

Fisheries Management

Objective		Significant Achievements against Objective, 2017 - 2022
FISH 1	FISH STOCKS - Conserve and enhance salmonids and other fish species through collaborative working and the adoption of appropriate policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFB has collaborated with Marine Scotland Science (MSS) to support the Conservation Limit Status, including participation in the National Electrofishing Programme Scotland. • Spey has maintained highest status category. • SFB assisted MSS with development of an online Fishery Management Planning template. • Fish predators (sawbill ducks, specialist seals) monitored and controlled where licensing allows. • Technical Working Group (involving SEPA, SFB, landowner and NatureScot) addressing restoration of salmon above Spey Dam. • Research on distribution and ecology of non-salmonid fish species (including re-survey of Loch Beag and Loch Alvie, with accompanying eDNA project, progressing, (Artic Charr 2023). • Mitigation stocking of salmon, and post-stocking monitoring has continued. • Good progress on tackling barriers to fish passage, including fish passes installed at Knockando and Mortlach, Dufftown. • SFB provide on-going protection from poaching and coastal netting. • NS helped develop Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 which introduced new protections for salmon. SFB involvement with research on pressures on salmon at sea, including Moray Firth Tracking Project (Missing Salmon Alliance) should help with understanding.
FISH 2	HABITAT QUALITY - Conserve and restore riparian and in stream habitat quality and diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFB contributing to research on importance of small streams through the National Electrofishing Programme Scotland. • Spey disconnected side channels mapped, reconnection undertaken in Aviemore in 2017, Delagyle in 2018, total 700m, other sites assessed, overall increase in available habitat. • Almost all SCI projects, delivered with support from CNPA, NS, SEPA, SF, WT, and other partners, have strong element of fish habitat enhancement. • Work in progress to restore diverted flows to the Allt Bhran (River Tromie) and River Cuaich (tributary of the River Truim) by 2027. • Further landscape-scale project under development in River Avon/Livet catchments. • Riparian woodland expansion (Kinchurdy, Truim, Calder, total over 10km), installation of Large Woody Structures (Calder, Delliefure Burn, upper Spey at Glenshero, total 5.6km). • Improved accessibility to fish of 4300m of tributaries in Glenmore.
FISH 3	SUSTAINABLE ANGLING - Identify and develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through recruitment of Digital Marketing & Communications Manager to SFB in September 2021, huge increase in promotion of sustainable angling.

	opportunities for the promotion of sustainable fisheries, maximising the economic value of angling, and also its role as a valuable form of outdoor recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFB with Countryside Learning Scotland developed strategy to increase angling participation, limited progress to date. • Angling among younger age groups encouraged by The River Spey Anglers Association. • SFB delivered several intro/demonstration events with local schools. • Salmon in the Classroom programme delivered to three primary schools per year. • Angling for women promoted by a local female angling guide/ghillie. • Consultants commissioned by Fisheries Management Scotland reported on development of sustainable angling, encouraging uptake and promoting the health benefits (2019).
FISH 4	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT - Ensure the smooth and effective transition from District Salmon Fishery Boards to the Fishery Management Organisation structure proposed by the Scottish Government's programme for wild fisheries reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Fisheries Reform dropped by ScotGov in 2017. • Development and promotion of evidence-based fishery management continues via Scottish Government's Wild Salmon Strategy, also covers effective enforcement of fishery legislation. • SFB staff contribute to Wild Salmon Strategy Implementation Plan Group.