

SFCC

The Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's report James Hunt—SFCC Chairman

I am pleased to report on a steady year of progress for The SFCC, with the SFCC Manager, Sean Dugan, continuing to do an excellent job in fulfilling the aims of the SFCC, particularly in relation to being 'the middle man' for managing the links between local and national fisheries organisations.

A notable success for the last year has been the agreement for SFCC members to use high resolution Ordnance Survey data as part of the One Scotland Mapping Agreement, free of charge. This has been on our 'wish list' for a very long time and represents the evolving landscape of mapping data and software availability, which is to everyone's benefit. The basis for this agreement was the recognition that local Fisheries Trusts and Boards are working with national bodies, in particular Marine Scotland Science, to facilitate data collection, sharing and analysis.

Behind the scenes, we are preparing for an important change in our structure and functioning, with The SFCC becoming a committee of Fisheries Management Scotland. This represents a new chapter in the development of the SFCC - we are all determined to make this a success and look forward to working with the FMS staff and board. With the SFCC changes pretty much in place by the time you read this report, I would like to welcome Alan Wells from Fisheries Management Scotland and Alisdair Duguid (representing SEPA) as formal members of committee.

As ever, we would like to thank members for their continued support of the SFCC, which continues to be a unique model for evidence based fisheries management.

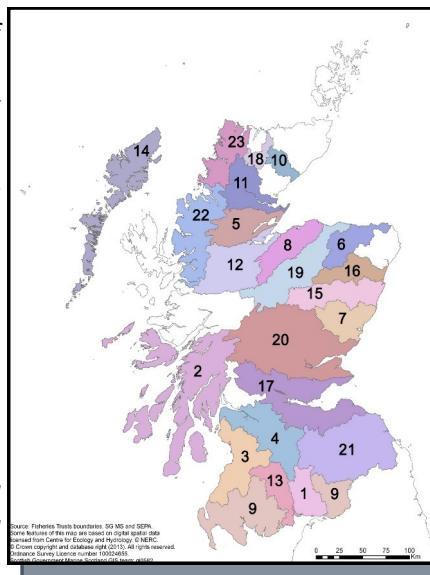
Manager's report—Sean Dugan—SFCC Manager

Signing a permanent employment contract with Fisheries Management Scotland in April 2017 marked the beginning of my 5th year in the role of SFCC manager. I'm delighted to have joined the small team of Alan Wells and Brian Davidson, working with the common purpose of supporting our members in their management of fisheries in Scotland.

SFCC continue to support the Wild Fisheries Reform programme directly by contributing to the Training & C.P.D working group's development of a CPD resource, and to further working groups.

Being situated at Faskally has also helped my role as a link between Marine Scotland and Trusts to develop further in 2016, through providing support for the Conservation Regulations workings groups, map-based data gathering and electrofishing data supply. SFCC members continue to provide data contributions to Marine Scotland for national initiatives such as the temperature network, aquaculture interactions, juvenile electro-fishing survey and acoustic tracking studies. The return from this data supply will be improved monitoring and better informed management, backed up by the publication of 15 scientific papers by the Freshwater Laboratory in 2016.

I developed a tool for members to input large volumes of mapping data on salmon distribution through the web. To help members develop their own mapping capability for planning and showcasing their work I also enjoyed visiting 10 trusts in 2016 to run mapping workshops. Many more visits are already in planning for 2017.



Map showing current Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre membership coverage

2017 Biologists' Meeting

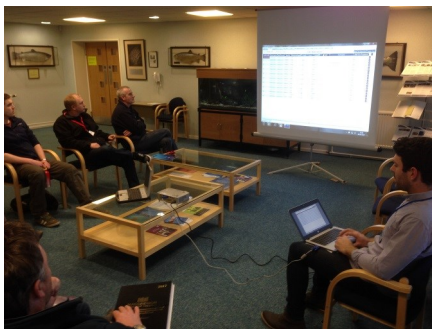
After several years away from our natal area (Pitlochry), we returned home to Faskally House with the first morning featuring introductions and updates from the national SFCC member organisations. With the meeting falling shortly after the Ministerial announcement on Wild Fisheries Reform, the morning provided a good opportunity for discussion with Government colleagues. In the afternoon Fisheries Trusts provided updates before a popular west-coast themed session and our AGM to finish.

