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Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust

Newsletter

July 2015

**Special points
of interest:**

- A busy time ahead
- Raffle at Moy – big prizes.
- Events list
- Mink – be vigilant
- More articles can be found at www.nessandbeaully.org.uk

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A busy time ahead...

Welcome to the 2nd Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust newsletter.

It is that time of year again where trusts throughout the country are gearing up for a busy summer of fieldwork. NBFT are no exception with an ambitious monitoring plan already underway. It is hoped that juvenile surveys will be carried out on over 150 sites throughout the Ness and Beaully Catchments in the coming months. Coastal burn surveys have been completed. These burns are thought to be important habitats for

sea trout and early indications suggest good trout numbers along with salmon, eels, lampreys and flounders.



Electrofishing site on the Culburnie Burn

The trust has been hampered with a wet start but as the season progresses it is hoped our aims can be achieved.

The trust will once again be attending the Highland-field sports fair at Moy on 7th/8th August, this gives us the opportunity to raise our profile and showcase some of the work we do. This year we are holding a raffle with some fantastic prizes. A big thank you to all who have donated. All proceeds will be utilised in helping us to achieve our aims in our fisheries management plan. More details on this and other events we are taking part in can be found in this issue.

Support us via paypal.

We are pleased to announce that our new website is now up and running. Although still in an early stage of development it is hoped it will provide an interesting resource for information regarding the

Ness and Beaully catchments.

If you would like to support the trust there is a paypal option on the website. You can donate by simply clicking on the pay-

pal button.

We can also be found on twitter, where we try to give regular updates on what we are doing .

www.nessandbeaully.org.uk
[@Nbeaully](https://twitter.com/Nbeaully)

Up and coming events...



Ness and Beaulieu Fisheries Trust
 Fantastic Prizes £1 per ticket

RAFFLE

One day salmon/sea trout fishing River Ness courtesy of Inverness Angling Club
 One day salmon/sea trout fishing River Beaulieu courtesy of Beaulieu Angling Club
 One day trout fishing (two rods plus boat) Gairloch hill lochs courtesy of Nigel Fraser
 Bottle of 12 year old malt whiskey courtesy of Tomatin Distillery
 One day for two rods salmon fishing River Farrar courtesy of Frank Spencer-Nairn
 A day guided pike fishing courtesy of Ness and Beaulieu Fisheries Trust
 Bottle of Glen Moriston malt whiskey courtesy of Annie Clivan
 £20 voucher for J. Graham & Co. courtesy of David Trail
 Private evening cruise on Loch Ness courtesy of Gordon Menzies
 One day salmon/sea trout fishing on the Kyle of Sutherland courtesy of Keith Williams
 Fishing voucher for Dunlichity Trout Fishery courtesy of Mike Fitzgerald
 Clay pigeon shooting for two people courtesy of Black Isle Mid Ross Wildfowlers
 Box of Salmon Flies
 £40 Voucher courtesy of Allamrange Hotel Munloch
 Framed photographs of local landmarks courtesy of Leanne Daphne (local artist)
 Casting tuition with Scott Mackenzie for 2-3 people courtesy of Scott Mackenzie
 Pack of Mixed beers courtesy of Black Isle Brewery
 Plus many more

All proceeds to assist with achieving outcomes in our fisheries management plan

29/07/2015

Pearl Mussels with Highland Ranger Service on the River Moriston.

31/07/2015

River to Firth – A Fish’s tale with Highland Ranger Service, Moray Firth Trout Initiative.

07/08/2015

Highland Sports Fair, Moy

13/08/2015

First time fishermen with Great Glen Way Ranger Service and Moray Firth Trout Initiative at Lochan Màm-Chuil

31/08/2015-05/09/2015

Scotlands Salmon Festival Inverness

More information can be found at www.scotlandsalmonfestival.org/

27/09/2015

River Festival Nairn, Lossie and Findhorn Fisheries Trust.



Thank you to all our volunteers for your efforts. If you would like to volunteer then please contact the trust office.



Scottish Mink Initiative

The Scottish Mink Initiative aims to remove breeding American mink from north Scotland and covers an area of 20,000 km².

Its that time of year again, Kitts will now be leaving their home nests and dispersing. Numer-

ous sightings have occurred recently with a family of 9 seen on the Ness. We have had two captures so far, one on the Beaulieu catchment and one on the Ness catchment.

Please contact the trust if you have seen a suspected mink whether

alive or dead.

If you would like to volunteer to monitor a raft then we will provide all equipment. Please contact the trust office.

Moray Firth Trout Initiative

The trust carried out a netting operation at the mouth of the River Beaulieu in early June. This was a new site which presented us with very different conditions to previous sites within the firth. After a number of

practice runs the net was fishing great. Although no fish were caught, probably as a result of timing rather than our technique we did catch a number of salmon parr.

It is hoped to try this site

again in July/August in the hope that the Sea Trout will be running. If you would like to get involved then please contact the trust office.

