

Fixed Location Fish Counters: The Tools and Techniques for monitoring migratory fish in rivers.

A forum for organisations with a fisheries management remit to discuss good practise, look to standardise approaches & identify common development needs for fixed location fish counting systems.

3rd and 4th June, 2008

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, UK.

Background

The tools, techniques and management applications of fish counting systems have evolved considerably in the 10 years since the last seminar on fish counters held by the IFM in conjunction with the Atlantic Salmon Trust. The Didson imaging sonar, the use of video images for fish counting, the Vaki infra-red system and recent developments of the resistivity counter have extended fish counting applications and advanced solutions to the traditional challenges to using counter data for fisheries management. Further advances can be achieved by the sharing of knowledge and experiences and searching for common development needs. For this reason, the Institute of Fisheries Management is convening a seminar and workshop on Fixed Location Fish Counters.

Aim and Scope

The seminar and workshops aim to provide an opportunity for fish counter practitioners and fisheries managers to discuss and share latest techniques and best practise and to influence future developments.

Presentations and Themes

Presentations from amongst others the Loughs Agency, Marine Institute, CEH, CEFAS, the Tweed Foundation, Scottish and Southern Energy, the Environment Agency and Fisheries Research Services will cover the following:

- Management Decisions - Using fish counter data to justify management action.
- New technology - Enabling fish counting in previously difficult situations , counting "difficult" species or life stages.
- Apportioning species to the count - Evidence based processes and statistical models.
- Estimating counter efficiency - Validation methods for identifying false counts and the proportion of fish that pass undetected.
- Accounting for downtime - How is downtime accounted for and what is the impact of ignoring it.
- Verification techniques - Software development, techniques and comparisons with other counting methods.
- Data storage and analysis.

Workshops

On the 4th June, it is intended to run two all day workshops at the same time. These will be:

1. Monitoring Fish Passes - Video, Resistivity and Infra-Red.
2. DIDSON analysis techniques: Getting at the Numbers.

Costs and Booking.

Places are limited to 40 on each day, so you are advised to book early. The cost to IFM members will be £70 per-day, non-members £80 per-day. Each delegate will be expected to arrange their own accommodation.

Bookings can be made online at the following address:

www.ifm.org.uk/payments

Choose the Fixed Location Fish Counter link to go to the payment page. Alternative arrangements can be made for payment (see contact details at bottom of page).

Outputs

It is intended to produce a seminar statement indicating lead organisations for fish counter development areas, applications which are currently not served by existing counting systems and the developments that are required for the challenges ahead. There is no intention to produce proceedings.

Call for Papers

There is still an opportunity to present your fish counter experiences, research, results and their application at the IFM Fish Counters Seminar in Cardiff, Wales, on the 3rd June 2008.

Please submit your ideas and suggestions for presentation to:

Jim Gregory (IFM Wales Branch)

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The Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) is an international organisation of people sharing a common interest in the modern management of recreational and commercial fisheries.