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# 1. Introduction and background

This project will bring together organisations with responsibilities for around 38% of the wild Atlantic salmon resource in Scotland in a comprehensive programme of works to remove threats in freshwater. Whilst the official start date for the project was 01/02/04, a formal offer of funding was not received until 25/8/04, with final acceptance on 11/11/04. As a result, actions taking place prior to the acceptance date were done at partner's risk and many who could not afford this, opted to delay their start.

The LIFE project actions will address the following threats to Atlantic salmon on the 8 SAC rivers, and complement ongoing work at a national, European and international level addressing threats within the marine environment.

*Table 1. Threats to Atlantic salmon and the SAC areas included in the CASS project where they apply.*

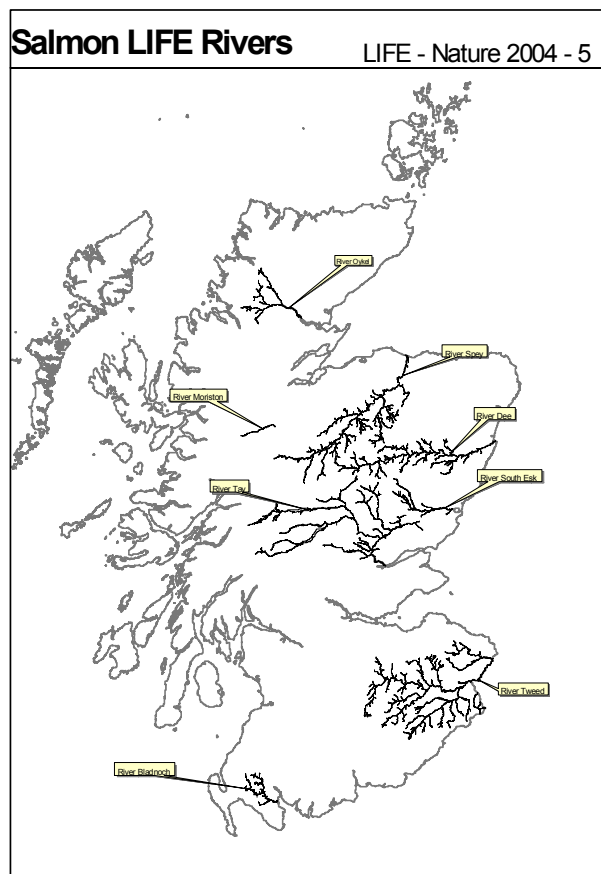
<b>Threat to Atlantic salmon</b>	<b>Riverine SAC where threat applies</b>
1. Exploitation of salmon stocks by netting operations	River Oykel River Bladnoch
2. Extent and connectivity of river habitat restricted by man-made obstacles	River Dee River Moriston River Oykel River Spey River Tay
3. In-stream habitat degraded	River Bladnoch River Dee
4. Unrestricted grazing of stream-sides contributes to a degraded riparian habitat and siltation of salmon habitat from eroding riverbanks	River Bladnoch River Dee River South Esk
5. Silt content of drainage waters from adjacent land-uses leads to siltation of salmon habitat.	River Dee
6. Inappropriate afforestation and forest management in riparian zones is contributing to the degradation of salmon habitat	River Bladnoch River Dee River South Esk River Spey
7. Gravel extraction and dredging practices threaten habitat for spawning and young salmon	River Tay
8. Slow natural re-colonisation of newly connected / restored stretches of river	River Bladnoch River Moriston River Spey
9. The value of positive conservation management is often poorly recognised by river stakeholders	River Bladnoch River Dee River South Esk River Oykel River Spey River Tweed
10. Public appreciation of <i>Natura</i> and the need for salmon conservation is limited	River Bladnoch River Dee River South Esk River Moriston River Oykel River Spey River Tay River Tweed

The LIFE project will be the single most significant salmon conservation project ever undertaken in Scotland, with 17 partners and nine co-financiers in addition to the EC. The project partners include the statutory bodies responsible for conservation of salmon stocks (District Salmon Fishery Boards), and also the public agencies responsible for population monitoring, pSCI and species protection, natural heritage conservation and the management of forested catchment areas in public ownership. The partners will provide match funding, contribute staff time and expertise, and liaise with others to share experiences and good practice.

## **Objectives**

The overall objective of the project as described in the application approved by the European Commission is

“to safeguard and maintain the abundance and diversity of salmon in Scotland through the significant improvement of freshwater habitats, the development of management guidelines, and the promotion and demonstration of best practice in removal of key threats through joint working and partnership.”



The project will significantly improve the natural freshwater habitat for salmon on 8 of the key salmon river pSCI in Scotland and provide a major vehicle for the raising of awareness of the needs of the species both to managers and a wider audience. It will produce a range of management demonstration products which will feed into wider conservation strategies for the species and guidance for application throughout Scotland and beyond.

The project will purchase netting rights to permanently halt the commercial salmon netting on two rivers, allowing

more fish to reach suitable upstream habitat to spawn. It will improve and restore access by salmon to sections of river where man-made obstacles currently prevent full use of the available habitat. The project will undertake habitat improvement work; both in-stream, to restore degraded spawning and juvenile habitat, and on the river banks and areas immediately adjacent to the river to improve water quality. It will stabilise river banks, protect them from overgrazing and improve the integrity of the riparian ecosystem. The establishment of a number of fish counters will provide quantitative information on the status of salmon in several pSCI and complement other population monitoring techniques.

In some rivers, vulnerable sub-stocks (which migrate early in the year) will be introduced to newly restored areas of river by the release of hatchery-reared fish of appropriate origin.

Technical guidance will be produced on means of averting the threat posed by gravel extraction on some rivers. Considerable effort will be made to share the project's objectives and experience with all stakeholders in Scotland's wild salmon resource, from river owners to school children, and further afield.

### **Expected results**

The project will:

- Halt the remaining commercial netting of salmon on 2 rivers
- Remove or bypass 25 obstacles improving access for salmon to 187km of habitat
- Improve over **39060m<sup>2</sup>** of freshwater habitat for spawning and juvenile salmon
- Restock restored areas of habitat with local populations of wild salmon on 3 rivers
- Control grazing along **38.85** km of river to improve river habitat and protect river banks
- Stabilise **2816m** of eroding riverbank and reduce siltation from surface runoff into two rivers
- Extend and diversify riparian woodland habitat along four rivers
- Provide general guidance and a local code of practice for gravel extraction in salmon rivers
- Raise awareness of *Natura* and salmon conservation issues with river owners and the public

## **2. Summary of progress to date**

A table of progress on each identified action is presented on page 19.

### **A2 actions-monitoring the impact of project work**

Monitoring carried out to date includes juvenile electrofishing surveys (Spey, Dee, Oykel, Bladnoch), habitat surveys (Bladnoch, Dee), purchase and installation of smolt traps (Bladnoch, Spey) and eggbox work (Bladnoch) These surveys established baseline measurements prior to works being undertaken to enable evaluation of the effectiveness of conservation works. They also helped to pinpoint areas where conservation work needs to be carried out.

### **B1 actions-purchase of netting rights**

The Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board aim to purchase 6 of the 12 remaining netting stations on the Dornoch Firth. To date agreement has been reached with 3 owners regarding rights and purchase price of the netting stations, and contact/negotiations have been established with the remaining three.

### **C actions-non-recurring management**

Works to improve connectivity of salmon habitat have been carried out. Smolt screens have been installed on fish farm intake channels and on a dam on the Spey.

Smolt screens and a fish pass controller have also been installed on a dam on the Oykel river. Significant refurbishment works on the fish pass were also carried out. A specification is currently being drawn up to install 29 silt traps on the Dee to start to mediate siltation on spawning beds and juvenile habitat.

Coppicing work on the Dee has also taken place to reduce shading by Alders, and recreate a diverse open woodland area.

