

New initiative begins to remove mink in north Scotland

May 12 2011



The largest ever initiative to remove breeding American mink from north Scotland is now underway, it was announced today (12 May 2011).

Covering 20,000 km², from rural Tayside across Aberdeenshire, Moray, the Cairngorms and the Highlands, the Scottish [Mink](#) Initiative is a new partnership project between Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS), Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the University of Aberdeen, and 16 other organizations.

Aiming to protect native wildlife, such as water voles, ground nesting birds and economically important populations of salmon and game birds, to help protect local economic stability for the benefit of local communities, the project signals a £920,000 investment in native

wildlife conservation, thanks to support from Cairngorms National Park Authority, Highland, Moray, Rural Aberdeenshire and Rural Tayside LEADER 2003 - 2007 Programmes and SNH through the Species Action Framework.

Hollie Walker, the Scottish Mink Initiative Project Coordinator, said: “This project is as much about ensuring economic security for local communities as it is about protecting Scotland’s wildlife. By taking action now to prevent mink from continuing to impact negatively on our native wildlife, we are also safeguarding local economies and livelihoods which depend on angling, shooting, or wildlife tourism.

“The success of this project relies on community support and involvement, and we hope that by working with homeowners, landowners, river trusts and boards, and local interest groups, we can deliver real, tangible results to benefit local communities now and in the future.

“We have now appointed four project officers and we will be strategically working at a local level to monitor mink movements using mink rafts and establish an alert system, made up of local land owners, fishery trusts, volunteers, and interested others, to prevent further spread of the species. While animal control will be necessary, animal welfare considerations will be paramount to our operations.”

With its aim to create a 20,000 km² safe haven free from breeding mink, the Scottish Mink Initiative significantly builds on the success of previous mink control projects in the Cairngorms National Park, Highlands and north east Scotland.

The project will establish a strategic monitoring and control zone across the north, extending from the mid-Tay to the South Esk, around the east coast to the River Nairn, and across from Dornoch and Cromarty on the

east to Ullapool on the west.

Provided by University of Aberdeen

Citation: New initiative begins to remove mink in north Scotland (2011, May 12) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-05-mink-north-scotland.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.