



ANNUAL SFCC/RAFTS BIOLOGISTS' MEETING

4TH-5TH FEBRUARY 2015

Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE)

DAY 1:

10.00 **Coffee & tea**

10:30 **Welcome**

James Hunt

10:35 **Background to SCENE AND IBIS**

Colin Adams

11:15 **Tour of the SCENE facilities**

12:30 LUNCH

13:30 **'Plenty of fish' speed dating**

All attendees are welcome to provide a max 3 minute talk about applied catchment issues, or areas where collaborative working or research opportunities may exist.

15:00 COFFEE and opportunity for discussion

15:45 10 minute presentations

Foraging specialisms influence space use and movement patterns of the European eel *Anguilla anguilla*

James Barry

Why are some individual fish more successful than others?

Neil Metcalfe

Intraspecific structuring in lake dwelling fishes

Colin Adams

Upstream and down stream migration of Atlantic salmon past an occasionally passable barrier

Matt Newton

Investigating the impacts of low-head hydropower schemes upon migrating salmonids

Robert Brackley

Ferox life history patterns in Brown trout

Martin Hughes

Lake fishing surveys carried out by the Loughs Agency for the Water Framework Directive

Art Niven

19:00 Dinner for all at The Oak Tree Inn

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DAY 2:

9:00 **COFFEE**

9:30 **Welcome & introduction from the SFCC Chairman** **James Hunt**

9:35 **SFCC, RAFTS, Marine Scotland Science and SEPA**
Updates from the four organisations with opportunities for questions & discussion

10:30 **Mink project update** **Ann-Marie McMaster**

10:45 **Wild Fisheries Review discussion session** **Jeff Gibbons**
A brief overview
Group themed workshop discussion

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 **SFCC AGM**

15:15 COFFEE

15:30 **Monitoring changes in the Tweed Brown Trout population** **Kenny Galt**
The use of scale reading, logbook and fish counter data to detect large scale changes in Tweed Brown Trout abundance

15:45 **Catrine Dam: Solutions or problems?** **Stuart Brabbs**
Following the recent restoration of a historic weir on the River Ayr, the presentation covers the difficulties faced when attempting to secure improved fish passage within a Community based hydro scheme.

16:00 Summing up and CLOSE

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'PLENTY OF FISH' SPEED DATING:

Peatland restoration – coming at acidification from another angle Galloway Fisheries Trust

The Barriers not Glamorous Enough to Interest SEPA? Nick Chisholm

“Bridging the gap – can SEPA’s fish tagging and tracking equipment help your project to fruition?” Anthony Watkins

SEPA now owns tagging and tracking equipment that can be used by interested parties, such as research students or fishery trusts, to facilitate knowledge sharing on applied fish science topics. SEPA is keen to promote evidence gathering to see whether the regulatory guidelines we use are appropriate, or whether they need to be refined and improved. We would be keen to support projects which can help us deliver this type of evidence in the future.

Salmon smolt migration and life stage mortality Han Honkanen

Hydro issues on a coastal burn with no migratory fish access Galloway Fisheries Trust

River Awe Project – improving recruitment of Salmon Allan Kettle-White

The effect of parental life history on telomere dynamics in wild salmon Darryl McLennan

Rivarian invasives and their link to aquatic ecology Colin Bull

I will briefly introduce a new PhD project (funded by SNH) into the linkages between riparian invasive plants and aquatic ecology, and update on the possible revisions (under discussion with SEPA) for the SNIFFER obstacle assessment tool. I will also present some plans for calibrating new lamprey population monitoring tools.

Using sea birds to monitor near shore coastal habitat quality Nina O'Hanlon

Evolutionary divergence in freshwater fishes Kathryn Elmer

Establishing Long Term Monitoring on the Dee Jamie Urquhart

Looking at long term monitoring of water temperature and juvenile salmon on the River Dee in conjunction with a habitat restoration project in collaboration with MSS.

The Moray Firth Trout Initiative is looking to develop 4 projects that we have begun but could benefit from collaborators to develop. Marcus Walters

1) Scotland sea trout scales database / analysis, 2) Tracking of large migratory brown trout, 3) Using stable isotopes to determine if fry are of sea or brown trout origin, 4) Data / desk based project to explore changes in marine food webs with relation to sea trout food chain (plankton, sandeels, sea trout, sea birds).

Brown trout population structuring

Jess Fordyce

What is a sea trout?

Travis van Leeuwen

Skill Development and Applied Learning for Secondary Schools

Debbie

Park

Presentation on the role Fisheries Trusts could play in providing scientific skills and applied learning experiences to secondary schools as part of the new National qualification scheme.