### **D1 actions- Restocking re-connected or improved areas of juvenile habitat with hatchery-reared local salmon**

Hatchery reared juveniles have been planted out on the Spey above various obstacles. Eggs have been stripped from broodstock on the Bladnoch and juveniles are being held in the hatchery until summer 2005 when they will be planted out. The kelt reconditioning programme on the Bladnoch is currently on hold due to a ban on the use of malachite green, the chemical treatment previously used to prevent fungal growth. A feasibility study is being carried out to investigate what action to take with this issue.

### **E actions-public awareness and dissemination of results**

The ASFB produced a draft annual newsletter, which will be distributed mid-May. A project logo was finalised in December 2004 and stationary has been ordered incorporating this logo.

Project partners have been compiling an image library of photographs taken at project locations. These will be used to produce a slide pack/photo CD.

A project media and publicity strategy was developed and various media/press releases have occurred.

A launch workshop was held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2004 in Dunkeld and a report produced.

Contact has been made with the Loire salmon LIFE project in France, and the project manager has arranged to attend an International LIFE-Symposium in Austria later this year which will forge links with similar LIFE projects.

Salmon in the Classroom programmes have begun with partners on the Esk and the Tay and will shortly commence with the Bladnoch partner.

Formal newsletter and reports on the LIFE project have been produced by the partners on the Rivers Bladnoch and the Spey.

### **F actions-Overall project operation and monitoring**

A project manager (Dr. Colin Bull), and administrator (Claire Myles) have been appointed and a project officer will begin work in May 2005. The project office has been established in a partner building (Scottish and Southern Energy) at Clunie, Pitlochry.

Project steering group meetings have been held twice in the reporting period and partner LOPT meetings have been held for 2 partners and LOPT groups are being established by other partners.

A Memorandum of Agreement was developed which outlined all partner responsibilities. Project operational plans (action schedules and budgeting spreadsheets) for individual partners and the overall project have been produced. Partner claims workbooks and guidance briefings have been produced to help partners with administrative procedures.

Links have been established with various UK and European organisations to promote the CASS project and use expertise from other groups and to impart information arising from the project.

### **3. Detailed Progress Report**

#### **A actions-preparatory actions, management plans and action plans**

##### **A2: Monitoring the impact of project works**

Monitoring is necessary to provide background information on population changes and to evaluate the effectiveness of project works. Monitoring requirements within the project have been devised to build upon existing information where appropriate, and the methods adopted selected to suit the objectives of the conservation work in each site. Monitoring data which give a clear indication that conservation works are effective and is vital to ensure continuing support and collaboration with stakeholders.

Monitoring works carried out for A2 actions on each river to date include:

##### *Tweed:*

A VAKI fish counter, to be installed on Gala Water, a tributary of the Tweed, is to be purchased. This will give valuable information on numbers and sizes of salmon passing upstream to spawn and contribute towards development of guidance on angler exploitation rates. To date no progress has been made on this purchase, but as this is one of the few actions for the Tweed there is plenty of time for this to occur. Due to improved counter technology, the installation of a separate fish trap will now not be necessary as very detailed information on stock composition can be achieved.

##### *Bladnoch:*

Electrofishing was used to monitor salmon populations before water quality and riparian habitat improvement works later in the project. Smolt sampling, through tagging and recapturing, using a rotary screw trap purchased from Canada, was used to begin identifying the origins of smolts from the upper catchment and examining where there may be problems in migrating through acidified forestry areas. Sampling of salmon scales was carried out to give background information on the spring salmon stock. Eggboxes were constructed and placed instream on the upper Bladnoch to monitor water quality. Survival and hatching success of planted ova will be used as indicators of water quality. Eggboxes were checked in late March. Habitat monitoring was also carried out.



*Figure 1: Rotary-screw smolt trap for use on the Bladnoch river (A2Bla10).*

*Oykel:*

Electrofishing was carried out to monitor salmon populations before upgrade of smolt screens on Duchally dam.

*Spey:*

Juvenile populations were surveyed using electrofishing prior to fish pass improvement works and restocking of newly opened-up areas. Alcan Smelters dam smolt trap was installed to be used for monitoring after the improvement works have been carried out.



*Figure 2a: Old smolt trap at Alcan smelters, Spey dam. (A2Spey04).*



*Figure 2b: New smolt trap installed at Alcan smelters, Spey dam. (A2Spey04).*

*Dee:*

Electrofishing surveys of juvenile fish, and habitat surveys were carried out in areas of proposed river habitat enhancement works to pinpoint areas where improvement work needs to be carried out.

## **B actions- purchase/lease of land and/or rights**

### **B1: Purchase/lease of land and/or rights**

There remain a number of private netting stations at the mouths of some rivers with rights to catch salmon for a period of the year. Purchasing or securing a long term lease, of these rights will significantly reduce exploitation of adult salmon and thus increase numbers reaching spawning areas upstream.

Work carried out for B1 actions on each river to date include:

#### *Oykel:*

The Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board aim to purchase 6 of the 12 remaining netting stations on the Dornoch Firth, which the River Oykel flows into. To date agreement has been reached with 3 owners regarding rights and purchase price of the netting stations. Negotiations with the Ross estate, owner of one netting station, are well advanced. The 2 remaining owners have been contacted with a view to opening negotiations once the Ross estate rights are secured.

## **C actions-non-recurring management**

### **C1: Restoring connectivity of salmon habitat**

Various man-made obstacles have been constructed in Scottish rivers. By restricting access to, and full use of, large areas of suitable salmon habitat, these constitute a major threat to salmon conservation in Scotland. These obstacles include old defunct structures dating back to an earlier industrial heritage, or more recent dams or weirs to provide for electricity generation or water abstraction, or instream works from civil engineering works for roads and bridges. Often such structures create a partial or complete obstacle to migrating salmon, thus limiting access to significant areas of their historic range. Work to be carried out in this project will improve fish passage through these obstacles by completely removing the structure or by modifying and improving existing structures (e.g. fish passes) to allow more fish to pass through. Where man-made use puts migrating salmon at risk, screening mechanisms will be used to allow continued economic use but safeguard the salmon populations.

Works carried out for C1 actions on each river to date include:

#### *Spey:*

Installation of new, improved smolt screens on the intake channel of Rothiemurcus fish farm has begun. Previously, large numbers of smolts have been found in fish ponds due to ineffectiveness of the old screens. Additionally, a channel bypassing the fish farm has been improved to allow smolts to return to the main stream channel after swimming into the farm intake channel. Together these measures will dramatically reduce mortality and increase the number of smolts in the system. Installation of the smolt screens will be complete in April 2005.

Smolt screens have also been installed on Truim dam by Scottish and Southern Energy. This work was completed in March 2005.

Work for Ballintomb burn culvert bridge has been put out to tender along with 3 other projects (spey14,17and 19). It is anticipated that this will lower the cost of the proposed works. The work had already been put out to tender to 4 contractors. All

returned quotes which were over budget. The contractor with the cheapest quote was given modified plans to bring to bring the cost of the work down, but a quote still came back over budget. The tendering process is being carried out by A.F.Cruden (a specialist engineer) for which he will receive a fee (Spey38).



*Figure 3a: Old screening arrangement at Rothiemurcus fish farm, River Spey (C1Spey12).*



*Figure 3b: New smolt screens at Rothiemurcus fish farm, River Spey (C1Spey12).*

#### *Oykel:*

Scottish and Southern Energy completed installation of fish screens and refurbishment of the fish pass and installation of a controller at Duchally dam. Flat bar fish screens were installed between May and October 2004, and an automatic screen cleaner was installed in October 2004. The fish pass refurbishment was also completed by October 2004. This work included replacement of the upstream and downstream gates, replacement of damaged concrete in the lower chamber and installation of a new fish pass controller. Although the output has been delivered by the partner, due to operational reasons, the contract for this work had to be agreed by S&SE prior to the CASS start date. This means that though the target has been achieved as proposed, the work is not eligible for funding and this will not be part of any claim for EC co- funding.

