

Week Twenty Four

I would like to say that this week was as exciting as ever, but when you've spent a couple of days working on risk assessments (RA) I would rather not bore you with all the details. Effectively what we have done is revised all our current RA's and brought them in line with current and forthcoming legislation. We have been working with the River Dee Trust on this topic to save time and effort given the similarities between our activities and tasks. It has been a very effective process and we are now assured that in light of the current legislation the Trust and its staff (AKA me) is sufficiently covered assuming all the standard protocols and RA's are carried out prior to action being taken. Thank must go to Dave for his tireless work on this topic and also to the Dee Trust and Edwin Third for their help.

For the rest of the week I spent one of the days in the hatchery where I assisted the Don DSFB team in tidying up and cleaning down all the equipment used for the brood stock collection. We released the last of the Kelts and ensured that the incubation hall was prepared. The final tally for the eggs collected from this year's brood stock was approx 400,000 salmon eggs and approx 10,000 trout eggs. The majority of brood stock trout escaped from the impoundment during one of the floods by sliding out between the impoundment lids and the upper bars hence the relatively small number of trout eggs collected.



Some trout being stripped at the hatchery by Jim and Stephen for this year's brood stock. The Hens eggs are stripped out first then the cocks milt is stripped. The fish are then returned to a holding tank to recover. The hens will take on water to fill the void of the eggs and allow them to become more streamlined for swimming in the river.



Adding water to the eggs and the milt to start the fertilisation process.

The last days were spent in the office where I kept myself busy whilst the joiner repaired the window on the office door on what must have been the coldest days in the office so far. Here I prepared some of the habitat maps for the surveys and also worked on details for the Trust meeting.

Next week I'll be meeting several trustees prior to the trust meeting; I'll be carrying out some surveys attending a course on Fish Diseases at the Marine Scotland Laboratory in Aberdeen.

Cheers Jamie