

Spey Fishery Board Action Plan

2018

Strategic Priority	Action and Description	Intended Outcome/Rationale	Activities Undertaken	Review Date and Status
<p>1. Engagement of professional Public Relations services to lobby Scottish Government for the promotion of salmon angling and maintenance of the local economy.</p>	<p>1.1 Engagement of Public Relations/Lobbyist professionals, together with assistance from Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS), to encourage Scottish Government to facilitate a marketing campaign for the promotion of salmon angling on the Spey.</p> <p>1.2 PR/Lobbyist professionals to engage with Scottish Government to secure support for the maintenance of employment on major salmon rivers.</p>	<p>1.1 A professional campaign to market salmon angling on the River Spey in order to retain present anglers and attract new clientele.</p> <p>1.2 Scottish Government assistance to major District Salmon Fishery Boards to relieve financial pressure from Assessment and thereby help maintain local employment.</p>		
<p>2. Development and implementation of a scientific strategy to prioritise and enhance the provision of evidence-based advice to the Board for its management of the fishery.</p>	<p>2.1 Spey Scientific Committee to establish short- (5yr), medium- (10yr) and long- term (15yr) strategies for scientific research & monitoring.</p> <p>2.2 Engage with Scottish Government and Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) to develop and implement the Fisheries Management Planning Template.</p> <p>2.3 In conjunction with PR/Lobbyists and FMS, encourage the Scottish Government to take a leading role in developing understanding of the issues affecting Atlantic</p>	<p>2.1 Prioritisation of scientific activity to enhance the gathering of evidence and allocation of resources.</p> <p>2.2 Identification and classification of 12 priority pressures on the Spey Catchment, thereby providing robust evidence to inform Scottish Government priorities for action and support.</p> <p>2.3 Scottish Government to support research into the causes behind reduced smolt</p>	<p>2.1 Spey Scientific Committee Terms of Reference already include the development of short-, medium- and long-term strategies for scientific research and monitoring.</p> <p>2.2 FMS have developed a draft Fisheries Management Planning Template.</p> <p>2.3 Scottish Government's Marine Scotland has</p>	

	<p>salmon migration in the marine environment.</p> <p>2.4 Encourage Marine Scotland and Marine Scotland Science to develop and maintain liaison with international salmonid research organisations.</p> <p>2.5 SNH paper on the importance of Atlantic salmon to the other 3 SAC designated species.</p>	<p>survival and low adult salmon returns to natal rivers.</p> <p>2.4 Exchange of knowledge and data from countries overseas which are experiencing similar problems with declining numbers of adult salmon.</p> <p>2.5 Atlantic salmon is one of four qualifying species for the Spey's SAC status. We need to highlight the dependence of the other 3 on Atlantic salmon.</p>	<p>expressed interest in supporting smolt tagging projects.</p>	
<p>3 Enhanced protection of Atlantic salmon from predation.</p>	<p>3.1 Engage with Scottish Government and their advisers to review and refine the licensing system for piscivorous bird management.</p> <p>3.2 Expand Spey Piscivorous Bird licence to include principal tributaries as well as mainstem river.</p> <p>3.3 Utilise AST smolt tagging project (see 4.2) to provide evidence of the impact of piscivorous bird predation on smolt migration.</p> <p>3.4 Collation of evidence to lobby Scottish Government for the enhancement of Grey seal quotas and reintroduction of a Common seal quota.</p>	<p>3.1 Improved resource allocation for bird counts, a refined licence application system and increased bird quotas.</p> <p>3.2 Expansion of current licence to include the Rivers Fiddich, Avon, Feshie, Tromie, Truim, Calder and Dulnain as well as the Spey, so as to achieve a more holistic approach to piscivorous bird management throughout the Spey catchment.</p> <p>3.3 Building upon previous work undertaken, establish current levels and impact of piscivorous bird predation on smolt runs.</p>	<p>3.1 & 3.2 Sub-Group of national Sawbill Management Group to convene in September 2018 to progress.</p> <p>3.3 Meetings undertaken with AST executive to progress.</p> <p>3.4 Ongoing collation of high-resolution</p>	

