

LAAC NEWSLETTER 51 JUNE 2025

WELCOME all to our midsummer newsletter – in this edition we have news of members' catches early season; fishing abroad; exchange tickets; a bit of fishing politics; staying safe in the boat and protecting your club's assets; reporting problems; membership update and final chance to renew. Your comments and contributions to our newsletters are always welcome. Stephen Dowds, Chairman/Secretary

MEMBERS' NEWS OF CATCHES

With the dry weather and low water conditions so far this season many members have left their salmon rods at home and ventured out for trout instead. So despite some reports of kelts caught on Loch Achonachie as usual at this time of year, and a few mistaken identities, the bulk of fishing has been trout orientated both on the lochs and the rivers.



Two very fine and beautifully tailed trout for Lewis Ross would make up his first brace of the season on his first outing. A picture perfect start to the season!



This one (pictured left) wasn't caught on our waters of course out on a trip to Norway by club member Des McGinnes who ventured out from his coastal hotel and caught this very nice pollack before breakfast. Tasty !





A first ever salmon kelt to one of our young members on his first outing and a very decent brownie (pictured left) – both from the boat on Loch Achonachie. Well done



Two cracking fish on the same day from Loch Meig by Scott McMath last month. A beautifully marked wild brownie and an unusual sea trout, which looked rather like and old fish says Scott. Both returned safely.



MEIG OPEN 2025



The Meig Open returned to its previous earlier date in May but was met with conditions more akin to sunbathing than fishing and provided a bigger than usual challenge to the competitors. It was a day when the most experienced anglers would be likely winners and so it proved. The “LAAC Bogtrotters” team swept the boards with the best brace, heaviest fish and team total – well done Neil MacRitchie, Ally Hunter and Lewis Ross

LARGEST TROUT Strathconon Estate Trophy

Lewis Ross

HEAVIEST BRACE for the Meig Cup

Lewis Ross

TOP TEAM

William Bartlett Trophy

LAAC Bogtrotters

Many thanks to Ian MacPhail and Daavid & Chris Ross for their work getting the boats readied for the day. Again this year we added prizes for the heaviest bag of perch and biggest perch as an encouragement to anglers to try to control and reduce the increasing population of perch in Loch Meig. Perch prizes went to David MacGregor &



WATTEN COMPETITION



Fishing for LAAC this year were George Eccleson & Ian MacPhail, Dave MacGregor & Ally Hunter, Gavin Morton, & Scott McMath, Lewis Ross & Neil MacRitchie – the last pairing lifting prizes on a day when 71 trout were caught.

Well done Neil MacKenzie for all the arrangements - thanks!

Four pairs from our club came forward to contest Beaulay Angling Club's annual competition on Loch Watten last month. It can be a challenging loch to fish though it produces some beautiful trout, but this year's outing was described by Beaulay AC stalwarts Frank Durdle and Neil MacKenzie as their best ever competition day on Watten.



MEIG PONTOONS

Another ultra-high water level in the third week of December lifted the pontoons high above the level of the pier levering the wheels of the bridge out of their runners. A huge amount of water was spilling over the dam wall and again the flow in the loch twisted the bridge off the pontoon deck.

Whilst it is nigh impossible to prevent this kind of effect on our pontoons modifications designed by Lewis Ross have been fabricated and fitted to prevent the bridge being twisted off the pontoons in future.

The heavy duty work to restore them to their proper positions was completed in the first week of the season by Lewis and Ian MacPhail working together with a telehandler. Once again the club is indebted to these guys for their outstanding work in difficult conditions.



