

MINUTES of ANNUAL MEETING of QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS OF THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 27th November, 2014 at 3.00 p.m.

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

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

Apologies: Jane Burgess for Aberdeenshire Council
Burnett & Reid as Trustee of A E Jones Estate
James Russell

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read as proposed by A Buchan (Lunar) and seconded by D Low and were carried unanimously.

CONVENER'S REPORT

The Convener noted no members of the public had attended and proceeded to read his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

D Low asked what data had been received from the fish counter and A Buchan (Lunar) advised that the data was being reported at the Ugie Angling Association meeting this evening but that they were getting good results. A Buchan (Lunar) went on to explain about a visit to Ian Simpson at the N Esk where he received instruction on the workings of a Logie counter.

BAILIFF'S REPORT

The Bailiff's Report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes was presented to the meeting.

ACCOUNTS

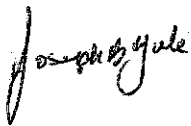
The audited accounts for the year ended 31st May, 2014 were received and adopted on the proposal of D Low and A Buchan (Score).

AOCB

D Low reported that it was encouraging to see a large number of small fish in the area Stonemill – Castle Pool, and was interested to know if that would be reflected in the data from the fish counter. A Buchan (Lunar) explained that initially the counter had recorded a colossal number causing the computer to crash which had been put down to an oversensitive setting. The counter is now set to record only fish above 25cm so these small fish would not be recorded, however he agreed it was promising for the future.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.



Joseph Yule
Convenor

Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board

Convener's Report 2014


2014 has been a largely uneventful year with few problems for the board to deal with. Fish returns have shown a slightly better year than last year which is to be welcomed.

With the installation of a Logie fish counter we are getting a much clearer picture of the returning adult salmon and trout populations. We have still to look at the data for the whole season before we come to any conclusions, and will probably need several year's figures before we can see patterns developing which will help us see the way forward with river management.

Changes to existing salmon regulations are being considered by the Scottish Government. The proposals are being considered by the various stakeholders at the moment and if implemented will bring in major changes for both upper and lower proprietors and for all the district salmon fishery boards. A conservation order is about to come in force in 2015 which will limit the killing of salmon before 1st April.

Seals continue to be a major problem on the coast with many colonies being established locally. This is bound to have an impact on returning salmon and sea trout, but there are no signs of the Scottish Government being willing to tackle this ever growing menace on our coastline.

As Convener, I thank the members and staff of the Ugie board, as they continue in their efforts to protect and improve the habitat of the stocks of wild salmon and trout in the river. We look forward to rising to the challenges and changes that are inevitably coming our way, and to continue to carry out the various tasks of the board with determination and enthusiasm.



Joseph Yule

Convener

BAILIFF REPORT 2014

The 2014 season has been a little better than 2013 with a few sea trout being caught during the day as unfortunately night fishing appears to be a thing of the past. The grilse entered the river very late resulting in fresh grilse being caught upto the last couple of weeks of the season. Salmon catches haven't been very good although some fish were caught in the Buthlaw area.

Pollution is still a problem. SEPA seem to be very hesitant to act on information and projects which have been brought to their attention.

Poaching on the beach still continues although I am unable to give any information on it as I am not allowed to patrol the beach with a quad bike and this really hampers us. I would appeal to the board to look into this matter as surely there is some way around this so that I can go about my duties unhindered.

Poaching on the river continues to be a problem with 3 separate incidents that we are aware of. The police have been notified and I am continuing my enquiries and we will hopefully find a satisfactory conclusion and the prosecution of those responsible.

Once again I would like to thank Mr Minty from the Devron board for his assistance throughout the year.

BOB DAVIDSON

Nov 2014