



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

S&TA CHAIRMAN **JAMES CARR** REVIEWS THE ASSOCIATION'S THREE YEARS AS A CHARITY.

It is approximately three years since we achieved charitable status which is time enough to allow some consideration of what this has meant for the Association.

Financially the impact has been all positive. Not only have we been able to claim gift aid on subscriptions but we have also been able to attract charitable donations in excess of £100,000 during the course of 2010. This is particularly important in the current economic climate when our membership numbers, like many other organisations, are under pressure. If any reader who is a paid up member but has a fishing friend who is not, please encourage him or her to join!

As is expanded elsewhere in this edition of *Gamefisher*, we are a 'lobbying' charity but all such lobbying is backed up by appropriate scientific research. The donations we have received have enabled us to take the lead in putting the environmental impact of the Scottish aquaculture industry under severe scrutiny at all levels under the leadership of Guy Linley-Adams. He has been supported by the work of Janina Gray, our scientist, whose detailed consolidation of all published and peer group reviewed papers relating to the aquaculture industry has provided a solid base for his work.

## WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Many of our areas of concern for salmon and trout, indeed all freshwater fish, relate to water quality and quantity. The main driver for improvement for both is the Water Framework Directive. This Directive sets out clear water quality objectives but in times of financial stress the Government and its Agencies are only too willing to procrastinate to avoid the cost of delivery. It is the role of the Association to work with others to ensure that the issues are properly addressed and to do so requires appropriate scientific justification.

The Association's financial resources are limited and it is therefore imperative that we

work with others towards a common goal. We have already working partnerships in place with other charities such as the Wild Trout Trust as well as with certain university research departments. One of the leading operators in this field with whom we are already involved is the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT). This Trust, with some financial support from this Association amongst others, took over the Laboratory and fishery scientists at East Stoke on the River Frome approximately two years ago.

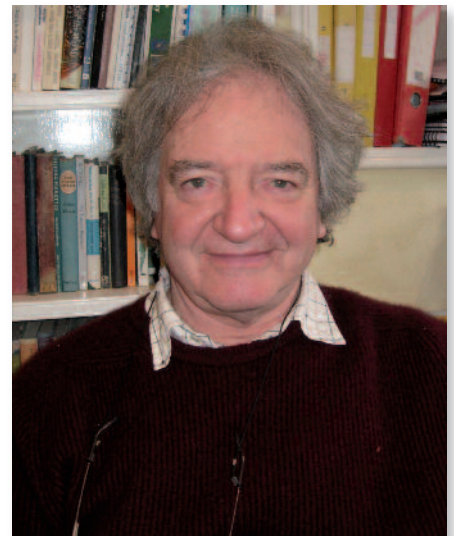
## FORMAL COLLABORATION

After much deliberation the Trustees of both organisations have decided to enter into a more formal collaboration, especially around the planning and delivery of measures to achieve objectives under the Water Framework Directive. As well as GWCT's fishery work, much of their existing land management research has

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outputs that are relevant to the riverine environment, but are not currently integrated into fishery science as much they could be. It is also intended that the two organisations will speak with one voice on relevant issues, so that, not only will duplication be avoided, but the ability to influence Government and to deliver tangible benefits will be substantially increased by using the combined strengths of our two organisations.

Without charitable status the possibilities of collaborating in this way would have been substantially less and the chances of funding the resultant scientific work probably non-existent. In short it is a good news story!



Above: James Carr.

