

## **RIVER CREE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

### **THE REPORT OF THE BOARD TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS AND ALSO AT THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD ON THE 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

This report covers the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

#### **PART ONE**

This part of the report summarises what the Board have done in carrying out their statutory functions during the period and what the Board propose to do in carrying out those functions in the year ahead.

The primary duties of the Board are the protection or improvement of the fisheries within their district, the increase of salmon and the stocking of the waters of the district with salmon – Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003, section 45(1). To assist it in fulfilling those duties the Board has the benefit of the services of two fisheries trusts, Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) and The River Cree Hatchery and Habitat Trust (RCHHT). There are attached as appendices to this report, summaries prepared by those trusts of their activities during the period and their proposals for the coming year.

In addition to the activities of the two trusts mentioned above, the Board has dealt with other matters during the period. To some extent, the activities of the Board appear from an examination of the minutes of all its meetings, which can be viewed on the Board's website – **[rivercreedistrictsalmonfisheryboard.com](http://rivercreedistrictsalmonfisheryboard.com)**. The following is a brief summary.

During the period covered by this report the Board held four ordinary meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025). The AMP and APM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The minutes from these meetings are available on the Boards website

The **Conservation Code** for the District remained largely unchanged for the 2025 season, as the Cree retained its “grade 1” status under the **Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment Regulations**, meaning that salmon again could be taken during the 2025 season. The Code appears on the Board's website. All river proprietors on the Cree have agreed to abide by the Conservation Code.

The Proposed Conservation status indicates the River Cree will retain its “Grade 1” status. The Cree will be the only river on the Solway and in SW Scotland to achieve “Grade 1” status.

This achievement is recognition of all the hard work that Murdo Crosbie and his team of volunteers put into the Cree. I would like to publicly thank Murdo for all his efforts.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 SNH granted the Chairman a licence to shoot **fish eating birds** as an aid to scaring them. The licence period was from the 10th January 2025 to the 30th April 2025 (and up to the 31st May for male goosander only) and permitted a maximum of 7 goosander and 3 cormorants to be killed. The agents appointed by the Chairman shot 7 goosander and 3 cormorants under licence, scaring was also used to deter birds from settling in known smolt “pinch spots”.

**The River Cree Management Plan** sets out how the Board aims to achieve its objective of protecting and enhancing stocks of migratory fish within the District. The plan was reviewed and agreed by the Board in February 2025. The current plan (dated February 12<sup>th</sup> 2025) can be seen on the Board’s website. It will be subject to further review from time to time.

Generally, in the year ahead the Board intends to continue to support the two Trusts in the work they do for the Board and continue to manage the waters of the District in accordance with the River Management Plan.

The Board believes that the current rod catch figures (especially when compared to other rivers locally) Prove the current River Management Plan is working

### **Privacy Policy**

The Board have completed a Privacy and Data Protection Policy. This document can be viewed on the Boards website

### **Marine Scotland**

Marine Scotland published the “Wild Salmon Strategy: Implementation Plan 2023-2028” on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. They also published a document titled “Marine Scotland Wild Atlantic Salmon Stocking Policy”.

The Board consider that neither of these documents will impact on the current Board Policy

### **Bailiffing**

Murdo Crosbie continued in office as the Board’s only water bailiff. It is of some concern to the Board that we may not be able effectively to control poaching on the waters of the District. An appeal for “River Watchers” continues to be posted on the website has not produced any response.

Forest and land Scotland have now erected permanent “No Fishing” signage at Kirriereoch and access points above this

### **Wind Farms**

Two planning applications for wind farm developments have been submitted for the Cree catchment. One wind farm of 13 turbines at Glenvernoch (in the river Cree catchment) and a 14 turbine development for Blair Hill, which sits above Knockman wood and Drannadow – this wind farm is within the Penkiln Burn catchment and also the river Cree. Importantly, the Blair Hill wind farm development will require significant engineering works upstream of the hatchery intake on the Penkiln Burn. Any pollution or siltation could have a devastating impact on any fish in the hatchery.

The River Board have submitted formal objections to both of the wind farm planning applications.

### **Newton Stewart Flood Prevention Scheme**

The proposed NSFPS is still very much live and appears to be proceeding. The local Council have “approved the scheme without modification”.

Following the objection from the Board to the FPS, and after much lobbying, the Board have been appointed a “Consultative Body” to the scheme. The Board have submitted a screening opinion calling for a full Environmental impact assessment (EIA). It has been confirmed that this will now be carried out.

