

# Week Fourteen

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Week fourteen started in the field for a change. I met with Jim, Martin and Steven to electro fish to collect some genetic samples again. This time the weather was more favourable and we completed the samples on the Leochel Burn with relative ease. We also witnessed a farmer replacing fencing on a heavily poached section of the bankside. I'm not sure if it was coincidence or if it was because we had parked the River Don Trust vehicle next to the field, either way it was refreshing to see some action being taken without any request. You never know that section of the burn might just hold a few spawning fish later this year and as a result of that action the chances of any redd's becoming silted has been dramatically reduced.

## Electro Fishing



The result



On Tuesday I attend the Rivers and Fisheries Trust for Scotland general committee meeting down in Birnam, Perthshire with the one of the Trust Directors Bob Dey. We travelled down in the morning to the event which was attended by over ¾ of the other Trusts. Various topics we discussed at the meeting such as hydro schemes RAFTS response to the Sea Lice and Fish Farming debate. It was a very valuable day where I met with and spoke to several other Biologists, including those from the Nith, the Annan and Wester Ross.

Wednesday was another interesting day again down in Perthshire; I headed off early in the morning to attend a SNH conference on Small Scale Hydro Schemes. The event was focused at expanding people's knowledge on this burgeoning subject with specific topics on the impacts on fisheries. Leading representatives were present from SNH, SEPA the EA and various hydro power developers. The morning was a series of presentations on recent developments and policy. The afternoon was a more interactive session where a series of workshops were held, one of which focussed on the impacts of hydro schemes on fish movements and another allowed us to discuss current case studies with those involved in the development, i.e. fisheries trusts, DSF Boards, SEPA, Developers agents. In all the session was very useful given the current situation on the Don catchment with the Donside Mills proposal and the existing applications in upper Donside.

Thursday was another day's electro fishing this time on the River Urie to collect further genetic samples. Unfortunately after arriving on site and preparing all the equipment the electro fishing backpack broke down on the first shock of the morning. All was not lost as fortunately Sarah had joined us and we took the chance to maintain the mink rafts on the Urie catchment for the rest of the day.

On Friday morning I worked in the office in the morning and then took the Electro fishing Kit up to Inverness to get it serviced en route to my parents for the weekend.

Next week I'll be attending the Trust Committee Meeting, meeting with one of the directors Alistair Wallace and a close friend of his and assisting the Dee biologists with Radio Tagging Salmon.

Cheers Jamie