#### *Tay:*

Improvement has been made to the fish pass on the Gaur Fish Pass by Scottish and Southern Electric during the reporting period. Although the output has been delivered by the partner, due to operational reasons, the contract for this work had to be agreed by S&SE prior to the CASS start date. This means that though the target has been achieved as proposed, the work is not eligible for funding and this will not be part of any claim for EC co- funding.

#### **C5:Installation of silt traps and blocking of drains**

Stretches of the Dee run through areas of commercial forestry, improved pasture and arable farming where drainage water from field drains and tracks can have a high silt content. The silt ends up in the streams increasing water turbidity and degrading gravel spawning beds. This project will block hill drains and install and maintain silt traps at strategic points where drainage is contributing significantly to the siltation and degradation of salmon habitat.

Works carried out for C1 actions on each river to date include:

*Dee:*

Farmers along the Dee have been contacted and permission has been obtained to install silt traps on their land. A specification is currently been drawn up for this work and silt trap locations are being mapped to ensure their optimal location.

**C6: Management of riparian woodland**

Riparian natural woodlands play a crucial role in helping to maintain the health and productivity of rivers. They directly benefit salmon by reducing siltation of spawning grounds, supply invertebrates and leaf litter for food and provide shade and temperature amelioration. Inappropriate afforestation, such as conifer plantations, can cast a heavy shade preventing the development of riverbank vegetation. Associated drainage can exacerbate run-off and increase siltation. Furthermore, air pollutants scavenged by conifers can be washed into the watercourse increasing acidity of the water beyond tolerable limits to salmon. These effects can be reduced by developing native woodland stands in the immediate vicinity of rivers and burns. This work involves removal of introduced tree species, some vegetation management and planting or restocking by natural regeneration to create a more diverse semi-natural woodland, incorporating areas of open semi-natural habitat.

Works carried out for C6 actions on each river to date include:

*Dee:*

The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board have implemented woodland work to reinstate traditional coppice management of alder along lengths of streams in the Dee catchment to reduce shading and recreate a diverse open woodland structure. The work was undertaken in agreement with landowners and to date 2500 m of coppicing has been carried out along the Sheecho Burn around Blairydrine Bridge.



*Figure 4a: Alder growth on banks of the Sheecho Burn, River Dee before coppicing work (C6Dee11).*



*Figure 4b: The same stretch after coppicing work (C6Dee11).*

## **D actions-recurring management**

### **D1: Restocking re-connected or improved areas of juvenile habitat with hatchery-reared local salmon**

This work will provide hatchery-reared salmon stock of local origin for release into upper catchments where good river connectivity has been restored or where habitat improvement work has been undertaken. As natural recolonisation would take many years, spring run fish, the component of the salmon population at a critically low level, will be propagated to restock these areas and 'kick-start' recolonisation. This will be phased out as natural fry production rates improve.

Works carried out for D1 actions on each river to date include:

#### *Spey:*

531,500 hatchery reared juveniles from Sandbank hatchery were seeded in areas above obstacles. This will maximise the speed of recovery of salmon stocks once obstacle are removed on various tributaries of the Spey (largely outside the current SAC area). Broodstock originating from each stream were used to provide eggs to maintain the genetic integrity of the population. A similar number of eggs were collected in the autumn of 2004 and laid down in the Sandbank Hatchery. The juveniles will be planted out in May through to August 2005.

#### *Bladnoch:*

Broodstock were collected and stripped to produce a total of 84700 eggs. Fry will be planted out in early summer 2005. Daily visits were made to the hatchery where the female broodstock were held and staff time has been allocated to hatchery maintenance and checking of broodstock. Hatchery reared fry began to feed in March 2005.

Due to a recent ban on the use of a chemical treatment commonly used in hatcheries to prevent fungal infections, the Galloway Fisheries Trust are carrying out a feasibility study into the proposed kelt reconditioning of spring fish before progressing with this work. It is planned for this document to be completed by end of May 2005, at which time a decision on how to proceed will be taken.

## **E actions-Public awareness and dissemination of results**

### **E1:Information Presentation Board**

No progress was made during the reporting period, but action is planned by the ASFB during the latter half of 2005, based upon the generic design inputs to the project leaflet and Interpretation Boards.

### **E2:Develop and maintain a project website**

Only initial progress was made during the reporting period, but several similar websites have been reviewed and a list of potential contractors compiled. Website development is planned for 2005 with a view to achieving live status by the start of 2006.

**E3: Preparation, circulation and promotion of annual newsletter**

The ASFB worked with the Project Manager to produce the first draft of a Project Newsletter in March 2005. The finalised newsletter is to be distributed to 1100 addressees in Mid May 2005, and annually from this date until project completion. A copy of this first newsletter is presented in the Appendix.

**E4: Production of Project Stationery**

The CASS logo was finalised in December 2004, following design work by Forestry Commission Scotland, and agreement from all project partners. All partners now utilise this logo along with those of LIFE and Natura. Project stationery incorporating these logos has been ordered. (an example is provided in the Appendix)

**E5: Production of a Project Leaflet**

No progress was made during the reporting period but design will be started in July 2005 and it is planned that distribution will commence by the end of 2005.

**E6: Filming and production of a short DVD Video**

A specification for this action has been drafted and a list of potential contractors has been compiled. Collection of footage is planned to start in the late summer of 2005.

**E7: Layman's Report**

No progress was made during the reporting period.

**E8: Produce a slide pack / photo CD**

Partners have been collecting images of locations where actions are planned and a system for storage and filing this image library has been developed by the Project Team. Partners have received regular reminders to ensure that images are collected before, during and after works to allow a record of action and the basis for an image resource to disseminate project results.

**E9: Promotion through appropriate media**

A CASS project Media and Publicity Strategy document was produced and agreed amongst the partners during the reporting period, and is presented in the Appendix.

Table 2 presents the media items that have covered the CASS LIFE project during the reporting period. A selection of these are presented in the Appendix.

**E10: Launch workshop**

A launch workshop was successfully held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2004 at The Birnam Institute, Dunkeld, with representatives from all partners and co-financers invited to attend. Information regarding the overall objectives and management arrangements for the project were presented, led by staff from the beneficiary and drawing on experience from delivery of previous LIFE projects. Attendees were supplied with a pack of guidance and copies of presentations relating to their responsibilities and administrative requirements of participation in a LIFE project. The expenditure relating to this action was less than anticipated and a general feeling from the forum was that holding regular group meetings (annually) to allow partners to maintain a view of the overall project progress, would be a useful way for all to fully engage in the dissemination of results in future years. The report from the launch meeting is presented in the Appendix.

*Table 2. Significant media releases regarding the CASS LIFE project during the reporting period*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Information transfer</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Subject</b>
26 August 2004	TV coverage	BBC television "Reporting Scotland"	Coverage of CASS LIFE launch and interview
October 2004	Magazine article	Trout and salmon magazine	Launch coverage. Full 4 page article listing areas and actions for LIFE project
Winter 04/05	Journal Article	Atlantic salmon Trust Winter Journal	Full article listing areas and actions for LIFE project
22 Feb 2005	Radio interview	Radio Borders	Tweed projects and overall CASS LIFE objectives
23 Feb 2005	Newspaper article	The Scotsman	Project manager established by SNH to lead CASS LIFE project.
24 Feb 2005	Newspaper article	Perth Courier	"£3m goes to improve salmon rivers"
24 Feb 2005	Newspaper article	Press and Journal	"£3m Scottish scheme aims to conserve salmon stocks"
13 March 2005	TV coverage	BBC television programme "Landward" interview	Item on wild salmon conservation and aquaculture.
	website		<a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/3601534.stm">news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/3601534.stm</a>
	website		<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/08/26130658">www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/08/26130658</a>
	website		<a href="http://www.nfucountryside.org.uk/newsruralwildlife-1133.htm">www.nfucountryside.org.uk/newsruralwildlife-1133.htm</a>
	website		<a href="http://www.countrysideonline.co.uk/newsrural-1420.htm">www.countrysideonline.co.uk/newsrural-1420.htm</a>

### **E11: Study Tour to a Comparable Project within Europe**

Slow progress was made during the reporting period as focus was more on internal management procedures and establishment. However, contact has been made with the Loire Salmon LIFE Project and the Project Manager shall be attending the International LIFE-Symposium Riverine Landscapes conference in Austria to better forge links and investigate possibilities to optimise the value of this action. The study tour action is planned to take place in 2006.

