

4.	<p><u>Head Bailiff's Report</u></p> <p>Martin Lock provided a brief review of the season which echoed the Chairman's earlier comments. He noted that sea trout fishing enjoyed a very good 3-week spell early in the season with above average numbers and weights of fish being reported.</p> <p>Significant numbers of salmon entered and moved up the river in the final few days of the season and continued to run after the season closed.</p> <p>No poaching incidents were reported during the past season.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>The Secretary presented the Board Income and Expenditure Report. Because Stair Estates own such a significant portion of the River, bailiffing, hatchery and administration is run through the Estate Accounts. As a consequence, the accounts as presented only showed income collected for, and payments to the GFT levy and the ASFB subscriptions.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lagafater Estate contribution on the income statement should be explicitly identified 2. Politically, it would be helpful if all Board costs could be shown explicitly to give a true indication of the expense of operating a Board if Stair Estates did not absorb so much of the costs 3. Following on from point (2), consideration should be given to the conventional model of the Board raising levies from all Qualifying proprietors based on a poundage on the Valuation Roll. <p>The Financial Report and matters arising were approved by the Board.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Galloway Fisheries Trust Report</u></p> <p>Jamie Ribbens and Jackie Graham provided a GFT report:</p> <p><u>Electrofishing</u></p> <p>A total of 11 sites were electro-fished across the River Luce catchment and the Piltanton Burn. The results are presented in Table 1, appended to the Minutes.</p> <p>On the Piltanton Burn at Greenfield Farm, where the river banks have been fenced off from livestock, 90 juvenile trout were caught in a 20.4 metre long stretch.</p> <p><u>Surveys to monitor and inform windfarm developments</u></p> <p>During 2015 'construction phase' electrofishing monitoring was undertaken at Kilgallioch Windfarm and Glenchamber Windfarm - which included sites on the Luce catchment. GFT staff also undertook habitat surveys for another potential windfarm development on the Cross Water of Luce catchment.</p> <p><u>Invasive Non-Native plant control</u></p> <p>Control of Japanese knotweed continued along the banks of the Luce. The first 5 years of control were undertaken as part of the EU funded CIRB project when initially over 11,200 m². GFT supported by volunteers undertook the herbicide spraying this autumn across the Main River Luce, Lady Burn and Cross Water of Luce. Most of the knotweed has been killed off but some clumps still persist although much reduced.</p>	

Celtic Sea Trout Project

The final report for the project is still not available although it has been promised to us by the end of November. Some of the project findings were presented in Ireland at the recent '2nd International Sea Trout Symposium – from Science to Management' which included Luce data.

Riverfly Workshop

Two Riverfly Partnership River Invertebrate Monitoring Workshops were run in July and included representation from the Luce catchment. GFT have now set up a network of River fly sites which will be monitored by the trained volunteers. The invertebrate data collected will help to monitor the Galloway rivers for pollution problems.

Conservation Limits and mandatory catch and release

The data being used by Marine Scotland to calculate the Conservation Limits for the Solway rivers (and used to categorise rivers) is flawed. An over reliance on rod catch data, some dubious correction factors being used and a lack of local expertise / data means that the figures being generated are not accurate and thus may not be categorising rivers correctly.

GFT are continuing to make representation to MS and looking at how and what local data is required to correct the Conservation Limits in the future to show the true health of salmon stocks.

Calculation of egg target – total area is estimated and then multiplied by egg requirements (i.e. number of eggs per m²) – model is then run for 10,000 times

Calculation of egg deposition – First of all the rod catch for the river is 'corrected' for grilse error (Table below provides Luce catch data after 'grilse error').

Year	Method	Total Grilse	Total Multi sea winter
2010	Released	19	14
2011	Released	67	81
2012	Released	70	64
2013	Released	45	52
2014	Released	18	20
2010	Retained	69	56
2011	Retained	51	65
2012	Retained	54	64
2013	Retained	21	25
2014	Retained	2	1

Total catch is then multiplied out by 'exploitation' (calculated annually from fish counter rivers) which is usually ~10%. Figures are then 'corrected' for double counting of C&R fish, release mortality, in river predation. Next males are discarded and females multiplied out at ~3000 eggs per grilse and ~5300 per salmon. This gives the total number of eggs available.

