

Introduction

District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) and Fisheries Trusts are the organisations on the front line of fisheries management in Scotland. This factsheet summarises some of the work and investment taking place through our member DSFBs and Trusts in Scotland.

Financial Contribution (2010)

DSFBs are principally financed by fishery owners. Trusts are funded by a combination of private finance and grant income from a number of sources. This provides a cost-effective model for the management, protection and improvement of our native fish populations and fisheries.

£4.38m: Revenue generated by DSFBs
£0.61m: Support provided to Trusts by DSFBs
£2.35m: Revenue generated by Trusts
£1.10m: Total incoming resources generated by RAFTS
£0.31m: Support provided to Trusts by RAFTS
146: FTEs *directly* employed by Boards and Trusts
160: FTEs volunteering with Boards and Trusts

Sound Management

Scotland's partnership and organisational structure of DSFBs and fisheries trusts, provides highly effective management of our salmon and sea trout fisheries. This system can react swiftly to changing circumstances for the conservation of fish species.

67%: Proportion of salmon released in 2010
82%: Proportion of spring salmon released in 2010
66%: Proportion of sea trout released in 2010
 (catch and release is largely voluntary in Scotland)

Habitat maintenance and enhancement

Our native fish populations rely on high quality habitat and access to spawning grounds. DSFBs and Trusts work hard to maintain and enhance the quality of these habitats by undertaking: riparian tree planting; coppicing; installation of riparian fencing (in order to reduce diffuse pollution); and in-stream work. The following figures are the cumulative total for the 10 years up to 31 Dec 2011.

1020km: Estimate of total riparian habitat restored/enhanced
£4m: Investment in habitat restoration schemes

Easement of Barriers: Barriers to fish migration are a significant problem in many Scottish rivers. RAFTS is working to assess and prioritise barriers to ensure that the



The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) is the representative body for Scotland's 41 District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs), including the River Tweed Commission (RTC). DSFBs have a statutory responsibility to protect and improve salmon and sea trout fisheries, and in the specific case of the RTC this responsibility extends to all freshwater fish.



Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) is an independent freshwater conservation charity representing Scotland's national network of 25 rivers and fisheries Trusts and Foundations. Our members work across over 90% of Scotland's freshwaters to protect and develop our native fish stocks and populations.



Catch & Release: Image by Brian Davidson



Riparian Fencing: River Annan

most significant obstacles from a wild fish perspective can be eased or removed. The WFD Restoration Fund can support this work at important sites.

166: Numbers of barriers assessed for improved fish passage (10 years up to 2011)

97: Number of barriers physically eased (to 2011)

2186km: Estimate of newly accessible river length resulting from easement of barriers

Invasive Non-Native Species: Invasive species are a significant threat to biodiversity and their ecological impacts and economic consequences can be devastating. RAFTS, in partnership with Trusts and DSFBs, has secured funding to tackle invasive species such as signal crayfish, mink, and a range of riparian plants.

>£5m: Funding secured by RAFTS Biosecurity and INNS programme since 2008

63: Surveys for invasive species completed in 2011

517km: Length of watercourses treated for invasive species

120: Number of mink removed (Apr-Dec 2011)

Sound Science

Fisheries management decisions should be taken according to the best available science and evidence. Fisheries Trusts play a key role in the scientific monitoring of the freshwater environment and fish populations. The programme of electro-fishing undertaken by Trusts and DSFBs is the largest in Scotland.

161: Habitat surveys completed in 2011

1370: Invertebrate samples completed in 2011

1759: Electro-fishing surveys completed in 2011

Education

A number of Trusts run education projects, often based on the successful "Salmon in the Classroom" model. For example, the Clyde River Foundation has engaged more than 14,000 children in their scheme and an important education programme is delivered annually.

173: Number of school projects undertaken in 2011

65: Other educational projects in 2011

Enforcement

The illegal killing of Atlantic salmon and sea trout is a wildlife crime. DSFBs have powers to appoint water bailiffs to enforce salmon fisheries legislation in Scotland. Bailiffs' powers include powers of arrest, entry, seizure and search, similar to the powers of constables.

328: Number of water bailiffs trained under the ASFB/IFM SVQ accredited qualification

150: Number of illegal nets confiscated in 2011

64: Number of offences formally reported in 2011



Training of Trust staff in assessment of barriers



Electrofishing: Image by Brian Davidson



Education: Clyde in the Classroom



Illegally taken sea trout: Image by Bill Cunningham