



Beaully Fishery Officer Update AS 12 February 2021

My aim for the first three months in post will be to gain as much information as possible about the river Beaully, Glass and Farrar and to get to know as many proprietors and anglers as possible once covid declines. I will have a varied role, and this will include working with the Beaully Biologist and volunteers.

I emailed all proprietors on the river Beaully in my first two weeks in post introducing myself. I will be sending out a small questionnaire in the next month asking them to complete a small survey for me regarding their beat. This will be an on-going project and I hope to meet many more proprietors, tenants and anglers in the coming months as covid allows.

Whilst poaching activity nationwide may be declining, there is no doubt that without the dedicated professional work of the Fishery Officer and the deterrent that I provide, the River Beaully catchment would be far more of a target for such illegal activity. I hope to meet with Members of the Beaully Angling Association shortly to discuss any issues they may have regarding poaching incidents on the river.

I will endeavour to create a good working relationship with the local Police Wildlife Officers and Local Bailiffs. On my previous role on the Nairn, I have found them to be a great source of information and they have also been extremely helpful when I have had to contact them. I have arranged to meet with the Police Wildlife Crime officer in early February.

Things I've been up to:

- I have a weekly catch up with the Senior Biologist on teams meeting to discuss the tasks for the working week.

- The works vehicle has arrived, and all my works kit is now purchased, and my works computer has arrived.

- I have attended two Teams meetings with the Chair and Biologist to discuss river management.

- The site for a possible smolt trap has been found so hopefully we may be up and running a smolt trap this year.

- I attended a Teams meeting with the Biologist and members from SSE to discuss fish counts/Smolt timing runs on the dams.

- I contacted the river Bailiffs from the adjacent districts and will keep in contact with them throughout the season.

- The Risk assessment for the smolt trap is complete.

- I complete a daily bailiff notebook detailing my daily work times and areas that I have visited on the river. I will complete a monthly report for all board members and proprietors.

- I have carried out river and burn patrols during January.



Lower Beaulieu.



Lower Beaulieu.



Bruach and Dounie Burns

Fishing effort on the River Beaully catchment has been in decline for several years due to several different factors including the economic downturn, declining catches and lack of public information on angling opportunities within the district. The fewer rods fishing the river the lower annual catches are likely to be.

This will have a knock-on effect from discouraging more anglers from fishing the river. It is vitally important that alongside actions to protect and enhance fish populations, measures are also taken to break the cycle and encourage more people to fish the river Beaully and enjoy all the opportunities it has to offer.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any issues on the river.

Contact details

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I'm working from home at the moment but will be based at the Corff building in the future. I am out and about a lot.