

# **DEE (KIRKCUDBRIGHT) DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

Chairman	Treasurer	Clerk	Legal Adviser
J.P.H. Ingall	Mrs. P. Campbell	Mr.T.Ewing	Gavin Scott,
Airds House,	12a The Crofts,	Wayside, Townhead	Messrs. Gillespie,Gifford
Parton,	Kirkcudbright.	of Greenlaw ,	& Brown, Kirkcudbright
Castle Douglas		Castle Douglas	

---

## **Minutes of the DDSFB AGM held on 09.04.2018, 10am-12.00pm at Tongland Power Station, Tongland , Kirkcudbright.**

**In attendance** - Mr J Ingall (JI), Mrs P Campbell (PC), Sir Malcolm Ross (SMR) Mr T Ewing (TE), Mr R Agnew (RA) , Mr G Dickie (GD) Scottish Power, Mr R. Wilson (RW), Ms Jackie Graham(JG) & Ms J Rogers (JR) from the Galloway Fisheries Trust, John McCubbin (JMcC) New Galloway Angling Association.

**Apologies-**, Mr. J Ribbens (GFT). Mr. K Munday (Threave Estates/NTS), Mr. D Forbes

**Chairman's welcome & annual report.** JI Welcomed all attendees, glad to see at least a medium turnout.

JI reported that there had been no complaints against the board and the minutes were in order.

Stated that this had been a difficult year with the river being classed as category 3 for conservation limits and having suffered again from heavy early season losses due to fungal infections in fish ascending the ladder in late spring. Summer runs were reasonable but high flows hindered angling. There followed a very poor Autumn run, a trend reflected across the country.

The GFT have worked hard monitoring the gas pipeline and setting baseline data for the new power re-enforcement infrastructure.

Pleased to hear of the success of the Tarff Creamery Weir removal project.

He hopes the Vaki fish counter is back online as soon as possible to ensure proper evaluation can be made of the impact of the increased flow regime downstream of the ladder.

The Hatchery continues to save and make good use of the salmon both for

restocking and the Salmon in the Classroom project which will hopefully be reinstated on the return of Mrs R. McCleary from maternity leave.

The bailiff will enforce and educate anglers on the Grade 3 designation for Catch & Release.

**JJ** Thanked Scottish Power for hosting, Pat Campbell, Tim Ewing and the GFT for all their works done in the interests of the fishery.

- 1. Treasurers Report- PC** reported that the accounts were in order although SandBraes had not paid as the new owners hadn't responded yet.

The Assessor has decreased the assessment values which had led to a 16% loss in income along with a £50 increase in the Fishery Management Scotland subscription.

So as not to fall into arrears **PC** suggested the assessment be increased to 100%.

The board agreed the rateable value will be increased to 100% to be reviewed pending information from the assessor on the drop in rateable value.

**PC** put forward that she would most likely have to retire next season.

- 2. Tongland Fish Counter/Pass (GFT)- JR** A poor season for the fish counter with only 305 recorded fish ascending and in excess of 40 fish dying in the ladder from fungus in the late spring. Since January the Vaki fish counter has not been working and has a broken winch that has been condemned for Health & Safety reasons. SP will be looking at replacement and re-instatement asap. **RW** asked if catch and release has any positive effect and that numbers have continued to fall. **TE** Stated that all fish were valuable and every fish killed had a negative effect on recruitment. The Dee had no surplus fish at present. **RW** asked if these fungused fish could be moved above the dam or to increase water flows with freshets. The GFT and SP stated they would do what they could to help the situation. Marine Scotland testing of the fungused fish showed no pathogens directly responsible for the infections.

- 3. Galloway Fisheries Trust JR** Highlighted the opportunity for fisheries to enhance their advertising reach through the free Fish Galloway promotional site.

**JG** updated on the Gas pipeline progress stating it was scheduled to be completed by September 2018 and all reparations complete by April 2019, the GFT had been regularly inspecting pipeline progress and impacts across the region with the Urr catchment requiring a specialised survey in relation to siltation. Pipeline impacts on the Dee have been minimal and the GFT have been monitoring the Stanshankie Burn for adverse effects.

**JG** Stated the upcoming SWS grid connection was of major concern and would require consultation on pylon routes, advising on methodology, advisory site visits and monitoring especially in relation to the high risk of damage from siltation. The River Deugh's isolated trout population was especially vulnerable to potential loss of

or damage to spawning substrates.

