throughout his life Ian was a keen angler and had been a member and chairman of the Lossie Fishery Board for many years. More recently he had

helped to establish the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fishery Trust. His knowledge and enthusiasm for the Lossie and the other rivers in the area will be greatly missed.



MSP views *Salmon Go to School*

MSP Richard Lochhead visited the West End Primary School, Elgin to meet P5 pupils who have become experts in salmon management. The 'Salmon Go to School' project was started in Speyside primary schools way back in 1995 and has been a great success with pupils and teachers alike. This year in conjunction with the Spey Foundation, the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust have expanded the project to schools within their district allowing even more pupils to learn about our local rivers, the fish species present and gain an insight into the research and management required to keep the rivers healthy.

After a short presentation the pupils receive their classroom hatchery complete with around 200 salmon eggs to look after. The pupils are trained to remove dead eggs and maintain the eggs at low temperatures. After the mid-term break the pupils of West End returned to school to find their efforts had been rewarded with a successful hatch of the eggs into alevins. The pupils then looked after them for a short period before returning the salmon to a tributary of the Spey. The pupils then received casting instruction and enjoyed a day's fishing at the Glen of Rothes Trout Fishery. The event was generously supported by the River Spey Anglers Association.



MSP Richard Lochhead with P5 at West End Primary School, Elgin
(Photo by Beth Dunlop)

Barriers Set for Removal

Two weirs on the Black Burn (R Lossie catchment) are earmarked for removal in 2012 after inhibiting fish passage for the past 30+ years. Alistair Brewster of SEPA, in conjunction with RAFTS, has reviewed and assessed both weirs and plans have been made for their removal. Obstacles to fish passage, such as these weirs, which are often installed for water abstraction and power generation purposes, do some of the greatest damage to native fish populations.

This project is being conducted in memory of Ian Mackay of the Elgin & District Angling Association, the River Lossie District Salmon Fishery Board and the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust, who worked for many years for the removal of these weirs.





Please support the work of the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust with your donation

I enclose a cheque in the sum of £ _____ made payable to Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust.

For bank transfers, or to set up a standing order, our account is with Royal Bank of Scotland, sort code 83-25-23, account number 00244739. Or for further information on how to do this, please contact the office.

Gift Aid Declaration

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I would like the Trust to treat as Gift Aid this and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify the Trust otherwise.

Title _____ Forename(s) _____ Surname _____

Home address _____

_____ Postcode _____

E-mail (for receiving Trust newsletters only) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax in each tax year at least equal to the tax that the Trust will claim from HM Revenue & Customs on your Gift Aid donation(s). Please notify the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust if you: (1) want to cancel this declaration, (2) change your name or home address, (3) no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

The Trust will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2008. If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

If you have fished on one of the rivers, please state River _____ and Beat _____

Please submit the completed form to the Trust office

Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust

Fisheries Office, Logie Steading, Dunphail, Forres, Moray IV36 2QN

Phone: 01309 611220

Email: admin@fnift.org.uk

Chairman: Maj Gen Seymour Monro

Director: Robert Laughton

Administrator: Beth Dunlop