

URR DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Minutes of Board Meeting held at the Douglas Arms, Castle Douglas on 10th February 2016

- Present:** R Bellamy (Chairman)
K Gibson
Captain D Fergusson
W Levi-Marshall
K Irving
W G N Gourlay (Clerk)
- In Attendance:** J Ribbens (Galloway Fisheries Trust)
Miss J Graham (Galloway Fisheries Trust)
- Observers** R Smith

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr T C Florey and Mrs P Gilroy.

2. MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF 12th NOVEMBER 2015

The Minutes had previously been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that Mr Henderson of the Nith Board had inspected the Balcary net and provided advice that notwithstanding the alterations to the net, there remained a risk of salmon and grilse being caught and killed. The report from Mr Henderson had been copied to Mrs Gilroy and Mr Wykes. It was agreed that the Board could do no more.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk tabled the accounts to 30th November 2015, which showed a deficit of £793.68, most of which was attributable to fees paid to Galloway Fisheries Trust for the response to the Lochurr Wind Farm consultation. (Noted that Lochurr Wind Farm is not proceeding.) The Clerk explained that the list of creditors was a statement as at 30th November and that 2015 levies were payable up to 15th December. Only one levy is now outstanding.

The accounts were approved for submission to the AGM.

5. WILD FISHERIES REVIEW

It was agreed that the Board could do no more than had been done to advise proprietors on Catch and Release. Noted that in default of a team of bailiffs, Police

Scotland are the enforcement authority. Guidance on what to do with a dead fish is lacking. Penalty for contravention of the regulations is a fine of up to £2,500.

Mr Ribbens outlined the current methodology employed by Marine Scotland in grading rivers and, in particular, the potential inaccuracies inherent from “discounting” for grilse error. It is vital that there is catch data kept, in particular, measurements (length and girth) and scale samples. GFT could provide “recycled” scale sample bags to the Associations.

The Clerk was instructed to obtain current list from Marine Scotland of the proprietors on the Urr from whom they actually demand or receive returns.

Noted that the Scottish Government had issued yet another lengthy consultation document for a Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill and a draft Wild Fisheries Strategy.

6. DALBEATTIE RESERVOIR

Reported that advised by APEM, Scottish Water had agreed to Biocide treatment, which has to be carried out by September. The decision may have been hastened by the Reservoirs Act inspection and a jammed outlet valve. Dalbeattie Angling Association are being kept informed.

7. CONSERVATION PLANS

Mr Ribbens had agreed to explain at the AGM the requirements for a Conversation Plan and how adequate all the data previously collected on the river system is to fulfil that.

8. AGM ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk was instructed to chivvy Chief Inspector David McCallum to appear and speak on enforcement. (He has accepted.)

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- a) Noted that a Salmon in the Classroom event had taken place in Dalbeattie.
- b) Mr Ribbens advised that he would be attending the joint ASFB / RAFTS Conference on 17th March and would convey any relevant matters back to the Board.
- c) Mr Ribbens tabled a brief handout on Conservation Limits.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be fixed at the AGM.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.