Highlights of day 2 included presentations on the latest juvenile salmon assessments from Trusts and Marine Scotland, historical run-timing changes from Ronald and recent work of the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory. To conclude, attendees rotated round informal workshops on a new fish counting system, field data collection technologies and fish scale photo archives led by the unofficial curator, Dr Ronald Campbell.

Our thanks are extended to Faskally Christian Trust for hosting and catering for us over the two days.



New venue at Faskally House



Ross Glover presenting a live demo of the new Fish observations database



Ronald Campbell's workshop on historical fish scale photographs.



Mapping workshop days at River Annan Trust, Ullapool and Clyde River Foundation

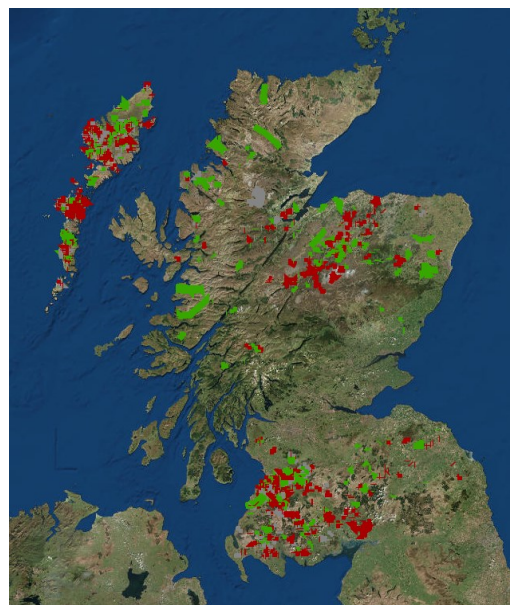
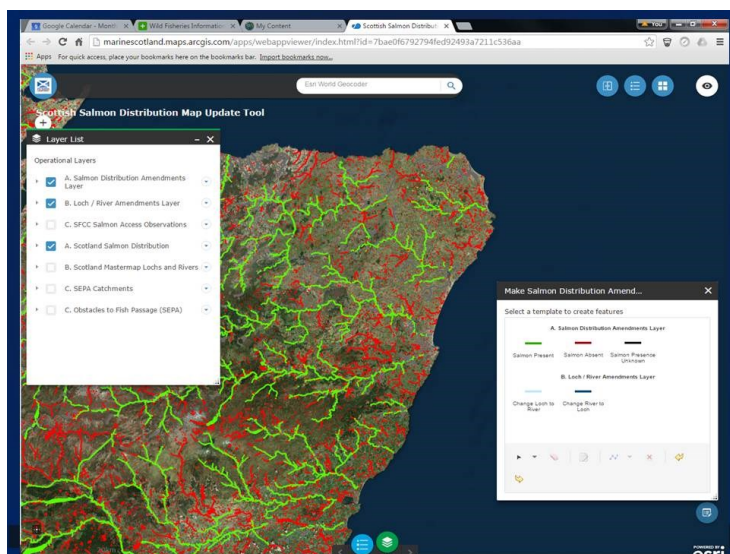
MAPPING ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-17

- 19 SFCC members continue to develop their mapping capability using software provided by the Earth Systems Research Institute (ESRI) non-profit programme.
- SFCC launched a new means of sharing mapping data with trusts using an online sharing solution. The [SFCC web map](#) was also showcased at an annual mapping conference.
- Field data collection can now be done using a GPS enabled tablet. SFCC took advantage of this new technology to allow Cromarty Firth Fisheries Trust and Forestry Commission to map forestry related pressures.
- SFCC continued to negotiate agreement for our members to access mapping data. In August we signed an agreement with Scottish Government granting SFCC members access to all Ordnance Survey mapping data through the One Scotland Mapping Agreement. We also gained access to further maps relevant to fisheries management through open data sharing.
- In August we also ceased a £7000 annual subscription for a digital river network used for mapping, replacing this with a free of charge, more up-to-date and accurate Ordnance Survey dataset.
- In the autumn Sean ran mapping training days with a total of 10 Trusts, further to webinars provided remotely.

WILD FISHERIES REFORM

SFCC continue to support the reform programme through our contributions to the training and C.P.D working group tasked with establishing a system of Training and Continuous Professional Development across the fishery sector.

The relationship between local and national organisations continues to be strengthened through joint data collection projects. In 2016-17 these include the Armadale acoustic salmon tracking project, Scotland River Temperature Monitoring Network and the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF) aquaculture interactions project.