While not a stated target, the Project has also established contact with the Danish project "Urgent action for the endangered houting" a species related to salmon, and provided advice and arranged a visit by staff preparing the project bid. It is hoped that if this bid is successful, we will continue to share experience with Danish colleagues.

### **E12: Seminar**

No progress was made during this reporting period.

### **E13: Salmon in the Classroom – schools project**

Three of the seven partners made a start on their programme of engaging with local primary schools during the reporting period and no difficulties have been reported. Actions in the Esk and Tay areas have been co-ordinated by SNH where a dedicated post has been established. The Bladnoch actions (being led by the Galloway Fisheries Trust) were delayed during the reporting period due to changes in school staff, but no changes to the delivery are anticipated.

The other four partners have programmed their actions to begin during the winter of 2005. Training for partners involved in the delivery of the action is planned for the autumn of 2005.



*Figure 5. Left: School children oversee stripping of mature adult salmon at the River Oykel hatchery ((E13Oyk07). Right: Inspecting eggs laid down in hatchery trays at Almondbank hatchery (E13Tay08)*

#### **E14: Interpretation panels**

No progress was made during the reporting period. Action is programmed to take place during late summer with generic designs first being established for the project leaflet 2005.

#### **E15: Liaison between river stakeholders**

No progress was made during the reporting period with partners scheduling dissemination events to begin in autumn 2005.

#### **E16: Develop and disseminate project-specific outputs**

Formal newsletters and reports on the CASS LIFE project have been produced by two partners during the reporting period (Galloway Fisheries Trust newsletter and extract from Spey Fishery Board Annual Report are presented in the Appendix)

In the Oykel catchment during the reporting period, partner staff have been actively engaging with owners and river managers to discuss the LIFE project and its objectives. This has served to maintain links and will facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned from the wider project actions.

### **F actions-Overall project operation and monitoring**

#### **F1: Overall project operation**

##### **Contact Person**

As instructed on 24/02/05 in EC correspondence reference D1/JS/sb D(2005) 3300 we wish to request a change in contact person for the CASS project. The beneficiary contact person for the CASS LIFE project is stated in the application as Sandy

MacLennan. With the recruitment of a project manager and establishment of a project office, we wish the contact details for the project to be:

Colin Bull  
Project manager, CASS LIFE Project  
Clunie Power Station  
Pitlochry  
Perthshire  
PH16 5NF  
Scotland UK

Telephone 00 44 (0)1796 484 120 Fax: 00 44 (0)1796 484 005  
Email: colin.bull@snh.gov.uk

### **Project Team**

While the project commenced in Feb 04, appointment of staff to manage the majority of actions, including appointment of staff could only commence following the formal offer of funding (25/8/04) and acceptance (11/11/04). However, a Project Manager (Dr. Colin Bull) was appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004, as soon as possible after the formal offer of funding but nine months after the project start date. During the reporting period, a project Administrator (Claire Myles) was also appointed. Interviews for the full-time position of Project Officer were held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 and a suitable candidate was subsequently offered the position. The Project Officer position will commence in May 2005.

*Table 3. Dedicated posts associated with the CASS LIFE project during the reporting period*

<b>Job title</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Project Manager	01 November 2004	Full-time
Project Administrator	14 January 2005	0.6 FTE (3 days per week)

### **CASS Office establishment**

The CASS Project office was established in the partner organisation (Scottish & Southern Electric) building at Clunie, Pitlochry in November 2004. Administration and communication systems were operational by December 2004. Office equipment has been purchased to facilitate the work of the Project Team. Unfortunately it has been discovered that the electronic communications capacity of the current office site are limited and there may be a requirement to move location in the near future.

### **Project Steering Group**

The Project Steering group, consisting of representatives for the main project partners and beneficiary have met twice during the reporting period (28 April 2004 and 16 December 2004). Minutes from these meetings are attached in the Appendix

### **Technical Advisory Group**

This specialist group has not met during the reporting period as the main focus of work has been on establishing financial and reporting systems. The technical expertise and advice offered by individual components of this group is available at

any time, but the overall group will be utilised in biannual meetings to commence during the next reporting period.

### **Local Operational Planning Team (LOPT's)**

In order to manage the local delivery of project actions, partners were tasked with establishing LOPTs, drawing on local expertise and engaging regulatory bodies to ensure issues are identified and plan resource use. Project team attendance at LOPT meetings provides a mechanism for local issues to be assessed on a project-wide basis and to be brought to the attention of the project Steering Group where necessary. Two partners established LOPTs during the reporting period, the Galloway Fisheries trust for actions on the River Bladnoch, and the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board for actions on the River Dee. The Bladnoch LOPT met twice and the Dee LOPT three times. An example of minutes from these LOPT meetings are presented in the Appendix. Establishment of LOPT groups in the Spey, Moriston, Oykel, Tay, Esk and Tweed partner areas are well underway, with first meetings scheduled during 2005.

### **Partner Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)**

A document setting out the individual responsibilities of partners and beneficiary and the hierarchy of management control within the CASS project was finalised during the reporting period. Final agreement on the MoA was reached in July and all partners had signed up to the agreement by November 2004 prior to formal acceptance of the funding offer. The CASS MoA document is presented in the Appendix.

### **Operational Plans**

Since the formal offer of funding was not received until 25/8/04, this led to some knock-on delays for partners committing to starting with actions scheduled for 2005, particularly those with a seasonal dependency. However, during the reporting period, planning spreadsheets prepared for each project partner during the Bid preparation, were updated and developed to produce individual, and overall project Operational Plans. These reflect the profiling of expenditure and operational scheduling for partner activities and provide the partners with the information necessary to plan their cash flows. Once collated by the Project Team, regularly updated Operational Plans enable the Project Team to identify variances and risks to project delivery. An extract from a project partner's Operational Plan is presented in the Appendix.

### **Partner Financial Claims procedure**

Following discussion with the Project manager of The New Forest LIFE project (LIFE02NAT/UK/8544), the partner claims management system developed for this project was adapted for use to meet the needs of our similar multiple-partner project. Each project partner was issued with a standard format of financial claim workbook that has been customised for their use. Partners complete these on a quarterly basis and expenditure from the various project contributors calculated automatically. This allows the beneficiary to accurately track overall project expenditure, populate EC financial forms and plan project cash flows.

### **Guidance to Partners**

Guidance briefings have been produced to provide partners with reference material for the protocols being adopted for project management. Drawing on expertise from

within SNH and the wider group of partners, briefings on the following subjects have been distributed by the Project Manager:

- Guidance on the use of Operational Plans
- Guidance for purchase of goods or services\*
- Partner financial claims and progress reporting
- Referencing project documents and filing

\* This Guidance Briefing is provided as an example in the Appendix

The overall management structure for the CASS LIFE project is presented in the Appendix

## **F2: Monitoring of Project Performance**

The project manager has established a management system whereby project performance is regularly monitored via the collation of partner reports. Site visits have been made during this reporting period to all partner areas and the need for project monitoring discussed. Re-scheduling of actions was required in many areas as a result of delays in finalising the project details during the reporting period. Some of the partners did not carry out monitoring during the reporting period as a result of their re-scheduling some restorative actions into 2005. Monitoring actions were delayed to provide baseline data immediately prior to restorative actions.

Baseline data on the status of juvenile salmon populations were collected during the reporting period for 4 of the 7 rivers where this is programmed (Spey, Oykel, Bladnoch and Dee) by electrofishing. This method will also provide monitoring information on salmon spawning success. Baseline data collection will start during 2005 for Tay and Moriston prior to restorative actions.

