

Week thirteen

Week thirteen started in the office catching up on emails and paper work after last week's field activities. Dave Gordon and Iain Morrison also stopped in for a chat and discussion about various topics related to the trust. In the late afternoon I headed into town in the afternoon to pick up a pair of waders. I took the time to introduce myself to the angling tackle shops in Aberdeen and had a few interesting chats with some of the shop keepers, always a wealth of knowledge these guys.

On Tuesday I was to meet with Jim and Martin at the office with the Electro fishing stuff and my new waders to assist them with some electro fishing on a small burn on Castle Forbes Estate, by Keig. Today were going to be joined by the pupils from Keig primary school whom had taken part in the Salmon in the classroom programme. They had reared their salmon from eggs in tanks in the school then released them and we were now following up on their progress by electro fishing for them at their release site. The site was well prepared for the pupils and we quickly had a few fish for them to identify. Lizzie Bacon the coordinator for last year's Salmon in the Classroom programme was present to help explain the life cycle and answer any questions, whilst Jim Kerr showed the pupils the salmon's distinguishing features and illustrated the Don DSFB's role in managing and protecting migratory fish.

On Wednesday I met with Stephen the Bailiff for the lower Don, he was to help me with some habitat surveying on the Goval Burn. We were following on from the previous work with Martin last week and aiming to complete the burn today. The weather held out and we got things finished on time even after having a few problems finding the truck at one point. Lots of impediments to migratory fish were identified along with areas for potential habitat improvement.

Goval Obstructions



Debris obstacle



Potential Obstacle, notice perched pipes on either side.

On Thursday morning I met with Iain Morrison, Lizzie Bacon and Jim Kerr, to discuss the Salmon in the Classroom Programme. We talked about various topics from the curriculum to costings to participating schools and had a very successful meeting. It was decided that due to my appointment it would be a very suitable programme for the trust to develop further and after consultation with the other directors it was agreed that the programme was to be coordinated by the biologist this year with external input from Lizzie Bacon and assistance from the Board and the Inverurie angling association.

Friday was a day off.

Next week i'll be attending a few meetings and continuing with some electro fishing.

Cheers Jamie