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| **MINUTES of MEETING** |

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| **River Luce District Salmon Fisheries Board**  **Note of Matters discussed at Board Annual General Meeting held at**  **Lochinch Stables Courtyard, on Tuesday 19th June 2018, at 10.00 a.m.** |

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| **PRESENT:** | Lord Stair (Chairman); Muriel McCrone (Stair Estates Office); Jamie Ribbens (Galloway Fisheries Trust); Jessica Rodger (Galloway Fisheries Trust); Martin Lock (Head Bailiff River Luce Voluntary River Watchers); Mrs Mary Nicholson (Galloway Fisheries Trust/fishing syndicates); Billy Parker (Stranraer and District Angling Association); Robert Greenhill (Stranraer Salmon Fishing Association) |

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| ITEM | NOTES | ACTION BY |
| 1. | **Apologies**  Apologies were received from Jim McColm (Councillor); Scottish Natural Heritage; Katie Hagmann (Councillor); David Inglis (Councillor); Graham Nichol (Councillor). John Gorman (SEPA); Dr Sir Nicholas Spicer. |  |
| 2. | **Minutes of Last Meeting**  Mary Nicholson asked if the bridge is safe for this year. Martin Lock confirmed that the bridge at Wilsons has been repaired, the styles and the steps to Mill Stream have been checked but still need to be repaired.  The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Bobby Greenhill & seconded by Mary Nicholson. |  |
| 3. | **Chairman’s Report**  Lord Stair presented the Chairman’s Report – see copy attached. |  |
| 4. | **Head Bailiff’s Report** – See Copy Attached  Martin Lock reported that 3 Sea Trout have been caught so far – 1 just under 4lb & 2 approx. 2lbs. It was noted that the upper waters of the Piltanton have been very quiet. Dunragit Angling Association now has only 3 members who are all older members and not fit to fish. It was suggested that there may be windfarm funding available to help the club but JR said that in order to obtain windfarm funding they need passionate members.  BP stated that Innermessan Burn is loaded with trout between the outlet and the wee black loch bridge (browns), there are sea trout at the other side of the bridge. A 2½ lb sea trout was returned, there is good 6 inches of water running down. BP asked the GFT if they do any work at the Ladyburn. JR stated that they started Monitoring at back end of last year. |  |
| 5. | **Financial Report** – see attached  It was noted that The Atlantic Salmon Fishery Board is now Fisheries Management Scotland. |  |
| 6. | **Galloway Fisheries Trust Report**  There are currently 3 main works.  Peatland Restoration – this should be encouraged as much as possible. Scottish Government have a local peatland officer, Emily Taylor, who helps to advise & understand. Key Peatland are in the headwaters – mostly Lagafater. Dr. Spicer’s mother carried out extensive draining which damaged the peatland and burning is also very damaging. GFT are about to start contracting local landowners to gain support. Forestry Commission conifer planting also dries out the land too much. The water table must be at top for peat to grow. MN – peatland preservation would help flash flooding bank erosion etc. Funded restoration project would be great. JR informed the meeting that following 3 days of surveying only 1 grouse, 3 snipe & a few meadow pipits were seen. Peat coming back would help recovery.  JR was at meeting the previous day of the Salmon Liaison Group and reported that it is not great news for the SW. From amount of fish – model predicts no of adult fish. Changed model increased fish. Next year model will decrease number and possibly drop down to category 3 again. JR is writing a response – thinks figures are incorrect – suggests that 20% of fish in River caught. LS stressed that fishing effort forms are vital. There have been 3 different methods of collecting figures in 3 years. It is thought that the River Luce might still be a Category 2 as egg requirements so low.  BG – How can you compare one river against another when there are different fishing methods.  JR – lack of data. The Tweed are using tag figures.  If we can convince Marine Scotland data is accurate they will use it. They are using statistics experts to show links. SW have far higher survival rates so get away with lower number of eggs. Whatever changes are brought in this year will be frozen for 2 years – no change for 2-3 years.  Scotrail repairs last year went very well & loads of salmon round about them.  Jess Rodger – Conservation limits of Atlantic Salmon. As much as the model is good fishing levels & exploitation are assumed to be the same across Scotland and therefore fishing effort forms are required to prove that this is not true. Floy tags are to be used with hopefully 150 per river. These tags can prove how many times each fish has been caught. It is hoped that the Water Bailiffs will help – commencing as soon as possible probably in the beginning of July. It is hoped that the river is low when tagging and then levels increase when fishing.  Bladnoch & Luce will be recording fishing effort as more or less than 4 hrs ie half or full day.  BG – Effort is one thing, but skill of angler should also be taken into account.  BG – 12 members not easy to manage. Stamped addressed envelopes etc will be provided if required. JR Bladnoch Angling Club has 30-40 members and they will be recording effort. Some members join the clubs to support them but don’t fish and forms must still be returned for them. BG concerned they will lose members.  Jess R will attend the AGM of the Stranraer Angling Association at The Ruddicot Hotel, Stranraer at 7pm on Thursday, 21st June to speak to the members re fishing effort. It should be noted that fishing effort is only of interest for the number of hours spent fishing for Salmon. Sea trout efforts will not be used.  Forms may need to be reissued to differentiate. Couple of paragraphs on sheet to clarify. |  |
| 7. | **Any Other Business**  BG – Quarter Bridge and pool to be cleared of any debris.  LS – Any other species Piltanton – Breen – coming from loch. Lamprey in Piltanton. No obvious other.  7 pike last year in Soulseat – none so far this year ( all before may). |  |
| 8. | **Date of Next Meeting**  The date of the next meeting was to be Tuesday 20th November at 10.00am however it should be noted that subsequent to the meeting it has been necessary to change this. A new date will be published as soon as it is available. |  |