VANDALISM

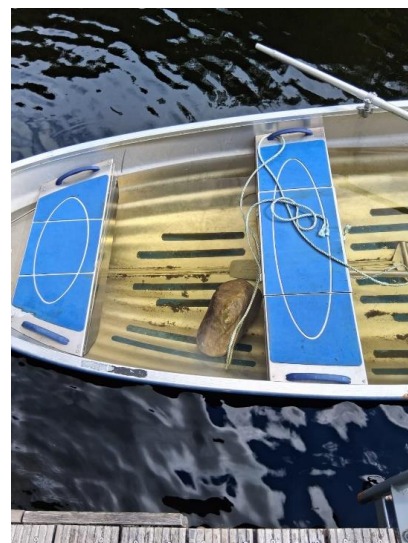
Sad to write that we had several instances of vandalism, destructive behaviour and fishing without permits in April & May.. The damage some people are prepared to do just for the sake of a few pounds to buy a permit & hire a boat Thanks to club members and passing members of the public for reporting these to us. Repairs have now been completed. So someone in a big vehicle ripped the gate off at South 1 Beat of the Upper Conon; someone else took an angle grinder with them to cut the stainless steel boat painters off at Meig; padlocks were destroyed at North 1 beat on Upper Conon. Any information about these destructive acts would be welcome if you hear anything.



MISUSE OF BOATS

This was one of the daftest things we've seen, presuming it wasn't an act of vandalism this was perhaps someone trying to fashion an anchor out of a massive rock? Or was it maybe a daft idea to slow down boat drift without using a proper drogue perhaps? Difficult to fathom for sure, but the boat and its occupant/s could have been under a fathom or so of water if this hadn't been spotted and put right by club vice chairman Chris Ross.

Thanks Chris for your speedy action to report and rectify. If anyone knows anything about this please get in touch.



More pictures below ↓

MISUSE OF BOATS



FISHING RELATED POLITICS

There are a number of issues relating to the seemingly endless planning applications by companies seeking to exploit the drive for net zero which will have major impacts on our nation's waterways.

Ness District Salmon Fishery Board are active with others in raising objections. Applications to extract huge volumes of water from Loch Glass for hydrogen production are worrying too. A current petition to Scottish Government can be read and signed, if in favour, at the link below right.



Under consideration

PE2159: Halt the production of hydrogen from freshwater

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to place a moratorium on the production of hydrogen from freshwater until scientific studies are undertaken to understand the impact on the environment, local economies and society.

Background information

Green hydrogen is touted as a replacement for fossil fuels. Hydrogen production requires extreme and unsustainable volumes of fresh water. Borehole water is seen as a source. Manufacturing takes 25 to 40 litres of desalinated or freshwater to produce 1kg of hydrogen. 1kg of hydrogen will power a class 1 or 2 Large Goods Vehicle for 6 miles. One plant under development plans to use 500,000 litres of water per day to produce 12,800kg of hydrogen. Similar plants are proposed/under development. Water will be extracted from a very wide geographical area depending on ground conditions and regional rainfall. Water is a major element of life and is in short supply in many areas. The volumes to be extracted will adversely impact the countryside, local industries, agriculture, fishing, and households, and possibly affect flooding. Extracting water will cause serious adverse impacts on aquatic life.

Responses to my enquiries show little knowledge of the volume of water used and I have seen no scientific studies to identify possible adverse consequences.

Created by

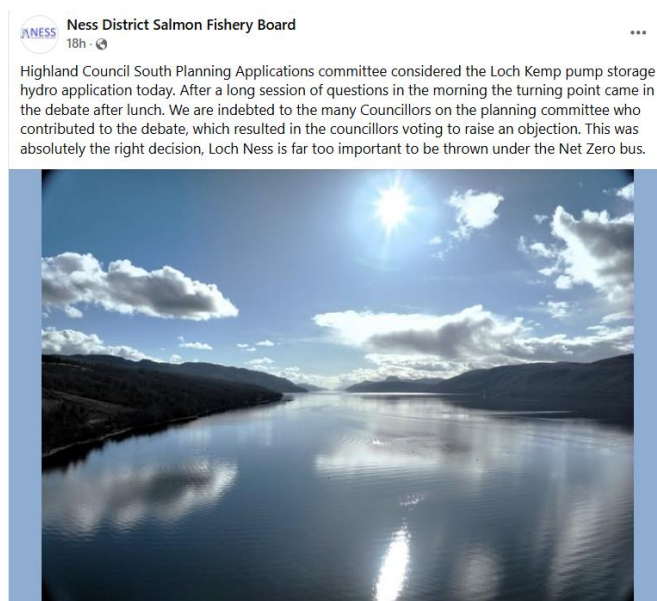
David Mackay on behalf of Innes Community Council

