



September 2011

Welcome to the ASFB-RAFTS electronic newsletter. Since our last newsletter in May 2009 there have been a number of changes in both ASFB and RAFTS. Below you will find the latest news, events and publications and an update on the staff of both organisations.

Latest News

ASFB and RAFTS launch new websites (12 September 2011)

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) and Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) have today launched new, updated websites: www.asfb.org.uk and www.rafts.org.uk. Together, these websites will form a valuable resource for those involved at the front line of freshwater fisheries management in Scotland – [Read More](#).

Better scientific support for our rivers (7 September 2011)

The Spey Fishery Board (SFB) announced today the appointment of a new Biologist to head the Spey Foundation's research team in the New Year. The Spey Foundation's current Biologist will assume a new role to be shared between the Spey Foundation and the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust (FNLFT) – [Read More](#).

Habitat restoration more effective than stocking on the River Thames (2 September 2011)

Questions have been raised about the effectiveness of a multi-million pound restocking effort on the River Thames. Researchers collected genetic data from returning fish, which suggested that habitat restoration was more effective than species reintroductions – [Read More](#).

Pacific Salmon species caught in Tweed District (10 August 2011)

A male Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) was caught in nets in the Tweed District on 2nd August. Male Pink Salmon are particularly distinctive as they develop a very prominent hump in front of the dorsal fin as well as a kype when sexually mature – summer is their spawning period – [Read More](#).

Concern over demands by Greenland's Inuit fishermen to resume commercial salmon fishing (2 August 2011).

Greenland's Inuit fishermen are pressing hard to be allowed to catch fish on a commercial scale sparking concerns over the potential impact on Scotland's salmon rivers. A spokesman for the salmon fishermen said "While our country's professional fishermen have restrained from catching wild salmon based on decisions by NASCO, other fishermen in Norway, Scotland, Ireland and Canada have been given approval to fish for them in their waters." – [Read More](#).

River Spey stocking under review (20 July 2011)

The Spey Fishery Board has initiated a fundamental review of its salmon stocking policy and practice in light of the results from a major genetic analysis project. They indicate that fish from the river's hatchery programmes make a very minimal contribution to rod catches – [Read More](#).

Call for compulsory carcass tagging of net-caught Scottish salmon (15 July 2011)

Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards have applied under existing Salmon Conservation legislation to Scottish Ministers for compulsory carcass tagging of all wild net-caught salmon and sea trout. The proposal is for a mandatory, uniquely numbered scheme for all wild salmon offered for sale – [Read More](#).

Fin-clipping may hamper swimming ability and the survival rate of hatchery-reared fish (11 July 2011)

The long-established practice of clipping the adipose fin on hatchery-reared salmon may have a modest affect on swimming ability and the survival rate of fish, suggests a new study from the University of Victoria, Canada – [Read More](#).

Commercial rafting impacting on River Tay salmon fishing (7 July 2011)

An application by Fish Legal, on behalf of the Tay DSFB, for a bye-law regulating the use of the Upper Tay by commercial rafting companies was recently rejected by Perth and Kinross Council's Community Safety Committee – [Read More](#).

Crayfish Dams Installed Between Rivers Clyde and Annan (1 July 2011)

Dams, specifically aimed at preventing the spread of North American signal crayfish have been installed between two Scottish river systems to prevent the threat this invasive non-native species poses to the River Annan, one of the best salmon and sea trout rivers in Britain – [Read More](#).

DSFBs to be reviewed (30 June 2011)

Richard Lochhead, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, confirmed plans to review the operation of DSFBs over the course of the current session of Parliament, as outlined in the SNP manifesto – [Read More](#).

Marked decline in Scottish wild Atlantic salmon stocks confirmed in salmon farming areas (24 June 2011)

A comprehensive new analysis by the RAFTS of official catch statistics demonstrates definitively that wild salmon catches in the salmon farming areas of the West Highlands and Islands have declined significantly compared with catches on the east coast, where there are no salmon farms – [Read More](#).

