

**marinescotlandscience**

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101 | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: 0131 244[Redacted – Personal Details]

[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 07 November 2019 10:31

**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** WEST coast smolts

[Redacted – Personal Details]

[Redacted – Personal Details]

[Redacted – Personal Details]

You will know that Tim has committed to assisting the AST with west coast smolt tracking this coming year, including deployment of detectors. Please confirm that SFF will be putting in the necessary ship time requests to support this work.

[Redacted – Personal Details]

[Redacted – Personal Details]

[Redacted – Personal Details]

Scottish Government

Marine Laboratory

P O Box 101

375 Victoria Road

Aberdeen

AB11 9DB

Tel: +44 (0)131 244 [Redacted – Personal Details]

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

e: email : [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot

w: <http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland>

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 February 2020 14:50  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Key points and decisions from meeting on 07.02.2020 with Lochaber Fisheries Trust

**From:** Jessica Rodger <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Sent:** 10 February 2020 16:45  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@googlemail.com>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@argyllfisheriestrust.co.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gmail.com>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Colin Bull <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Subject:** Key points and decisions from meeting on 07.02.2020 with Lochaber Fisheries Trust

Hi everyone,

Here are the key points and decisions made at our meeting on Friday.

Present : [Redacted – Personal Details], [Redacted – Personal Details] (MSS) [Redacted – Personal Details] (Lochaber) [Redacted – Personal Details] (Lochaber) [Redacted – Personal Details] (Argyll), Colin Bull (CB), Jess Rodger (AST)

1. The roles of AST and MSS within this project were outlined. The project is an AST-led project funded and assisted by MSS. Therefore, AST are responsible for delivering the project and should be the first contact point for anyone. JR and CB are the AST staff that should be contacted in the first instance with [Redacted – Personal Details] taking the role of operations logistics manager. For MSS [Redacted – Personal Details] is the point of contact, and he will disseminate to staff in MSS.
2. Communications was discussed and it was acknowledged that this has to be improved to assist delivery. It was agreed that unless of a sensitive nature then all communications by emails regarding all aspects of the project should by default include the relevant contacts from AST JR, CB , BW) and from the partner organisations (MSS). This way we will all have sight of current or emerging issues and be able to respond.
3. The overall aim of the west coast tracking project was discussed. Tracking the marine migration of salmon smolts is the primary aim. The first year of this project will also determine the efficiency of the marine receiver locations and arrays (Skye to Uist array and inter island array in the Outer Hebrides).
4. It was agreed that at least one receiver will have to be placed at the mouth of each river, to determine whether the smolt or tag has left the freshwater.
5. Additional receivers will be placed at strategic positions in the marine habitat in order to opportunistically record fish in addition to the arrays. The exact number and locations of these receivers is to be determined with expert input from [Redacted – Personal Details] and [Redacted – Personal Details] as they have previous experience of deployment on the west coast. [Redacted – Personal Details] is the lead person for marine receiver deployment logistics and should coordinate with them to finalise number and locations ahead of deployment arrangements.
6. Lochaber have ordered an additional 4 receivers, and the deployment of these will be in freshwater (Lochy) to inform about small scale river migration of tagged smolts



there. Deployment of these additional receivers will be coordinated between [Redacted – Personal Details] and [Redacted – Personal Details].