Considered from

6 May 2025

Petitions can collect signatures until the petition has been closed

[Sign this petition](#)



<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2159/signatures/new>

A planning application has been submitted for a hydrogen production facility powered by renewable energy near Loch Glass, Scotland. The proposed development, which includes an electrolyser plant, aims to produce green hydrogen using electricity from renewable sources. The project is expected to reduce CO2 emissions and create jobs. Public consultation events have already taken place, and the application is currently under review by The Highland Council.

2025 EXCHANGE TICKET USAGE

Are you missing out on some truly wild trout fishing? Why not try out Assynt AC waters, more than a hundred beautiful lochs in remote country but still easily accessed. Our Exchange tickets are available to members who wish to try out these lochs and are held at Contin Filling Station. You can book them out ahead of your trip and if you need an exchange ticket for more than one day just email us. www.assyntanglinginfo.org.uk



Assynt Angling Information
[Overview](#) [Places to Fish](#) [Freshwater Fishing](#) [Sea Fishing](#) [Links](#) [Historical](#) [Comments](#) [Contact](#)
All you need to know about fishing in Assynt

A photograph of a large brown trout with many dark spots, lying on a bed of dry grass and twigs.

Welcome to the Assynt Angling Information site - all the information you need for fishing in Assynt.

You can:

- Find our places to fish, get your permits and read and leave comments.
- Use our Loch fishing map - to find trout fishing information.
- See salmon and sea trout info.
- Find out about Sea Fishing.
- Leave comments - How did you do? Got a question or advice? - after a glitch, there's lots of comments updated!

Latest comments

Cam loch
2 years ago
Bill Robertson said
My two sons and I fished Cam loch on June 5th. It's been over ten years since I last fished there so I was looking forward to...

**ASSYNT ANGLING CLUB
MEMBERSHIP 2025**

NAME LOCH ACHONACHIE

ADDRESS ANGLING CLUB

EXCHANGE TICKET (2)

Treasurer

No

A small black and white illustration of a fisherman standing on a bank, holding a fishing rod.

Use of exchange tickets is subject to a limited number of uses – five over the season – if you're wanting to use an exchange more than that you should **join that club**.

Details of our exchange opportunities are on our club website :-

www.highlandfishing.net/member-benefits/exchange-tickets

CLUB MEMBERS ABROAD SPECIAL FEATURE – FISHING NEW ZEALAND

Having been lucky enough to have fished in New Zealand myself I was keen to get a report of any member's experiences there. Club member Pete Bene was there this year and emailed us this account from South Island, NZ.

Stephen, the attached pics are of Richard Ormston & myself, my son Liam all club members from various trips to NZ over last few years including this one. You asked for some pics and a few words hope this is what you were looking for. These pictures cover a good portion of the South Island and show the various landscapes and in most cases the clarity of the water is excellent. The fish are not as numerous as our waters but are much larger as you know and readily take dry flies as well as nymphs. The traditional Kiwi style being a nymph dropper tied to the bend of a dry fly and fished to spotted fish but in cases of bad glare, we just fish blind.



Fjordland River

Canterbury Lake



As for lakes, in the shallow deltas we cast to cruising fish if glare allows or blind if not. I have found our traditional style loch fishing works very well as do buzzers under a dry.

I especially like standing in the boat spotting big browns and rainbows cruising the shallows then casting in front of them, but fishing blind in slightly deeper waters is also productive.

