

Case Study: Environmental Management

Electrofishing – Fish Rescues



Perth Transport Futures Project – Phase One
A9/A85 Perth Transport Futures Project

Electrofishing

Electrofishing is a common scientific survey method used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish, which return to their natural state in as little as two minutes after being caught.

Fish rescue as a form of mitigation is an important when dewatering of rivers and burns. Wild fish populations are protected by UK and EU legislation. A fish rescue may be needed to remove fish from a working area prior to the proposed dewatering of the aquatic environment for construction activities.

The Challenge

Construction activities within aquatic environments can release sites and sediments into the water course causing pollution for a considerable distance.

Silt laden water, plus site debris and other pollutants, has the potential to contaminate the aquatic environment locally and further downstream within a catchment area. Where this happens a project will be fined.

Fish Rescue

To ensure the aquatic environment is protected during works in rivers and burns, the working area is dewatered to provide a dry working area. Water is pumped or flumed through the working area to ensure the continued flow of water through the channel.

A fish rescue is undertaken by Electrofishing to remove all fish species from the working area, providing a sterile working environment and protecting animals from harm.

The Results

At its most basic, electrofishing can be described as the application of an electric field into water in order to incapacitate fish; thus rendering them easier to catch.



For more information, please contact:
Duncan.Gardner@BalfourBeatty.com