7. Freshwater receivers: two receivers positioned to overlap slightly (one on each bank) at the mouths of the Awe and Lochy , and one river receiver located a maximum of 1 km downstream from the smolt release site on each river (6 receivers in total at present) .
8. The final design of additional receivers in freshwater, estuaries and marine are to be confirmed ASAP.
9. [Redacted – Personal Details] to confirm with [Redacted – Personal Details] the availability of a RST to trap smolts to look at length frequency and numbers at Morar or Moydart.
10. AST to coordinate with everyone timings for deploying smolt traps and receivers. AST will help deploy receivers and, if additional help is required, the RSTs.
11. Standardised Operating Procedure for fish tagging is currently being agreed and finalised.
12. Tagging teams Lochaber and Awe:
  - a. It **MUST** be very clear who is tagging smolts at each site for Home Office Licensing. Any MS staff will be under [Redacted – Personal Details]'s license and [Redacted – Personal Details] / [Redacted – Personal Details] will be under Glasgow University ([Redacted – Personal Details]) Home Office License.
  - b. Lochaber : [Redacted – Personal Details] will be tagging smolts on Lundy and Loy (once passed training and assessment) and will carry out procedures under Glasgow University Home Office Project Licence. [Redacted – Personal Details] will provide tagging support and can oversee tagging to provide quality checking initially. The presence of an MSS licenced tagger is not a requirement to allow tagging to proceed (as training record will be complete) but MSS assistance is extremely welcome and appreciated Tagging quality checking is provided by AST under the terms of the SOP. Tagging on Lundy and Loy can be undertaken without the presene of MSS staff.
  - c. Awe: MSS ([Redacted – Personal Details] and [Redacted – Personal Details]) will tag smolts caught by RST on River Orchy, if they are unable to tag smolts [Redacted – Personal Details] will tag with the help of MSS staff. This will enable [Redacted – Personal Details] to obtain important tagging experience under supervision. All acoustic tagged smolts will be transported and released below the barrage on River Awe .
  - d. Awe: In addition to the Orchy tagging , [Redacted – Personal Details] will investigate deploying an RST trap on the River Etive to collect length frequency data and if sizes and numbers permit , carry out acoustic tagging on a maximum of 30 smolts . No MSS staff from the Orchy are available to assist with this. [Redacted – Personal Details] to coordinate with AST staff on logistics and assistance with tagging.
  - e. The final number of acoustic tags available for Lochaber is TBC and for Argyll is TBC.
  - f. There will be a judgement call each day for the number of fish to be tagged. It is agreed that any fish large enough to be tagged will be tagged, until 100 smolts have been tagged. After this point the remaining tags can be spread throughout the remainder of the smolt run. Each team will inform Jess daily on the number of smolts being tagged at each site.
  - g. Lochaber will be aiming to deploy traps in first week of April, Orchy traps will go in around the 6<sup>th</sup> April and Etive trap would be deployed first week of April.

Best wishes,

Jess



## Dr Jessica Rodger

Postdoctoral Fellow

Atlantic Salmon Trust  
Battleby House  
Redgorton  
PERTH  
PH1 3EW

██████████  
██████████  
[www.atlanticsalmontrust.org](http://www.atlanticsalmontrust.org)

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**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 06 February 2020 10:22  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Lochasber site visit this Friday

**From:** Jessica Rodger <[jess@atlanticsalmontrust.org](mailto:jess@atlanticsalmontrust.org)>  
**Sent:** 06 February 2020 10:16  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@gmail.com>; [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@googlemail.com>  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] alan@fms.scot>; Mark Bilsby <mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; Bill Whyte <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; Colin Bull <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Lochasber site visit this Friday

Hi all,

Thank you for your email, [Redacted – Personal Details].

I think it is important that we all meet tomorrow as planned. I would really like to have all the decisions made at this meeting tomorrow. I have asked Colin Bull (cc'd) to also attend this meeting. Colin will be temporarily overseeing both East and West coast projects. At our meeting tomorrow we will be able to finalise which sites are being tagged, where receivers are being deployed etc.

Are you all happy to meet tomorrow as planned?

Kind Regards,

Jess



## Dr Jessica Rodger

Postdoctoral Fellow

Atlantic Salmon Trust  
Battleby House  
Redgorton  
PERTH  
PH1 3EW

[Redacted] 01738 827 200

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**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 06 February 2020 09:56  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@googlemail.com>  
**Cc:** Jessica Rodger <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@fms.scot>; Mark Bilsby <[mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org](mailto:mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org)>; Bill Whyte <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Lochaber site visit this Friday

Morning [Redacted – Personal Details]

I had rather planned round meeting tomorrow. My problem is I am away after tomorrow until 20th Feb.

Does [Redacted – Personal Details] departure change much about planning here in Lochaber? Mark's email would suggest not, just that the AST team has been reshuffled to cover all the necessary roles.

Happy to do whatever everyone thinks best. But last week in Feb best for me if we reschedule.

atb

[Redacted – Personal Details]

On Thu, 6 Feb 2020, 08:43 [Redacted – Personal Details], <[Redacted – Personal Details]@googlemail.com> wrote:

Dear All,

Just a quick email in light of yesterday's news about [Redacted – Personal Details] leaving. I spoke to [Redacted – Personal Details] yesterday and we discussed whether it is worth everyone meeting on Friday. Without [Redacted – Personal Details] will it be possible to finalise who is doing what, the main reason most of us were attending? I can show Jess round the sites and then I suggest MSS, LDSFB, LFT, FMS and AST have a teleconf or meeting, preferably next week, to finalise staffing in Lochaber.

