



About Lochaber Fisheries Trust

At Lochaber Fisheries Trust we work with river owners, managers, anglers and government agencies to ensure that Lochaber's freshwaters are protected and managed sustainably. Our aim is to preserve and restore the region's aquatic environments and ensure that our fish populations persist for many generations to come. Our work covers the following areas; monitoring & research, habitat restoration, fishery management, education, bio-security, interactions with Aquaculture and consultancy.



Lochaber is one of the UK's most stunning and dramatic landscapes and offers anglers a wide choice of fishing from the 'Queen of Scottish salmon rivers' in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain to the icy waters of the country's deepest loch for trout. Lochaber is unique, for fishing with a sense of the untouched and

the wild, Lochaber rewards anglers with superb game, coarse and sea fishing against a backdrop of the most magnificent scenery. Fishing in Lochaber is available to suit every budget, from £7 per day for trout fishing to around £100 for a day's salmon fishing.

- For salmon fishing the River Lochy is unrivalled on the West Coast of Scotland.
- The rivers Aline, Inverie, Nevis and Strontian also offer outstanding salmon and sea trout fishing.
- Lochs Arkaig and Morar are ideal for ferox and brownies.
- Lochs Arienas, Doilet and Dubh-Lochan have plentiful trout.
- Loch Arkaig and the River Lochy are perfect for pike anglers.
- The coastline of Lochaber is ideal for sea angling.

Established in 1996, the Trust is dedicated to improving and raising awareness of fish populations and freshwater habitats in Lochaber. It is a charity funded by grants, trusts, donations and membership fees with an annual turnover of £150K. The work of the Trust is carried out by 2 full-time staff and supported by a small number of volunteers and in 2012/2013, we were instrumental in the following research and educational projects:

- Carried out an essential project to monitor lice on sea trout at several sites throughout the region. The data has now been published & forms part of our evidence to planning authorities.
- Supplied vital samples for a genetic analysis undertaken by RAFTS, which found 25% of the salmon parr sampled from rivers on the west coast appeared to have some Norwegian salmon genes.
- Managed an ambitious project to eradicate a population of American signal crayfish from a pond in Ballachulish. The biocide treatment went well and it will take several years of follow up monitoring to determine whether they have been eradicated.
- Initiated an innovative project to recruit volunteer mink trappers across the region.
- Managed several treatments of Japanese knotweed on many of our river catchments.
- Managed our thriving education programme having built up excellent relationships with local primary schools including our “Salmon in the Classroom” project.
- Managed a dynamic high school project looking at the impact of small hydro electric schemes.
- Worked with the Kinlochleven Community Trust and local schools to create a sculpture and interpretation trail along the River Leven. The trail follows the salmon lifecycle and role the river has played in village life.

Topics we can comment on:

- Fishing in Lochaber
- Fishery Management in Scotland
- Aquaculture
- Non-native species (including crayfish eradication)
- Aquatic species in Scotland
- Outdoor education
- Environmental impacts of hydro-electric schemes

Press Contact information:

In the first instance, media enquiries should be directed to:

Name Diane Baum

Lochaber Fisheries Trust, Torlundy Training Centre, Torlundy, Fort William PH33 6SW

Telephone: +44 (0)1397 703728 | Email: info@lochaberfish.org.uk | +44 (0)7795 253278

Lochaber Fisheries Trust Media Spokespersons:



Diane Baum, Biologist Diane has been at the Trust since April 2008, she holds a PhD from the University of Glasgow where she researched maturation and growth rates in salmon parr across the country. Much of her PhD fieldwork was done in collaboration with Fisheries Trust biologists and the Fisheries Research Service, giving her an insight into fisheries management and research structures in Scotland. Diane also worked for Scottish Natural Heritage in Sutherland. Diane is an experienced fish surveyor and a qualified electro-fishing team leader and she co-ordinates the Trust's research and monitoring work.



Lucy Ballantyne, Biologist Lucy joined the Lochaber Fisheries Trust in September 2007 having previously worked as an aerial surveyor for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Lucy studied marine biology at university and she leads the Trust's education projects. Lucy is also involved in fundraising, the extensive fieldwork programme and GIS work.



Viv de Fresnes, Chairman Viv has been fishing since childhood, and has a keen interest in fisheries. He is Superintendent of the Morar catchment. He has a very wide range of experience in fisheries management, including running a hatchery and stocking programme, supervising smolt trapping and fish counter projects, electro-fishing and habitat surveys and fisheries protection. Viv has been at Morar for 18 years, and knows the area intimately.

Online Resources

- Website www.lochaberfish.org
- Twitter @lochaberfish
- On facebook

Other Resources

- Selection of photographs available in dropbox, please email for access.
- Crayfish Eradication Report