**JJ** Asked how SEPA and other regulatory bodies can ensure better practice in future, **JG** pointed out that SEPA had stopped works in bad weather and that inspection and monitoring were key. One of the main issues would be risks of siltation when all the access roads were removed and that impacts on the Black Water of Dee would be minimal as crossings occurred mainly on burns with no fish populations present, River crossings at Mossdale and on the Deugh would be the main areas of concern along with unrecognised small burns being considered unimportant. There would be a follow up survey this summer and that all the old pylon network would be removed by the winter.

**JG** reported early positive success from the River Tarff Creamery Weir removal project after first year surveys found juvenile salmon in good numbers above the old weir site.

INNS (Invasive non-native species) control had continued with skunk cabbage being tackled in Dalry and New Galloway. Funding had been secured from the Council Area Community Fund to continue with control of Japanese Knotweed, Skunk Cabbage and Himalayan Balsam in the catchment.

The proposed Loch Grannoch Char re-introduction project sponsored by the Galloway Glens Project has been shelved in the short term after surveys found that despite the presence of good habitat water quality still was not suitable for re-introduction. The project will be re-evaluated in 10 years.

The Black Water of Dee restoration Fund is set at £40,000 with additional match funding/ help from the Forestry Commission in the form of labour, trees and equipment. Further match funding potential from SPEN as compensation for impacts from proposed upgrade works.

SEPA has been undertaking EDNA surveys of Loch Ken and Loch Grannoch with perch surprisingly turning up in Loch Grannoch.

De-watering at Earlston will be undertaken to refurbish the intake lade.

- 4. Hatchery & Bailiffs Report-** **TE** Reported that for the first time the Salmon in the classroom project had seen no survival in the released fry from the project. The 99-fry released in spring were not present when surveyed in mid-August. This may have been down to drought and or the high numbers of Signal Crayfish. Despite this it was still an educational experience that the children enjoyed. Permissions were sought and granted for broodstock capture and on the 17<sup>th</sup> November the GFT obtained 3 hens and 1 cock fish for the hatchery, a further pair of hens were secured on the 24<sup>th</sup>. After this date no more fish entered the system. No fish were supplied by rod and line and very few spawning fish were observed on the beds at Bridge of Dee. 22,000 ova were stripped and laid out in December with clean cool water supplies allowing very high survival over the winter with only 174 ova lost. In March the eyed ova were stocked out above Hensol weir on the Black Water of Dee into 10

redds.hatching was observed in a small number of retained ova on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Thanks were given to Scottish Power and the GFT for all their help.

TE reported that discussions were under way with the Loch ken Management Committee to try and solve the issue of anglers using canoes to fish on Loch Ken without having either permits to fish or being registered vessels under the Loch Ken boat registration scheme. The registration scheme comes into conflict with access legislation and the issue seems to fall into a grey area. JMCC stated this was a concern for the angling association and hoped a solution could be found. Bailiff warrants were issued for Mr.I.Lindsay and Mr. J.Cleland , Mr. Cleland has not collected his warrant.

Mr.J.Thom reported seeing nets at Glenlochar barrage and despite police and bailiff involvement no sign of activity was present. TE continued to monitor the area with no further sign of suspicious activity.

Pacific Pink Salmon have been reported turning up in some North East rivers, fishery owners and anglers are asked to remain vigilant and report any sightings, none have been reported in the South West yet.

Several reports of mink sightings were made as well as several pollution incidents which were investigated and reported to SEPA.

TE met with the Kirkudbright Harbour Master Mr.W.Jones to discuss coastal netting issues and secured support in reporting events to the bailiff.

Knotweed & skunk cabbage control was undertaken by the GFT and the bailiff, large areas from Dalry to New Galloway as well as at Mossdale and Crossmichael have been controlled but there is still some way to go before eradication.

A Mr.Patterson reported excessive numbers of cormorants in the lower Dee , the bailiff monitored the situation and found only low numbers but would observe to ensure they were not adversely impacting on the smolt run and if needed would make a case for control.

TE will regularly monitor the fish ladder for signs of fungused fish and act accordingly on identification.

TE requests that any suspicious activity be reported immediately to the Bailiffs. It was noted that this year fewer fish were observed spawning at the loop pool Bridge of Dee and that monitoring of this site should continue.

## **5. A.O.B.- .**

TE Stated that although a ban had been placed on the taking of Bass no enforcement officers were available to police the ban.

TE Will monitor, record, report and respond where necessary to any INNS.

South West District Salmon Fishery Boards will continue to meet to ensure broad agreement on issues relating to local rivers.

The board awaits the outcome of Brexit and how this will impact the Water Framework Directive and other related legislature.

