

LOCH ACHONACHIE ANGLING CLUB

NEWSLETTER No 1 2015



1. 2014 CATCH DETAILS

- 1.1 A good year for trout with 959 trout officially recorded – certainly in the top ten since records began. The largest trout came out of Loch Meig and weighed in at 5 ½ lbs. Average sizes of trout caught in Club waters are going up, and again, stocks of wild, natural trout are on the increase in all our waters.
- 1.2 In common with the rest of Scotland, salmon catches were very low with only 28 recorded. This is the lowest number caught since our records began in 1977. Early on there were a number of multi-sea wintered fish but the grilse run failed to materialise. The biggest salmon weighed in at 15 lb.

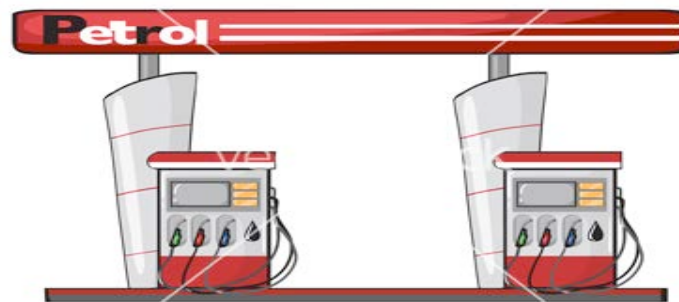
2. 100 CLUB

- 2.1 The 100 Club is run to help raise money for providing good facilities for Club members. From last year's subscriptions of only £12 per year, the 100 Club donated a fantastic £750 to LAAC.

3.3 Mr Johnston Swinton was co-opted onto the Committee subsequent to the AGM.

4. **BOOKING AGENTS**

4.1 The Club is pleased to once again retain the services of Contin Filling Station as our main booking agent for 2015. (Telephone number 01997 421948).



5. **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

5.1 Please note that all memberships should have been renewed by 31st March 2015. Late renewals will incur an additional charge.



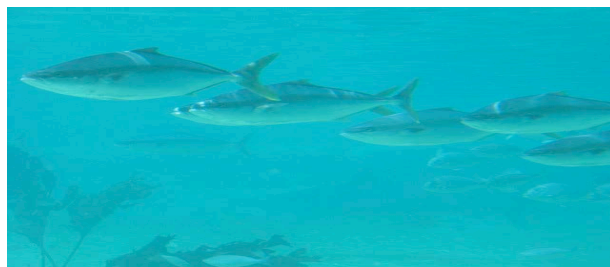
6. **COMPETITIONS 2015**

- 6.1 Lewis Ross, our Competition Secretary has organised again an exciting series of competitions for this year. Full details are set out in the Competition Newsletter which was sent to all members with their membership card.
- 6.2 The competitions are good fun and you get the chance to fish in very varied locations – as well as meeting anglers from other clubs.
- 6.3 Prize-giving at the SGL competition last year.



(Photograph courtesy of Ali Morrison)

7. STOCKING



- 7.1 The first stocking of fish into Loch Meig and Loch Achonachie this year from Bellhaven hatchery took place in March. They are quality fish with average weights range from 1 ½ to 3lbs. However, as always, **there are a few monsters among them!**
- 7.2 Further stockings will take place later in the year.

8. WEB SITE



- 8.1 Our website is found at [http://www.highlandfishing .net](http://www.highlandfishing.net)
- 8.2 We try to keep this up to date with live articles and new information but we need new stories and good photos if we are to keep generating interest in the Club. Please help us to by sending these to me either by email at okain@btinternet.com or on disc to my home address.

9. NEW EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT



- 9.1 A new exchange arrangement has been agreed with Aberdeen and District Angling Association (ADAA) which has fishing on the River Ythan and Loch of Loirston. However there are specific conditions put in place for this exchange. These are:
- Any members wishing to use the exchange must either email Dave Macgregor (macgregor@sky.com) with the details of where they want to go fishing. Dave will then email a copy of the ADAA rules back to the member and pass their details on to a contact in ADAA.
 - Any member who does not have access to email should ring Dave Macgregor on his mobile 07926 082240 or at home on 01349 863315 and give him details

of where they want to go fishing. Their details will be passed on to a contact in ADAA.

- Every member using this exchange must read the ADAA rules before going fishing. For those members with no access to email, hard copies of the ADAA rules will be available at the Contin filling station.
- Any member visiting the Aberdeen waters must have their LAAC membership with them but unlike with other exchange arrangements, it will not be necessary to pick up the ADAA membership.