Scale sampling.

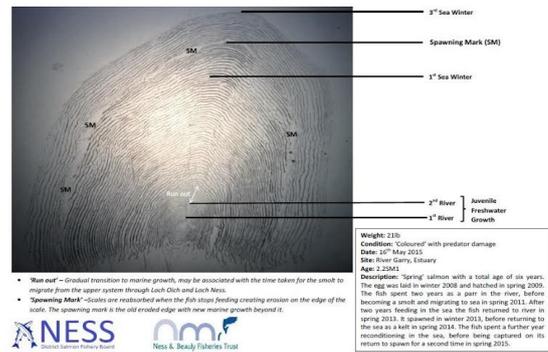
2014 saw the introduction of a comprehensive salmon scale sampling and ageing programme on the Ness Catchment, this was extended to the Beaully catchment in 2015. The ageing of fish is an important fisheries management tool.

A total of 46 Ness and 22 Beaully salmon scale samples have been read so far this season (a number of the Beaully samples were historical). This is a really good start and is likely to

result in a robust scale sample this year (75 in total submitted for the season last year).

Of particular interest was a 21lb coloured 'spring' salmon caught and released on the 16th May 2015 at the River Garry estuary (Ness system) (see attached photo). This fish was found to be a repeat spawner, which spent two years in freshwater followed by two years in the sea before returning to spawn. The fish survived

the spawning process and returned to the sea as a kelt. It spent another year at sea before being caught on its return to spawn for



Pearls in Peril Life + Project

Pearls in Peril is a national project aimed at conserving existing populations of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*).

After our successful encystment the trust revisited the sites to monitor glochidial loadings on the fish we encysted. This involved elec-

trofishing and looking at the fish gills for evidence of glochidia. Only one fish was carrying glochidia but at a high level so it was assumed that it was one of last years encysted fish.

Due to the habits of juvenile trout and salmon this was always going to be difficult...the proverbial needle in a haystack

but it was met with some success. We also checked on the naturally encysted fish to try and ascertain when glochidia may drop off. Fish were still carrying glochidia in June which is later than in West Coast rivers.

In addition we have visited a number of schools in the area

Each Pearl mussel can filter 50 litres of water per day.

Tagging

Good numbers of salmon are also being tagged throughout the Ness and Beaully systems. A number of recaptures have been reported. Angus Mackenzie caught a 'spring' salmon from the vicinity of the River Moriston estuary on Saturday 9th May 2015. The fish was found to be carrying or-

ange external anchor tag number 77.

Our records indicate that this fish had been caught and released by Angus MacGruer fishing the fly in the River Oich estuary earlier in the week on Monday the 4th May 2015. Mr Mackenzie reported that, even on its second capture, the fish was very 'fresh and

frisky' showing no signs of being caught a few days before. The results of our tagging programme to date have proved to be extremely interesting.

Many thanks to Chris Blake for reporting his capture of a tagged salmon (Yellow 112) from Loch Ness on Sat-

The fish was originally caught on the 5th June 2015 as a 13lb 'fresh' fish from the bottom beat of Dochfour Fishing (tail of the Island) by Davy Stewart. If handled correctly fish do survive to continue their journey.



Ness and Beaulv Fisheries Trust

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The Ness and Beaulv Fisheries Trust (the 'Trust') is an environmental charity established to *'secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of both the Rivers Beaulv and Ness and the native fish stocks within their catchments'*.

The Trust was formed in 2005 and registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 20th December 2006 (Scottish Charity Registration Number SC 037684). It is also a Company Limited by Guarantee (incorporated on 12th December 2005) and is registered at Companies House (Company Registration Number SC 294401).

For further information on any of these articles or for information regarding the trust please contact the editor Chris Daphne at the trust office.

Wild Fisheries Reform

A paper published by the Scottish Government on the 15th May 2015 confirmed their commitment to the reform of wild fisheries, which will result in a new management system designed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The paper also sets out the Government's response to the independent Wild Fisheries Review. It outlines the fundamental principles on which the new system will be built, and commits to developing a national wild fisheries strategy for the management of all freshwater and migratory fish species.

The wild fisheries paper includes a consultation which seeks views on a

number of broad policy options including the balance of functions between local and national levels, funding, science and skills, regulation and compliance and promoting access and opportunity and careers in fishing. The consultation document can be viewed at www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00477011.pdf.

Licence Killing of Salmon – On the 23rd July 2015, Scottish Ministers advertised their intention to create a licensing system and carcass tagging regime as well as a prohibition on the killing of salmon out-with estuary limits through regulations. This follows the public consultation earlier this year on the proposed conservation measures

to introduce a licensing system for the killing of any wild salmon in Scotland together with associated carcass tagging and baits and lures regulations.

AND FINALLY

So a busy time ahead but very interesting nonetheless, hopefully we will be lucky with conditions and have some interesting news in our next newsletter.

Tight lines one and all.

Chris Daphne