The FPS has the potential to cause significant damage to the river environment - both short and long term. The existing pool and riffle structures and angling pools could be significantly altered or destroyed by the scheme.

The Board is committed to ensuring that migratory fish are wholly protected and also in supporting Newton Stewart Angling Association in their efforts to ensure their angling waters and pools are not degraded by the scheme.

### **Salmon Conservation Status**

The salmon population in Great Britain has been downgraded by the IUCN to a conservation status of “Endangered”

## **PART TWO – COMPLAINTS**

During the year the Board received no complaints.

## **PART THREE – GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The Board has complied with the good governance requirements in the 2003 Act, as amended by the 2013 Act, as follows. The Annual Report considered at the Annual Public Meeting on the 27th November 2024 complied with Section 46A and the meeting itself complied with Section 46B. That Report and the audited accounts were published on the Board’s website and copies sent to the Scottish Ministers in accordance with Section 44(1A). The notice of the annual meeting of qualified proprietors and the annual public meeting to be held on the 27th November 2024 was

publicised on the Board's website. A copy was sent to the Scottish Ministers to comply with Section 46C. The other requirements of Section 46C in relation to the meetings of the Board have been complied with by publicising the dates of meetings and publishing the minutes thereof on the Board's website.

The Board's complaints procedure is publicised on the website in accordance with Section 46D.

The Board has established a register of relevant financial interests of members of the Board (available for public inspection) in accordance with Section 46E.

In the following year the Board intends to comply with the good governance requirements by keeping its procedures under review and observing the good governance requirements so far as possible.

#### **PART FOUR – GENERAL**

Catches - The Marine Scotland officially recorded 2024 rod catch for the Cree District was 321 (7 fin clipped) salmon and grilse (219 in 2023). This compares very favourably with neighbouring rivers (Bladnoch 74, Luce 111, Urr 54, Stinchar 184, Nith 397, Annan 234, Girvan 30, Doon 427). The 2024 fishing season was generally good, with good water levels for most of the season. Seatrout numbers were again low

The Board's estimate of the rod catch for 2025 season is 290 salmon and grilse (9 fin clipped salmon reported by anglers). Salmon catches all over Scotland have generally been poor this season. There was a prolonged drought and heatwave in many parts of the country. Although the Cree catchment did receive some rainfall, there were still prolonged periods of low water and very warm temperatures. Given this context, the rod catch was very encouraging and above average.

There was no significant run of fresh autumn fish to any of the Scottish rivers again this season. Nine adipose fin clipped fish have been reported by anglers this season – however many anglers are still not checking their fish.

Hatchery Operations – Permission was obtained from all the required fishery owners and landowners. Sufficient broodstock were captured to fulfil the Stocking Policy Document. The Stocking Policy Document was received from GFT within the deadline and was agreed by the Board

Broodstock capture this season has proven to be relatively straightforward. Permissions were again received for all the relevant waters. The numbers of adult salmon found during broodstock capture were very encouraging. Good numbers of Salmon were found in the Minnoch and Penkiln, whilst rod angling was very effective on the main stem of the Cree. Good numbers of salmon have been observed spawning on the main stem of the River Cree

On the Penkiln Burn 10% of the fish handled were adipose fin clipped.

Only a small percentage of the fish captured from any one location are retained for broodstock. This ensures sufficient salmon remain to spawn naturally.

This is the final report mentioned in section 44(1) of the 2003 Act.

**Jamie Hyslop**

**Chairman**

**Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

## **RIVER CREE HATCHERY & HABITAT TRUST SCIO**

During the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 RCHHT carried out the following works on the catchment of the District

### **HATCHERY WORKS**

Broodstock collection started on the Water of Minnoch above Kirriereoch Bridge on the 27<sup>th</sup> October. Water levels were good for the stretch above Kirriereoch and made netting fish a lot easier. Good numbers of fish were seen in most of the pools, 18 hens and 7 cocks were taken from here.

Glentool Estates water was electro fished around Kings Ford and Palgowan on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. Conditions again did not help us with higher water levels than we would have liked.

Reasonable numbers of fish were seen although difficult to catch with fish leaving the pools. 7 hens and 1 cock were retained. It was noted the amount of gravel movement from the previous year.

