

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER DEVERON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
being a Meeting open to the public in terms of the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013
held at CASTLE HOTEL, HUNTLY on Thursday 7th April 2016 at 12 noon.

At the outset the Chairman explained that in terms of the 2013 Act, all Meetings require to be open to the public. An invitation to the public was published on the Board's website along with a copy of the proposed Agenda. Any member who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

- Present:** Malcolm Hay, Rory Cooper, Mrs J Player, A Gordon Morison, (Upper Proprietors), Donald Galloway (Banff & Macduff Angling Association - Lower), Frank Henderson (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), Richard Breakell (co-optee representing salmon anglers); Richie Miller (Director of the River; DBI Trust). In attendance- Mrs S D Paxton (Clerk); Jim Cruickshank (DBI Trust), Neil Stephen (Ghillies Rep –DBI Trust)
- Chairman:** Malcolm Hay
- Apologies for Absence:** C Richard Marsden, David Borthwick, Robert Shields
- Minutes of Meetings on 10th December 2015** A draft of the Minutes of the Meetings had been sent to all Members of the Board and unanimously approved by those who had attended. The minutes have been published on the Board's website (www.deveron.org) and signed by the Chairman.
There were no queries nor matters outstanding.
- Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013** Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Members Financial Interests since 10th December 2015. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.
- Report by Mr Miller on DBI Trust work** Mr Miller, Director and Senior Biologist of the Trust, had prepared a written report on the work of the Trust since the last Board Meeting and this was handed out (available on request). He went over the salient points. A consultation document had been published regarding the Wild Fisheries Review. Mr Miller requested that any comments should be passed to either Mr Hay or himself. A Bill will be drafted. Mr Morison was concerned that the new Body would be not self-financing, and how would the shortfall be made up. Mr Hay reported that the idea of an FMO made up of North East rivers had been abandoned as the Government had confirmed their wish for 14-18 FMO. There may now be a 'super regional North east' FMO made up of all rivers discharging on to the Moray Firth, which may have its attractions. Mr Miller drew attention to the draft at the back of the consultation.
Board Members requested that the Piscivorous licence application details should be circulated.
Brief discussion on the conservation code –compulsory release of spring fish prior to 1 April; any contraventions to be reported to the police. Thereafter the code is voluntary as set up by the Board. Discussion on means of fishing and use of certain types of hooks which cause injury to fish. It was suggested there should be a copy of 'how to catch and release' put in all the fishing huts. Mr Miller to attend to this, although it is on the website.
Mr Hay said that moving forward the Deveron may be classified as a category 2 river next year. Mr Henderson believed that there is a good code of practice in operation and no further improvement can be made. Mr Hay added that in the future we may need to look at buying a fish counter.
Mr Miller said that DBI is still involved with an underwater camera trial using equipment on loan from Norway. He is also looking at a different type of

camera as used in the oil industry.

Mrs Player asked how electric cables are taken across a river and was there any harm to the fish. Mr Miller is to provide some information.

Update on Financial Matters

Mr Hay reported that draft figures for the year to 31 March 2016 had been circulated by Mrs Paxton to members. These showed a surplus due mainly to decrease in Clerk's fees and ASFB subscription, which were not known at the time of budgeting for the year ahead. Mrs Paxton has now completed her first year as Clerk and Mr Hay thanked her for all her work over the year. The Board had approved funding towards the Trust's Smolt Tracking project which is now nearly underway- the receivers are nearly all in the water and the tags will be placed on the smolts in the next week or two. Funding by means of a withdrawal from the Improvement Fund of £5,861 has been paid over. An anticipated £5,500 will follow in the new financial year. Mr Hay reminded the Board to consider a use of the Improvement Fund (valuation of £124,000 has been received). As it is monitored by the Charities Commission, there are restrictions over use. Mr Hay asked approval to approach a lawyer to determine our rights over that Fund should Boards be abolished. Would there be tax implications if it was passed over to the Trust? All were in approval that Mr Hay seek advice; the costs would be borne by the Board. Mrs Paxton confirmed that new accountants had been approached and they will handle the accounts for both The Board and Trust.

Staffing

Mr Hay noted that Jimmy Minty will be retiring at the end of the season, but he is keen to help when needed on an hourly basis plus expenses. Mr Hay was pleased to announce that Marcus Walters had accepted a position with the Trust from 1 November. Apart from carrying out work for the Trust he will carry out duties as a bailiff for the Board, for which they will be charged. He has still to qualify as a bailiff. Contact details for him will be circulated in due course. All Board members welcomed this addition to the staff.

Wild Fisheries Review:

This has been discussed earlier.

AOCB – Vehicle for Fishery protection Duties:

Mr Miller intimated that a vehicle will be required for the bailiff operation. It was agreed that a lease hire should be investigated; taken out by the Trust and recharged to the Board as necessary. Investigation to be made by Mr Cruickshank initially whether a vehicle could be acquired under a sponsorship deal.

AOCB – Change in Meeting date

Mrs Paxton reminded everyone that there had been a change in the date of the next meeting –now on 7 July 2016.

AOCB - Monthly Catch Returns:

On behalf of Mr Tennant, Neil Stephen asked if it was feasible to submit monthly catch returns. The Board decided that this was not feasible but there was a suggestion that Jimmy Minty could monitor 'catch & release' (by enquiry) or request sample returns.

Meeting closed at 1.55pm

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending. Next meeting is on 7 July 2016, 12 noon, Castle Hotel. **NOTE CHANGE IN DATE**