ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND FISHERIES
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Contents

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Chairman	Richard Sankey (Resigned September 2020) Ashe Windham (Elected September 2020)
Trustees	Michael Brown John Green Steven Mackenzie (River Workers Representative) Finlay McCulloch Robbie Douglas Miller

Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fisheries Board

Chairman	Richard Sankey, Upper Oykel (Resigned September 2020) Ashe Windham, Upper Oykel (Elected September 2020)
Proprietors	John Green, Lower Oykel Nicky Griffiths, Braelangwell Estate Gary Gruber, Skibo Estate Rob Whitson, Mandatory Glencassley Estate Alex Hunter, Dounie Estate Robbie Douglas Miller, Lower Shin William Paterson, Netsman
Co-optees	John McCrorie, Kyle of Sutherland Angling Association
Clerk	Dr Keith Williams
Staff	Dr Keith Williams, Director Jacqui Hamblin, Business Administrator Sean Robertson, Science & Mitigation Officer John Audsley, Bailiff Supervisor Iain Gollan, Bailiff Philip Blowers, Bailiff

Chairman's Foreword

I was delighted to take over as Chairman of The Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fisheries Board and its associated charitable arm, The Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust, in September 2020. My two predecessors in the role are far more knowledgeable than I am on fishery matters and, notably, have gone on to greater heights in the world of fish conservation. Robbie Douglas Miller, who served as Chairman from 2008 to 2016, has been Chairman of The Atlantic Salmon Trust since 2015, whilst Richard Sankey, from whom I took over, has been Chairman of Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) since 2018. If it's of any interest, I live with my family on the Upper Oykel and I caught my first trout at the age of six and my first salmon, on the Tay, when I was 18.

The Atlantic Salmon Trust does magnificent work fighting for that most iconic of fish, the salmon, whose populations and range are under remorseless attack from a whole variety of threats from climate change through human interference (fish farming, high seas netting, poaching, construction etc) to the unchecked increase in the numbers of their natural predators, especially seals and piscivorous birds. Fisheries Management Scotland is the organisation which took over from the amalgamated Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) and The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) in 2018. FMS does sterling work representing their members, which includes all 41 of Scotland's salmon fishery boards, and promoting and ensuring the best evidence-based fisheries management for the conservation of Scotland's wild salmon and native freshwater fish, and the protection, improvement and development of their fisheries and the environment on which they depend. In 2019, the Missing Salmon Alliance was formed as a collaboration between passionate groups of conservationists - including the Atlantic Salmon Trust, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Angling Trust, and Fishery Management Scotland - who are all working towards the same goal; to protect wild salmon.

The Kyle Board and Trust are tasked with doing much the same thing but in microcosm, namely managing and improving the fishery and the riverbank habitat within the catchment of the five rivers flowing into the Kyle of Sutherland – namely the Oykel, Carron, Shin, Cassley and Evelix. Protect, Enhance and Conserve are our watchwords. In 2019, we partnered with The Atlantic Salmon Trust in their 'Missing Salmon Project' and tracked smolt migration within the Moray Firth but in 2020, the second year of this multi-year project, this project was another casualty of the Covid-19 restrictions. This was unfortunate, as the aim was to repeat the 2019 work to examine how consistent the findings were. At present we plan to carry out the work this Spring. Your Board believes that it is vital to produce fact-based evidence in order to bring about change. Valid opinions, firmly and honestly held, are viewed as irrelevant without scientific evidence to back them up. Even with firm evidence it is still difficult to persuade the authorities to effect change.

To state that 2020 was a difficult year would be a gross understatement. We're all only too aware that Covid-19 has fundamentally changed our day-to-day lives and, unsurprisingly, the Kyle Board and Trust were not left unscathed. The pandemic caused the largest contraction in Britain's GDP for at least 300 years, and it will take decades to repay the vast quantities of debt which have been incurred to keep livelihoods more or less intact. We had to make one redundancy, that of our Assistant Science Officer, in May and we are striving to make further savings, where possible, in order to pass these on in lower assessments to our proprietors, some of whom have been hard hit by the effects of the plague and all of whom have had their fishing curtailed in 2020. Your Board are unanimous in agreeing that we can only cut costs so far without compromising our core purpose and that we are not prepared to do.

On 29th May 2020, Scotland's First Minister announced an easing of the lockdown rules and the resumption of fishing activity was allowed, albeit limited to a 5-mile radius of home. This meant that

local anglers could return to our rivers, followed on 15th July by visiting fishers. However, fishing effort continued to be significantly lower than in previous years, with visitor numbers much reduced. As the Director explains in more detail below the salmon and grilse catch on the Kyle rivers, at 1,864, was the lowest annual total since 2014.

In summary, I would like to thank our Director and all his team for working tirelessly in testing circumstances, to deliver on our core mission - Protect, Enhance and Conserve. I would particularly like to thank our bailiff team, who worked long hours to counter the poaching threat which became far more prevalent in 2020 than in previous years. I join the Board in expressing my thanks to them all.

Ashe Windham (Chairman)
Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board
Kyle of Sutherland Fishery Trust

March 2021

Director's Foreword

To everyone's disappointment many of activities planned for 2020 did not take place. The core activities of fisheries law enforcement and mitigation measures for the hydroelectric dams were undertaken, however. Additionally, the administration and communication elements of the organisations continued to function despite the many challenges. All staff needed to be even more flexible in terms of their daily tasks undertaken than is normally the case. I am pleased to say that all members of staff responded positively to the situation.

A worrying feature of the year was the resurgence of illegal fishing activity, both locally and nationally. With many river workers furloughed or unable to work on their beats due to travel restrictions, extra strain was placed on bailiffs across Scotland. It is my firm belief that the decision not to furlough staff at Kyle Fisheries in 2020 was the correct one. While some poaching incidents did occur, many others were prevented in my opinion.

At the time of writing this foreword many uncertainties remain and no doubt new challenges will present themselves. We remain in a good position to meet those challenges and recover some of the ground lost in 2020 in terms of progress in vital areas of research and management within the Kyle of Sutherland catchment.

Keith Williams (Director)
Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board
Kyle of Sutherland Fishery Trust

March 2021

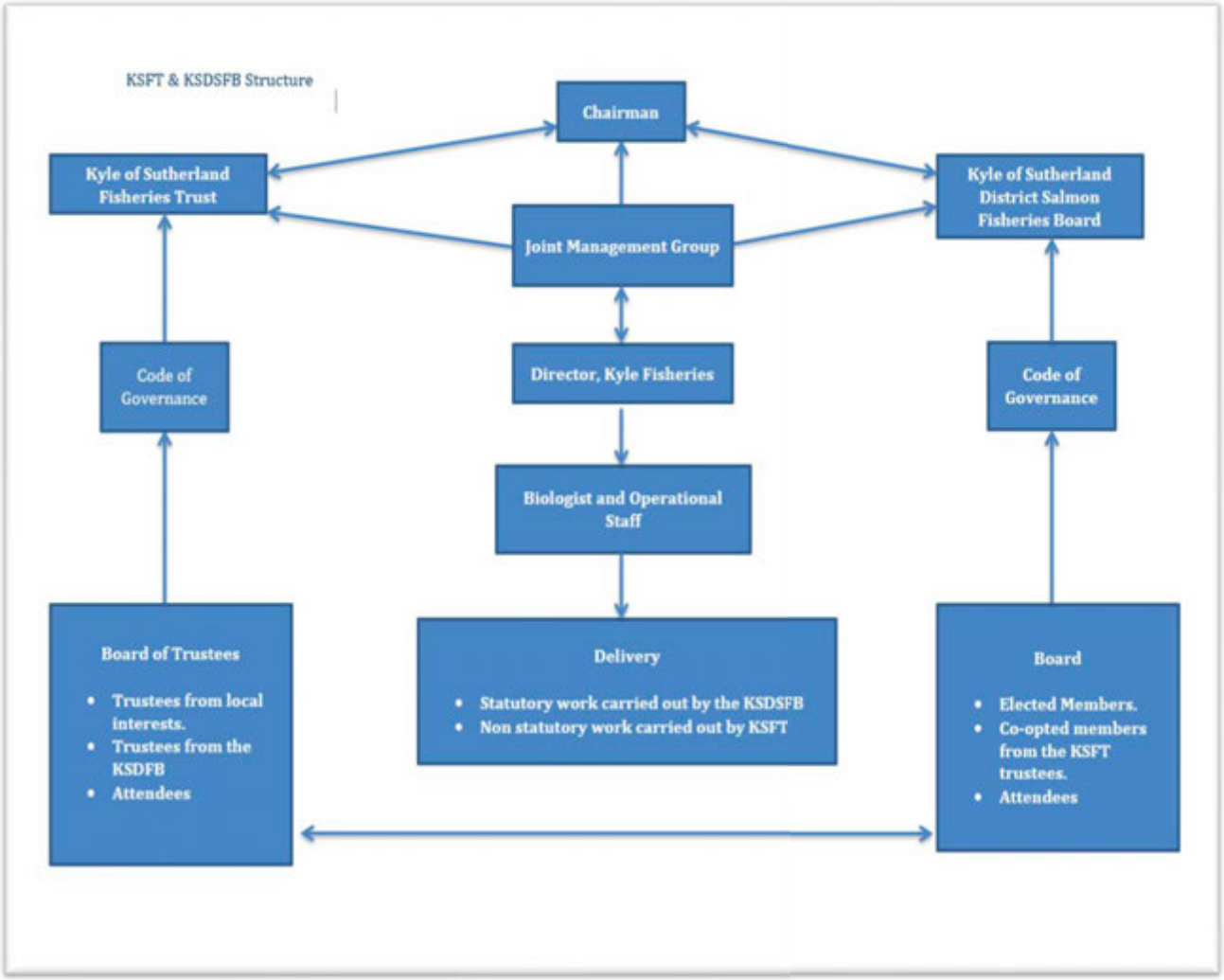
Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Structure

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries represents two organisations that work closely together.

The Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board was initially established in the 1860's and has a remit defined by statute. The remit extends to salmon and sea trout only. The original legislation has been amended on various occasions culminating in the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013.

The Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee with incorporation commencing in 2000. The Trust has a much broader remit than the Board with its sphere of operation encompassing all species of fish and the aquatic environment in general.

The structure of the operation of Kyle Fisheries is explained in the following diagram.



Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fisheries Board

1.1 Fishery Performance

Rod catches of salmon and grilse were curtailed by the restrictions applied as a result of the Covid pandemic. This was particularly evident in the March-May period when virtually no fishing took place, however rod effort was also reduced at other times of year. The graphs below place the provisional 2020 data collected by the Board within the historical context of the MSS dataset of catches from 1952-2019. The data used in the following graphs are Crown copyright, used with the permission of MSS, who are not responsible for interpretation of these data by third parties.

The total catch of 1,864 salmon and grilse was the lowest since 2014 and the second lowest since 1976.

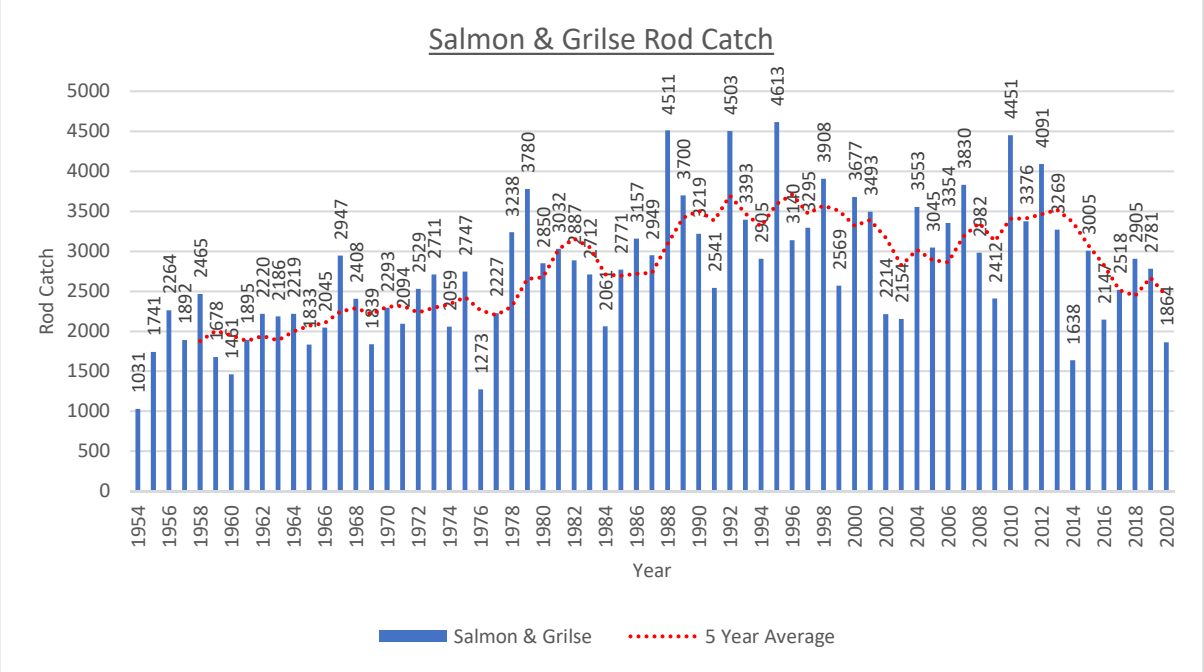


Figure 1. Annual combined salmon and grilse rod and line catches in the Kyle of Sutherland District, with the 5-year average.

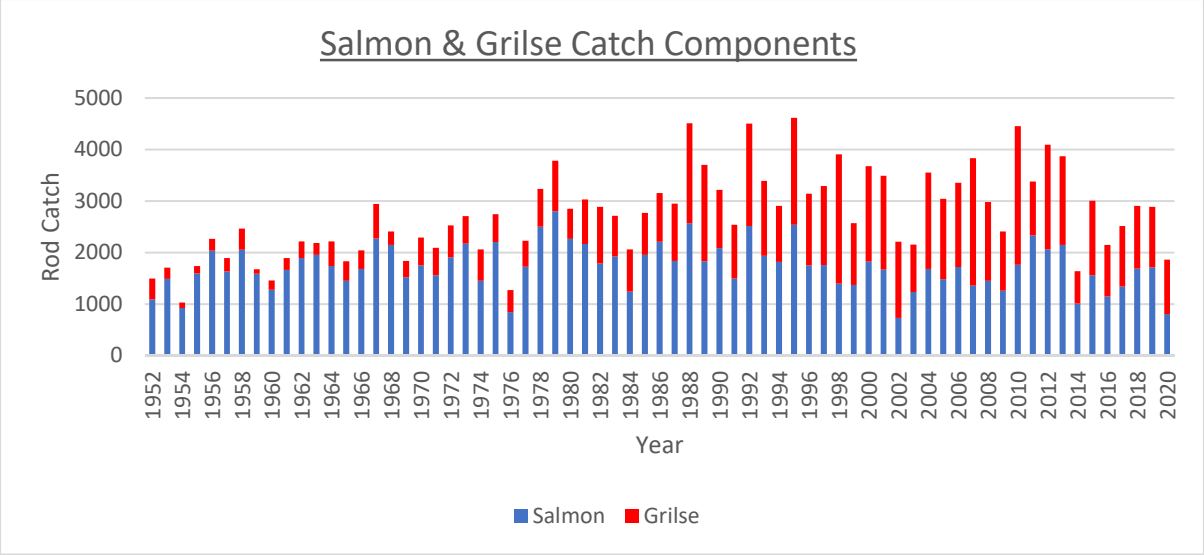


Figure 2. Salmon and grilse catch components of total rod and line catches in the Kyle of Sutherland District.

The total catch has been broken down by individual river in the chart below, based on data collected by Kyle Fisheries.

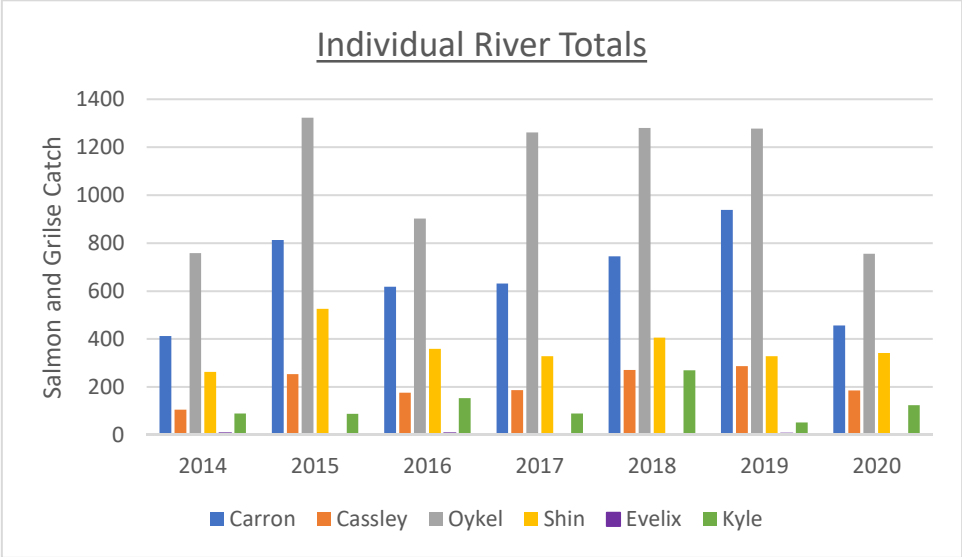


Figure 3. Total combined salmon and grilse catches in the Kyle of Sutherland District split by river.

In order to assess if any statistically significant downward trends are detectable in the components of the total catch the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation rod catch tool is utilised. This tool looks at the spring (January-May) summer (June-August) and autumn (September) components of the catch over a twenty-year period. Catches are ranked and scrutinised to answer the following questions:

1) Identify the lowest value. Is it also the most recent value over the twenty-year period?

2) Identify the lowest three values. Are two or more of these values found in the last three years?

3) Identify the lowest six values. Are four or more of these values found in the last six years?

If the answer to any of these questions is affirmative then a failure has occurred and, if possible, additional measures are required to protect the individual stock component in question. In 2020 the spring component failed. This is unsurprising given the lack of fishing effort in that time-period due to Covid restrictions and is considered unlikely to be a true reflection of stock status.