I stripped the first Minnoch fish on 29<sup>th</sup> of October with the Cree starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> Nov and the Penkiln on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. The last fish stripped was a Cree fish on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Broodstock & Egg numbers**

<u>Minnoch</u>	<u>25 Hens</u>	<u>8 Cocks</u>	<u>Approx 110,000 eggs</u>
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<u>Penkiln</u>	<u>14 Hens</u>	<u>6Cocks</u>	<u>Approx 61,000 eggs</u>
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The River Cree broodstock collection was all done by rod and line and was completed by the 4<sup>rd</sup> November. The Penkiln was electro fished over two days and again was blighted by high water levels.

<u>Cree</u>	<u>10 Hens</u>	<u>5 Cocks</u>	<u>Approx 38,000 eggs</u>
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The Hatchery ran smoothly with again very mild conditions throughout the winter months. This meant that the eggs developed quickly again this year with the first of the Minnoch eggs starting to eye up on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December nearly two weeks earlier than the previous year. Conditions remained mild, and as a result, the first of the eggs started to hatch on



the 14th January. The spring remained mild which meant that the fry were on the feed earlier which reduced the early losses.

### **Stocking Sites & Numbers for 2025**

The first fry were stocked out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and this was completed by the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. The stocking sites and approximate numbers of fry stocked were as follows:-

<u>Penkiln</u>	<u>Approx No Eggs</u>
Pulbae Burn	15,000
Green Burn	5,000
Campbells Burn	3,000
Garlies Burn	3,000
Upper Penkiln Burn	20,000
Upper Penkiln Autumn Fry	10,600
	<u>Total 56,600</u>
<u>Minnoch</u>	
Eldrick Burn	15,000
Kirriemore Burn	20,000
Pilnyark Burn	15,000
Rowantree	10,000
	<u>Total 60,000</u>
<u>Cree</u>	
Fardin Burn	40,000
Clauchrie Burn	5,000
Challoch Burn	4,000
Castle Burn	7,000
Linloskin Autumn Fry	10,500
Linloskin to Penningham Autumn Fry	10,000

- Total 76,500

Photo of some of the Autumn Fry from the Upper Penkiln Burn



The Penkiln autumn fry were stocked out from the 9th of July through to the 9th of October with 10,600 fin clipped fry being stocked from a couple of hundred metres above the concrete bridge all the way up to the upper concrete bridge.

Linloskin autumn fry were released from July through to the early part of October. We stocked approx 10,500 into this location. We also stocked a further 10,000 autumn fry Between Linloskin and Penninghame. All autumn fry were in good condition although growth rate was patchy with overcrowding at times, all were fin clipped. All autumn fry were graded throughout the summer and the larger fish clipped and released as we were grading them.

**Electro- Fishing**

We surveyed 16 stocked sites. We made a start on the electro-fishing surveys in the week commencing the 28th of July. The fin clipped sites on the upper Penkiln, which totalled 3 sites, once again proved to be very successful with good results. All other stocked sites also showed good results with numbers and health of the fry. We also electro fished a section of the burn at Cree Bank results below.



Site	Grid Ref	Date	Trout Fry	Trout Parr	Salmon Fry	Salmon Parr	PH
Upper Penkiln Burn	NX44231 75480	02/09/25	2	2	24	15	5.9
Upper Penkiln Burn Middle Autumn	NX 43652 74114	02/09/25	1	4		13	6.1
Upper Penkiln Burn Lower FC	NX 45018 72522	02/09/25	5	4		12	6.4
Upper Penkiln Burn	NX 43909	01/08/25	55	0	30	0	6.2
Upper Penkiln Lower Concrete	NX45467 70572	01/08/25	4	3	70	26	6.7
Pulbae Burn	NX 45409 71880	01/08/25	12	8	63	20	6.8
Green Burn	NX 46142 72280	01/08/25	7	9	41	14	6.4
Campbells Burn	NX 45447 70569	01/08/25	19	21	65	19	6.4
Garlies Burn	NX 42364 68286	01/08/25	42	22	6	18	6.3
Garlies Burn	NX 29787	02/09/25	79	13	130	3	6.3
Minnoch at Rowantree	NX35840 90283	28/07/25	0	0	126	7	6.4
Eldrick Burn	NX35827 91455	28/07/25	2	7	97	13	6.4

<b>Pilnyark Burn</b>	<b>NX37067 91927</b>	<b>28/07/ 25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Kirriemore Burn</b>	<b>NX38254 86852</b>	<b>28/07/ 25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Fardin Burn</b>	<b>NX32526 86756</b>	<b>28/07/ 25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Claghrie Burn Below road</b>	<b>NX 29787</b>	<b>02/09/ 25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>4.8 3</b>

