**River Luce District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman’s report for the year 2017/18 is written at the start of what I hope will not be repetition of last year’s river season. From July through till March, the almost constant rain produced river levels that were substantially higher than normal, resulting in flood damage and disrupted fishing patterns. Surprisingly catch returns have proved higher than the previous year, and gives encouragement that the river environment is still healthy.

The improvement from a Grade 3 river to a Grade 2 river over the last two seasons is very much welcomed, as is the maintenance of a Grade 2 River for the coming season. The river board is progressively improving catch recording in an attempt to further link the scientific theory, and the practical activity of fishing on the River Luce.

The Board of the River Luce continues to be an active supporter of the Galloway Fisheries Trust and wishes to record its thanks for their assistance in the catchment management of the river. A separate report from the Galloway fisheries trust detailing their activities is attached to this report as an annex and will be available at the AGM.

The River Luce continues with the bailiff arrangements under the head bailiff, Mr Martin Lock. The report on the years activities of the bailiffs is also attached as an annex to this report. I am further pleased to report that there have been no complaints reported to myself as Chairman or to the Board.

Accounts for the year have been produced and are attached to this Report.

The policy of the board of the River Luce continues to be as inclusive as possible, and invitations are extended to as many external organisations as possible to attend meetings and advise on management of the catchment.

Finally, it remains the intention of all those involved with the River, both Riparian owners and those involved in the management of the catchment to ensure a healthy biodiversity and future for the River system.