

Moray Firth Trout Initiative (MFTI) wins Heritage Lottery Support

The Moray Firth Trout Initiative (MFTI) has received a grant of £56,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The MFTI is an exciting new project that aims to protect the future of Moray Firth Trout populations and the communities that depend on them through education and conservation.



The trout is a key part of Scotland's natural heritage and is a very valuable species to the communities around the Moray Firth. However, numbers are declining fast and the Moray Firth Trout Initiative (MFTI) is a partnership project that will work with local Fisheries Trusts, District Salmon Fishery Boards and Community Angling Associations to protect this species through environmental education and the conservation of trout populations and habitat.

MFTI Launches new website

The MFTI has launched a new website to provide up to date information on the project in accessible format that can be used by project partners, volunteers and local community groups. The website will provide up to date news on the project and trout while also listing all forthcoming events and activities. There is a special page describing volunteer opportunities and a feedback form for interested members or parties to provide their input to the project. www.morayfirhtrout.org

MFTI begins new Education Programme

The MFTI is working with the local Fisheries Trust network to provide both school aged children (primary and secondary) and adults with a better understanding of freshwater ecology and a sense of ownership of their local environment through education and practical involvement in conservation. To help deliver this education Programme the MFTI organised a workshop with the Wild Trout Trust on the Mayfly in the Classroom. This programme enables local schools to hatch mayflies in the classroom and helps them learn about the importance of invertebrates and the freshwater environment.



Mayfly in the classroom workshop

To learn about Mayfly in the Classroom please go to www.wildtrout.org/content/mayfly-classroom
If your school would be interested please contact: marcus@morayfirhtrout.org

The MFTI is supported by local Fisheries Trusts, Boards and Angling Associations and funded by:



Mob: 07500602216

Email: marcus@morayfirhtrout.org

Web: www.morayfirhtrout.org

Wild Trout Trust Auction 2013

To help raise funds for the MFTI many of the participating Angling Associations have donated fishing to the Wild Trout Trust Auction 2013. For the opportunity to bid on some exciting and unique fishing opportunities and to help raise money for the MFTI please take part in the auction. Direct link from: www.wildtrout.org



Volunteer Opportunities

The MFTI is looking for local volunteers to help conserve local trout populations by helping us protect restore their habitat and learn more about the distribution and behaviour.

- **Electrofishing and habitat surveys**
Help local Trusts conduct surveys to identify trout habitat.
- **Habitat Restoration**
Help restore local rivers and streams to improve habitat for trout.
- **Coastal Netting**
Help conduct trial netting surveys to sample smolts and sea trout at sea.
- **Hill Loch Fishing**
Try fishing for trout in remote Hill Lochs to learn about the diversity of local populations.
- **Scale Collection**
Collect scales from brown and sea trout to help understand life history patterns.



Habitat restoration on the Peffery

Interested in volunteering - contact the project manager: marcus@morayfirhtrout.org

Record your angling catch on this new online diary: www.anglingdiary.org.uk

Trout, walks and talks

The project manager will be leading a series of walks and talks on trout, their habitat, ecology and threats. If you or your local community group are interested please contact the Project Manager: marcus@morayfirhtrout.org

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