When fishing the rivers it helps if you have a “spotter” higher up or on opposite bank then you work as a team keeping each other informed as to what you’re seeing, again glare being a problem but not always for both sides. On the down side the weather can be a major spoiler with strong winds and flooding which has been a big problem this trip with rivers being up and down and coloured with it resulting in fish losses, a lot of fish running down to lakes or in lowland rivers running down to the sea.



High Country River



If any members are planning on a fishing trip to South Island NZ then they can contact me if they want any information also there is a book by John Kent giving a comprehensive break down of fishing in South Island and another for North Island. However, I only know South Island. *Well it's a great place to know Pete and many thanks for this super report & tantalising photographs We're much obliged! Stephen*





The author Pete Bene with a cracking trout, that was heading to the smoker he tells me. If anyone wants to contact Pete for more information just email me at the usual address achonachie.angling@gmail.com and I will put you in touch with him.

🎵 LIVING IN THE LAND DOWN UNDER 🎵



Phil enjoys fishing New Zealand better he says, as “you don’t need to keep your eye out for these fellas”

Looking for a bit more excitement in your fishing trips – a bigger bite perhaps? Try this one in North Queensland writes club member Phil Lamb

This was a cracking spot to fish Stephen, just south of Cairns, river runs through mates farm so never really gets fished. We had been fishing this spot a day earlier, till this one turned up?



SOUTH QUEENSLAND



I was lucky enough to enjoy some beautifully scenic sea fishing recently off South Stradbroke Island with pelicans coming in close any time a fish was caught & released. Some very tasty flatheads caught which made supper very enjoyable. Unusual looking fish flatheads! Of course it's thirsty work in the sun!

Thanks to my great Ozzie mate Jim Taylor for a fantastic outing.



2025 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At this point as we now approach midsummer and mid-season, we have processed 235 renewals and many new memberships too, even this week, which is great news for the club. Many thanks to all who renewed early. If you haven't renewed you need to do it now before you can go fishing or book boats or river beats. It's never been easier to join or renew. It can all be done by email/internet for non-contact joining up. The 2025 membership form is on the website and you can complete it on your computer or phone, send it to achonachie.angling@gmail.com and pay by BACS – all the details are on the form. Booking Agent as always is Contin Filling Station - phone 01997421948 – the staff there are very helpful and do great work for our club.



So the message to all is – it's time to renew if you haven't already done so and let's all get out fishing again!

FOLLOW THE RULES An updated rules document for season 2025 is now up on the website and you can download it from the front page. I can also send it to you by email. You need to remember especially if salmon fishing that **treble hooks are not allowed** so as to ease safe catch & return. So it's time to get busy with some split rings and double or single

hook replacements or just get your snips out.

Safe use of the Loch Meig pontoons has been highlighted to everyone before but here's it again on the next page. Remember it's a Scottish summer, so if you're booking a boat out it's always wise to take a bailing bucket of some kind with you ! The committee plans to fit bilge pumps shortly but meantime – take a bailer.



7 ESSENTIAL PONTOON RULES

- 1 Take care using the pontoons
- 2 One angler to unlock the boat and row to the slipway
- 3 Load up and fix on any outboards etc. at the slip way **not on the mooring**
- 4 Take care of the keys – they have a floatation key fob attached but keep them safe please
- 5 Return your boat securely as above
- 6 Fasten the chain at the top of the bridge
- 7 RETURN THE KEYS TO CONTIN AND HAND IN YOUR CATCH RETURN

**PLEASE LEAVE THE BOATS IN GOOD ORDER WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED
HOPEFULLY LOOKING LIKE THIS.**



Our Club website <https://highlandfishing.net/> and Facebook page and Instagram site are all available to stay up to date with LAAC activities and news. Remember to keep a record of your fishing so as to make it easy to complete your mandatory catch return in October. Email us at achonachie.angling@gmail.com

Tight Lines !

Stephen Dowds
LAAC Chairman/Secretary