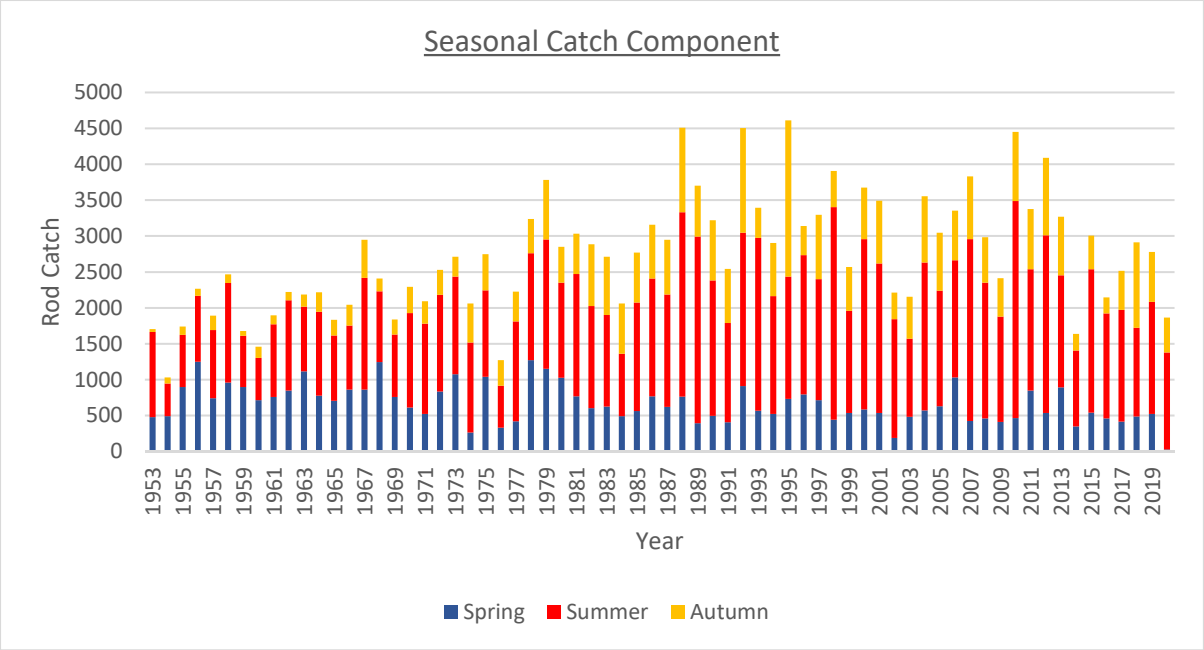


Figure 4. Seasonal catch components of salmon and grilse in the Kyle of Sutherland District.

Adherence to the voluntary conservation code remains very high with the 2020 release percentage of 99% being the highest in the time series.

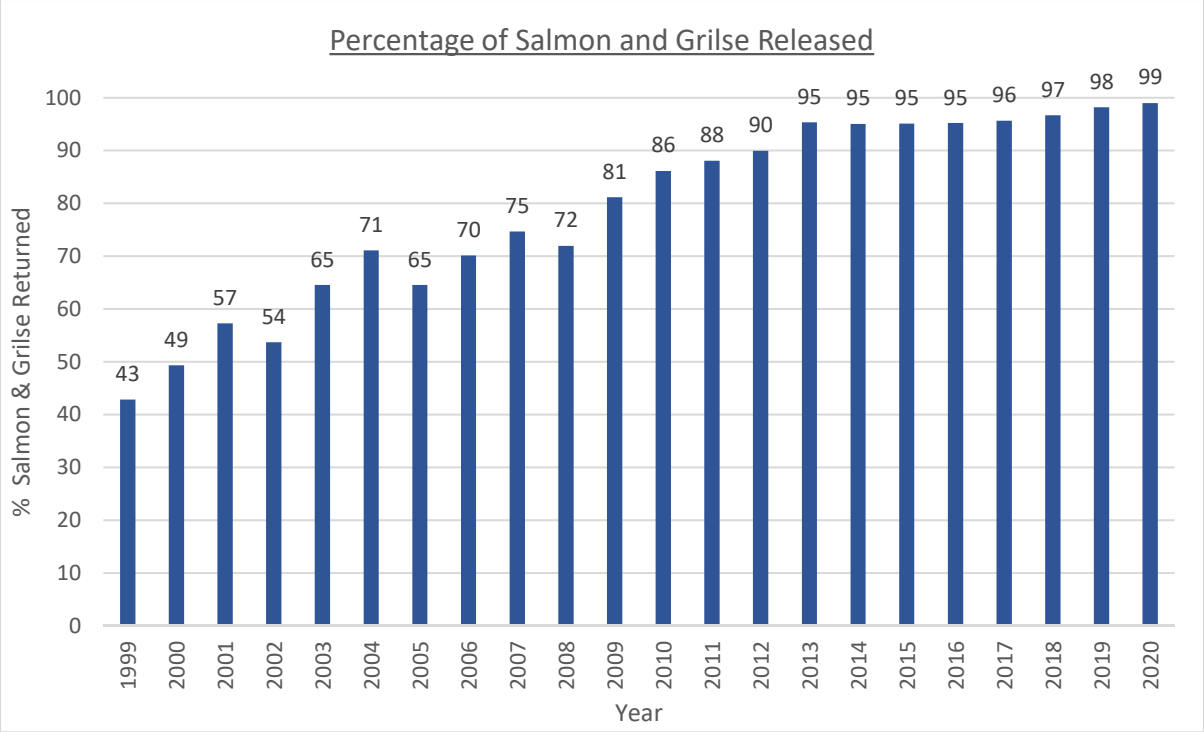


Figure 5. Percentage of salmon and grilse released in the Kyle of Sutherland District.

Sea trout returns from proprietors in 2020 were a modest improvement on the 2019 figure. Rod fishing effort in the Kyle of Sutherland Angling Association stretch, the most productive sea trout fishery in the district, was lower than normal in June due to the absence of day tickets as a result of concerns relating to Covid. The graph below places the provisional 2020 data collected by the Board within the historical context of the Marine Scotland Science dataset of catches from 1952-2019.

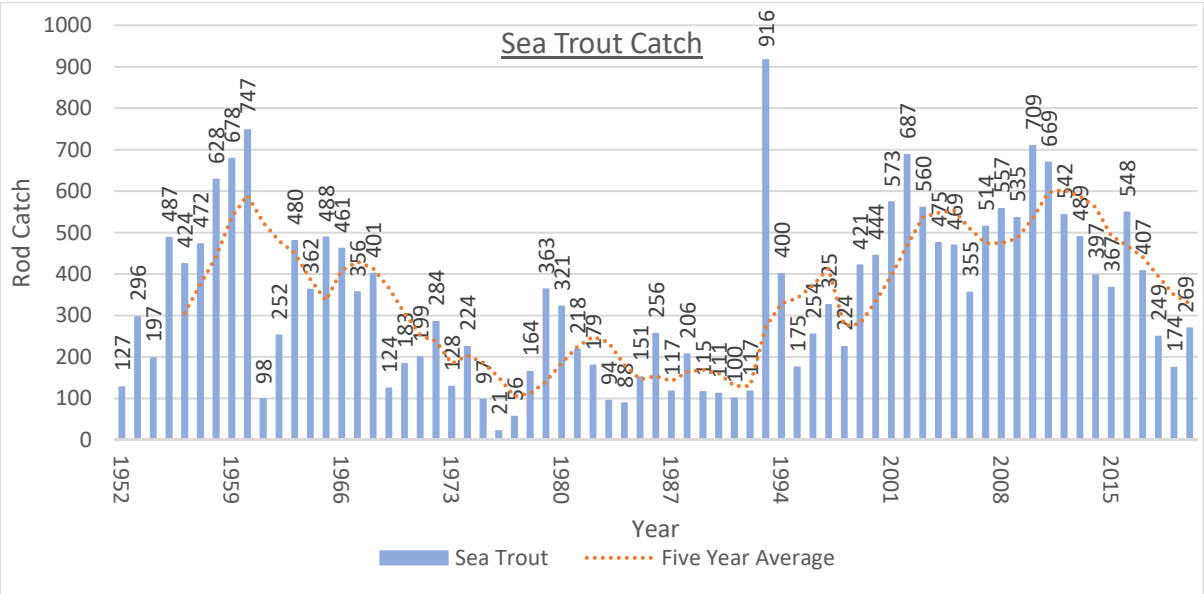


Figure 6. Annual sea trout catches by rod and line in the Kyle of Sutherland District, with the 5-year average.

No salmon were reported from the netting stations in the Kyle of Sutherland fishery district in 2020. By law, netting is currently only permitted within estuary limits in Scotland which precludes the use of

fixed engines on the coast. However, due to the category three status of the River Evelix, netting by net and coble in 2020 was also prohibited east of Bonar Bridge by Marine Scotland. Salmon and grilse numbers captured in netting stations within the fishery district have declined considerably within the 1952-2019 time period as highlighted in the graph below. The decline in catches is largely due to a decline in netting effort, partly as a result of the closure of netting stations subsequent to their purchase by the Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board.

