

MONTHLY BRIEFING

Spey
Fishery
Board

February 2006

www.speyfisheryboard.com



Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Scotland EU LIFE Project underway on the Spey

In 2005 the Spey Fishery Board (SFB) began a major EU-funded work programme on the Spey, the LIFE Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Scotland (CASS) Project. Because the Spey is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for salmon, the SFB is eligible for funding through the EU LIFE Nature scheme. LIFE funding is targeted at improving the health of an SAC, while also supporting research and public awareness projects. In 2003 the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and Scottish Natural Heritage coordinated a £3.5 million bid by the Spey and eight other salmon SACs. The bid (project reference LIFE04NAT/GB/000250) was approved by the European Commission in August 2004, and the project will conclude in 2008.

The SFB's component of the CASS LIFE Project focuses on easing 13 major man-made obstacles to salmon. To improve monitoring of stocks, three fish counters are being installed in fish passes on the Truim, Dullan Water and at Spey Dam. The work also includes an extension of the Salmon Go To School programme, and demonstration site visits.

The total value of the Spey work is £573,274, of which 64% will be sourced from LIFE and SNH. The SFB is providing in-kind support for project management, running

fish counters, juvenile surveys, and stocking above the obstacles. Project management is assisted by officers employed by SNH, and the civil engineers A.F. Cruden Associates of Inverness. During 2005 works were completed on six obstacles. Examples of progress are given overleaf.



(Photo: James Butler)

The CASS LIFE project is targeting man made obstacles to salmon passage in the Spey catchment.

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Fochabers Burn fish passes: In partnership with the Crown Estate, two Denil fish passes have been installed on weirs at the downstream extremity of the Fochabers Burn



Ballintomb Burn bridge: In partnership with Mr. Chris Martin and the Carron and Laggan Fishings, this impassable culvert bridge has been replaced with a full-span bridge to allow fish passage up the Ballintomb Burn.



Dufftown Distillery weir: In partnership with Diageo, a new Denil fish pass has been installed on the weir to allow fish passage into the Dullan Water.



Rothiemurchus Trout Farm screens: Smolt screens have been installed by Rothiemurchus Estate to prevent the loss of salmon smolts and kelts into the trout farm.