



Introduction

District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) and Fisheries Trusts are the organisations on the front line of fisheries management in Scotland. This factsheet summarises some of the work and investment taking place through our member DSFBs and Trusts in Scotland.

Financial Contribution (2011-2012)

DSFBs are principally financed by fishery owners. Trusts are funded by a combination of private finance and grant income from a number of sources. This provides a cost-effective model for the management, protection and improvement of our native fish populations and fisheries.

- £4.15m:** Revenue generated by DSFBs
- £0.54m:** Support provided to Trusts by DSFBs
- £2.71m:** Revenue generated by Trusts
- £1.18m:** Total incoming resources generated by RAFTS
- £0.60m:** Support provided to Trusts by RAFTS
- 136:** FTEs directly employed by Boards and Trusts
- 104:** FTEs volunteering with Boards and Trusts

Sound Management

Scotland's structure of DSFBs and Fisheries Trusts, provides highly effective management of our salmon and sea trout fisheries. This system can react swiftly, at a local area scale, to changing circumstances for the conservation of fish species.

- 73%:** Proportion of salmon released in 2011
 - 91%:** Proportion of spring salmon released in 2011
 - 70%:** Proportion of sea trout released in 2011
- (Catch and release is largely voluntary in Scotland)



Catch & Release

Habitat maintenance and enhancement

Our native fish populations rely on high quality habitat and access to spawning grounds. DSFBs and Trusts work hard to maintain and enhance the quality of these habitats by undertaking: riparian tree planting; coppicing; installation of riparian fencing (in order to reduce diffuse pollution); and in-stream work.

- 82km:** Riparian habitat restored/ enhanced
- 13,256:** Riparian trees planted
- 37km:** Riparian fencing erected
- £155k:** Investment in habitat restoration schemes



Riparian tree planting and fencing – River Annan

ASFB is the representative body for Scotland's 41 District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs), including the River Tweed Commission (RTC). DSFBs have a statutory responsibility to protect and improve salmon and sea trout fisheries, and in the specific case of the RTC this responsibility extends to all freshwater fish.

RAFTS is an independent freshwater conservation charity representing Scotland's national network of 25 rivers and fisheries Trusts and Foundations. Our members work across over 90% of Scotland's freshwaters to protect and develop our native fish stocks and populations.

Easement of Barriers: Barriers to fish migration are a significant problem in many Scottish rivers. RAFTS is working to assess and prioritise barriers to ensure that the most significant obstacles from a wild fish perspective can be eased or removed. The WFD Restoration Fund can support this work at important sites.



Improved fish passage on the River Don

51: Barriers assessed for improved fish passage
9: Barriers eased
66km: Resulting newly accessible river length

Invasive Non-Native Species: Invasive species are a significant threat to biodiversity and their ecological impacts and economic consequences can be devastating. RAFTS, in partnership with Trusts and DSFBs, has secured funding to tackle invasive species such as signal crayfish, mink, and a range of riparian plants.



Giant Hogweed

447: Surveys for invasive species
414km: Watercourses treated for invasive species
334: Number of mink removed

Sound Science

Fisheries management decisions should be taken according to the best available science and evidence. Fisheries Trusts play a key role in the scientific monitoring of the freshwater environment and fish populations. The programme of electro-fishing undertaken by Trusts and DSFBs is the largest in Scotland.



Electrofishing – River Nith

140: Habitat surveys completed
622: Invertebrate samples completed
1441: Electro-fishing surveys completed

Education

A number of Trusts run education projects, often based on the successful “Salmon in the Classroom” model. For example, the Clyde River Foundation has engaged more than 14,000 children in their scheme and an important education programme is delivered annually.

170: Number of school projects undertaken
63: Other educational projects

Enforcement

The illegal killing of Atlantic salmon and sea trout is a wildlife crime. DSFBs have powers to appoint water bailiffs to enforce salmon fisheries legislation in Scotland. Bailiffs’ powers include powers of arrest, entry, seizure and search, similar to the powers of constables.

352: Number of water bailiffs trained under the ASFB/IFM SVQ accredited qualification
129: Number of illegal nets confiscated
89: Number of offences formally reported in 2011