



## 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 which took place through our member DSFBs and Trusts in Scotland in 2013.

## Financial Contribution (2012-2013)

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.

**£4.32m: Revenue generated by DSFBs**  
**£0.57m: Support provided to Trusts by DSFBs**  
**£3.03m: Revenue generated by Trusts**  
**£1.24m: Total incoming resources generated by RAFTS**  
**£0.60m: Support provided to Trusts by RAFTS**  
**143: FTEs directly employed by Boards and Trusts**  
**231: FTEs volunteering with Boards and Trusts**

## Sound Management

Scotland's structure of DSFBs and Fisheries Trusts, provides highly effective management of our salmon and sea trout fisheries. This system can react swiftly, at a local area scale, to changing circumstances for the conservation of fish species.

**74%: Proportion of salmon released in 2012**  
**91%: Proportion of spring salmon released in 2012**  
**71%: Proportion of sea trout released in 2012**  
(Catch and release is largely voluntary in Scotland)  
**493: Number of Planning and Development cases dealt with (Boards and Trusts)**



*Catch & Release*

## 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.



*Habitat restoration - Moray Firth Trout Initiative*

**79km: Riparian habitat restored/ enhanced**  
**2780: Riparian trees planted**  
**275km: Riparian fencing erected**  
**£217k: Investment in habitat restoration schemes**

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.

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.

**Easement of Barriers:** Barriers to fish migration are a significant problem in many Scottish rivers. In partnership with the SEPA, RAFTS is working to assess and prioritise barriers to ensure that the most significant obstacles from a wild fish perspective can be eased or removed. The Water Environment Fund can support this work at important sites.

**34: Barriers assessed for improved fish passage**  
**21: Barriers eased**  
**55km: Resulting newly accessible river length**

**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.



*Mink – John McAvoy*

**58: Surveys for invasive species**  
**608km: Watercourses treated for invasive species**  
**88: Number of mink removed**

## 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.

**220: Number of school projects undertaken**  
**224: Other educational projects**

## 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.



*Rotary Screw Smolt Trap*

**603: Habitat surveys completed**  
**434: Invertebrate samples completed**  
**1578: Electro-fishing surveys completed**

## Enforcement

The illegal killing of Atlantic salmon and sea trout is a wildlife crime. DSFBs can 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.



*Confiscation of an illegal gill net – Spey DSFB*

**370: Number of water bailiffs trained under the ASFB/ IFM SVQ accredited qualification**  
**152: Number of illegal nets confiscated**  
**106: Number of offences formally reported**