

# Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre

1. Develop sampling protocols
2. Co-ordinate data storage
3. Facilitate data sharing
4. Provide training courses
5. Promote discussion
6. Facilitate cross-Scotland projects



## Key Dates

<b>26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b><u>SFCC Introductory Electrofishing Course, Inverness College</u></b>
<b>September 2013</b>	<b>Trial Electrofishing refresher course</b>
<b>Autumn 2013</b>	<b>GIS Level I &amp; II course Database design course</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>SFCC Committee meetings</b>

## A note from the SFCC chairman

Three busy months have passed now since the new SFCC manager, Sean Dugan, took up post. A fair amount of Sean's time has been devoted to C.P.D and getting familiar with the job, but this has also included important engagement with the membership either by phone or by a face to face visit. Communication is an important component of engagement, so along with an annual report, we will now provide this e-bulletin on a regular basis to keep members up-to-speed with the working activities of the SFCC.

The draft minutes of the last committee meeting are now online ([www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/sfcc](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/sfcc)) and as you will see, there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes regarding training course provision, maintenance of the electro-fishing database and the development of new initiatives. Of particular note is the provision of a refresher course for electro-fishing for 2014, which is essential to maintaining standards and safe electro-fishing in Scotland. A template for how this will operate will be presented to members at the next Biologists' meeting in January 2014.

In the meantime, enjoy a productive field work season with dry weather ... for the time being!



**SFCC TV** is a new initiative to provide a simple means of sharing expertise in the form of short, succinct video tutorials to members.

With many videos in the pipeline, it is hoped that SFCC TV will become a valued and easily accessible resource for members.



**SFCC habitat course delivered by Alan Kettle-White (Argyll Fisheries Trust). The SFCC are now revising and updating the protocol to meet requests for a more streamlined walkover habitat assessment method.**



**Qualified electrofishers after the excellent Team Leader course run by Jackie Graham & Jamie Ribbens from Galloway Fisheries Trust**

## Manager's report

Having started in April, I can barely believe that 3 months have passed. I have been fortunate to meet in person or by phone, the majority of SFCC member biologists and several additional Trust staff. Thank you all for welcoming me and assisting in my settling in and getting up to speed with the workings of the SFCC. Thank you also to the staff here at the Freshwater Laboratory for providing facilities and continued support.

C.P.D formed a major part of my activities to date, with attendance on several courses including GIS, electrofishing and habitat surveying. The SFCC management committee is currently reviewing how we may improve our training course provision structure and attendance on these courses provided me with valuable information from members to feed back to committee. In addition, the provision of SFCC GIS and database training courses is in progress with dates planned for Autumn 2013 after the summer field-working season.

Launching the [SFCCTV online video](#) tutorial resource has been successful, and we hope that it can be developed with input from member Trusts to provide an accessible and informative resource.



**Fish autopsy course delivered with thanks to Paul McKay from Marine Scotland, and Sandra Schlittenhardt from Stirling University.**

Website development is the current priority, with the vision that our new site will provide a valuable resource for members, while facilitating collaboration on projects such as an online mapping portal.

## Collaboration with The Rivers Trust



The SFCC electrofishing database is currently being trialed by The Tyne River's Trust and The Wear Rivers Trust South of the border. Given the joint interests in data collection and storage between the River's Trust and The SFCC, we are hoping to strengthen these links through other such collaborative projects.