***RCHHT Electro fishing results stocked sites 2025***

**All figures converted to give Minimum densities per 100m<sup>2</sup>**

***RCHHT Electro fishing results Non stocked sites 2025***

**All figures converted to give Minimum densities per 100m<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Trout Fry</b>	<b>Trout Parr</b>	<b>Salmon Fry</b>	<b>Salmon Parr</b>	<b>PH</b>
<b>Penkiln Above Junction with</b>							
<b>Penkiln Below ladies</b>							
<b>Penkiln Above Mattie</b>							
<b>High Cree Below Barjarg</b>							
<b>Darnaw Ford</b>							
<b>High Cree Above falls</b>							
<b>Cree Bank Burn</b>	<b>NX 34157</b>	<b>02/09/ 25</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>			<b>5.3</b>

0

0 Red

0 Orange

0 Yellow

0 Light Green

0 Dark Green

#### SFCC classification

##### Salmon fry

0	absent	White
<4.7	E very poor	red
4.7-<10.3	D poor	orange
10.3-<20.3	C moderate	yellow
20.3-<42.1	B Good	Light green
>42.1	A excellent	Dark green

##### Salmon Parr

0	absent	White
<2.6	E very poor	red
2.6-<5.1	D poor	orange
5.1-<9.1	C moderate	yellow
9.1-<15.8	B Good	Light green
>15.8	A excellent	Dark green

##### Trout fry

0	absent	White
<2.5	E very poor	red

2.5-<5.3	D	poor	orange
5.3-<12.4	C	moderate	yellow
12.4-<30.3	B	Good	Light green
>30.3	A	excellent	Dark green

#### Trout Parr

0		absent	White
<1.6	E	very poor	red
1.6-<3.1	D	poor	orange
3.1-<5.6	C	moderate	yellow
5.6-<10.4	B	Good	Light green
>10.4	A	excellent	Dark green

### **Rhododendron Clearing**

A walk over survey in the summer has shown some new growth and some re-growth. These are now at a size where spraying will be effective.

### **Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam**

Spraying Japanese Knotweed took place from the beginning of September and once again only plants that had flowers and of large size were sprayed. Area covered was from the weir at the Ghyll pool down to the Saughs pool below the A75 bridge. Again, any plants that had not matured and flowered were left to hopefully mature and flower next year. Plants are left until the autumn and to flower as this is the best time to hit them with Glyphosphate. Michael Todd has continued this year picking Himalayan Balsam from the Brewery pool down to the Saughs pool. We are getting well on top of this plant.



*Japanese Knotweed in flower*

### **Bankside and instream works**

One tree was removed from the NSAA part of the Ghyll pool, this was pulled in by a hand winch and cut into small sections and left to disperse in the next rise in water. Bank strimming was also carried out on the NSAA water along with path and access maintenance.

Photo of a rope rail for helping to climb the hill to the road at the Ghyll pool



Before

After



## **Forestry Project**

In the 2024/25 year we took on another new area of Sitka regen removal on a burn that runs into the upper Penkiln. This entailed cutting back Sitka Spruce regeneration trees on both banks. These trees were cut then brashed, dragged and stacked above the high water mark or at least 10 metres from the burn. The area was pretty thick with regen in places and difficult conditions underfoot. We also planted a total of 1,000 trees, approx 600 on the above area which were staked and tubed. The rest were used to replace deads on the main stem of the Penkiln. Tubes were also removed from trees that were big enough to survive on their own. We also made a start removing regen Sitka Spruce from the upper Penkiln Burn.

The benefits of this work are to help create a buffer zone from the commercial crop of Sitka Spruce and hopefully reduce the acidity that leaches into the watercourses. It also lets more light reach the water which helps to increase invertebrate numbers. The broadleaved trees that have been planted will, in time, create bank stability, dappled shade, add nutrients and attract a greater number of insects.

## **Constant Monitoring on the Claughrie Burn**

For the last year we have had a constant monitoring recorder deployed in the Claughrie burn looking at PH levels and Temperature. Data can be produced if required.

## **Guardians of our Rivers**

Volunteers and I have continued with the monitoring of different sites, 1 on the Minnoch, High Cree, Penkiln and 2 sites on the main stem of the Cree and a further site was established on the Palnure Burn making it 6 sites in all.

The above sites have been surveyed monthly from April to October. It has been very interesting to see the trends of different invertebrates at certain times of year. Overall, all sites have shown good results and have



always exceeded the trigger levels. All info is logged onto a national database.