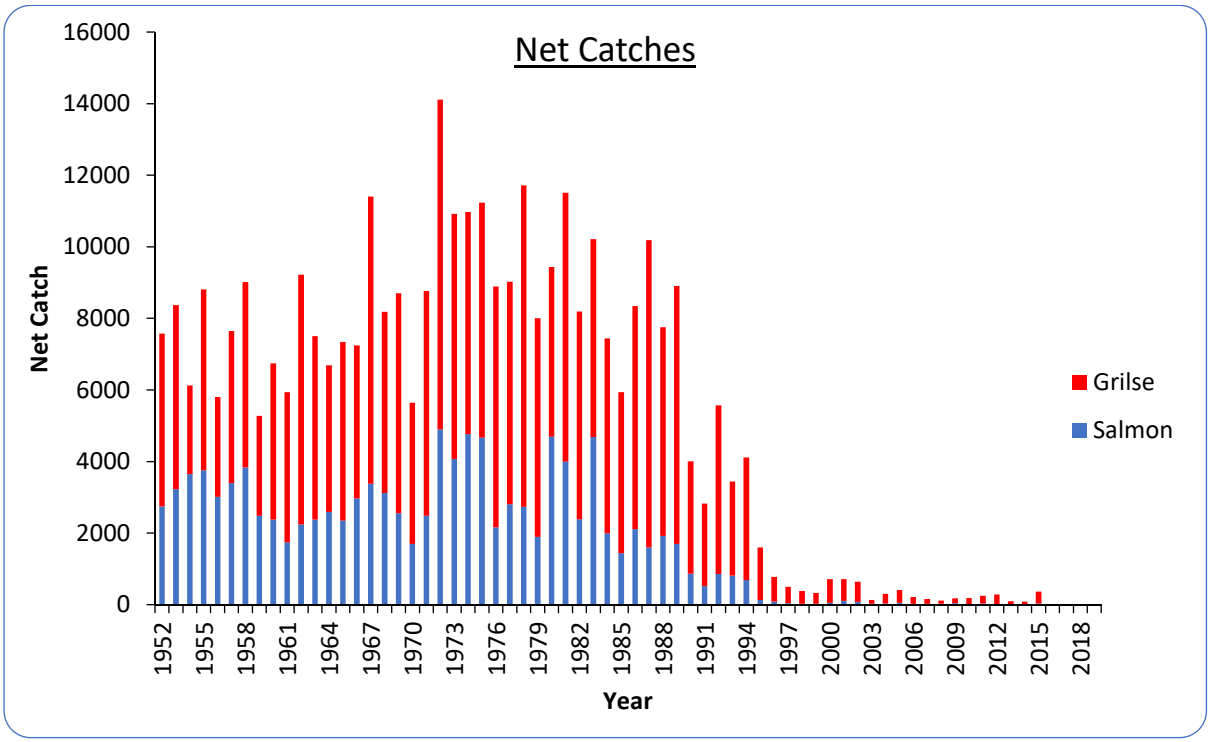


Figure 7. Annual numbers of net caught salmon and grilse within the Kyle of Sutherland District.

Figure 8 Gledfield ghillie Callum Beattie with the quaich for the first salmon of the season from the Kyle rivers. The quaich was donated by Keith Williams and the base was made by Iain Gollan.

1.2 Enforcement Supervisor's Report

It was a challenging year for the enforcement team, both with COVID-19 restrictions and an increase in poaching incidents.

Two netting incidents occurred on the River Carron. In the first incident, a gill net and two salmon were recovered on the lower part of the river following information received from a member of the public. It would appear likely that the person or persons setting the net had been disturbed and abandoned the net. In the second incident, a throw line was recovered after being left behind by poachers who had netted fish from a well-known pool. Evidence in the form of scales and the flesh of salmon were also recovered from the scene. Both incidents were reported to Police Scotland and were logged (see attached images).

Throughout 2020, there was a large increase in wild camping and individuals journeying to this area even during lockdown. This resulted in a higher number of rod and line incidents that would normally have to be dealt with. In one incident the police were informed, and action taken using COVID-19 legislation.

While following COVID-19 social distancing measures, Kyle canoe patrols were regularly undertaken by full-time and seasonal staff. No incidents were recorded. Joint patrols of the rivers with officers from Police Scotland were undertaken. More joint patrols are also planned for the 2021 season. Police Scotland patrolled more frequently due to the number of reported incidents.

Figure 9 Net and dead salmon seized during 2020.

Overall, I would like to thank the Fishery Board staff for their hard work and Police Scotland for their assistance throughout the year. I would also like to thank the ghillies and anglers for all of the information and the help that they gave. All intelligence gathered is invaluable and will be used towards future enforcement duties.

Figure 10 Patrol undertaken with Police Scotland (left) and throwline seized (right). The line is thrown across a river to allow a net to be put in place and secured.

During the year an app was trialed to record the date and location of incidents. Not all incidents were recorded using the software but the outputs generated are illustrated in figures 11 and 12. It is intended to utilise the software more fully in 2021

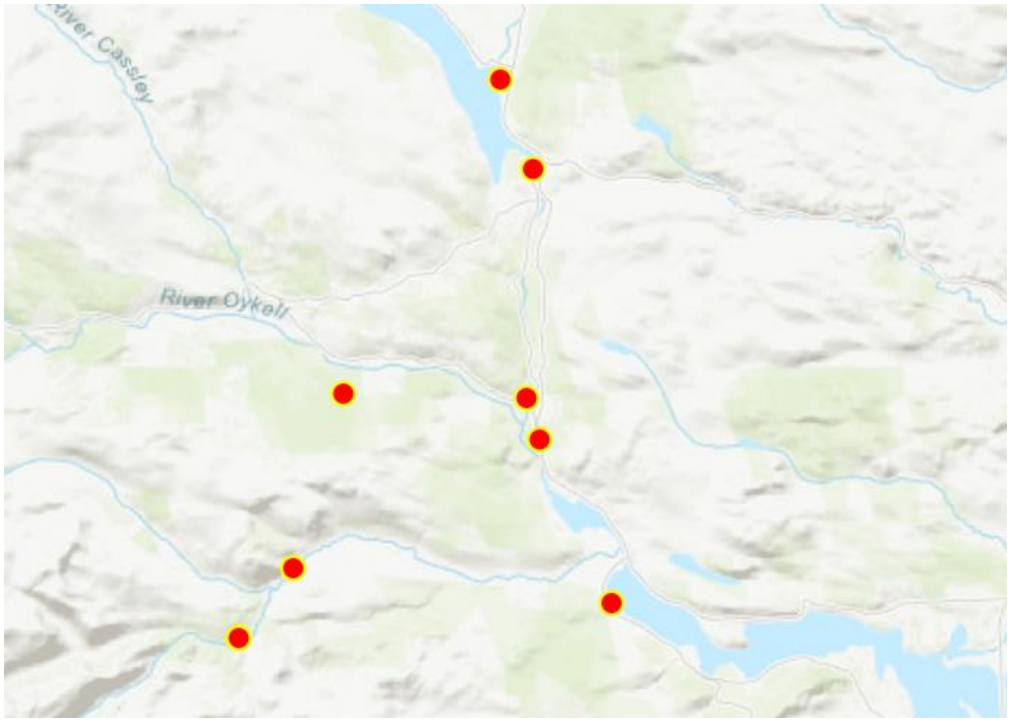


Figure 11. Map of enforcement incidents in 2020.

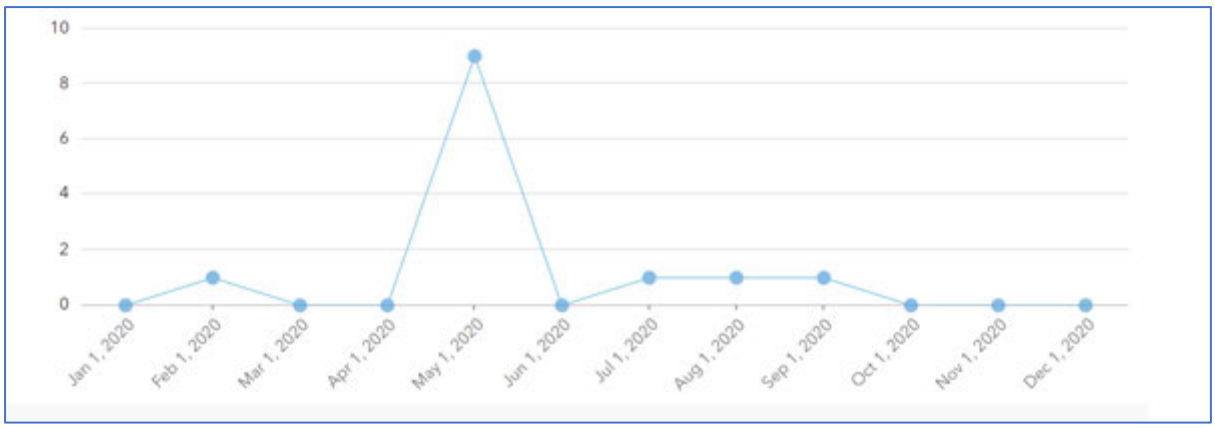


Figure 12. Number of Bailiffing incidents per month in 2020.

