



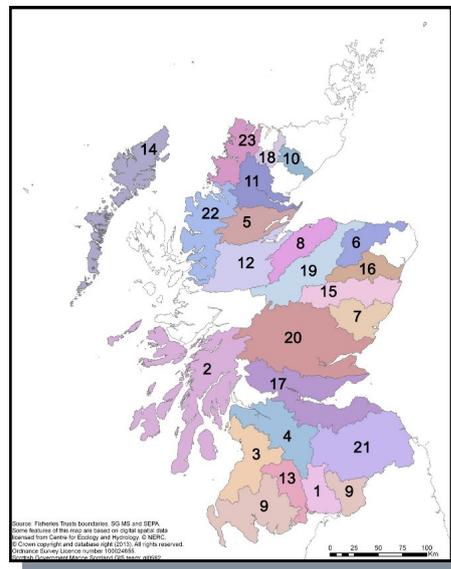
# 2017-18 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## Outgoing Chairman’s Note— James Hunt—The Tweed Foundation

After six years chairing The SFCC, it is time to move on and I am pleased to be able to pass on the reins to Jo Girvan from The River Forth Fisheries Trust. It is reasonable to say that a lot has happened in this six year period in the landscape of evidence based fisheries management and while there continues to be the inevitable challenges, I believe we are heading in the right direction, with The SFCC continuing to facilitate training, standards and a local-national interface.

Over the last year there has been a lot of work behind the scenes to transfer SFCC to a committee of Fisheries Management Scotland, along with employment responsibilities for the SFCC manager, Sean Dugan. I am pleased to report that this transition has now been completed and has been of benefit to Sean and The SFCC through efficiency savings and Sean becoming part of The Fisheries Management Scotland team. After two previous changes in employment arrangements in the last six years, this will now provide a long-term, stable future for The SFCC.

Looking into my crystal ball, my wish list over the next few years is for SFCC to assist with the promotion of a national fish counter network for accurate adult counts and to continue the harmonisation of data collection through common standards, training and database entry, particularly for electrofishing. By progressing these objectives while maintaining the core service to members, the SFCC will continue to facilitate evidence based management in Scotland.



Map showing current Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre membership coverage



Faskally House

## 20th ANNUAL BIOLOGIST’S MEETING — FEB 7th & 8th 2018

Our members continue to value the opportunity to come together each year with a record number of just under 70 travelling to Faskally for our 20th biologists’ meeting. Attendees included representatives from 18 Fisheries Trusts, Fisheries Management Scotland, SEPA, Marine Scotland, SNH, Scandinavian Nature Surveillance, University of Highlands and Islands, Stirling and Birmingham University.

Proceedings began with traditional updates from the national organisations and Universities, with the highlight of the day being five-minute summary talks from 12 different Fisheries Trusts. During the AGM James Hunt was thanked for his 6 years service as SFCC chairman and presented with a map of Scotland depicting all the SFCC member organisations he has worked with since 2012.

A special Salmon Liaison Group meeting took place on the morning of day 2 to discuss incorporation of habitat variation within the Conservation Regulations models. Anders Lamberg gave a fascinating talk on Norway’s approach to counting salmon using snorkelling and underwater video systems. Ronald Campbell led a session on long-term changes in salmon run timing with Faye Jackson and Iain Malcolm concluding the day by sharing MSS’s recent work on river temperature models to inform riparian planting schemes.



Nick Barker from Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust speaking on pearl mussels

## 2017 TRAINING SUMMARY

### Electrofishing

Jackie Graham, Joanna Girvan, Nick Barker and Bob Laughton continued to deliver SFCC accredited electrofishing training in 2017. SFCC are also in the process of undertaking a review of training and data collection protocols.

### Scale Reading

Sean and Ronald Campbell revised and updated the SFCC scale reading course with new material including over 500 scanned images now available [online](#).

A smolt trapping manual and collection protocol was also developed by the I.F.M Scottish Branch and supported by SFCC.

Course Title	Attendees in 2017
Intro to Electrofishing	8
Team Leader Electrofishing	1
Electrofishing Refresher	7
Scale Reading	11
Intro to Web Mapping	6
Intro to Mapping with Arc GIS Pro	16

## SUPPORT PROVIDED TO SFCC MEMBERS

Phone, email and face-to-face support is being increasingly utilised by our member Trusts. In the past year Sean visited 9 members to provide mapping or database support, or to lend a hand with ongoing fieldwork.

### Mapping

In 2017 SFCC continued to focus on providing members with easy access to all required mapping layers and training in the use of new mapping software. Sean helped 14 members transition over to a new mapping software called ArcGIS Pro and members were also provided with catchment maps for their area of interest. Training was also provided to 16 attendees on two training days at the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory and at Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust.