Scotland's Fisheries Trusts lead the way in tackling invasive non-native species (7 June 2011)

The pioneering work of RAFTS in eradicating invasive non-native species (INNS) is being recognised at a London conference today. The "Third Sector GB Invasive Non Native Species and Biosecurity Conference" will explore ways of exporting the experience and knowledge gained by RAFTS and its members in the last few years in order to combat INNS elsewhere in the UK – [Read More](#).

New initiative begins to remove mink in north Scotland (12 May 2011)

The largest ever initiative to remove breeding American mink from north Scotland is now underway, it was announced today (12 May 2011). Covering 20,000 km², from rural Tayside across Aberdeenshire, Moray, the Cairngorms and the Highlands, the Scottish Mink Initiative is a new partnership project between Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS), Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the University of Aberdeen, and 16 other organisations. Aiming to protect native wildlife, such as water voles,

ground nesting birds and economically important populations of salmon and game birds, to help protect local economic stability for the benefit of local communities, the project signals a £920,000 investment in native wildlife conservation – [Read More](#).

Salmon Pledge News Update (7 May 2011)

Scotland's wild fish interests invited all candidates in the 2011 Holyrood election to sign a pledge committing to protect wild salmon and sea trout. ASFB and RAFTS issued the invitation on April 15th: 50 candidates signed the pledge of which 19 were elected – [Read More](#).

Politicians invited to pledge protection of wild salmon (21 April 2011)

Scotland's wild fish interests have invited candidates in the forthcoming Holyrood election to sign a pledge committing to protect wild salmon and sea trout. The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) and the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) issued the invitation on April 15th – [Read More](#).

Events

15 Sep 2011: ASFB Executive Committee

5 Oct 2011: RAFTS General Committee

11-13 Oct 2011: 'Salmon at Sea: Scientific Advances and their Implications for Management', La Rochelle, France – [More details](#).

27 Oct: Scottish Freshwater Group, University of Stirling – [More details](#).

15 Nov: ASFB Annual General Meeting

24 Nov: RAFTS Board Meeting

26 Nov 2011: Hatchery Open Day– River Conon – [More details](#).

13 Dec 2011: The Atlantic salmon's ocean odyssey: implications for fishery managers, Fishmongers' Hall, London – [More details](#).

Publications (ASFB/RAFTS)

ASFB-RAFTS comments on the SEA screening & scoping report for wave & tidal energy (Sep 2011) ([pdf](#))

Application for compulsory carcass tagging of net-caught Scottish salmon (15 Jul 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB-RAFTS-S&TA-Fish Legal-AST Briefing on Aquaculture (Jul 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB-RAFTS-S&TA-Fish Legal comments on 'Draft Freshwater Trout Aquaculture Dialogue Standards' (Jul 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB-RAFTS comments on 'Draft Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue Standards' (Jun 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB response to Permitted Development Rights for Aquaculture Consultation (Jun 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB-RAFTS Comments on National Marine Plan Pre-Consultation (Jun 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB Mixed Stock Fisheries Policy Paper (May 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB Carcass Tagging Policy Paper (May 2011) ([pdf](#))

Catch & Release – An Angler's Guide (Mar 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB-RAFTS response to SEPA Better Regulation (Feb 2011) ([pdf](#))

ASFB Comments on National Marine Plan Initial Draft (Jan 2011) ([pdf](#))

Publications (other)

The River Dee Brief (Aug 2011) ([pdf](#))

Non Native Species Secretariat Newsletter (Aug 2011) ([pdf](#))

IFM Newsletter (Jun 2011) ([pdf](#))

Vacancies

Fish Ecology PhD Studentships – University of Glasgow & Loughs Agency – [More information](#).
Assistant Director/Projects Manager, Marine Fisheries & Aquaculture – The Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust and The Fishmongers' Company - [More information](#).

Meet the team

Management & Administrative

Callum Sinclair – RAFTS Director (callum@rafts.org.uk)
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To view this newsletter in pdf format please visit www.asfb.org.uk/newsletters/

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