Is everyone happy with this?

Best wishes

[Redacted – Personal Details]

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[Redacted – Personal Details]

Lochaber Fisheries Trust | Torlundy Training Centre | Torlundy | Fort William | PH33 6PH |  
t: 01397 703728 m: [Redacted – Personal Details]  
[www.lochaberfish.org.uk](http://www.lochaberfish.org.uk)

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**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]

@atlanticsalmontrust.org>

**Sent:** 24 January 2020 17:11

**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] @student.gla.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @sky.com; director@fnlft.org.uk; director@fnlft.org.uk; [Redacted – Personal Details] @gmail.com; [Redacted – Personal Details] @deveron.org; [Redacted – Personal Details] @kylefisheries.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @kylefisheries.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @speyfisheryboard.com; [Redacted – Personal Details] @speyfisheryboard.com

**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details] @student.gla.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @googlemail.com>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @argyllfisheriestrust.co.uk>; Mark Bilsby <mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @glasgow.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @glasgow.ac.uk>; Atlantic Salmon Trust Administrator <[Redacted – Personal Details] @atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @fms.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @deveron.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @glasgow.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @glasgow.ac.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Tagging

Hi everyone,

Some updates for the tagging training. We have now all our dates in places (yeah!), please see below, dates to book in your calendar:

February 11-12 : Home office training at SCENE

February 25: Marine Scotland Training by Niall Gauld at SCENE

March 3: Training provided by Colin Adams, Hannele Honkanen, and Matthew Newton + assessment at SCENE

There are few questions that I will like to ask to each of you, please take the time to fill out the survey below:

1. How many nights do you need at SCENE, are you arriving in the morning (Feb 11) or the night before (Feb 10). Training day (25 th and 3th) will start late enough to ensure that everyone can drive in the morning. If you arrive on the 10 th, please note that the dinner will not be provided.
2. Any dietary requirements (vegan/vegetarian/ medical or religious)?
3. Please let us know which glove size you were (for the tagging kit)
4. Please let us know if you need to have a measuring board at your disposal, if not AST will provide one in the tagging kit.

[Redacted – Personal Details] should have send you some material to read before their training...some preparation is required....if you didn't receive the material, please let me know and I will ensure to rectify the situation.

If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cheers

[Redacted – Personal Details]

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details]

**Sent:** 17 January 2020 13:17

**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] @student.gla.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @sky.com; director@fnlft.org.uk; director@fnlft.org.uk; [Redacted – Personal Details] @gmail.com; [Redacted – Personal Details] @deveron.org; [Redacted – Personal Details] @deveron.org; [Redacted – Personal Details] @kylefisheries.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @kylefisheries.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @speyfisheryboard.com; [Redacted – Personal Details] @speyfisheryboard.com

**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details] @student.gla.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @googlemail.com>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @argyllfisheriestrust.co.uk>; Mark Bilsby; [Redacted – Personal Details] @gov.scot; [Redacted – Personal Details] @gov.scot; [Redacted – Personal Details] @glasgow.ac.uk>; [Redacted – Personal Details] @glasgow.ac.uk>; Atlantic Salmon Trust Administrator [Redacted – Personal Details] @atlanticsalmontrust.org>

**Subject:** Tagging

Hi everyone!

Just a quick email as you registered for the home office course on February 11-12 (so these dates should be booked in your calendar). AST will provide accommodation and food for you during the course (mileage can be claimed to AST). We also booked a date for training, your first day of training will be provided by Marine Scotland ([Redacted – Personal Details] will be the leader) February 25 (if accommodation needed, room at scene will be available), and a second day of training provided by SCENE where [Redacted – Personal Details] will assess your technic (date TBD)

Please put these days in your calendar as all days are **mandatory**, if you are missing any of these days, you will not be able to tag this year.

Looking forward to working with you as a tagger this year for the Moray Firth and the West Coast projects!

Cheers

[Redacted – Personal Details]



[Redacted – Personal Details] - REDACTED PERSONAL DETAILS  
[Redacted – Personal Details] - REDACTED PERSONAL DETAILS  
Atlantic Salmon Trust  
Battleby House  
Redgorton  
PERTH  
PH1 3EW



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**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 13:12  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: training - talked with [Redacted – Personal Details]

Hi [Redacted – Personal Details],

Ive just spoken to [Redacted – Personal Details]. He could do the 24/25 February.

Catch up with you on Monday.