		3.4 High resolution photographic evidence of seal incursions into the Spey estuary are required to convince Marine Scotland of the need to manage persistent Common seal offenders.	photographic imagery of seal numbers around Spey Bay and monitoring/control of incursions into the lower River.	
4 Development of our knowledge of smolt migration, both within the river and through the marine environment.	<p>4.1 Enhancement of the Tommore Burn Project to include the installation of an Adult Fish Trap as well as the Smolt Trap.</p> <p>4.2 In conjunction with the Atlantic Salmon Trust, tag salmon smolts leaving the Tommore Burn and the upper Spey to monitor and compare the migration of smolts originating from hatchery-bred fry and compare this to their wild-bred counterparts.</p> <p>4.3 Remove all rod-caught fin-clipped adult salmon from the fishery.</p> <p>4.4 Support the Atlantic Salmon Trust's Missing Salmon Project.</p>	<p>4.1 Further enhancement of the successful Tommore Burn Project by monitoring the number of smolts leaving the Burn and the number of adult fish that subsequently return.</p> <p>4.2 Compare the survival rates of smolts emanating from the hatchery with that of their wild counterparts.</p> <p>4.3 Removal of rod-caught fish of hatchery origin to prevent genetic introgression with the natural stock.</p> <p>4.4 Develop our knowledge of the coastal migration undertaken by Spey smolts.</p>	<p>4.1 Smolt trap already in place on the Tommore Burn.</p> <p>4.2 Letter to issue to all proprietors seeking assistance and support for AST Missing Salmon Project.</p> <p>4.4 Meetings with AST executive and technicians already undertaken.</p>	
5 Continued programme of riparian and in-river habitat enhancement projects to improve the spawning and juvenile habitats for Atlantic salmon.	<p>5.1 Sandbank Hatchery to remain in operation for mitigation stocking above man-made barriers.</p> <p>5.2 Work with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and GFG Alliance to accelerate progress with ensuring upward and downward fish passage</p>	<p>5.1 Mitigation stocking above man-made barriers to continue. Preparations to be made for stocking above Spey Dam in due course, once fish passage problems at the Dam's fish pass have been resolved.</p>	<p>5.1 Tripartite Meetings between SEPA, SFB and GFG established to prioritise and review progress. Technical Working Group meeting regularly to facilitate</p>	

	<p>at Spey Dam.</p> <p>5.3 Continue to work closely with the Spey Catchment Initiative to expand its programme of removing barriers to fish migration and the enhancement of in-river and riparian habitat.</p>	<p>5.2 SEPA declared Spey Dam a barrier to fish passage. This needs to be resolved to provide salmonid access to 10% of the upper catchment.</p> <p>5.3 Build upon Spey Catchment Initiative's success to open-up more side channels and ease additional barriers to ensure fish passage across the 0.64% of the catchment that remains inaccessible.</p>	<p>implementation.</p> <p>5.3 Delagyle side-channel re-watered June 2018; 3 barriers to be eased in 2018 as part of Tomintoul & Glenlivet Partnership Project; 660 metres of riparian enhancement at Kinchurdy, with a further 1270 metres targeted for work in autumn 2018; Tamdhu fish pass installed and operative.</p>	
<p>6 Maximise the quantity and quality of water resources throughout the Spey Catchment.</p>	<p>6.1 Work with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Spey Catchment Initiative to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>6.2 Utilise A9 dualling programme to provide mitigation works to enhance the Tummel Scheme (Rivers Tromie, Truim & Cuaich).</p> <p>6.3 Lobby Scottish Government to ensure the maintenance of adequate water resources above impoundments to meet compensation flow requirements at all times.</p> <p>6.4 Actively resist attempts to increase water abstraction from the River Spey Catchment.</p>	<p>6.1 Implementation of the second and third River Basin Management Plans to ensure Good Ecological Status/Potential throughout Spey Catchment watercourses.</p> <p>6.2 Ensuring that Scottish Water, SSE and GFG Alliance retain sufficient water in their reservoirs to maintain compensation flow agreements.</p> <p>6.3 Currently up to 49% of the flows in the upper catchment are diverted to generate hydro-electricity. Increased water abstraction is one of the principle threats to the Spey catchment.</p>	<p>6.1 Participation in regular meetings of SEPA's River Basin Management Plan committee.</p> <p>6.2 Regular meetings with Transport Scotland, SSE and SEPA to progress.</p> <p>6.3 Liaison with Scottish Water, SSE and SEPA over emergency drought measures.</p>	

