



West Coast Tracking Project Funding

The Marine Directorate, Fisheries Management Scotland and the Atlantic Salmon Trust are working in partnership to improve our knowledge of wild Atlantic salmon migration and behaviour on the west coast of Scotland, with the ultimate aim of supporting wild fish populations. Together these three organisations are solely responsible for the project design and delivery. Project staff are employed by the Atlantic Salmon Trust, and the day-to-day management of the cost profile is also the responsibility of the Trust, but governed by all three partners.

All the funds described below for the project are restricted – meaning that they can only be used for the West Coast Tracking Project and not for other purposes. There are also no agreements – formal or informal – with the aquaculture industry that dictate the design of this programme, or restrict the activities of the Atlantic Salmon Trust or other project partners.

In addition to the financial contributions stated below, the involvement of Glasgow University for scientific support, and the contribution of volunteer time through the Fishery Board and Trust network, is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

2020:

Total Budget to purchase equipment, consumables (ie. Tags) and running costs	£1.15 million
Main funding stream through an application for the Scottish Government's Maritime Fisheries Fund	£746,227

At this point, the funding shortfall of circa £400,000 was underwritten by the Atlantic Salmon Trust, in recognition of the importance of learning more about the marine migratory distribution of Atlantic salmon across the west coast of Scotland.

The postponement of the project in 2020 (due to Covid-19) provided an opportunity to refine the approach and the Trust took the decision to maintain the staff employed for this study so that equipment could be recovered and repurposed for the 2021 tracking season, wherever possible.

2021:

Total Budget	£671,475
Main funding stream through a second application for the Scottish Government's Maritime Fisheries Fund	£368,816
Industry Contribution (through Salmon Scotland)	£240,000

The aquaculture companies also contributed boat time to deploy equipment at sea.

The remaining funds were contributed by private donations and the Atlantic Salmon Trust.



2022:

Total Budget	£652,096
Main funding Scottish Government	£400,000
Industry Contribution (through Salmon Scotland)	£180,000

The Trust also received individual donations to support this work. The remaining balance was met by the Atlantic Salmon Trust.

2023:

Total Budget	£153,773
River Lochy Association contribution	£10,000

In 2023 expenditure was met from budget carried over from previous years.