Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries



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2021 – Smolt Trapping

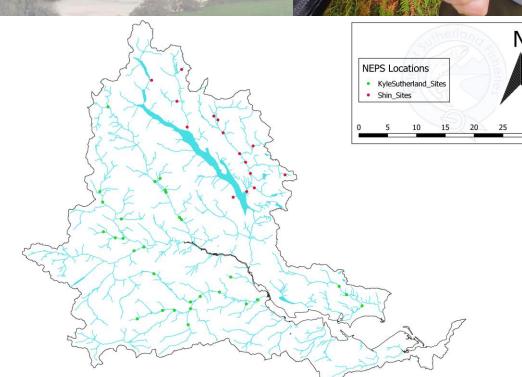
- •We took part in AST's Moray Firth Tracking Project, with traps on 3 rivers, and a total of 248 fish implanted with acoustic tags.
- •This is an addition to our normal PIT tagging and smolt mitigation on the Shin catchment, moving over 5,000 smolts total downstream of Shin diversion dam.
- •Few direct farmed smolts were caught, however extreme low water over the smolt period caused problems with running the traps.



Projects:

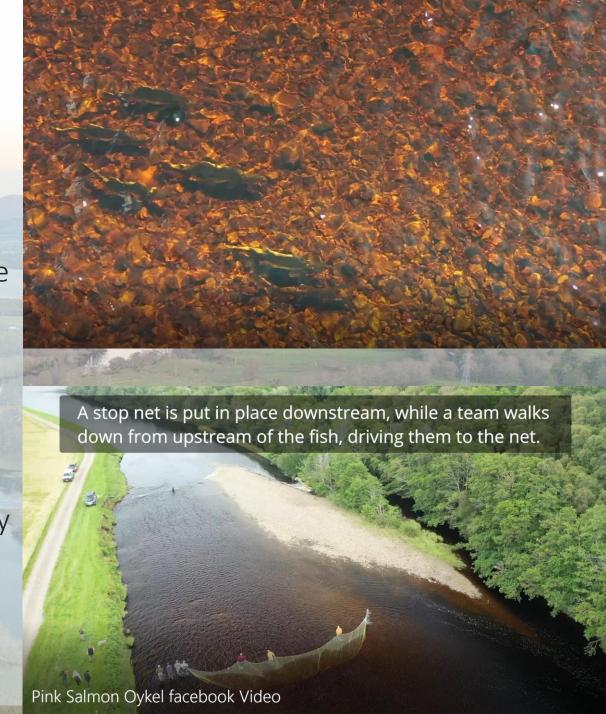
- NatureScot BCF have funded a LWS and gravel addition project on the Shin catchment. Project has been delayed to works commencing this year.
- Pilot eDNA project on the go to take some samples from around the catchment.
- •30 sites for NEPS, plus an extra panel of 15 sites on the Upper Shin catchment.
- •National Adult Sampling programme fish caught on the Oykel were sampled for this project
- Radio Tracking on the Carron commenced again, but low fishing effort coupled with a very busy smolt run was not conducive to tagging many fish.





Pink Salmon

- •A group of pink salmon were sighted on the Oykel in August using a drone.
- •We attempted to net this group out, using the drone to help guide where the fish were sitting.
- A lot of manpower was needed
- Only the female fish was caught, others escaped.
- •Trying to control invasive pink salmon this way 24/7 is very resource intensive, and out with the scope of resources a fishery board typically has available.



	CN D01	CN D02	EL_01	EU_01	GB_02	GBD-01	GL1	GRUDIE	KB-01	SHIN-01		
European eel (Anguilla anguilla)			•	•			•	•	•			
Bleak (Alburnus alburnus)												
Crucian carp species (Carassius sp.)									•		Orde	er
Carp (Cyprinus carpio)					٠	•	•				•	Anguilliformes
Minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus)				•								Cypriniformes
Three-spined stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus)		•								•		
Perch (Perca fluviatilis)			0				•	•				Gasterosteiformes
Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)				•	0	•						Perciformes
Trout (Salmo trutta)										•		Salmoniformes
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)											•	Anseriformes
Dipper species (Cinclidae sp.)											0	Passeriformes
Red deer (Cervus elaphus)	0	•	0		•	•						Artiodactyla
Sika deer (Cervus nippon)												,
Red fox (Vulpes vulpes)												Carnivora
Water vole (Arvicola amphibius)			0						٠			Rodentia
Field vole (Microtus agrestis)			۰									

Riverwoods

- Progress has been made since the initial desktop work done catchment wide.
- Landowner buy in and strategy is key at this early stage.
- •We've partnered with a Charity in the area who is providing us with small numbers of trees to plant in riparian areas.
- •We held an auction to raise money specifically for this work, and to employ a Climate Resilience Officer.
- •Around 3000 trees planted this winter, a couple more landowners are interested especially with the carbon money.

