Costs

There is no charge for undertaking the project although schools must provide their own transport for the river visits.

How to take part

If you are interested in taking part in the 'Salmon in the Classroom' project, please contact Jackie Graham at Galloway Fisheries Trust on 01671 403011. Due to limited places, bookings are taken for up to one year in advance.

Alternatively, please email mail@gallowayfisheriestrust.org making sure you provide the name of your school and your contact details. Or visit www.snh.org.uk/salmonintheclassroom/ and use the 'Contact Us' page.



Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT), formerly West Galloway Fisheries Trust, was the first fisheries trust to be established within

Scotland. The Charitable Trust was launched in 1989 by four District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) in southwest Scotland, with a remit to administer the Rivers Luce, Bladnoch, Cree and Fleet.





Rivers which today fall within the area administered by the Trust now also include most of the rivers situated on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth (Border Esk, Annan, Kirkcudbrightshire Dee and Urr) and

the GFT works closely with these DSFBs and their environmental managers. The Trust is also actively involved in the management of many of the region's still waters.

As the Trust's responsibilities have changed, it has

expanded from serving only the interests of salmon and now actively works to conserve all of the fish populations in Galloway, including coarse fish populations.



The aim of the GFT is to restore and maintain aquatic biodiversity in Galloway by means of practical, responsible and sustainable approaches to land, water and fishery management, based on sound science, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Trust using the details below.

Salmon in The Classroom



Galloway Fisheries Trust Fisheries House Station Industrial Estate Newton Stewart DG8 6ND

Phone: 01671 403011 Fax: 01671 402248 Email: mail@gallowayfisheriestrust.org Web: www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org



Salmon in the Classroom





The Project—bringing the river into the classroom!

The Salmon in the Classroom Project has been successfully run by Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) on an annual basis since 1991. The project has proved to be so popular that it has now been rolled out throughout Scotland from its origins in Dumfries and Galloway.

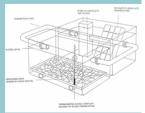
The main reason behind the project's success is that it literally brings the river into the class-room! Children are given 100 salmon eggs which they look after in the classroom (using the equipment provided) until they hatch. Following hatching, the children release the young fish back into the river that they came from, returning later in the year to catch them again and see how they've grown.

The project has been found to increase children's awareness of the river environment in a fun way and demonstrates how small scale conservation actions can have a positive effect.

Stage 1—Getting started with salmon

In this part of the project, GFT staff visit the children in their classroom and give them a Powerpoint presentation that covers key aspects of the fishes lifecycle as well as informing them about the project. This part of the project usually takes place around February. After the talk, the children are given their hatchery equipment (see pictures below for examples of equipment types available). They will also be provided with their salmon eggs which they have to care for over the next few weeks (the exact amount of time it takes for the eggs to hatch will depend upon water temperature).





Stage 2—The release of fry

After the eggs have hatched (usually late February/early March), the children will keep them in the classroom for a few days. A short time later, GFT staff return to take the children to the river or stream where the parent fish (that provided the eggs) came from. The school needs to provide transport for this part of the project. At the river the children will release the fish and will be given a short talk by the biologists about the wa-

tercourse. This part of the project is often combined with a trip to a fish farm or smokehouse, to allow the children to learn about the way in which fisheries sup-



port the local economy. A visit to the GFT hatchery can also be arranged at this time to see many thousands of wild salmon fry!

Stage 3—The return visit!

Once the young fish have been in the river for a few months (usually around June), the children return to the place that they released them to see how they've grown! The school needs to provide transport for this part of the project. The biologists use a technique called electrofishing to catch the fish. Once the fish have been caught, the children have the opportunity to hold the fish and compare between different species (often

trout and eels are caught along with salmon during the electrofishing process). The biologists will give the children a brief talk about the way that their project has contributed to



helping salmon. At this time, the children and biologists can investigate the other life which lives in the river—the mini-beasts and bugs that salmon eat!

The Resources

- Teacher's Pack providing details of the project and ideas for lesson plans. GFT has recently produced a new DVD for inclusion in the pack.
- Equipment all of the equipment needed to run the project is provided by GFT (with the exception of extra ice packs for those groups using the double tank system)
- Checklists to ensure that all eventualities are covered, a comprehensive checklist accompanies the equipment.
- the project are experienced biologists which we believe is essential in providing detail on the 'bigger picture'. All staff have been through the Disclosure (Scotland) process and are also Science and Engineering Ambassadors.
- Website there is a newly created website which accompanies the project. The website provides links to a variety of information resources for children.



http://www.snh.org.uk/salmonintheclassroom/