**Checking a sample from the Cree**  
**A collection of invertebrates**



### **School Visits**

The school visits started in November with 6 schools and 70 pupils being involved. The first visit is all about the life cycle of the salmon, the problems that they face and the reasoning behind the hatchery. We then strip a hen salmon of her eggs and they also get to see and find out the fertilization process with the milt from the cock salmon before laying down the eggs.

The second visit consists of the children releasing a small number of fry. They have a bucket each with approx 5 fry in each bucket. Once released, we then discuss what the fry are likely to be feeding on and also do a kick test to enable the children to see what invertebrates are within the system.

The third visit is to Glenamour Loch to fish for rainbow trout, where all pupils bar 2 or 3 all caught at least 1 fish each and with all bar 1 of the fish being despatched and taken home. The loch is stocked by Newton Stewart Angling Association and Willy Worms donated 1kg of worms.

The Schools involved are Penninghame, Creetown, St Ninians, Wigtown and Kirkcowan





### **Fish Eating Birds**

In November we did a walk over survey of the Penkiln, Minnoch and the main stem of the Cree, recording any sightings of Goosanders and Cormorants, This survey is carried out normally one hour after sunrise and is only possible due to the amount of volunteers. The information is then submitted to Natural Scotland by Jamie Hyslop on behalf of the river Board

A licence was then granted early January which permitted 7 Goosanders and 3 Cormorants to be culled. This was achieved by the end of May. During this period we were continually patrolling parts of the lower river using scaring tactics.

Once the license had expired I continued with visits to the lower end of the river scaring any birds to help with a clear passage for smolts descending the river.

Early morning patrol on the lower river



### **Fin Clipped Salmon**

During the 2025 angling season I had reports of nine fin clipped hatchery fish being caught. Three were caught on the Minnoch two of which fell to my own rod and one to my brother Roddy. Roddy also had an eleven pound fish from the A75 bridge pool. I also had two fish that were only identified because of photos sent to myself, one of the photos below with the captor William Hannah. Unfortunately, I still feel that fish are been missed by anglers not checking.

A fin clipped salmon of approx 6lbs caught by William Hannah on the NSAA water in the Doctors pool



A fin clipped salmon of approx 11lbs caught by Roddy Crosbie on the NSAA water in the A75 bridge pool



### **PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR**

It is intended to operate the hatchery and stock salmon fry into the catchment as set out in the Board's stocking policy document agreed on the 8th September.

Work will continue to monitor INNS along the banks of the Cree and Penkiln Burn and eradication measures will be taken as necessary.

It is intended to net the Cree once again with a view to removing pike and perch.

It is intended to remove any trees or obstructions that are causing any problems i.e. bank erosion or the potential to cause flooding.

It is intended to continue with our habitat work on FLS land to include the removal of sitka spruce trees, plant Broadleaved trees and to perform maintenance works to include replacing dead trees and removing tubes from trees that are large enough.

It is intended to continue and expand with our school programme and to promote angling for all.

It is intended to continue with the shepherding of the smolts by scaring and, at times, shooting fish eating birds under license.

It is intended to continue with surveying by means of electro-fishing stocked and non stocked sites.

It is intended to continue with the water quality monitoring

It is intended to continue with invertebrate surveying by means of kick testing on all 6 sites monthly from April to October.

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**Murdo Crosbie**  
**Hatchery co-ordinator**