[Redacted – Personal Details]

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 12:41  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: training - talked with [Redacted – Personal Details]

Hi [Redacted – Personal Details],

Absolutely, and we are working with Scene ([Redacted – Personal Details]) to achieve this (since it is under his project license), as well working with Marine Scotland. I want to be throughout.

I am not at SCENE tomorrow, I am meeting the Deveron. I will be meeting you Monday, we can talk about the training day [Redacted – Personal Details] will provide (content and how), but I just wanted to know if you are ok if I send an email today to ask people to block Feb 24-25 in their calendar for a training provided by [Redacted – Personal Details] (based on his availability)?  
Cheers

[Redacted – Personal Details]

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot [mailto:[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 12:35  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: training - talked with [Redacted – Personal Details]

Hi [Redacted – Personal Details],

It does make sense that all tagging that takes place is harmonised across the groups so the same techniques and equipment are used. I think there needs to be agreement with SCENE to how this will be achieved as this year any fishery board work will come under their licence. I am in Edinburgh today but am back in my office tomorrow and will try to talk to you then.

Thanks

[Redacted – Personal Details]

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Sent:** 15 January 2020 15:10  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** training - talked with [Redacted – Personal Details]

Hi [Redacted – Personal Details],

I had a good chat with [Redacted – Personal Details] today in regards of the training session of river board/trust. I left you a message on your voice message trying to explain the plan we come up, so you can evaluate if you are ok with it. The home office training and certification will be February 11-12. Then we will give a surgical pad to everyone, they will have time to practice their technics. Then, I just froze (in scene booking calendar) Feb 24 (night – accommodation) and Feb 25 for a day of training with [Redacted – Personal Details] at Scene. [Redacted – Personal Details] thought it will be better to come at Scene for lecture/hand on tagging technique training on dead fish since the Lochy idea can only be done in April (good idea but timeline doesn't work since all biologist need to be ready to hit the field early April). If you are ok with the plan and dates (this was based on [Redacted – Personal Details] availabilities), then I will send an email to River Trust/Board biologist so they can block the date in their agenda. I was hoping to do this before the end of the week.

Cheers

[Redacted – Personal Details]



[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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Battleby House  
Redgorton  
PERTH  
PH1 3EW



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**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Sent:** 15 January 2020 10:11  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; Bill Whyte <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; Mark Bilsby <mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: West Coast Arrays

That is grand, thank you!! Would you have time for a phone call today to talk about the training day for the tagger (from river trust/board) this year? If so, let me know what time would suit you.

Cheers

[Redacted – Personal Details]

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot [mailto:[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot]  
**Sent:** 15 January 2020 10:09  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; Mark Bilsby <mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Subject:** RE: West Coast Arrays

Morning all,

Apologies for the slow response, I'm only just back from leave today. I will have a look through the positions that I worked up before Christmas and send over a spreadsheet.

Many thanks

[Redacted – Personal Details]

**From:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Sent:** 03 January 2020 12:26  
**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details]< [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>  
**Subject:** Re: West Coast Arrays

Morning All

Thanks for the introductions Mark, Happy New Year to all.

Hi [Redacted – Personal Details], I'm guessing that your software will also throw up the Lat and Long of these plotted receiver locations as well as the depths. If this is the case, would you be kind enough to include these coordinates in the spreadsheet please as this will help Louise and I further down the line.

Yours Aye  
Bill

---

**From:** Mark Bilsby <mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org>

**Sent:** 03 January 2020 09:51

**To:** [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot <[Redacted – Personal Details]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Bill Whyte <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>; [Redacted – Personal Details] <[Redacted – Personal Details]@atlanticsalmontrust.org>

**Subject:** West Coast Arrays

Morning [Redacted – Personal Details] and [Redacted – Personal Details],

First of all Happy New Year and I hope that you managed a good break over the festive period. We will be back at full strength on Monday as people return from leave. However could I introduce Bill Whyte who is in charge of the practical logistics for both the West Coast and Moray Firth tracking projects. He will be working with [Redacted – Personal Details] who remains the lead for the scientific aspects of the two projects, with support from Ken Whelan and Colin Bull.

[Redacted – Personal Details] – you kindly sent over the routes for the Skye to South Uist arrays and the depths. Would it be possible to send over the exact depth of water that each of the receivers will be in. The info in an Excel would help enormously.

All the best and many thanks

Mark



**Mark Bilsby**

Chief Executive Officer

Atlantic Salmon Trust  
Battleby House  
Redgorton  
PERTH  
PH1 3EW



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