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**Fisheries Protection – 6th January – 17th March 2022 Report**

I have now been in post for just over 1 year and am really enjoying the challenge. I have a varied role, and this includes working with the Senior Biologist, Seasonal Bailiff, Ghillies and volunteers.

The seasonal Bailiff and I will be patrolling the catchment 14hrs per day on split shifts, undertaking a combination of early morning, daytime, twilight, and night patrols and weekend patrols throughout the season to try and deter potential poaching activities within the catchment.

I will keep in contact with the Glass syndicate Bailiff Addie, and Ghillie George to discuss operational joint working and the sharing of any possible poaching incidents and information.

I will keep in regular contact with the Bailiffs from the Ness Board and Cromarty Board to share any Fisheries intelligence.

The wildlife cameras will be deployed and locations will change as the season progresses.

**River Patrols conducted 11 Jan – 17 March 2022**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **River** | **Patrols** | **Warning Letters Issued** |
| BAC water | 50 | 0 |
| Beauly Syndicate - Middle beats | 52 | 0 |
| Glass | 13 | 0 |
| Farrar | 9 | 0 |
| Beauly Firth | 44 | 0 |

**Tasks undertaken**

* Checking for Salmon and Sea Trout Kelts above the Dams during January, February and March. Three dead Kelts were observed on the Teannasie burn.
* 20 kelts were released above Kilmorack dam in early March
* The river Farrar was surveyed for potential Smolt box trap sites and once the sites were agreed upon, the Smolt box traps will be installed and operational this year.
* Purchased equipment for the Smolt trap.
* Installed river temperature loggers on the Upper Misge and above Tomich.
* Completed the SISI return and contacted our mink volunteers regarding Mink equipment.
* Introduced myself to as many anglers as possible.
* Bird count was arranged and completed in February with help from Ghillies, volunteers and the sawbill data sheet updated. A further bird count will be arranged for early April.
* Successfully completed my drone exam and our first drone training was completed with Jim Braithwaite.
* Two patrols were arranged with Police Scotland’s Wildlife officers in February and March, and this will be ongoing throughout the season.
* Attended Riverwoods (SWT) landowner meeting and had a meeting with Braulen estate to discuss future tree planting on the estate.
* Attended the opening of the 2022 Salmon season.
* All NEPS21 data sheets were entered onto the SFCC website.
* Life jackets were serviced, and equipment purchased for the coming season.
* Interviews were conducted for the seasonal Bailiff and 3-month trainee.
* SISI Volunteers hours were recorded on the Cervis database. Cervis was updated with new volunteers, and I attended a SISI meeting to discuss non-native issues within our catchment.
* The Boards Annual report was printed and is available in all Syndicate huts.
* Marine Scotland Compliance was contacted about a joint Rib - land patrol with the Beauly Bailiffs and Marine Scotland Fishery Officers on the Beauly Firth, this was agreed for July- August this year.
* Monthly team’s meetings were held with the Chair of the Board and Senior Biologist to discuss operational plans for the coming season.
* Regular posts on Facebook.
* Smolt box traps collected from Strathconon and Kyle of Sutherland and delivered to the river Farrar for this seasons Smolt run.
* I will be monitoring the 3 smolts traps until the end of May on a rota basis with the Senior Biologist, Seasonal Bailiff, Trainee and volunteers.

I continue to foster excellent working relationship with the Bailiffs, Ghillies, Police Scotland’s Wildlife Crime Officers, river watchers, volunteers and staff from SSE. As previously stated, I have arranged for the catchment to be patrolled 14 hours a day (where possible), through a combination of patrols during the season to try and deter potential poaching activities within the catchment. I also have an excellent working relationship with my fellow Bailiffs from the Ness and Cromarty and keep in regular contact with them.

We will continue to keep a very high profile to deter poaching activity on the rivers and along the coastline. This consists of carrying out a lot of late night and early morning patrols. Whilst poaching activity may be declining, there is no doubt that without the dedicated professional work of the BSFB Bailiffs, the rivers Beauly, Glass and Farrar would be far more of a target for such illegal activity.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any issues on the river by email at [ali@beaulyfisheryboard.org](mailto:ali@beaulyfisheryboard.org) or by phone on 07786 741482.

**Ali Skinner,**

**Fisheries Officer /River Bailiff**