Web based mapping tool allowing SFCC members to update the salmon distribution map. Over 3000 contributions made.

CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

The SFCC continues to act as the secretariat for the [Salmon Liaison Group](#) and the conservation regulation [working groups](#).

In summer 2016 Sean developed a web-based mapping tool permitting biologists to contribute updates to the salmon distribution map used to derive wetted area values for the conservation assessment models. SFCC member biologists contributed around 3,000 updates which equated to over 10,000 individual features in the master dataset. These features were updated by Sean and Hilary Anderson at Faskally in time for the June 1st 2017 deadline to allow 2018 assessments to be run.

SFCC have also been asked by Marine Scotland to organise a workshop in December to begin looking at how fish habitat could be incorporated into the estimates of salmon numbers for future years.

CENTRAL STORAGE OF SMOLT DATA

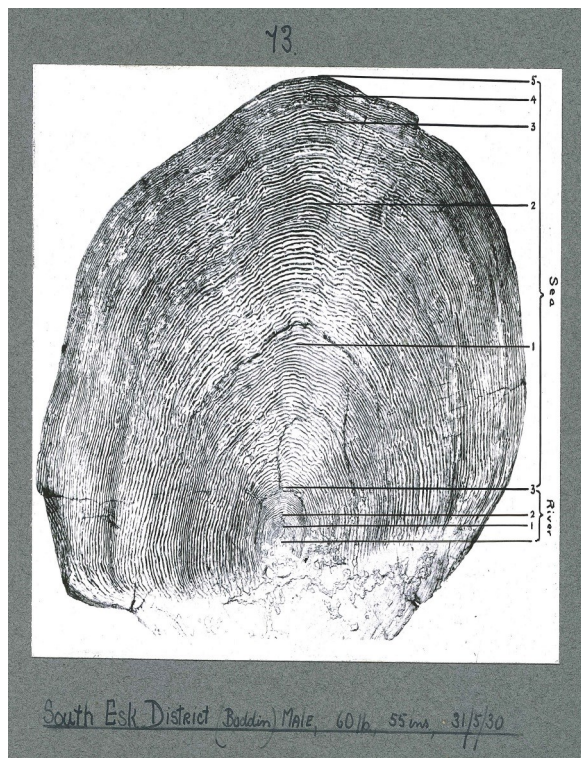
MSS have recently constructed a database called *Fish Observations*, with associated field-based recording software which can be installed on Windows machines. Utilising this technology, SFCC and MSS ran a successful trial with 6 SFCC members in Spring 2017. Smolt data was collected from screw traps, wolf traps, fyke nets, and seine nets with the aim of testing out this new software. Based on feedback received to date, it is hoped that more Trusts can take part in 2018.

TRAINING

Fisheries Management Scotland continue to update the new [training prospectus](#), detailing all current fisheries management related training in Scotland.

Jackie Graham, Jamie Ribbens, Nick Barker and Bob Laughton delivered SFCC accredited electrofishing training to more than 20 attendees in 2016 through SRUC Barony Campus and Inverness College UHI. SFCC are looking to work with Rivers & Lochs Institute and the [Electrofishing Working Group](#) to update the training manuals and materials before the 2018 training intake.

We are also currently working with Ronald Campbell to update our scale reading training materials. Many of the scale images will come from recently scanned scale photo archives from the Freshwater Laboratory library.



Course Title	Attendees in 2016
Introduction to Electrofishing	0
Team Leader	11
Team Leader Refresher	6
Scale Reading	8



60lbs salmon scale photo forming part a new training reference resource. Electrofishing training by Galloway Fisheries Trust

COMMUNICATION

SFCC are now joined up with Fisheries Management Scotland to provide a brief monthly update as part of the FMS 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.

Due to the increased number of working group meetings taking place at Faskally, travel and time burdens on Fisheries Trusts can be large. To provide an alternative option and to reduce our carbon footprint, SFCC have been looking into video conferencing options. Skype for Business has been enabled and Trusts can join meetings using this software if they register their account with Scottish Government.

Shared Training & Events Calendar

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

Management Committee dates for 2017 are **October 4th** and **December 6th**.

All members are encouraged to join in person or remotely through tele or video conference.

Annual SFCC Accounts are available upon request