

## **Fleet DSFB AGM/APM**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 17.30, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Gatehouse of Fleet Community Centre**

#### **Present:**

Richard Gilbey (RG)– Chair  
Mark Hannay (MH) (By proxy)  
Richard Durling (RD) (Clerk)  
Jamie Ribbens (GFT)  
Andrew Proudlove (AP) (Clerk designate)

Meeting started at 17.30

#### **Minutes from Last Meeting:**

The previous year's minutes were approved.

#### **Approval and Triennial re-election of board members - Approved:**

A motion was raised to find a replacement on the committee for Richard Durling (Clerk), The motion was passed to appoint Andrew Proudlove and the resolution completed.

Thanks to Richard Durling for many years of service as Clerk to the board

#### **Chairman's Report:**

To conform with board requirements, a chairman's report is required annually to accompany the minutes. RG provided a report (attached - covering 2023-2024) and it was approved by the meeting.

#### **Finances:**

The clerk provided an up-to-date set of accounts for the financial year 2023/2024 and confirmed that the board's finances were in the black. Approved.

#### **Galloway Fisheries Trust Report:**

- A conifer regen cutting program continued in Spring 2024 to reduce over shading of riparian zones along burns in the catchment area and native hardwood species have been planted along the banks to improve PH values.
- Treatment of invasive species of plant continues with a focus on American skunk cabbage and Japanese knotweed.
- A funding application has been submitted to pay for 60 days of chainsaw work to keep riparian areas clear of conifers. Possible use of windfarm funds to complete forestry to bog peat restoration work.
- A report on the Big Water of Fleet Timed Electrofishing is attached.

#### **Matters arising:**

Nil:

The meeting concluded at 18:00

Attachments –

- 1) Chairman's Report
- 2) Galloway Fisheries Trust Report on the Big Water of Fleet Timed Electrofishing

## Water of Fleet District Salmon Fisheries Board

### Chairman's Report 2023/24

#### Overview

The Water of Fleet will continue to be categorised as Category 3 for 2025. This means that exploitation is considered unsustainable therefore management actions required to reduce exploitation for 1 year i.e. mandatory catch and release of salmon (all methods).

Catch statistics (source: Marine Scotland) were:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Salmon and grilse	0	0	6	11	3	4	8	0	4	1
Sea trout and finnock	13	19	20	17	21	36	29	36	28	17
Fishing days effort						28	28	28	14	21

*Note: Marine Scotland has amalgamated Fleet returns with the Cree since 2019 for Data Protection reasons. The above numbers for 2019 and 2020 include only the Rusko waters. Numbers are separated again for 2021. 2024 numbers not yet published*

As the fishing days effort numbers show, due to the low level of fishing that is taking place the catch statistics do not provide a reliable view of fish numbers.

Fish numbers remain low, partly reflecting fishing effort, and the relatively few spates in 2023.

Indicative numbers for 2024 are slightly better with 4 salmon and 25 sea trout (Rusko waters only – Marine Scotland stats awaited).

Galloway Fisheries Trust has carried out electro-fishing to quantify fry and fish stocks. Netting did not take place in 2024 due to debris in the water following the major spates we experienced in the year. An update will be provided at the next meeting. Control of Japanese knotweed took place last year with some success, although some remains.

#### Funding and accounts

Please refer to the accounts. These will be published on the Water of Fleet section of the Galloway Fisheries Trust website.

#### Meetings

A board meeting is scheduled for 5.30pm, 11 April at the Gatehouse Community Centre.

I would like to put on record our thanks to Richard Durling for all his hard work as clerk for the last years, and to Andrew Proudlove for agreeing to take over from him.

#### Complaints

None

Richard Gilbey, Chairman 08 April, 2025

