**Water of Fleet District Salmon Fisheries Board**

**Chairman’s Report 2020**

**Overview**

The Water of Fleet will continue to be categorised as Category 3 for 2019. 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** |
| Salmon and grilse | 0 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Seatrout and finnock | 13 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 21 | 36 | 29 |
| Fishing days effort |  |  |  |  |  | 28 | 28 |

*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.*

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. 2020 fishing effort was impacted by the COVID regulations. It is hoped this will improve in the current year as other stretches are fished, but the drought in the current year will likely depress the amount of fishing, as only two spates have occurred since June. Encouraging numbers of fish have been seen running up the waterfall at the Pool of Ness in the last two spates.

**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 5pm, Friday 24 September at the Murray Arms.

**Complaints**

None

Richard Gilbey, Chairman

31 August, 2021