1.3 Science & Mitigation Officer's Report

The year got off to a good start, with three separate telemetry projects due to take place. Radio tagging adult salmon on the Carron, PIT tagging on the Shin and acoustic tagging on both the Oykel and Shin. Keith and I received training from University of Glasgow on the acoustic tagging and we were ready to go. We were also joined by Elspeth Smith, who was to help with the fieldwork.

In late March, the first lockdown was announced. Coronavirus was a new threat, nobody knew how serious it could be, and extreme restrictions were imposed by the Government. The acoustic tagging project was cancelled, and we had to cancel the radio tagging project as we could not ask anglers or ghillies to catch fish due to the stay at home order. We moved smolts from the Fiag and Tirry rivers to below the dams, as not doing so would have caused an animal welfare issue. However, we did not undertake any PIT tagging to minimise the time staff were outside. Despite this, we have our largest number of smolts from the Fiag on record, at 8,131 smolts. This shows positive signs of the impact of restoration efforts over the past few years. Elspeth also was able to index and digitise some of our photographed scales, and an image library is now on the website. We will continue to add to this when possible.

Unfortunately, Marine Scotland cancelled the National Electrofishing Program for Scotland, as government funds had to be reallocated, as did staff time for responding to the pandemic. Due to us not receiving this funding, we regrettably could not keep Elspeth on over the summer. This loss of capacity, as well as still having to adhere to government restrictions, impacted on the number of electrofishing sites we were able to do. However, it is hoped that NEPS, (and also the new National Introgression Program for Scotland, NIPS) will return in 2021. As shown in last year's annual report, Marine Scotland have developed a tool that allows us to compare our electrofishing results to a National Benchmark.

This tool is proving extremely useful and going forward will be a great way to compare our observed results to what "should" be there. This can get around problems that have arisen in the past with the interpretation of data and the standards of data collection. Additionally, data is collected to the NEPS protocol which is slightly modified from the traditional SFCC protocol. I feel that the development of this tool is something really significant for us, and we will design a core monitoring program going forward.

Although 2020 had much less activity than expected, we still kept very active. It has been a good opportunity to devote some more time to strategic objectives such as tree planting. Now that more precautions are in place to cope with coronavirus, I'm hoping that many of the projects that were paused in 2020 can be resumed in 2021.

1.4 Hatchery 2019/20

No brood stock were collected in the autumn of 2019 and 2020 and no salmon were stocked during 2020. All hatchery facilities have been placed on a full care and maintenance programme in order that the facilities can be utilised in the future as and when required.

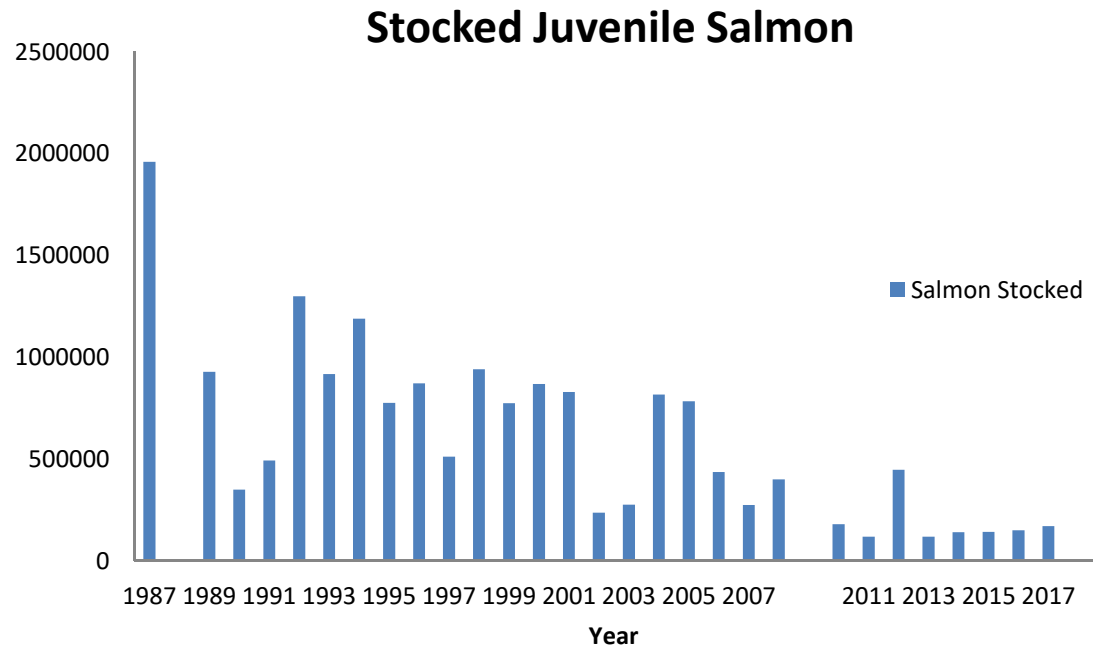


Figure 13. Numbers of juvenile salmon stocked in the Kyle of Sutherland District.

1.5 Consultations

Kyle Fisheries are consulted routinely on proposed developments and other fishery related matters. We aim to respond to all consultations as timeously as possible. In 2020 the consultations received were in the following categories:

- Forestry – 7 consultations.
- Terrestrial wind farms – 2 consultations.
- Other – 5 consultations.

1.6 Predator Control

The Board remains an active participant in the Moray Firth Seal Management Plan and is also part of a coalition of Moray Firth fishery boards that collectively applies for a licence to shoot a limited quantity of piscivorous birds as an aid to scaring. In recent years a licence to shoot a small number of piscivorous birds has been received following the submission of an application to SNH. Counts of birds at a catchment level are undertaken by a combination of Kyle Fisheries staff and river workers in order to provide supporting information. Efforts in terms of scaring birds typically concentrate on the period leading up to and including the smolt run. Again, an additional bird count was conducted in mid-December in order to examine the number of overwintering birds. Counts have proven to be difficult in respect of timing.

1.7 Complaints

The Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board has a formal complaints procedure which can be viewed at:

https://kylefisheries.org/about-us/board/complaints-procedure

No formal complaints were received in 2020.

1.8 Compliance

Statutory good governance obligations are placed on district salmon fishery boards as defined in law by section 46 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003. They comprise the original obligations placed on boards by the 2003 Act together with those introduced through amendments of the 2003 Act by the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 which came into force on the 16th September 2013. The purpose of the obligations is to enhance openness, transparency and accountability of the management of salmon fisheries by district salmon fishery boards. They bring together existing best practice to ensure that all boards act in a manner consistent with bodies operating in the public sphere. Key activities covered by these obligations include:

- Annual reports and accounts
- Meetings of the board
- Complaints procedures
- Register of member's interests.

Due to restrictions associated with Covid meetings during the year took place online. Guidance was followed as issued by Fishery Management Scotland. Meeting notices and minutes of all meetings held are forwarded to the Scottish Government as is a copy of the Annual Report. Meetings are advertised on the Kyle Fisheries website as well as in the Kyle Chronicle. A complaints procedure is included in the policies section of the website and a register of members interests is maintained at the Kyle Fisheries office.

1.9 Shin Smolt Trapping

1.9.1 Monitoring Aquaculture Escapes

Due to Covid restrictions traps were only deployed on the Fiag and Tirry. Unfortunately, the traps at Corriekinloch and Merkland could not be deployed. Typically, it is these latter two traps which have captured the bulk of the putative escaped farmed fish. Smolts from Fiag and Tirry traps were examined for evidence of farmed origin. Scales from six suspected escapees sent to an expert scale reader for examination. The results were inconclusive in that weak winter growth checks were observed which would indicate wild origin or farmed origin fish which escaped early in the production process.

1.9.2 Hydro Mitigation

The Fiag and Tirry traps were in place before Covid lockdown was announced. No PIT tagging was conducted, but smolts were trapped and transported to below the dams. It was not possible to undertake mark recapture trials therefore no estimates of the overall size of the smolt run were produced. On the Fiag 8131 smolts were captured and transported, the highest on record. In stark contrast, the Tirry had its second lowest catch on record with 532.

Downloads from PIT tag decoder at Shin diversion dam were routinely undertaken during the year. A total of 46 individual fish were detected. Of these, 19 were Fiag salmon tagged in 2018, 18 were Fiag grilse tagged in 2019, 4 were Tirry salmon tagged in 2018, 4 were Tirry grilse tagged in 2019 and one was a Merkland salmon tagged in 2018. It would appear that the Fiag 2018 was a particularly strong one with over 4.5% of the tagged smolts being detected on their return. In contrast, only around 1% of the Fiag smolts tagged in 2019 were detected returning as grilse in 2020.

1.10.1 Juvenile Surveys

The Scottish Government's National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland was postponed in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Similarly, the electrofishing campaign was conducted at a reduced capacity as we were unable to have a science assistant over the summer. As a result, sites were

stripped back mostly to key monitoring sites with some investigative timed and presence/absence sites.

Historically results in the annual report have been presented in a series of tables with raw densities presented. Going forward, we intend to utilise Marine Scotland's Electrofishing Analysis Tool. This compares observed densities at electrofishing sites against predicted densities from the national benchmark and presents results in a good visual manner.

