



IBIS

Integrated Aquatic Resources
Management Between Ireland,
Northern Ireland & Scotland

SCENE Field Station
University of Glasgow,
Rowardennan,
Loch Lomond
G63 0AW

An open letter to members of the LLAIA,

The Ferox Project is part of a large EU funded project called IBIS (<http://loughs-agency.org/ibis>) this is a cross-border project spanning across Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland covering a range of species including salmon, trout, European eels, the signal crayfish, freshwater pearl mussels and various other projects related to freshwater and marine systems.

What we aim to achieve from the ferox project: Ultimately we want to find as much out as we can about ferox trout.

To do this we can carry out a range of tests, such as genetic tests between ferox trout and non-ferox brown trout to figure out if they are genetically distinct populations or not - We can conduct these tests from scale samples from the fish.

Stable Isotope Analysis, sounds complicated but these tests basically just tell us what the fish has been eating without looking at their stomach contents and therefore not killing the fish, it is also much more accurate than stomach content analysis - We can conduct this from scale samples too.

Morphological Analysis, again just another way of saying is there differences in shape between types of fish i.e. brown trout and ferox trout - We can conduct this simply by comparing photographs of brown trout and ferox on the computer using image analysis programs

Any basic information on the numbers of ferox living in Loch Lomond and any other Loch we study. We have no idea how big or small the ferox population is in most lochs apart from maybe Rannoch, and the population there is believed to be declining, so any info we can gather would be essential.

By creating The Ferox Project we aim to integrate anglers and scientists who both have a vested interest in these fish and hopefully we can contribute to some ground-breaking work.

In the near future we are planning to create an event for anyone who is interested to meet here at the field station at Rowardennan to discuss ferox trout and hopefully give some short presentations on the work we are currently carrying out here.

In the meantime we are hoping to get some researchers out on the Loch with anglers, and we will be able to cover the cost of petrol. For ferox that we catch we will conduct a short procedure that will last 1-2 minutes, this will include taking a length of the fish, a photograph for image analysis, scale samples and an adipose fin clip. Please feel free to contact us at theferoxproject@live.co.uk or 01360 870 514

All the best,

Martin from The Ferox Project Team.