10. CROMARTY FIRTH FISHERY BOARD UPDATE



Website; www.cromarty.dsfb.org.uk

Director's Report March 2015

General

Very heavy rainfall brought floods in mid March. Some damage was done to Rogie, Achanalt and Conon Falls fish ladders. SSE engineers are inspecting damage but all appear still to be functional. The fish pass at the weir above Orrin Falls was more significantly damaged and discussions are underway with SEPA and Fairburn House regarding repair.

The Wild Fishery Review process is ongoing and will take up a great deal of time this year. The ASFB / RAFTS Joint Working Group will meet regularly to help the wild fishery industry respond to the review process. Scottish Government have set up a Stakeholder Reference Group to help inform the development of draft legislation to implement the review. The Institute of Fisheries Management is in the process of developing training and development programmes.

Regular progress bulletins will be produced throughout the process and will be posted on the Board website.

Projects / research

Bailiffs and TCV continued tree planting along the banks of Strath Rusdale on the Alness. Russell Jobson from the Woodland Trust visited to discuss how the Trust can support the planting of native riverside trees in the region.

The PIT tagging equipment at Tor Achilty and Meig Dams was serviced ready for this year's tagging work. Trapping and tagging of smolts will begin in April, this year will be particularly busy with tagging on the Bran, Meig and Blackwater.

PIT data from the Conon is to be used in a new Marine Scotland Science report on the survival of hatchery reared smolts compared to wild smolts.

A new fixed smolt trap is planned for next year below Orrin Dam to monitor smolt output and improve fish passage.

Meetings attended / consultations

ASFB Bailiffs Conference
IFM Scottish Branch AGM
SSE / SEPA meeting to review flows and freshet regimes for Conon
IFM Wild Fishery Review training meeting
Scottish Mink Initiative Management Committee
Rivers and Lochs Institute genetics project meeting
Board pre-season meeting
ASFB / RAFTS Wild Fishery Review Joint Working Group
Diageo Ord Distillery and Alness weir fish passage meeting
SEPA Flood Risk meeting
ASFB Directors meeting
RAFTS / ASFB Annual Conference
Scottish Government Wild Fisheries Review Stakeholder Reference Group
SSE Fish pass repairs
Woodland Trust riparian woodland planning

11. FLY TIERS' CORNER



- 11.1 **Cowdung Fly.** On bright, sunny days, when there is a good wave on the water, there are few flies to match an artificial Cowdung fly for taking the trout. A land bred insect, the natural fly will be familiar to most anglers. In flight it appears to have an orange body, but it is actually a brownish-yellow body with two clear veined wings each with a spot on them. The male fly is brighter in colour than the female.
- 11.2 One of the oldest dressings of the artificial fly is that supplied by Alfred Ronalds. He tied it with a yellow wool or mohair body with a pinch of brown fur added, land-rail wings, and a ginger coloured hackle. This dressing is still used, but today, tiers do not use the brown fur but make the most of a piece of dull yellow wool and replace the land-rail wing with pale starling. The hackle of ginger hen remains the same
- 11.3 Generally the fly is fished in the standard loch style – over the front of a drifting boat. On a floating line, the fly should be fished on the top dropper or bob and it gives of its best when it is brought tripping across the waves.



12. PERCH IN LOCH MEIG

- 12.1 Just a reminder that due to the rise in the number of perch being caught in Loch Meig over the last few seasons – some of them quite large, we have taken the advice of the Fishery Board. They have advised that ***any perch caught by anglers be killed and not returned to the water alive***. They are not a native species to our highland waters and cause significant damage to juvenile trout and salmon.



13. LYME DISEASE

- 13.1 Just a warning to all members fishing waters in the Highlands that there is a real risk of being infected by Lyme disease when bitten by a tick. There is considerable information online about risks, prevention and detection of tick bites – particularly on the Health Protection Scotland website.
- 13.2 You should always have a good check after a day on the river or loch bank to ensure that you have not attracted any unwelcome ticks. If you have, you should remove them carefully using a purpose made tick remover. You should apply an antiseptic to the bite afterwards.



- 13.3 Keep a careful eye on where you were bitten and if it becomes inflamed with a bull's eye rash go and see your GP for advice

14. EDITORIAL COMMENT

- 14.1 Please let me have any pictures, stories etc that would be of interest to Club members. Any format will do.

- 14.2 For your information the telephone numbers of Office Bearers are:

• Chairman	Stephen Dowds	01381 621742
• Vice Chairman	Kenny MacKintosh	01997 466287
• Treasurer	Dave Macgregor	01349 863315
• Secretary	Okain McLennan	01381 620674

- 14.3 The Committee wish all the members “tight lines” for the 2015 season and as always, look forward to meeting you at or on the water.

Okain McLennan
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