Baseline habitat surveys were carried out during the reporting period on two of the four rivers (Dee and Bladnoch) with this action finalised to take place for the remaining two (Moriston and Esk) during 2005, prior to restorative actions.

Actions to install fish counters to act as monitors of adult salmon population status were progressed on Spey, Tweed, Oykel and Tay but no purchase or installation occurred during the reporting period. All are programmed to be completed within the duration of the project

A smolt trap was fabricated and established on Spey and one purchased for use on Bladnoch during the reporting period.

## **F3: Networking**

Progress in this area has been slow during the reporting period as the focus has been very much on project establishment and not on networking. However, the project has made links with several related projects and groups both on a national and European scale and efforts will be made to extend this activity during the next reporting period, in conjunction with an increase in actions to report and mechanisms for dissemination.

**F4: Reporting**

A procedure for quarterly progress and financial information to be received from the project partners has been established during the reporting period and has been instrumental in providing this first report to the EC

**Table 4. Progress on the CASS LIFE actions in relation to the agreed targets**

Forecast start	Action Code	Project Code	Action	Target	Progress to March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2005	Status
1-Jun-05	A1 technical site appraisals	Esk01	Fluvial audit	Baseline survey identifying areas for priority action	programmed start out with reporting period but contract let and audit to be completed by August 2005.	On target
1-Jul-05		Esk04	Survey of FWPM prior to bank work	Baseline survey at priority areas identified in fluvial audit	programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-06		FCSBl06	Prepare subcatchment restructuring plan	Improved riparian habitats	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05		FCSDee01	Site Survey	Improved riparian habitats	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05		FCSDee02	Woodland Stand Management planning	Improved riparian habitats	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05		Tay01	Consultant for fluvial survey /sediment audit	Identify and survey key areas for protective management activities	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05		Tay02	Administer fluvial survey	Identify and survey key areas for protective management activities	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-04		A2 Monitoring the impact of project works	BLA06	Electrofishing/habitat monitoring	Establish baseline data on juvenile salmon populations	. achieved 76 % of target

1-Oct-05	A2	BLA07	Data input to databases/analysis of data/ scale reading	Monitor status of adult population with regard to restorative actions	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Feb-04	A2	BLA08	Smolt sampling	Monitor smolt output	2004 smolt run sampled. Rotary screw trap collected and briefly tested in this period. Course attended regarding use and positioning of trap.Achieved 42 % of target	On target
1-Feb-04	A2	BLA09	Tagging materials	Establish baseline data on juvenile salmon populations	Purchase complete	On target
1-Jan-05	A2	BLA10	Purchase of rotary trap for Smolt sampling	Monitor smolt output	Smolt trap and trailer purchased and delivered.	Target achieved.
1-Feb-04	A2	BLA11	Adult salmon scale sampling programme	Monitor status of adult population with regard to restorative actions	Distributed scale packets and guidance notes. Encouraged anglers/beat owners to collect scales. Revisited to encourage collection due to poor response, only 13 sets of scales collected. . achieved 81 % of target	On target.
1-Jan-05	A2	BLA12	Purchase of other equipment e.g. buckets/nets/etc	Equipment to be used in adult salmon scale sampling programme and hatchery work	No progress to date	Some delay due to ban on malachite green and modification foreseen
1-Jan-05	A2	BLA13	Eggbox work (team of	Use survival and hatching of ova as an indicator of water quality	Eggbox construction, site selection and installation into 5 sites in the upper river and 1 control site. .achieved 56 % of target	On target
1-Feb-04	A2	BLA14	Monitoring Work		Mileage recorded for electrofishing, smolt tagging, scale collection and eggbox work.. Achieved 96 % of target	On target
1-Oct-04	A2	Dee01	Survey of juvenile salmon and nursery habitat	Establish a baseline and to identify and prioritise main sites for habitat improvement	Electrofishing carried out on areas where enhancement works proposed, and on nearby control sites. Habitat surveys carried out on Coy and Sheeoch Burns and part of Water of Feugh. achieved 51 % of target	On target

1-Oct-06	A2	Dee02	Monitoring of salmon population.	To assess impact of habitat improvement and connectivity works	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-04	A2	Dee03	Travel for DFSB monitoring staff		Travel for habitat and electrofishing work. achieved 23 % of target	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Esk02	Baseline and monitoring surveys of juvenile salmonids	To establish a baseline and monitor effects of site improvement works	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Esk03	Baseline and monitoring habitat surveys	To establish a baseline and monitor effects of site improvement works	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-07	A2	FCSDee07	Monitor riverbank vegetation habitat creation.	Monitor development of riparian vegetation following habitat work	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	A2	Mor01	Survey management		No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Mor02	Survey fry /parr pre work on Loyne Dam	To establish a baseline prior to site improvement works	Contract arranged	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Mor03	Survey habitat pre work on Loyne Dam	To establish a baseline prior to site improvement works	Contract arranged	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Mor04	Survey data entry and analysis on pre work surveys on Loyne Dam		No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-07	A2	Mor05	Survey fry/parr post work on Loyne Dam	To monitor fry/parr population after site improvement works	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-06	A2	Mor06	Survey habitat post work on Loyne Dam	To monitor fry/parr population after site improvement works	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target

1-Oct-06	A2	Mor07	Survey data and analysis on post work surveys on Loyne Dam		No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-07	A2	Mor08	Consultancy and expert advice for survey work	To establish a baseline prior to site improvement works	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-07	A2	Mor09	Travel for staff for surveys		No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Mor10	Survey Freshwater mussels on Loyne from Cluanie to Ceannacroc	To assess impact of compensation flow on Loyne dam on this species	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	A2	Mor11	Smolt trap to monitor heck improvements	To assess effectiveness of juvenile restocking	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	A2	Mor12	Consultancy and expert advice for smolt trap	To assess effectiveness of juvenile restocking	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-04	A2	Oyk03	Monitor effectiveness of works on natural stocking (juvenile stock) by electro fishing	Monitor juvenile populations	Electrofishing from September 04 to February 05. Mapped summary report produced. achieved 3.5 % of target	On target
1-Apr-06	A2	Oyk12	Duchally power station fish counter purchase and installation	Monitor population	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-04	A2	Oyk14	Monitoring works management - time by Bell Ingram		No progress to date	
1-Apr-05	A2	SPEY02	Alcan Smelters Spey Dam fish counter purchase and installation	Monitor population	Counter purchase arranged but not finalised within reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	A2	SPEY03	Alcan Smelters Spey Dam counter weir	Modify weir to allow installation of counter	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	A2	SPEY04	Alcan Smelters Spey Dam smolt trap purchase and installation	Monitor smolt output	Completed in April 2005	target achieved

1-Apr-06	A2	SPEY06	SSE Truim Fish counter purchase and installation	Monitor population	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	A2	SPEY15	Mortlach Distillery Weir No.1 (Pittyvaich) fish counter purchase and installation	Monitor population	Counter purchase arranged but not finalised within reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	SPEY29	Spey Dam, Truim & Mortlach Distillery Fish Counters purchase and installation.	Monitor population	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	SPEY30	Spey Dam, Truim & Mortlach Distillery travel for Fish Counters - installation, running by SFB		No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-04	A2	SPEY31	Juvenile survey monitoring by SFB	Survey work to determine improvements in use of available habitat following work to improve fish passes	32 sites surveyed in August and September 2004. achieved 35 % of target	On target
1-Jul-04	A2	SPEY32	Travel for Juvenile survey monitoring		32 sites surveyed in August and September,. Achieved 65 % of target	On target
1-Jul-05	A2	Tay09	Monitoring effectiveness of SSE fish pass work	Electric fishing of juvenile populations	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-06	A2	Tay11	Counter for Stronuich Dam Pass	Purchase and installation	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	A2	Tw01	Purchase a VAKI fish counter for GW and independent camera monitoring	Monitor adult population	Counter purchase arranged but not finalised within reporting period	On target

