

Week Forty One

Cairngorm National Park (CNP) Invasive Meeting

Karen Couper, CNP Invasive Species Officer invited the all Fisheries Trusts within the park to attend a meeting held in Grantown on Spey this week to discuss invasive species. The event was attended by representatives from the Dee, Esks and Iain our chairman and I from the Don, apologies were given from the Tay and Spey Trusts. The meeting gave us the opportunity to discuss the current situation within each catchment and then specifically within the CNP boundary and outline potential plans or projects.

The Don is currently in the process of developing a Biosecurity Plan for the catchment, the Esks have completed their plan and the Dee and Spey are in the process of finalising the plans as I type. The Biosecurity Plan effectively outlines the impacts of invasive species present and identifies 15-20 priority species to deal with. The Trust then develops actions, identifies other stakeholders and initiates a programme for education, identification, control and eradication.

The CNP is looking to the Fisheries Trusts as a coordinated network to take the lead on this topic and work closely with them within the CNP to achieve their aims. The CNP has intimated that there will be some funding available for specific projects and that they in particular would like to identify the potential range of plant species within the park.

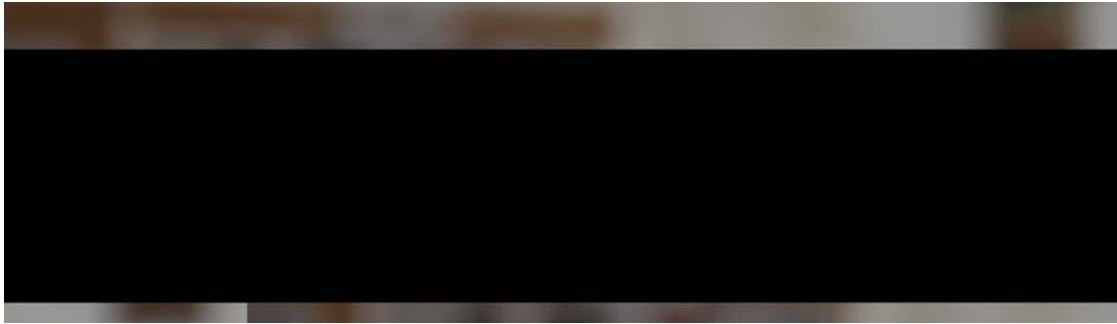
Iain and I will be working further with Karen Couper on this matter and will update you of events as they progress.

First Aid Training

This week I also attended a first aid training course held at the Aberdeen School of first aid. The course was a one day Emergency at Work Refresher, brushing up on my required first aid skills.

Salmon in the Classroom

The Aberdeenshire schools Easter holidays being at the end of this week so I made the trip around all the schools checking on the progress of their eggs/fish. All the schools eggs had now hatched into Alevins much to the delight of the children and the teachers. The survival rate was very high with only a few fatalities occurring in each tank one school with none at all. I explained that I would pop into reassess the alevin after the holidays and from there we would be able to get an understanding of their progress and a potential timing for release. We might feed on some of the alevin to fry depending on the progress and the flexibility of the schools timetable. This will allow the children to witness the fish develop further prior to their release.



Recently hatched alevin in a pipette tube.

Next week I'll be hosting a scale sampling workshop at the Trust offices on Monday at 7pm, I'll also be attending a seminar on Salmon Hatcheries on Wednesday hosted by ASFB/RAFTs.

Cheers Jamie