

**MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON
FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday,
27th November 2014 immediately following the Annual Meeting of Qualified
Proprietors**

Present: J. Yule (Convenor)
A. Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited
D. Low Mandatory for I. J. Booth
A. Buchan for Score Group plc

In Attendance: D. McLean for Bruce Milton, Clerk to the Board

MINUTES

D Low proposed that the Minutes of the last meeting be taken as read this was seconded by J Yule.

MATTERS ARISING

Riverbank Destruction by Livestock.

D Low asked for an update on this problem and the Clerk read the letter sent to SEPA on 22nd May 2014 detailing the problem, requesting action, and asking them to detail what powers they have to prevent further destruction. There had however been no response from SEPA. The Convenor instructed the Clerk to write again, this time to their Head Office, with a copy to the local branch.

FINANCE

The Clerk produced a projection of income and expenditure for the 6 months up to 31st May 2015. A Buchan (Lunar) corrected the lease of fish counter to show £1200 (£1000 plus vat) after which left a projected bank balance at the year-end of £3645.15. The Clerk explained there were still some rates due to be paid and reminders would be sent out in due course.. The projected figures were unanimously agreed.

WILD FISHERIES REVIEW

The Convenor referred to the Scottish Government's Wild Fisheries Review and to the 53 recommendations that the review panel, under the chairmanship of Andrew Thin, had made to the government. The Convenor had attended a meeting in Elgin, along with other stakeholders and interested parties and Andrew Thin to discuss his report. The Convenor was concerned that any amalgamation with other boards would lose the local knowledge and specialist expertise and that rod licensing would be costly, give little or no benefit, and be a barrier to attracting new and younger anglers to the river. There is uniqueness in the River Ugie which is fished entirely by local anglers and there is no add on commercial gain as in other rivers. These views were subsequently confirmed by letter to Andrew Thin to emphasise that the welfare of the salmon and sea trout populations in the River Ugie is best served by the dedicated teams under the River Ugie Board and the Ugie Angling Association. A Buchan (Lunar) reiterated the view that only the local representatives can manage our own local river. The Clerk referred to a request from the ASFB (Association of Salmon Fishery Boards) for feedback on the recommendations proposed in order that they can proceed to the next step in the consultation having as wide a view as possible from all District Boards. The Convenor suggested that each Board member be given a copy of the ASFB spreadsheet and consider if you agree or disagree with each recommendation and return it to the Clerk as soon as possible in order that the consensus of the Board can be ascertained. This was agreed unanimously.

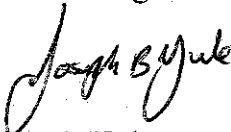
National Conservation

It was noted that the Scottish Government had proposed a conservation measure to require the release of all rod caught salmon until 1st April together with a delay in the start of the net fishing season until 1st April across Scotland. It was felt this would have no impact on the River Ugie. A Buchan (Score) had suggested that there be a review to continue the extension of season by a fortnight. The Convenor noted the request but said it would need Government approval.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the Annual Public Meeting in terms of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 Act and this was set for Thursday 21st May, 2015 at 2.30 p.m. and this would be immediately followed by a Board Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.15 p.m.



Joseph Yule
Convenor