Model then runs 10,000 times adding in some variation. For each scenario then if 'eggs available' exceeds 'egg requirements' then it passes its conservation

limit but if it is lower then it fails as it calculates there are insufficient eggs present.

Year	% of times it reaches Conservation Limit
2010	28
2011	65.6
2012	59.8
2013	33.9
2014	7.2

Jamie Ribbens highlighted that the flawed methodology gave particularly skewed results when rod catches were low and stressed that irrespective of how low the returns were, particularly in the headwaters of the Water of Luce, they should all be reported to Marine Scotland.

Social Media

Keep up to date on the work of GFT through:

News section of GFT website on www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org

Twitter @Galloway_FT

Like the Galloway Fisheries Trust page on facebook

7. Any Other Business

1. The Secretary confirmed that no Complaints had been received through the procedure and email address set up on the Luce DSFB section of the GFT website.
2. GFT noted that they had been consulted by SEPA in connection with a water abstraction licence application at Soulseat Loch
3. The GFT briefing on the proposals to implement conservation limits on salmon catches may also apply to sea trout in the future. It is crucially important that all sea trout catches are accurately reported because of their influence on any future conservation limit calculation.

8. Date of Annual General Meeting

The Spring Meeting will be held at Lochinch Stables Courtyard at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 6th June 2016.

Table 1: Tabulated results from the 2014 Luce and Piltanton electrofishing surveys (densities relate to those shown in Table 2)

Site	Watercourse	Site Location	Survey Date	Presence Of Non-Salmonid Species*	Area Fished (m ²)	Density per 100m ² **			
						Salmon Fry (0+)	Salmon Parr (1+ and older)	Trout Fry (0+)	Trout Parr (1+ and older)
1	Luce	Downstream bridge at Strabracken	14/07/2015	None	73.7	0	>1.36	>17.64	>8.14
2	Luce	Upstream of Lagafater Dam	14/07/2015	None	91.8	>22.88	>25.05	>27.23	>9.80
3	Luce	Upstream bridge at Dalnigap	14/07/2015	None	83.8	>10.74	>22.67	>2.39	0
4	Luce	Upstream footbridge near Pularyan	30/07/2015	E x 1	118.3	>40.57	>23.67	>7.60	>0.85
5	Luce	Through field at Little Larg roadway	30/07/2015	E x 6	103.3	>50.33	>31.94	>5.81	0
6	Luce	Through field near Balneil	30/07/2015	E x 11	133.2	>54.56	>15.12	>1.50	0
7	Luce	Upstream of Craig Farm	30/07/2015	E x 4	105.3	>75.06	>6.65	>3.80	0
8	Luce	Downstream bridge near Glenluce Abbey	30/07/2015	E x 1	155.9	>34.01	>8.98	>1.93	0
9	Piltanton Burn	Upstream of bridge at Greenfield	10/07/2015	E x 1 SB x 7	44.9	0	0	>189.39	>11.14
10	Piltanton Burn	Downstream of Lochans	10/07/2015	E x 4	68.9	0	>2.90	>76.92	>4.35
11	Piltanton Burn, Chlenry Burn	At Drumflower	10/07/2015	E x 1 L x 3 H x 2	67.6	0	>1.48	>54.72	>26.62

Table 2: Quintile ranges for juvenile salmonids (per 100 m² of water) based on one-run electrofishing events, calculated on densities >0 over 291 sites in the Solway Statistical Region (Godfrey, J. D., 2006; Site Condition Monitoring of Atlantic Salmon SACs: Report by the SFCC to Scottish Natural Heritage, Contract F02AC608.)

	Salmon 0+	Salmon 1++	Trout 0+	Trout 1++
Minimum (Very Low)	0.22	0.38	0.38	0.35
20 th Percentile (Low)	5.21	2.86	4.14	2.27
40 th Percentile (Moderate)	12.68	5.87	12.09	4.71
60 th Percentile (High)	25.28	9.12	26.63	8.25
80 th Percentile (Very High)	46.53	15.03	56.49	16.28
Maximum	221.41	50.40	415.72	174.16

*Other fish species: SB = Three-spined stickleback; E = Eel; L = Lamprey species (ammocoete); H = possible salmon/trout hybrid

** Minimum estimates of salmonids per 100m² of water