Carron

Presence/absence surveys were completed above Glen Beag dam. Again, pure wild salmon were found albeit all were parr. A site at Deanich was also fished, and salmon fry and parr were found to be present.

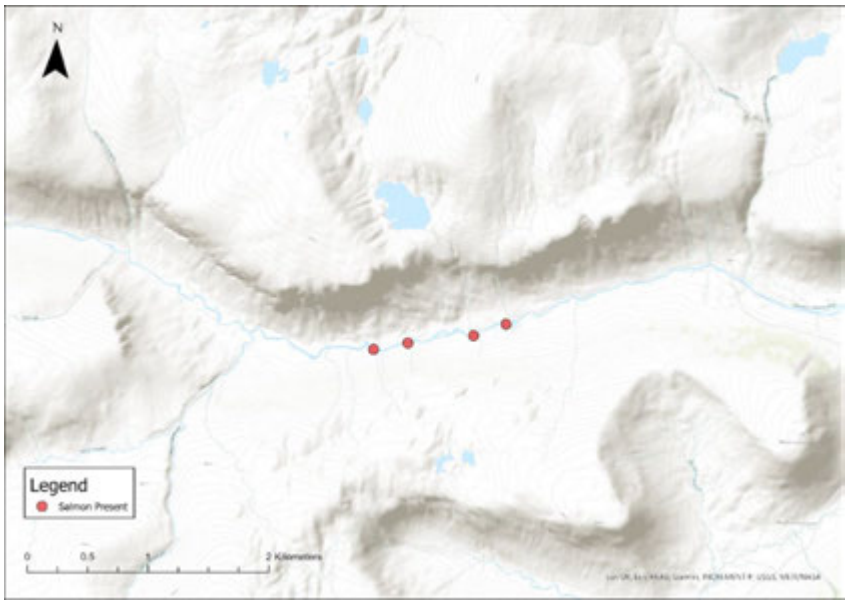


Figure 14. Timed sites at Glen Beag.

Above Diebidale dam no salmon were found, however healthy numbers of parr were found at the site fished below the dam. In the lower reaches of the blackwater there were good numbers of fry and parr, which continued into the site at the upper reaches of the blackwater, albeit with slightly lower parr density than the benchmark.

Timed sites on the Coire a Mhalagain showed very small numbers of fry and parr to be present in the lower reaches. These surveys were done in order to examine passage past a natural barrier, and it was confirmed to be passable.

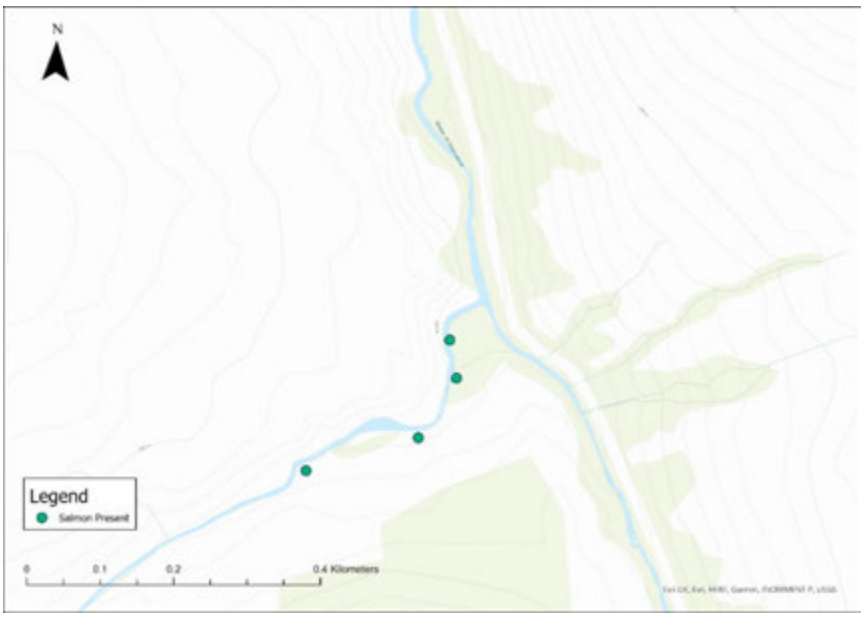


Figure 15. Timed sites on the Coire a Mhalagain.

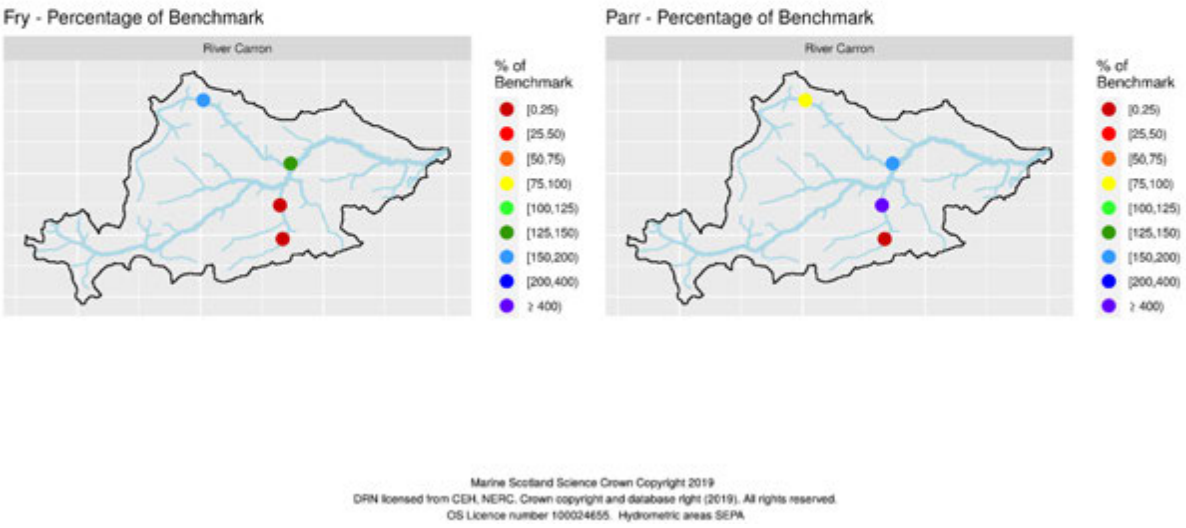


Figure 16. Electrofishing sites on the River Carron. Results shown are observed densities as a percentage of the benchmark.

Oykel

Sites at the pipe bridge at Benmore were completed. As usual salmon were found above the bridge, and below at an exceptionally high density. One site on the Brae burn was completed, going down from the 2 sites in 2019. Parr on the Corriemulzie river and Pobilidh burn were well above expected densities, although fry on the Corriemulzie river fell short of the expected density.

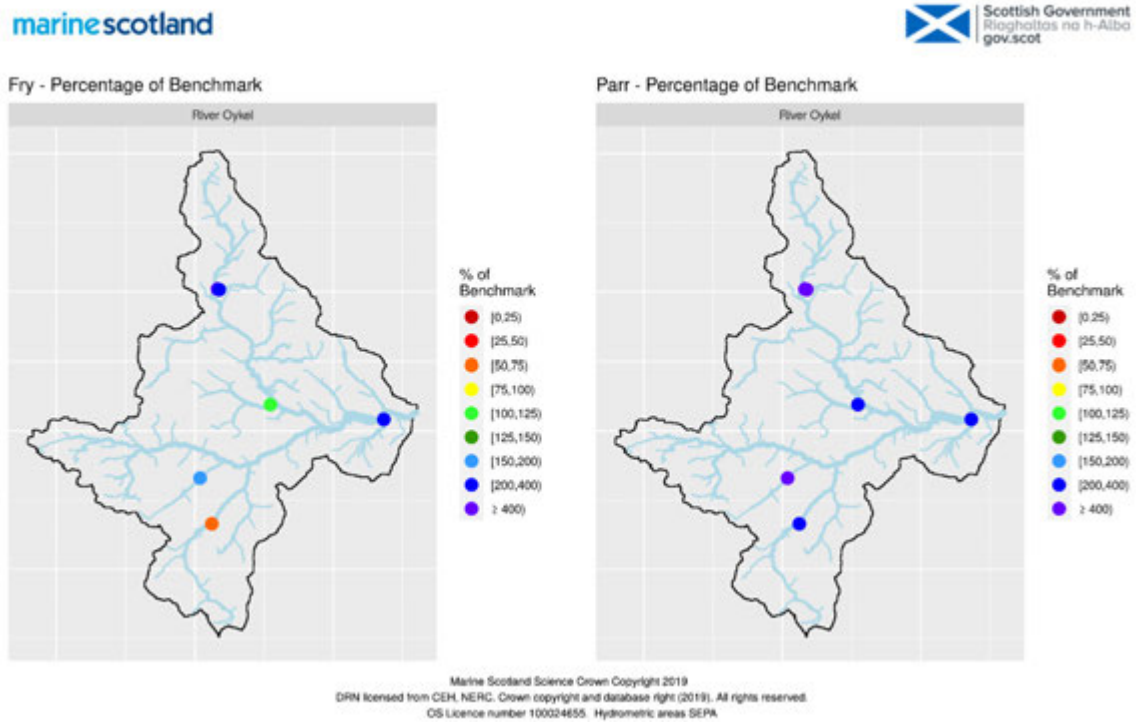


Figure 17. Electrofishing sites on the Oykel Catchment. Results are shown are observed densities as a percentage of the benchmark.