1-Apr-05	A2	Tw02	Building works for installation of GW fish counter including electric and telephone links	Monitor adult population	Works arranged for start summer 2005	On target
1-Apr-05	A2	Tw03	Clerk of works for building and installation plus security monitoring of work site	Monitor adult population	Works arranged for start summer 2005	On target
1-Apr-05	A2	Tw04	Create and install a fish trap on GW in conjunction with VAKI fish counter	Monitor adult population	Revised in light of new information on electronic fish counter capability. Trapping of fish to obtain stock information is now not necessary at this site.	Modified as a result of improved counter technology. Target will be delivered but no trap required
1-Oct-06	B1 Purchase of salmon netting rights	BLA20	99 year lease of netting rights/legal fees	Purchase of lease	Bladnoch DSFB currently raising funds for this action due in 2006	On target
1-Jan-05	B1	Oyk02	Purchase of netting station and rights.	Reduce exploitation of adult population	Agreement has been reached with 3 netting station owners for title and purchase price. achieved 50 % of target	On target
1-Apr-04	B1	Oyk10	site works management -	Management of netting station purchase	No progress to date	
1-Jul-05	B2 Management Agreements with landowners for controlled grazing of riverbanks	Dee04	Land set aside management agreement following fencing	Management agreement for land used for fencing to remove grazing pressure on riverbanks	Natural Care Scheme established by beneficiary to enable payment to farmers for land used for CASS project over extended period	On target
1-Jul-07	C1 Restoring	Dee19	Remove Weir on Beltie	To allow fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with	On target

	connectivity of salmon habitat			upstream	reporting period	
1-Jul-07	C1	Dee20	Fish pass on Coy	To allow fish passage upstream	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-06	C1	Dee21	Fish pass on Dye	To allow fish passage upstream	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C1	Dee22	Remove weir on Cattie	To allow fish passage upstream	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-07	C1	Dee23	No 2 Fish pass on Dye	To allow fish passage upstream	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	C1	Dee24	Consultancy design fees on fish passes	To allow fish passage upstream	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	C1	Mor19	Compensation valve on Loyne	To increase flow to recover suitable nursery habitat	Delayed until April 2006 but no operational consequences to other projects	Still On target
1-Jul-06	C1	Mor20	Repair/replace heck at Ceannacroc	To improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-04	C1	Oyk11	Duchally Power station screens	Reduce juvenile mortality	completed	target achieved
1-Apr-04	C1	Oyk13	Duchally fish pass and controller	Improve fish passage	completed	target achieved
1-Apr-05	C1	SPEY01	Alcan Smelters Spey Dam fish pass	Improve fish passage	Work planned for summer 2005	On target
1-Jan-05	C1	SPEY05	SSE Truim Screens	Reduce juvenile mortality	New screens installed in March 2005. completed	target achieved
1-Jul-05	C1	SPEY07	SSE Truim broach weir and disposal of concrete	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C1	SPEY08	SSE Tromie smolt curtain	Reduce juvenile mortality	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	C1	SPEY09	Milton Burn road culvert under A9, Aviemore	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	C1	SPEY10	Batten Burn bridge apron under A9, Carrbridge	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target

1-Jul-07	C1	SPEY11	Batten Burn bridge apron under railway, Carrbridge	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	C1	SPEY12	Rothiemurcus Fish Farm smolt screen upgrading	Reduce juvenile mortality	New screens installed in April 2005. Completed	target achieved
1-Jan-05	C1	SPEY13	Ballintomb Burn culvert bridge on public footpath	Improve fish passage	Four tenders sent out and all came back over budget. Cheapest contractor was approached with a new design but tender still came in over budget. Contract will be put out to tender along with Spey14,17 and 19 to reduce price further .	Delayed but still on target
1-Apr-05	C1	SPEY14	Mortlach Distillery Weir No.1 (Pittyvaich) fish pass	Improve fish passage	Work agreed and scheduled to take place during summer 2005	On target
1-Apr-05	C1	SPEY16	Mortlach Distillery Weir No.1 (Pittyvaich) design	Improve fish passage	completed	target achieved
1-Apr-05	C1	SPEY17	Mortlach Distillery Weir No.2 (Dullan Water) dependent upon Weir No. 1 being made passable	Improve fish passage	Work agreed and scheduled to take place during summer 2005	On target
1-Apr-05	C1	SPEY18	Mortlach Distillery Weir No.2 (Dullan Water) design	Improve fish passage	completed	target achieved
1-Jul-05	C1	SPEY19	Crown Estate ford and culvert, Fochabers Burn	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C1	SPEY20	Moray Council culvert, Fochabers Burn (dependent upon ford and culvert being made passable)	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Feb-04	C1	SPEY36	Project management by SFB	Delivery of projects	Project management time, including action group meetings and site meetings. Achieved 3 % of target	On target
1-Feb-04	C1	SPEY37	Project management	Delivery of projects	Travel for project management.	On target

			travel		Achieved 8% of target	
1-Jan-05	C1	SPEY38	Project management legal fees	Delivery of projects	Crudens contracted to manage engineering projects	On-target
1-Oct-05	C1	Tay10	Improve Stronuch Dam Salmon Pass	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C1	Tay12	Modify Lochay (Tay) ball and lift fish pass	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C1	Tay13	fish passes on natural obstacles in Lochay (Tay)	Improve fish passage	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	C1	Tay14	Modify Gaur fish pass (Tummel)	Improve fish passage	Target achieved	target achieved
1-Oct-05	C2 Instream work to improve salmon habitat	BLA01	Suitable Instream Habitat Restored	Increase spawning area and improve habitat requirements for different life stages	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	C2	BLA05	Staff travel for habitat work	Restoration of juvenile habitat	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	C2	Dee12	Instream work	Restoration of juvenile habitat	Slight delay as a result of planning application but scheduled to take place during summer 2005	On target
1-Oct-05	C2	Dee15	Site works supervision	Delivery of projects	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	C2	FCSDee06	Remove large size debris in March burn	Improve habitat for different salmon life stages	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	C3 fencing and controlled grazing of stream sides	BLA03	Controlled grazing over 5000 meters /ha of riverbank	To prevent grazing of riverbank and allow development of semi-natural riparian zone	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	C3	Dee05	Fencing of 20 hectares of streamside habitat	To prevent grazing of riverbank and allow development of semi-	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for fencing large area of Beltie Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	On target

				natural riparian zone		
1-Oct-05	C3	Dee06	Gates for fencing	To prevent grazing of riverbank and allow development of semi-natural riparian zone	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for fencing large area of Beltie Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	On target
1-Oct-05	C3	Dee07	Water gates	To prevent grazing of riverbank and allow development of semi-natural riparian zone	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for fencing large area of Beltie Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	On target
1-Oct-05	C3	Dee08	Waterings / fords associated with fencing	To prevent grazing of riverbank and allow development of semi-natural riparian zone	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for fencing large area of Beltie Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	On target
1-Oct-05	C3	Dee13	Site works supervision	Delivery of projects	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for fencing large area of Beltie Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	On target
1-Oct-05	C3	Esk07	Fencing of streambanks to control grazing plus gates, water access etc	To prevent grazing of riverbank and allow development of semi-natural riparian zone	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C4 Stabilisation of river banks	BLA04	Eroded bank stabilised along 500 meters of riverbank	To decrease sediment load of water	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C4	Esk05	Stabilise and reseed eroded areas of river bank	To decrease sediment load of water	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	C4	Esk06	Stabilise and reseed eroded areas of river bank (rabbit control)	To decrease sediment load of water	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	C5 Installation of silt traps and blocking of drains	Dee09	Silt traps	To decrease sediment load of water	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for installing silt traps on Beltie Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	On target
1-Oct-05	C5	Dee10	Silt trap maintenance	To decrease sediment load of	Significant progress by Dee DSFB with contract for installing silt traps on Beltie	On target