## **Summary of relevant Galloway Fisheries Trust work on the Cree catchment in 2025**

- **Stop the replanting of conifers on deep peats (to address acidification)** – GFT continues to lobby hard for this using the Galloway rivers as a case study for numerous meetings including with Scottish Government ‘Salmon Strategy Implementation Plan Group’; with MSPs; FMS/SEPA/SF discussion group regarding River Basin Management Plan priorities; Scottish Forestry Regional Stakeholder Group; with Scottish Forestry Land Use and Environment Policy Advisor Linsey Mason-McLean; SEPA National Team; in forestry plan consultations; FLS; NatureScot; and on GFT social media and on the GFT website.
- Updated the ‘**GFT Cree Stocking Guidance**’ report to cover 2025 / 2026 - the report was agreed with the Board stocking sub-committee.
- With regard to the **two windfarm proposals** near Newton Stewart, GFT submitted consultation responses.
- GFT continue to **monitor water temperatures** at 11 sites on the High Cree.
- GFT completed various **electrofishing** on the Cree catchment. There were no NEPS surveys in 2024 or 2025. Electrofishing was undertaken at some stocked sites for inclusion in the stocking guidance report. The GFT continue to deliver the rolling three year programme which monitors wild salmon spawning across the Cree catchment. This is important data which we need to be able to respond to various consultations such as forestry restructuring plans. This year GFT completed sites on the High Cree (the data is presented in Table 1 below with 2019/2022 results for the same sites in brackets). Results from the High Cree is consistent with GFT data collected this year from the Luce, Urr, Bladnoch and Water of Fleet where significant increased densities of wild salmon fry have been recorded in all rivers following an increased run of adult fish in 2024. The increases have been particularly noted in the upper sections of these Galloway rivers and GFT data suggests that weather patterns meant that there was a reduced risk of acidification impacts.
- GFT are assisting with some of the additional data collection required for the proposed **Newton Stewart Flood Prevention Scheme EIA**.
- GFT have been looking to design, support and deliver ‘forestry to bog’ **peatland restoration projects** to address acidification and provide more natural river flows. We are keen to encourage all types of peatland restoration. GFT have been working on two projects on FLS land in the High Cree catchment. The Dornal Hill site is around 70ha. At this site GFT

mapped drains and undertook extensive peat depth surveys. FLS have now agreed that they will deliver this peatland restoration. The other site is beside Loch Moan. All conifers have been removed from the site. GFT have mapped the drainage systems and completed peat depth surveys across the site (deepest peat here is 7 metres). We have worked up a peatland restoration design for 23ha of 'forestry to bog' peatland restoration here which we plan to undertake in early 2026.

- **Invasive Non-Native plant control:** The GFT INNS Control Officer has completed control of four populations of American skunk cabbage and a new population of Giant hogweed on the Cree catchment. This work will be ongoing over the next few years.
- **Monitoring water quality:** GFT completed a study of water quality parameters (including pH) using our sonde network and regular spot sampling last winter/ spring across the Palnure Burn, Penkiln Burn, Minnoch, Water of Trool and High Cree. The water quality work is part of a rolling programme GFT have been undertaking across the Galloway rivers. The GFT Cree report is available here: <https://www.nathonjones.com/files/Cree%202024%202025%20Water%20Quality%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf>

**Table 1: 2025 electrofishing results from High Cree, from most downstream site (2019, 2022 results for the same sites in brackets):**

Site No.	Site (sites start in the lower reaches of the High Cree and move upstream)	Grid reference (NX)	Salmon fry*	Salmon parr*
HC1	High Cree, riffle u/s of Clachaneasy	355751	34.7 (5.0, 3.0)	4.5 (5.9, 5.0)
HC2	High Cree, d/s of Bargrennan Bridge	349763	19.1 (6.9, 14.2)	5.1 (10.8, 4.0)
HC4	High Cree, over hill from Dalnaw Farm (limestone riffle)	320765	171.6 (23.9, 19.2)	2.0 (4.4, 2.0)
HC5	High Cree, riffle above 3 Counties Pool	318762	80.6 (17.2, 20.2)	3.0 (2.3, 2.0)
HC6	High Cree, Carrick Burn (lower)	318761	99.5 (18.6, 5.4)	4.0 (8.6, 20.4)
HC7	High Cree, by Balnahoin (limestone riffle)	319770	101.0 (13.6, 8.8)	6.0 (2.3, 2.5)
HC8	High Cree, d/s Dalnaw Farm bridge	321771	91.6 (2.1, 10.1)	4.3 (4.2, 4.3)
HC9	High Cree, Cairnderry Burn	323789	3.1 (0, 0)	0 (0, 0)
HC10	High Cree, u/s of Cairnderry Burn outflow	322789	15.7 (0,0)	1.0 (0.7, 3.2)
HC11	High Cree, Arnimean Bridge	302804	55.6 (0, 0)	0.7 (2.9, 1.3)
HC12	High Cree, riffle area	304825	32.6 (0, 5.2)	4.5 (0, 4.76)

HC13	High Cree	307839	3.4 (0, 0)	1.7 (6, 1.6)
HC14	High Cree	327856	9.5 (1.3, 1.3)	3.5 (11.3, 2.6)
HC15	High Cree, Loch Moan outflow	334862	0 (0, 0)	0 (0, 0)
HC17	High Cree, Cairnfore Burn	345869	0 (0, 0)	0 (0, 0)

\*fish numbers are all standardised to density per 100 m<sup>2</sup> of water (minimum densities)