In August SFCC secured a second annual license for our members to access Ordnance Survey mapping products through the One Scotland Mapping Agreement.

### Electrofishing Database

SFCC members continue to contribute to the database which now holds over 29,000 electrofishing surveys. Sean and James ensure that the database continues to run efficiently and provide ongoing guidance as required.

## MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE DATA FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Marine Scotland Science (MSS) are mid-way through a 5-year project to develop methods to assess juvenile salmon conservation status. SFCC members have contributed a vast quantity of single-pass electrofishing data to MSS to augment the provision of multi-pass data in previous years. On behalf of MSS, Sean has liaised with Trusts to ensure a smooth supply of data.

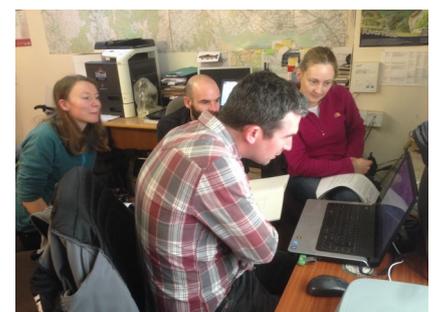
In 2017, SFCC members also continued to contribute electro-fishing data to SEPA for RBMP and WFD analysis. Some Trusts have also been contributing to a study by Queen Mary University of London on the impacts of low flows on salmonids and to the Adaptive Management of Barriers in Europe (AMBER) Project.



Ronald Campbell delivering the SFCC scale reading course



Historical scale collections scanned for reference and training



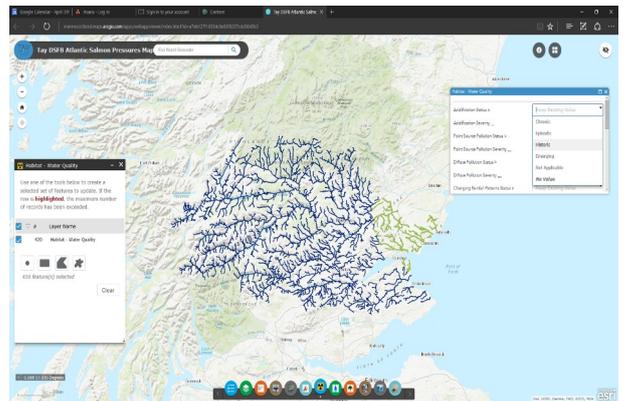
Annan & Galloway Fisheries Trust staff on mapping training

### SALMON LIAISON GROUP

SFCC continues to provide the secretariat for the [Salmon Liaison Group](#) (SLG) and its [working groups](#). The role of the SLG is to provide a forum for fisheries managers and biologists to represent their regions and contribute to the continued development of the Conservation Regulations system. Sean has also been assisting the fish counters working group to gather up-to-date information on currently installed fish counters in Scotland.

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE (FMPT)

A key element of Wild Fisheries Reform is the development of a more consistent approach to Fisheries Management planning across Scotland. This will allow Scottish Ministers to better understand the use of the salmon levy and will provide benefit to DSFB's including the ability to highlight the pressures acting on salmon. As part of the FMPT working group, Sean has been working closely with MS, FMS and SEPA to develop map-based tools to underpin the template. The aim of these tools is to make it easy for all DSFB's to contribute their local knowledge on a river by river basis. It is anticipated that the salmon pressures component of the FMPT will be trialled by a selection of DSFB's shortly.



**Example of a salmon pressures data gathering tool for the Tay DSFB region**



**Smolt data collection by Galloway Fisheries Trust**

### SMOLT DATA COLLECTION

A key role of SFCC is to develop central data storage to facilitate national-scale analysis. MSS have recently completed the development of a new fish database capable of holding a wide range of data including smolt trapping surveys. SFCC invited members to trial the data entry aspect of the software to understand if this would be a viable option in future years. Trusts could benefit from the electronic field data entry tool and costly data collation exercises would not be required with data held centrally. Four members successfully completed the trial in 2017 and further roll-out in the coming years is being considered.

### COMMUNICATION

SFCC monthly updates are now provided together with the Fisheries Management Scotland monthly update. The [Wild Fisheries Information Feed](#) continues to be kept up to date with the latest news from our member Trusts and other national organisations. In August 2017 the [Wild Fisheries Forum](#) was launched, providing a place for SFCC members to discuss topics of interest and share information.

MS, FMS and IFM also contribute to our shared calendar which is available [here](#) and can be added to your computer or device. Please send any events for inclusion to [s.dugan@marlab.ac.uk](mailto:s.dugan@marlab.ac.uk).

*Management Committee dates for 2018 are **June 20th, October 10th and December 4th**. All members are encouraged to join in person or remotely through tele or video conference. Annual SFCC Accounts are available upon request*