				water	Water scheduled for tendering in July 2005	
1-Oct-04	C5	Dee14	Site works supervision	Delivery of projects	Writing method statements and mapping locations for silt traps. achieved 4 % of target	On target
1-Oct-05	C6 Management of riparian woodland	BLA02	Riparian Habitat Management	Reduce acidity of water	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	C6	Dee11	Riverbank coppice of alders	Improve instream conditions for salmon and increase instream biodiversity	Coppicing of alders on Sheeoch burn around Blairydrine bridge. .Achieved 12 % of target	slow progress but target will be met.
1-Jan-06	C6	Esk08	Encourage regeneration of native trees by planting on riverbanks	Improve instream conditions for salmon and increase instream biodiversity	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	C6	FCSBla01	Premature harvest of conifers - revert to open space/ broadleaves	Improve instream conditions for salmon and increase instream biodiversity	Contract specification finalised and tender process under way	On target
1-Apr-05	C6	FCSBla02	Fell and extract conifers	Improve instream conditions for salmon	Contract specification finalised and tender process under way	On target
1-Apr-05	C6	FCSBla03	Chemically kill conifers	Improve instream conditions for salmon	Contract specification finalised and tender process under way	On target
1-Apr-05	C6	FCSBla04	Fell to waste conifers	Improve instream conditions for salmon	Contract specification finalised and tender process under way	On target
1-Apr-06	C6	FCSBla05	Brash Polbae bank and tributary	Improve instream conditions for salmon	Contract specification finalised and tender process under way	On target
1-Jan-06	C6	FCSDee03	Restocking of felled areas with native broadleaves.	Improve instream conditions for salmon and increase instream biodiversity	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target

1-Jul-05	C6	FCSDee04	Vegetation control (bracken spraying).	Improve instream conditions for salmon	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C6	FCSDee05	Respacing of Birch regen and removal of Spruce regen and alder coppicing(minor).	Improve instream conditions for salmon	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	C6	FCSSpey01	Fell to waste introduced conifers on Allt Gheallaidh	Improve instream conditions for salmon	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-06	C8 Code of practice established for gravel extraction on the Tay and best practice guidance developed for small-scale extraction and dredging in Scottish salmon rivers	Tay03	Collect/ Exchange information with Tay river stakeholders and gravel extractors and produce Code of Practice	Prevent potential loss of juvenile habitat through using best code of practise for gravel extractors	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-07	C8	Tay06	Produce pan Scotland best practice guide on gravel extraction and dredging in salmon rivers	Prevent potential loss of juvenile habitat through using best code of practise for gravel extractors	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	D1 Restocking re-connected or improved areas of juvenile habitat with	BLA15	Hatchery building / pipework / equipment	Purchase of equipment to propagate stock for restocking re-connected or improved areas	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target

	hatchery-reared local salmon					
1-Jul-05	D1	BLA16	Professional fees for hatchery lease	To provide hatchery space to propagate stock	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-04	D1	BLA17	Kelt reconditioning and hatchery work	Stock propagation and kelt reconditioning work to increase spawning potential of spent adults	Collection of broodstock from fish traps and anglers, daily checking of broodstock, stripping fish and hatchery maintenance. 84700 eggs collected. No progress on kelt reconditioning due to malachite green ban. Achieved 51 % of target	<b>Modification foreseen</b>
1-Jul-04	D1	BLA18	Hatchery consumables	For stock propagation work	Hatchery food delivered	On target
1-Jul-04	D1	BLA19	Travel for hatchery and restock	For stock propagation work	Mileage for broodstock collection, daily checking of broodstock, fish stripping and hatchery maintenance Achieved 42 % of target	On target
1-Jul-05	D1	Mor13	Restocking Management	Restocking of habitat improved by compensation flow on Loyne dam	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-06	D1	Mor14	Restocking ExAss and consumables	For stock propagation work	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	D1	Mor15	Restocking labour costs (see detailed breakdown)	For stock propagation work	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	D1	Mor16	Hatchery equipment (tanks lights etc.)	For stock propagation work	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Feb-04	D1	SPEY33	Seeding juvenile salmon above obstacles by SFB	To 'kick-start' juvenile salmon production in newly re-connected or improved areas	Seeding 531,500 ova/juveniles in Feb-Aug 2004. Achieved 14 % of target	On target
1-Feb-04	D1	SPEY34	Seeding juvenile salmon above obstacles consumables	To 'kick-start' juvenile salmon production in newly re-connected or improved areas	Costs represent 42 % of total Sandbank hatchery consumables (i.e., 531,500 of total 1.269 million ova/juveniles held). Achieved 8 % of target	On target

1-Feb-04	D1	SPEY35	Seeding juvenile salmon above obstacles travel		Mileage for seeding 531,500 ova/juveniles in Feb, May-Aug. achieved 49 % of target	On target
1-Oct-04	E1	PUB01	Information Boards	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	Delayed but ASFB commitment to progress this during 2005	
1-Jul-04	E10	PUB10	Launch Workshop	Enable project partners and stakeholders to understand project and roles within it	Workshop took place 26/08/04. Workshop report produced	target achieved
1-Jul-05	E11	PUB11	Study Tour	To disseminate information about project and learn from other LIFE projects	Contact established with Loire Salmon LIFE project in France with aim of attending future conference to establish further links	On target
1-Apr-08	E12	PUB12	Final Seminar	Present project work and conclusions and possible future development	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	E13	BLA22	Salmon in the Classroom (3 schools)	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	No progress. Will begin after summer.	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jan-06	E13	Dee18	School visits (5 schools)	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-07	E13	Esk09	Salmon in the classroom	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	4 schools visited in 2004 target achieved	On target
1-Jan-06	E13	Mor18	Salmon in schools (4 schools)	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-06	E13	Oyk07	Educational events with 4 local primary schools.	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1- Jun-04	E13	Pub13	Salmon in the Classroom Website	Encourage interest in salmon conservation	Still in development	

				in school children		
1-Jul-05	E13	Pub14	Salmon in the Classroom training	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	E13	SPEY26	Salmon Go to School SFB staff time	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	Delayed – start programme in autumn 2005	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jan-05	E13	SPEY27	Salmon Go To School SFB mileage	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	Delayed – start programme in autumn 2005	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jan-05	E13	SPEY28	Salmon Go To School (10 school visits total)	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	Delayed – start programme in autumn 2005	Delayed but target achievable
1-Oct-05	E13	Tay08	Salmon in the Classroom (4 Schools/yr)	Encourage interest in salmon conservation in school children	4 schools visited in 2004	On target
1-Oct-06	E14	BLA25	Write / design Interpretation boards	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-07	E14	BLA26	Produce/fix interpretation boards	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-07	E14	Esk11	Interpretation boards	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-06	E14	FCSDee08	LIFE funded' sign	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target

1-Jul-06	E14	FCSDee09	Interpretation panel on Culsten	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	E14	Mor17	Interpretation panels	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-05	E14	Oyk06	On site interpretive panels	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	E14	PUB15	generic design for Interpretation panels	Make sure all interpretation boards have same background design	Delayed – design will be undertaken during summer 2005	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jan-06	E14	SPEY25	Interpretation boards	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	E14	Tw05	Interpretation panel for fish counter on GW	To disseminate project information to public at strategic locations on SAC rivers	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	E15	Dee16	Demonstration day for river stakeholders	Events to present LIFE work to stakeholders to ensure support for project	Delayed – DeeDSFB commitment to hold this within next 12 months	Delayed but target achievable
1-Apr-07	E15	Esk10	Demonstration day for river stakeholders	Events to present LIFE work to stakeholders to ensure support for	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target

				project		
1-Jul-05	E15	FCSDee10	Contribute to DDSFB demonstration day	Events to present LIFE work to stakeholders to ensure support for project	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	E15	Oyk08	Demonstration /awareness raising events with river stakeholders	Events to present LIFE work to stakeholders to ensure support for project	4 events held. Achieved 10 % of target	On target
1-Apr-04	E15	Oyk09	Stakeholder liaison and coordination		Delayed – KoSDSFB commitment to address this action during next 12 months	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jul-07	E15	SPEY21	River interests' demonstration days	Events to present LIFE work to stakeholders to ensure support for project	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-07	E15	SPEY22	Demonstration day mileage	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	E16	BLA27	costs associated with dissemination material e.g. printing leaflets	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Newsletter was written and printed late March.	On target
1-Jan-05	E16	BLA28	Distribution of dissemination material (includes web work/article and presentation writing)	Dissemination of project information locally	Newsletter will be distributed in mid-April 2005	On target
1-Jan-05	E16	BLA29	Travel for E actions	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Delayed – GFT commitment to address this within next 12 months	Delayed but target achievable
1-Apr-05	E16	Dee17	Update DSFIA website	Dissemination of project information	Delayed – DeeDSFB commitment to address this within next 12 months	Delayed but target achievable