Cassley

Figure 18. Electrofishing sites in the vicinity of Duchally dam

Electrofishing sites on the Cassley were completed in order to examine whether salmon had spawned above Duchally Dam, and to further investigate the habitat use of Glen Muick. Salmon in the upper reaches of the Cassley seem to be in healthy numbers in comparison to the benchmark, although much lower than expected fry density just below the dam. This is not surprising given that the habitat just below the dam does not contain much in the saw of spawning gravels.

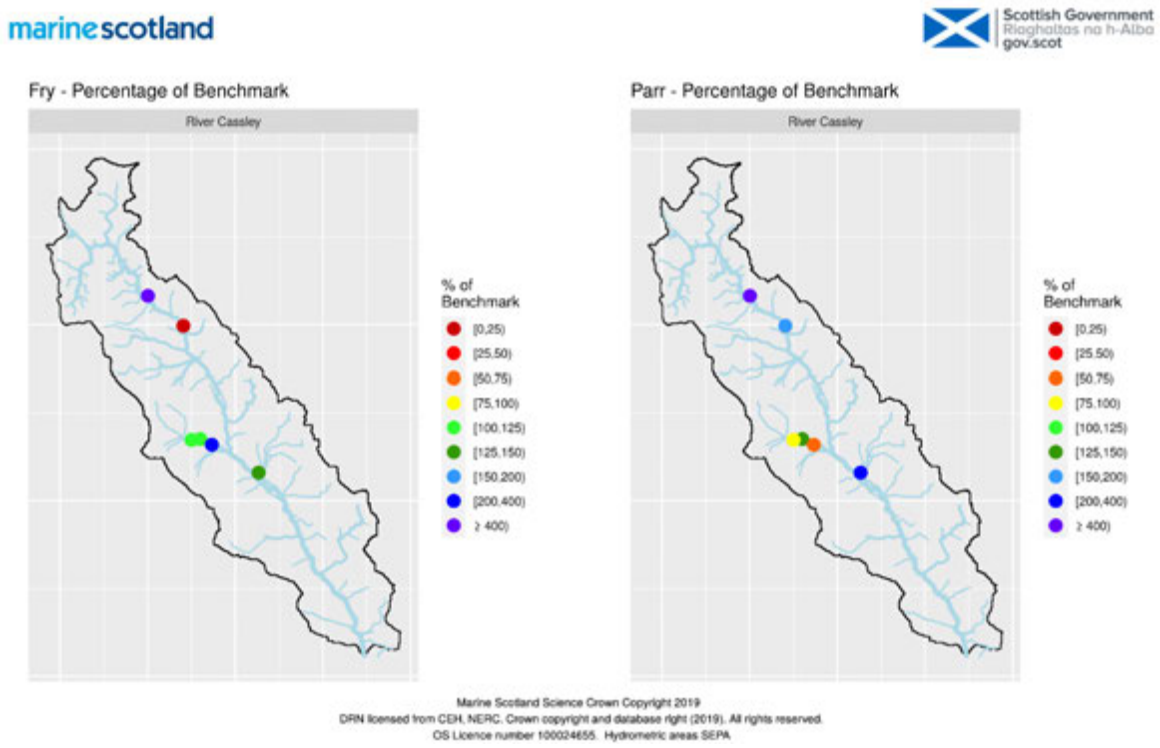


Figure 19. River Cassley Electrofishing sites. Results shown are observed densities as a percentage of the benchmark.

Shin

NEPS unfortunately does not calculate a benchmark for sites on the mainstem of the River Shin, due to the river order being too high and therefore excluded from the sample frame. However, juvenile densities on the mainstem were deemed to be healthy. Fry densities in Loch Shin tributaries were low as were parr densities (apart from in the case of the Fiag, which had much higher densities than the benchmark). It is uncertain whether these low densities are reflective of a small number of sampling

sites, or of limiting factors. On the Tirry, the low efficiency of the smolt trap could be contributing to an overall population decline as there is no longer any stocking.

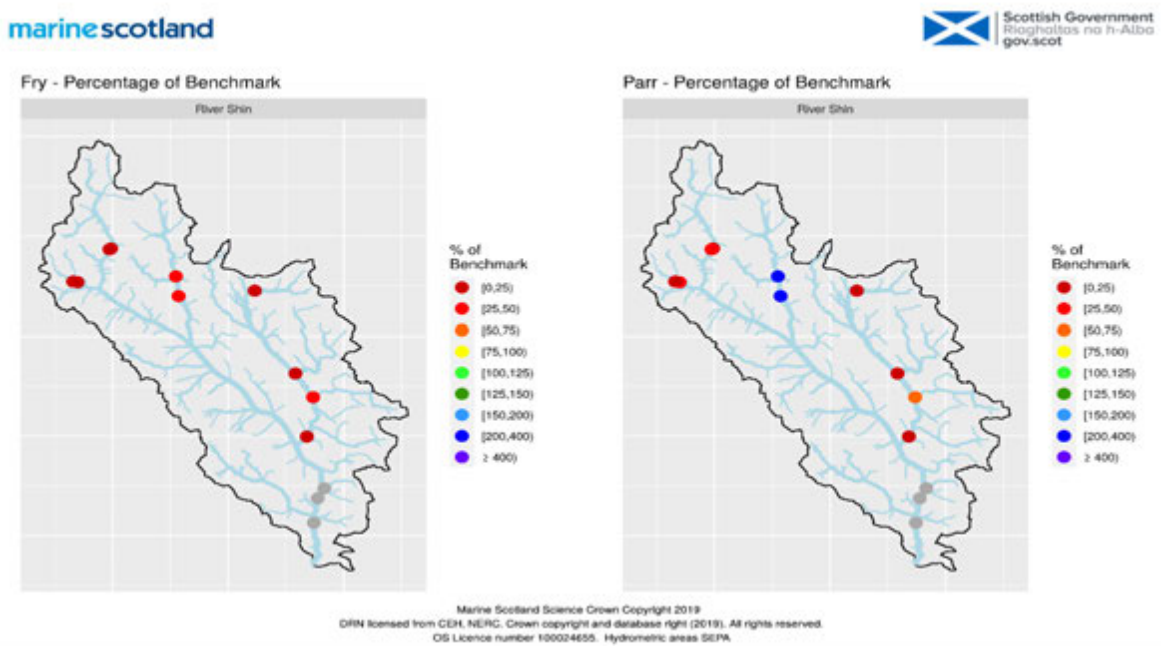


Figure 20. Electrofishing sites on in the Shin catchment. Results shown are observed density as a percentage of the benchmark density. Grey sites on the Shin main stem are where there is no benchmark density calculated.

Evelix

Unfortunately, only one site on the Evelix was completed at Achvaich. More sites were planned but weather conditions did not permit these to be fished. Densities do not differ wildly from the benchmark, but we hope that the resumption of NEPS and relaxing of coronavirus restrictions will allow for more work to be done on the Evelix in 2020.

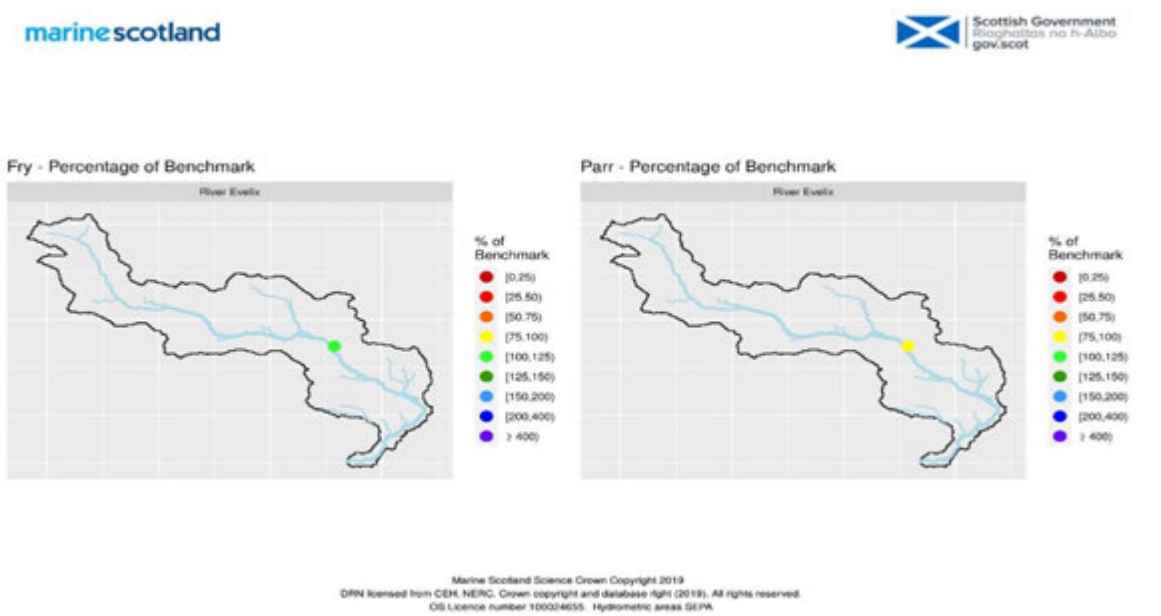


Figure 21. Electrofishing site on the River Evelix. Results shown are observed densities as a percentage of the benchmark.

