

River Ythan Trust Biosecurity Plan – SNH comments

Many thanks for sending the draft River Ythan fisheries trusts biosecurity plan, for our comments. I've discussed with Gillian Forbes, in our Tayside and Grampian area, and we think the draft plan is looking good. Just a few comments, some of which we made in our previous comments in Autumn last year:

There are several actions related to production of leaflets. We'd encourage the use of the internet for publicising and making leaflets available, which could reduce the quantity of paper copies that might be required. Also, there is an action entitled, 'Produce leaflet on legislation including waste management & planning regulations' included as a local action. There is already a considerable amount of information available on this topic, and rather than producing new leaflets, I wonder whether it would be better to include a piece on the biosecurity website that summarises the issues, and includes links to guidance. This would avoid duplication of existing material, and would remove an action that is currently proposed as a local initiative in each plan.

I think it needs to be clear that the inclusion of an organisation as a 'lead', or a 'partner' in the table on page iii and page 24 does not mean that they are necessarily a funder, but that the role could be as an advisor. It may be that SNH would have some funds available, but this is certainly not guaranteed. Although Operations staff will make every effort to advise and support biosecurity work, please note that there are considerable demands on our time and resources. A similar comment would apply to the actions related to the provision of training. SNH has provided, and contributed to, numerous training initiatives, but it should be noted that our resources are not guaranteed.

Following on from this point, I anticipate that our input to many of the actions for which it has been identified would be carried out as part of existing work. For example, as operations staff we would be unlikely to be able to allocate additional time to deliver actions such as 'Engage with Landowners and angling clubs to promote awareness measures to tenants, resource –users, members, Forvie NNR and visitors'. In these cases, the local staff input would likely have to be limited to passing on information to such groups in the course of routine involvement with them, and as opportunities arise.