

DEE (KIRKCUDBRIGHT) DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Minute of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom at 11.00am on 10th November 2021

Chairman	Treasurer	Clerk & Legal Adviser
JPH Ingall	Eilidh Harman	Adam Turnbull
	Messrs Bell Ogilvy	Gillespie Gifford and Brown LLP
Airds House Parton Castle Douglas DG7 3NF	36 King Street Castle Douglas DG7 1AF	27 St Cuthbert Street Kirkcudbright DG6 4DJ

In attendance: James Ingall (Chairman) (JI); Richard Agnew (RA); Lord (Matthew) St Clair (MS); Fiona McCulloch (FM); Alan McDowall, Water Bailiff (AM); Graeme Dickie (Drax) (GD); Jamie Ribbens (GFT) (JR); Rowan McCleary (GFT) (RM); David Thompson (DT); Isobel Craik (Bell Ogilvy) (IC); and Adam Turnbull (Clerk, GGB) (AT).

Apologies: Eilidh Harman (Bell Ogilvy), Stuart Ferns (Drax) and Mark Trueman (DAA) (MT).

Visitors: Ian Lindsay (IL)

1. Chairman's welcome

Jl welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was again being held via Zoom due to covid. MS and FM had joined the Board as proprietors, with MT joining as a representative of Dalry Anglers Association. In the last year, GFT had been able to make important progress despite the covid restrictions which would be addressed later in the meeting. Numbers recorded at Tongland remained disappointingly low, but that was consistent with other local fisheries. The Dee had been designated Category 3, which meant catch and release was mandatory. JI was in contact with Toby Metcalfe at Savills, who had been re-appointed as agents for the Crown, in relation to their outstanding assessments.

2. Approval of the Minute of the 2020 AGM

The Minute of the 2020 AGM had been re-circulated with the Agenda for the 2021 AGM and was approved by the Board as a true record without comment.

3. Approval of the 2020 Accounts

The 2020 Accounts had been circulated prior to the AGM and were approved without comment.

4. Treasury report

IC spoke to the Treasurer's Report, which had been circulated by JI via email prior to the AGM (and which is reproduced in Part 1 of the Schedule to this Minute). Crown Estates, as JI had noted in his welcome, were the principal party with overdue assessments.

5. Water Bailiff's Report

AM spoke to his report, which had been circulated by JI via email prior to the AGM (and which is reproduced in Part 2 of the Schedule to this Minute). He had been keen to maintain a high profile wearing his marked jacket on what was a large catchment area, even if numbers were low. JI acknowledged that it was beneficial to have a noticeable presence. FM and DT both commented that they had spoken to other proprietors who had been appreciative of AM's services.

6. GFT report

JR and RM spoke to the summary, which had been circulated by JR via email prior to the AGM (and which is reproduced in Part 3 of the Schedule to this Minute). In relation to the activities therein:

a. Smolt Tagging

Catching smolt in the Polharrow Burn had been relatively easy in comparison to the other burns within the fishery. JR attributed that to the Polharrow Burn being a colder and better habitat. The lower temperature delayed smolting and there was also less cray fish there. Two smolt had been caught in the Coomb Burn. Possibly more could have been caught there, but once the target of 50 smolts had been reached, catching had stopped. Lots of brown trout had been identified there too. The draft report from Glasgow University was expected by mid-December.

b. Black Water of Dee Restoration Project

Approximately £30,000 of the £90,000 funding secured had been spent of the transfer of 470 tonnes of gravel to form four spawning beds for salmon and trout. It would remain to be seen how much gravel would ultimately be required. Importation of gravel was quite expensive and was also reliant on gravel being available. Other habitat improvement work was also being undertaken at the Mill Burn in conjunction with DT at Threave.

c. Invasive Non-Native Species

Additional monitoring would be beneficial, but funding was hard to secure. In addition to monitoring the crayfish, there was limited work in connection with skunk cabbage.

d. Fish Count

IL queried how many fish had been recorded through the counters and RM had confirmed that they had been few in number. There had been 169 recorded last year and 84 in this year to date. The highest monthly total had been 34. There had been some issues with the counter, but there were simply fewer fish. JR did not think that the closure of the hatchery had had a material impact on fish numbers.

7. AOB

JI queried whether planting of deciduous trees could assist mitigate high water temperature. JR confirmed that it could, but it would need to be in areas where high temperatures were present. Anything over 27° was damaging to fish stocks and over 31° would kill the fish outright.

MS queried whether there was any concern about the level of forestry in the catchment. JR confirmed that it could have a positive impact if done properly. Ideally, GFT and/or DFSB would be consulted about any major operations.

The AGM concluded at approximately 12.30pm