

AFT Biologist's Update – July 2019

Projects

2019 Fieldwork Programme began with the **Nutrient project** (Carcass replacement programme). Salmon feed pellets have been planted in April at spawning sites on the;

Tulla Water / River Orchy, River Fyne / Kinglas, River Creran

Assessment of the fish populations will be carried out in July at study sites and an equal no. of control sites.

AFT have been awarded funding from the **Biodiversity Challenge Fund** (SNH) to a total of £55,335 over 2019-2021. This joint project with two other Trusts (Kyle of Sutherland and Galloway Fisheries Trusts) is worth a total of £150K. Our portion of the bid seeks to improve habitat and repair a fish pass at a Fresh Water Pearl Mussel SAC on Mull. The project work will produce income of £2.9K in 2019-20 and £4.8K in 2020-21 to AFT.

Item	2019-20	2020-21	Total
Fencing	13,680	-	13,680
Trees & stakes	-	1,865	1,865
Woody debris	1,983	991	2,974
Dam Repair	25,000	-	25,000
AFT Management	1,972	1,972	3,944
AFT Tree planting	-	1,650	1,650
AFT Monitoring	661	661	1,322
AFT T&S	336	564	900
Total	43,632	7,703	51,335
AFT Income Total	2,969	4,847	7,816

AFT have received funding from SSE, Glendaruel Wind Farm Trust and River Ruel Improvement Association for habitat improvement projects (Winter /spring 2019-20) and fish surveys (Summer 2019) on the **River Ruel Catchment**. This work will contribute £4,950 to AFT income.

Marine Scotland Science (MSS) Projects include **sweep netting** for monitoring sea lice on sea trout was completed in May / June (£8,200) at Loch Fyne / Loch Riddon / Dunstaffnage / Carradale.

MSS have confirmed and awarded contracts for the National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (**NEPS**) for 2019 (£15K). This project builds on the 2018 sampling and will include surveys at 10 annual sites and 20 new sites. The 2018 report is now public information.

The AFT biologist has continued to provide support to Argyll DSFB for Aquaculture **consultations** and the development of **Environment Management Plans** (EMPs) with Mowi. The Sound of Shuna EMP has now been signed and a start-up meeting is proposed for August where further progress may be made on the Carradale EMP. We aim to establish wild fish monitoring in both areas in 2019-20 although this may be limited to freshwater surveys initially and expanded to marine sites in 2020.

Other EMPs are being sought with Scottish Sea Farms in Lower Loch Linnhe and with Dawnfresh in Loch Etive.

Contracts

There are a several smaller contracts completed so far in 2019 related to hydro development (3), Habitat survey Workshop for SFCC and some minor data provision for developers. The West Loch Awe Timber Haulage Route (WLATHR) review will not be on a scale previously envisaged and therefore contract income may be lower than the forecast of £10K.

INCOME FORECAST V ACTUAL SUMMARY 2019-20

WORK AREA	FORECAST 2019-20	Income to date	VARIANCE 2019-20	Total Foreseeable 2019-20
Projects	60,452	17,980	-42,472	50,182
Fishery Management	4,250	0	-4,250	4,250
Contracts	16,165	840	-15,325	5,165
Unspecified Donations (Est.)	14,000	339	-13,661	14,025
GRAND TOTAL	94,867	19,159	-75,708	73,622
