

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries



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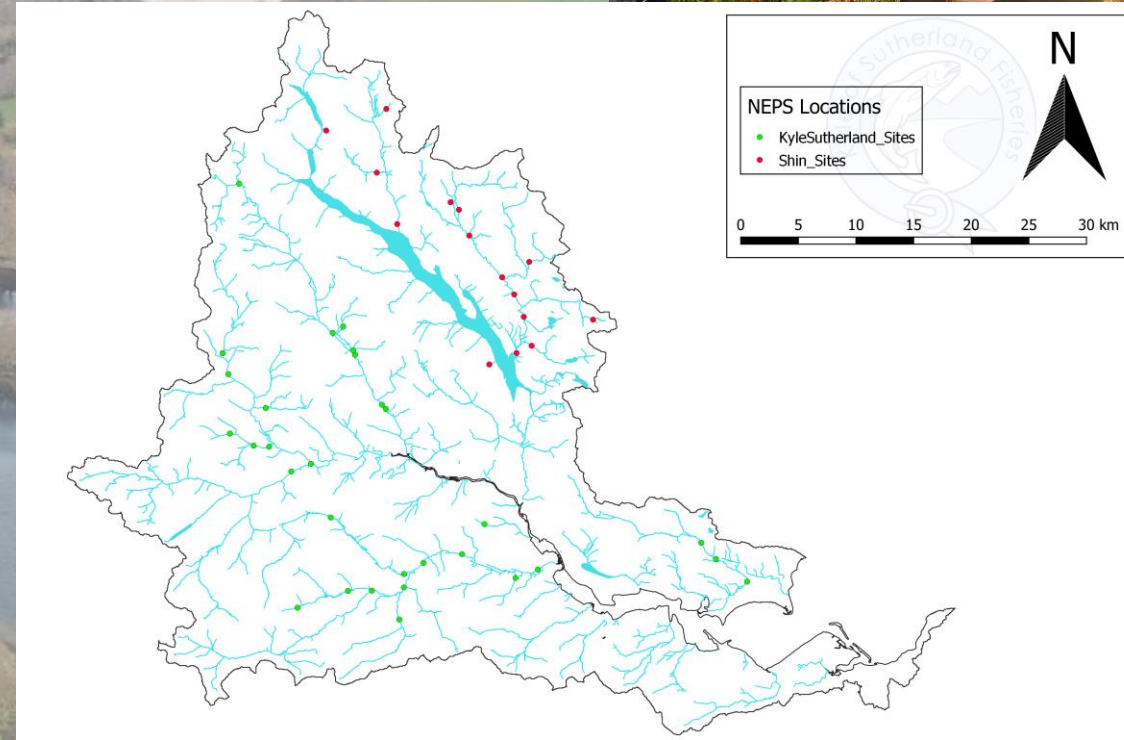
2021 – Smolt Trapping

- 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:

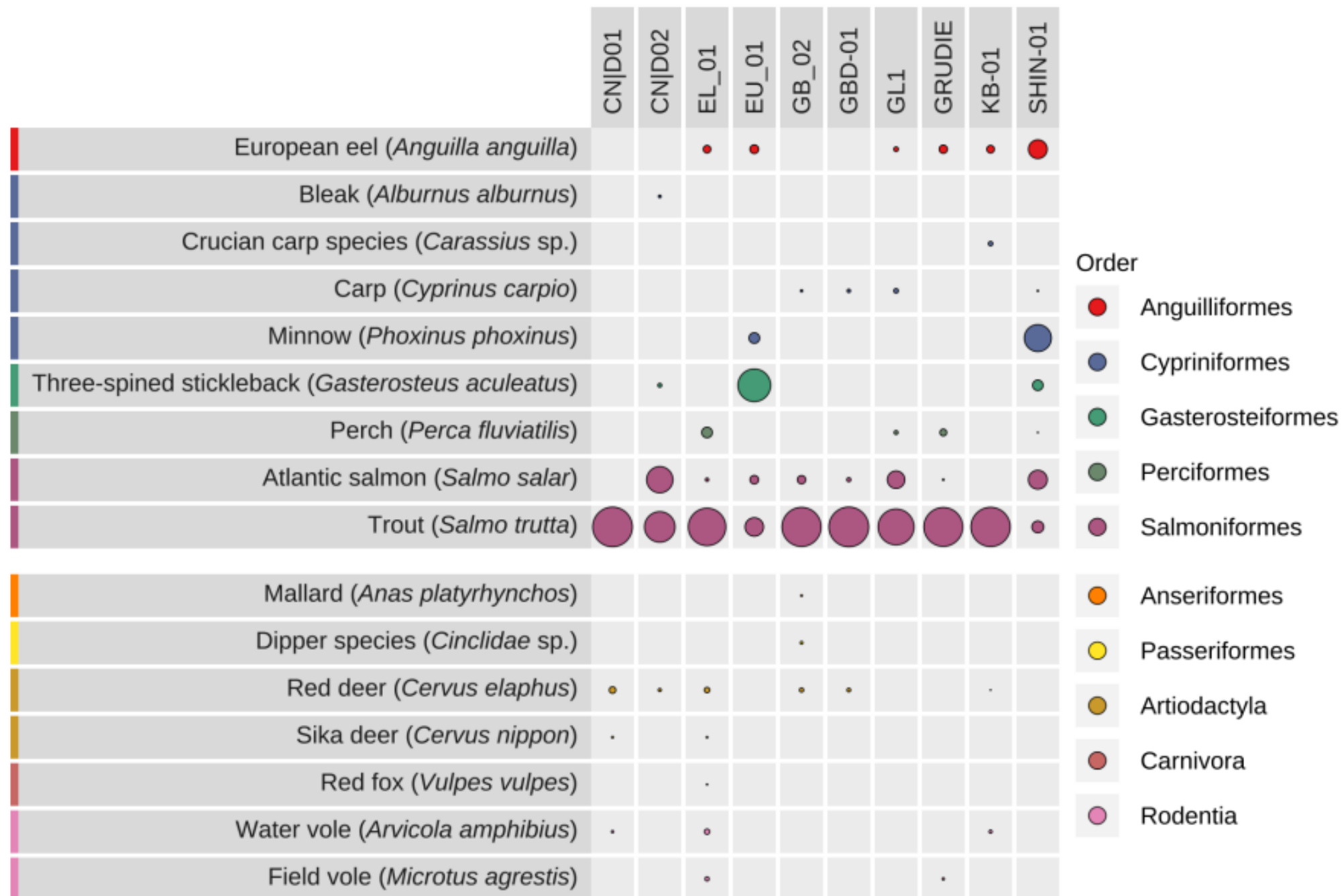
- NatureScot BCF have funded a LWS and gravel addition project on the Shin catchment. Project has been delayed to works commencing this year.
- Pilot eDNA project on the go to take some samples from around the catchment.
- 30 sites for NEPS, plus an extra panel of 15 sites on the Upper Shin catchment.
- 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.





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.

