

Loch Fitty Fishery Statement

Over the past two years Loch Fitty has suffered significant water quality problems, first in early 2006 with subsequent hot weather having impacts on water temperature and oxygen content and then again this year. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) were brought in to assist and advise on solving the water quality problems. The suggestion by SEPA is that in 2007, major forestry clearing in the head waters further to the west (not within Thornton Wood) have resulted in poor water quality with high acidic levels due to peat run off. The recent water quality problems were preceded in earlier years by algal blooms.

Fish health in the loch has suffered as a result of the water quality issues and this has been exacerbated by parasitical infestation. The Fisheries Research Services have analysed and confirmed fish health problems.

The net result of this has been a significant and adverse impact on the Loch Fitty Fishery business with substantial losses made in both 2006 and 2007. Unfortunately due to the continued deterioration in the viability of the business reluctantly it has been decided to close the fishery with immediate effect. It is however the intention of the company to continue to review the position at Loch Fitty on a regular basis with a view to reopening should the factors that compounded the financial losses be resolved.

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