1.10.2 Carron Radio Tracking

The Carron Radio Tracking project was geared up for 2020, but unfortunately was postponed due to the pandemic. Early fish are desirable to tag for this project, and unfortunately this was not possible. Mossy Earth, an environmental charity, have decided to support the project my making a financial contribution towards the cost of tags. The offer of this contribution has rolled over into 2021, and we expect to continue the Carron Radio Tracking.

We had considered netting fish at Glen Mhor later on in the year to tag once restrictions had eased. However, high temperatures combined with the resurgence of the red skin disease made us believe that it would be better for fish welfare to postpone the project until 2021.

1.11 Disease

Red Skin disease was again seen in some fish in 2020. We believe that reported numbers are an underestimate of fish with the affliction. Fish Health Inspectorate were unable to respond to incidences to take samples, however a sampling kit and protocol was sent out to our science officer. No fish were sampled, as we received no calls with live fish from which to take samples.

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

2.1 Online Auction – A Great Success

In December 2020 the Trust held its very first online auction. We were so incredibly grateful to the wonderful auction lots we received from local benefactors and from supporters and individuals further afield. At auction launch we had over 30 lots to promote. As it was our first time, the staff at the Trust were checking every hour and more on the progress of the bids, it was an exciting and thrilling experience. The interest and response we received way exceeded our expectations. After the auction concluded we achieved close to £9K from bids and pledges, an incredible boost to the Trusts funds in these challenging times. Alas, some of the wonderful event lots have regrettably been postponed due to travel and other restrictions still being in place. We are assured however, that the winning bidders will have the opportunity to enjoy their experiences in the future. Our thanks are expressed once again to the wonderful supporters of the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust.

2.2 Atlantic Salmon Trust Projects

The Moray Firth Tracking project was postponed due to Covid-19. Receivers had been placed out in rivers. Heads of salmon kelt carcasses were collected for otolith and eye tissue during the spawning period as part of an associated project within the Moray Firth. As part of a pilot study, it is hoped that chemical analyses will help identify what parts of the marine environment have been utilized by the fish.

2.3 Scale Image Library

While our Assistant Elspeth was with us, she was tasked with creating an online repository of read scale images. Images were uploaded to Flickr, and these can be viewed on our website. It is anticipated that more read scales will be uploaded in the future.

2.4 Biodiversity Challenge Fund Project

Tree planting at Dalchork was completed. In the latter months of the year drone surveys and surveys on foot were undertaken to identify any trees that needed replacing or stakes and tubes that had fallen over. Additional pearl mussel encystment monitoring is anticipated in the spring of 2021.

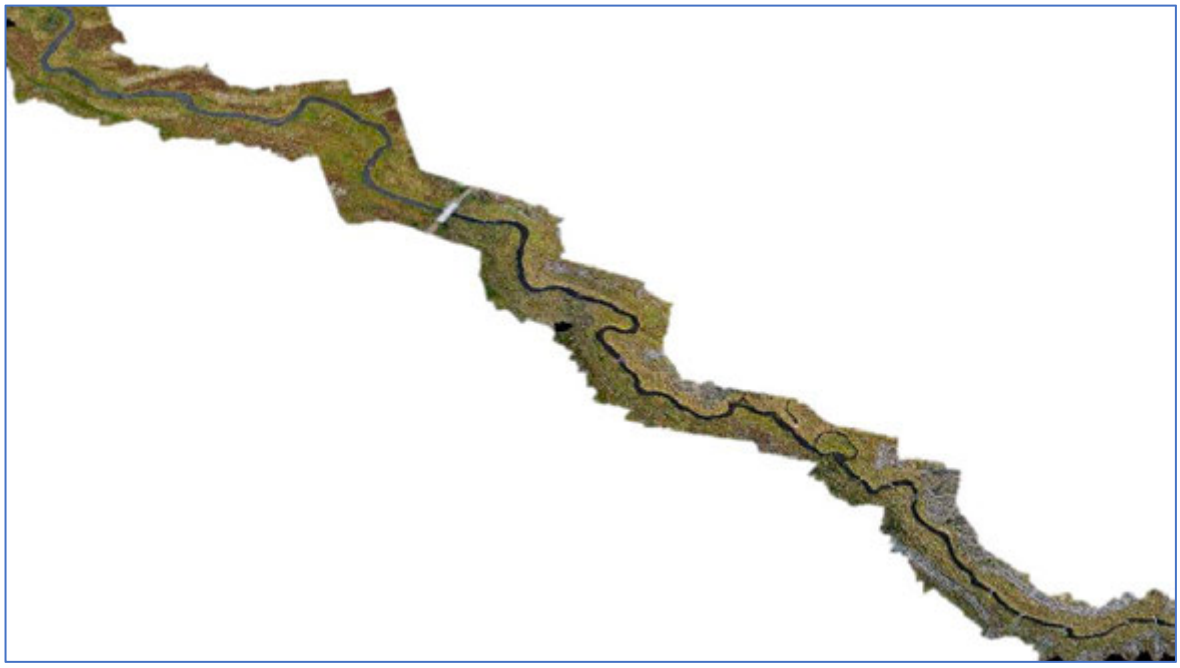


Figure 18. Section of a high resolution map of tree planting at dalchork.

2.5 Carron Temperature Network

Data from the Carron Temperature network continues to be collated and stored. Hopefully analysis on long term data will begin to yield some interesting insights.

The logger in Glen Beag was washed out, and this has been replaced with a new OnSet Bluetooth logger. This will trial how well the logger performs. If deemed to be successful, Bluetooth loggers could be an accessible way for river workers to quickly check water temperature. It is hoped that data from loggers can be uploaded to an online portal which anyone can view. However, this may be hampered by 4G signal strength in the catchment.

2.6 Scottish River Temperature Monitoring Network

Although loggers on the Oykel are remote, we continue to download the data despite challenging conditions. The data still proves to be very informative for Marine Scotland, and they are creating some very useful tools for management from these data sets. One of which is a new management priority layer which will weigh the potential of tree planting to reduce stream temperatures alongside the sensitivity to climate change.

These layers have been the basis from which we have undertaken a joint project with the Dee and Findhorn river trusts. The joint report will be available in 2021, but this data has also been useful to inform further attempts at prioritisation within the catchment and estimating potential costs of planting programmes out.

2.7 Sediment Fingerprinting

We received the final report for the Sediment Fingerprinting project conducted by APEM. Sediment on the lower Shin was typically from forestry or agricultural uses, and was matched to sites in the upper catchment. Interestingly, this seems to suggest fine silt could be moving down from above the dams. The full report is available to download on the “Project Reports” section of our website here.

Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board
Profit and Loss Account - Year Ending 31st May 2020

		2020		2019
Revenue		**£**		£
Turnover		420,246		289,609
		420,246		289,609
Cost of sales		11,933		
Gross Profit		**408,413**		278,459
Overheads				
Expenses	285,492		265,987	
	285,492		265,987	
Operating Profit /(Loss)		123,921		12,472
Bank interest receivable		100		75
(Loss) / Profit for year		**124,021**		12,547

Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board
Balance Sheet - Year Ending 31st May 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed Assets		**42,845**	52,018
Current Assets			
Debtors	**12,348**		6,588
Bank	**250,196**		102,081
	262,544		108,669
Creditors	**23,489**		2,808
Net current assets/liabilities		**239,055**	105,861
Total assets fixed/current		**281,900**	157,879
Capital & Reserves		**281,900**	157,879

Full Accounts for both Board and Trust are available from www.kylefisheries.org.

Hard copies available on request.

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust
Statement of Financial Activities - Year Ended 31 May 2020

Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds Year to 31 May 2020	Total Funds Period from 1/6/18 to 31/5/19
Voluntary income	96,110	1,950	**98,060**	95,674
Fundraising				
Other	10,095	2,500	**12,595**	9,269
	106,205	4,450	**110,655**	104,943
Expenditure				
Costs of generating funds	38,149	20	**38,169**	43,019
Costs of other trading activities				
Governance	1,705		**1,705**	5,552
Other expenditure	35,721		**35,721**	16,418
	75,575	20	**(75,595)**	(64,960)
Net Incoming resources for the year	30,630	4,430	**35,060**	39,983
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	163,619	34,342	**197,961**	157,978
Total funds carried forward	194,249	38,772	**233,021**	197,961

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust
Balance Sheet - 31 May 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed Assets		**83,611**	70,745
Current Assets			
Debtors	**4,554**		3,678
Bank	**146,056**		124,665
	150,610		128,343
Creditors	**(1,200)**		(1,127)
Net current assets		**149,410**	127,216
Total assets less current liabilities		**233,021**	197,961
Funds			
Restricted Income Funds		**38,772**	34,342
Unrestricted Income Funds		**194,249**	163,619
		233,021	197,961

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