

## Biologist Update

### Introduction

Since starting on 3 August 2020 it has been an eventful month! Luckily everyone has made me feel welcome and part of the Beauly Fishery Board team.

The focus of the last month has been on becoming operational (i.e. setting up basic facilities, kit gathering, writing H+S docs). Prepping for electro-fishing in September and making contact with proprietors has also been high on the agenda. Most of this has been achieved, although the H&S document update is still mostly pending.

### Facilities

- **IT and Office Building** – facilities set up and all IT requirements in place.
- **Documents** - Some H&S docs have been updated/written but more will need to be written over the coming months, especially as we are working with volunteers.
- **Kit** - Electro-fishing kit and lifejackets serviced. Electro-fishing kit procured and made.

**Looking Forward:** H&S document update. Possible winter talk to be held.

### People: Community engagement, participation and heritage

- **Facebook page** - set-up to promote collaboration and keep the public informed

<https://www.facebook.com/Beauly-Fishery-Board-105666444600082>

**Looking Forward:** Possible logo competition involving the Junior angling club and local schools. A chance to talk about the Board's work, invasive species, and enthuse youngsters about the river...

### Furthering our understanding

- **Sawbills** - Ghillies reporting sawbill scaring activities and results so we can review and improve these measures
- **Electro-fishing** - Preparation almost complete for Electro-fishing next week (from 8 Sep). Our aim is to visit historic sites across the catchment for comparison, with a few days on the Uisge Misgeach to see if SSE's flow variation has resulted in improved juvenile densities.

**Looking Forward:** SSE will provide fish count validation training and tour of the catchment. Finalise the Electro-fishing report. If time allows, go out with the Kayak club in the Autumn to assess the main pressures along the Beauly in preparation for writing the FMP.

### Improving ecosystem processes

- **SISI** - have been contacted. Ness Board contacted re existing Beauly volunteers. Two local volunteers have already come forward for Mink and INNS work. There is a requirement for a volunteer in Tomich due to mink sightings there.
- **Bunchrew burn** - landowner contacted to see if fish passage for sea trout can be improved over the bridge apron.

**Looking Forward:** Read SISI documents and aim to have mink raft volunteers in place for Autumn/Winter. Basic training will be required before recruiting volunteers for the mink raft task.

## Incidents

- **Aigas fish pass outage** - SSE repaired the fault in a week.
- **Water scarcity** - SSE reported issues on 26 Aug on the River Farrar. Site visit to Loch Monar on 1 Sep.

**Some of the kit poised for electro-fishing surveys**



**Ruth Watts**

Biologist, Beaulieu District Salmon Fishery Board

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