1-Apr-04	E16	Oyk01	Awareness raising re fly only and catch and release introductions - newsletter and publication outputs	Dissemination of information on conservation measures to local stakeholders	Delayed – KoSDSFB commitment to address this within next 12 months	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jan-06	E16	PUB16	Case study development	To disseminate detailed information on 5 specific projects to other LIFE projects	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-05	E16	SPEY23	SFB Monthly Briefing	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-06	E16	SPEY24	Display boards and stand	Use to display project information at local and national events	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jul-06	E16	Tay04	Print and distribute Code of Practice for gravel extraction on Tay	Code of practise guide for gravel extraction for Tay stakeholders	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-06	E16	Tay05	Workshop for Code of Practice with landowners gillies and anglers on Tay	Workshop to raise awareness of code of practise for gravel extraction with Tay stakeholders	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Oct-07	E16	Tay07	Print and distribute best practice guide on gravel extraction and dredging in salmon rivers	General Code of practise guide on gravel extraction for river stakeholders	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Apr-05	E2	PUB02	Project website	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Delayed. Project manager will address this and website will be delivered by end 2005	Delayed but target achievable
1-Apr-05	E3	PUB03	Project newsletter	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Draft newsletter produced. Final copy will be produced mid-May	On target
1-Jan-05	E4	PUB04	Project stationary	To formally identify the project	Stationary on order	On target
1-Apr-05	E5	PUB05	Project leaflet	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Delayed. Project manager will address this and leaflet will be delivered by end 2005	Delayed but target achievable
1-Jul-06	E6	PUB06	DVD Video	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Draft specification written	On target

1-Jan-08	E7	PUB07	Layman's report	Paper and electronic project report which can be informally evaluated by the wider public	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-08	E8	PUB08	Slide packs / Photo CD	Image library on slides or photo CD	Partners are collecting and Project Team are archiving photos	On target
1-Jul-04	E9	PUB09	Media work	To disseminate the outputs of the projects	Media and publicity strategy document produced. Various media reports released/recorded	On target
1-Nov-04	F1	MAN01	Project manager - overall management	To deliver the outputs from the project	Project manager in post from 01 Nov 04 Achieved 17 % of target	On target
15-May-05	F1	MAN02	Project officer - overall management	To deliver the outputs from the project	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Jan-05	F1	MAN04	Project administrator	To deliver the outputs from the project	Project administrator in post from January 05 as only one day per week Achieved 0.9 % of target	On target
1-Apr-04	F1	MAN05	Project staff general travel costs	To deliver the outputs from the project	.Achieved 3 % of target	On target
1-Apr-04	F1	MAN06	Legal services	To deliver the outputs from the project	All requirements met	On target
1-Apr-04	F1	MAN07	Project accountancy services	To deliver the outputs from the project	all requirements met	On target
1-Feb-04	F1	MAN08	Project steering group meetings	To oversee the management of the project	Staff time for steering group meeting in Perth, April and December 2004	On target
1-Feb-04	F1	Man09	Project steering group travel	To oversee the management of the project	Staff hours to travel to steering group meeting in Perth, April and December 2004	On target
1-Apr-04	F1	Man10	Technical advisory group meetings	To address technical issues and provide expert advice to the project	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Feb-04	F1	Man11	Technical advisory group travel	To address technical issues and provide expert advice to the	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target

				project		
1-Apr-04	F1	MAN12	ASFB staff management and support	To assist project delivery	.Achieved 2 % of target	On target
1-Nov-04	F1	MAN13	Office overheads	To deliver the outputs from the project	all requirements met	On target
1-Nov-04	F1	MAN14	Office durables	To deliver the outputs from the project	Computers and office equipment purchased Achieved 93 % of target	On target
1-Nov-04	F1	MAN15	office consumables	To deliver the outputs from the project	Office consumables purchased Achieved 11 % of target	On target
1-Jan-05	F1	Man16	Oykel / Cassley LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Jan-05	F1	Man17	Moriston / Ness LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Jul-04	F1	Man18	Spey LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Jul-04	F1	Man19	Dee LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	3 meetings achieved	On target
1-Jan-05	F1	Man20	South Esk LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Jul-04	F1	Man21	Tay LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Feb-04	F1	Man24	Bladnoch LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	Staff time. Held 2 LOPT, one in November 2004, one in January 2005	On target
1-Jul-04	F1	Man24	Tweed LOPT	Local management and delivery of the projects	No progress to date but planned to start in 2005	On target
1-Nov-04	F2	MAN26	Project manager monitoring actions	To monitor progress of project	No progress	On target

15-May-05	F2	MAN27	Project officer monitoring actions	To monitor progress of project	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Nov-04	F2	MAN29	Staff travel costs for monitoring actions	To monitor progress of project	No progress	On target
1-Nov-04	F3	MAN30	Project manager - networking	To increase the value of project work and disseminate to a wider audience	Presentations made at SFCC AGM, ASFB AGM and attended Scottish Freshwaters Group meeting .Achieved 3 % of target	On target
15-May-05	F3	MAN31	project officer - networking	To deliver the outputs from the project	No progress – programmed start out with reporting period	On target
1-Nov-04	F3	MAN33	Staff travel costs - networking	To increase the value of project work and disseminate to a wider audience	No progress	On target
1-Nov-04	F4	MAN34	project manager - reporting actions	To report on project delivery to the EC	No progress	On target

## **4. Financial Summary**

The financial procedures for partners to make claims and report expenditure were only finalised during the last quarter of the reporting period. As a result, although site specific work has commenced on a number of actions, claims for LIFE co-financing have yet to be submitted by partners to SNH. Similarly, partner staff time contributed to progressing the actions detailed in previous sections and recorded on time-sheets is not included.

The expenditure to date in the following table details that of the beneficiary in establishing a project team and office, and for staff time to progress local and project-wide actions. We are still awaiting a formal letter from HM Customs and Excise detailing the VAT status of the beneficiary for the purposes of this project, but include a letter in the Appendix on this occasion to explain the position with regard to VAT eligibility. The bank interest accrued to date on the Commission's first contribution to the project is also shown.

The Interim Report and Financial Statement will include all of the costs and contributions to present an accurate picture of expenditure.







## **5. Milestones and Deliverables**

No recognised milestones were due for delivery during this first reporting period. Progress on the deliverables due is presented in Table 5.

***Table 5. Summary of progress on the recognised deliverables due during the reporting period***

<b>Number of reference Action</b>	<b>Deliverable product</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Completed? On Time?</b>
E9	media releases	Ongoing	YES ONGOING
E13	Salmon in the Classroom website	Delivered by October 2004	NO - DELAYED UNTIL OCT 2005
E5	Project leaflet	Designed by November 2004	NO - DELAYED UNTIL NOV 2005
E16	Awareness raising re fly only and catch and release introductions on Oykel - newsletter and publications delivered	Delivered by November 2004 then annually	NO - DELAYED UNTIL NOV 2005
E10	Launch Workshop report	Delivered by January 2005	YES ON TIME
E2	Project website designed	Delivered by February 2005	NO DELAYED UNTIL DEC 2005
E14	Spey Fishery Board newsletter	Delivered by February 2005	YES SLIGHT DELAY
E3	Project newsletter delivered	Delivered by March 2005 then annually	YES SLIGHT DELAY DELIVERED IN MAY 05

