

**MINUTES of ANNUAL MEETING of QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS OF THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 28th November, 2013 at 3.00 p.m.**

**Present:** J. Yule (Convenor)  
D. Low Mandatory for I. J. Booth  
A. Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited  
W. Stephen for Ugie Angling Association (UAA)  
A. Buchan for Score  
B Davidson (Bailliff)

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

**Apologies:** Aberdeenshire Council  
John Sutherland as Trustee of A E Jones Estate

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**MINUTES**

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

**CONVENER'S REPORT**

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

**BAILIFF'S REPORT**

The Bailiff's Report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes was presented to the meeting. D Low asked what action followed the discovery of nets. The Bailiff confirmed there were no arrests and the nets were removed. J Yule asked if SEPA were helpful in dealing with pollution matters and the Bailiff confirmed yes for septic tank spillage problems but no for problems relating to cattle in the river. A Buchan (Lunar) mentioned having talks with SEPA on this matter and that SEPA have contacted 75% of the farms in our area but that they do not have the resources to follow up with further action. The Convenor asked that all incidents continue to be reported to SEPA and to continue whatever action can be taken.

B Davidson reported a potential danger at Crimond hatchery as fencing surrounding it had now fallen down and that there was the possibility of children straying and falling into the stock holding tanks. D Low pointed out the hatchery is owned by the Ugie Angling Association and consequently they should be responsible for ensuring safety. A Buchan (Lunar) asked if the stock holding tanks should be relocated away from Crimond to within the Ugie catchment area and he asked what effect it has on stock fish taken from the Ugie and held outwith that area. W Stephen confirmed that all fish that survive stripping are ok when released and that the matters raised concerning the hatchery would be discussed at the next UAA meeting.

### ELECTION of BOARD

The following members of the Board were duly elected:-

<u>Upper Proprietors</u>	<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Score Group plc	Alexander Buchan	W. Stephen	A. Buchan (Lunar)
Booth, Ednie	David Low	W. Stephen	A. Buchan (Score)
Lunar Fishing Co Ltd	Alexander Buchan	J. Yule	D. Low

<u>Lower Proprietors</u>	<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Lunar Fishing Co Ltd	J. Yule	A. Buchan (Lunar)	W. Stephen

<u>Co-Opted</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Ugie Angling Association	W. Stephen	A. Buchan (Lunar)	D. Low

<u>Convener</u>		<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Joseph Yule		A. Buchan (Score)	A. Buchan (Lunar)

### ACCOUNTS

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st May, 2013 were received and adopted on the proposal of A Buchan (Score) and seconded by W Stephen.

### CLOSURE

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

Joseph Yule  
Convener



**River Ugie District Fishery Board**  
**Conveners Report 2013**

Without doubt the 2013 season has been the worst season in living memory. Both the salmon and the sea trout runs have been notable by their absence, it's a real concern for everyone with interest in and responsibility for the management and welfare of the stocks in the River Ugie.

On a positive note the research done in the river has once again shown an abundance of juvenile fish with good reports on the densities of both salmon and trout parr in every part of the river that samples were taken. This begs the question why is the numbers of returning adult fish so low?

It points to something drastic that is taking place in the sea before the salmon and trout return to the river. What is happening to these fish in the sea we can only guess. Seals pollution climate change netting in the sea may all have a part to play but these factors we have lived with for many years, without the decline in numbers we have experienced this year.

We are, as always, basing our estimates on the state of the stocks of adult fish returning to the Ugie on fishing effort and observations of fish movement in the river. These are our only indications of the stocks available and are not the most reliable or accurate means to provide data for the management or conservation of the rivers stocks. No one knows with any degree of accuracy the numbers of salmon and trout in the river making decisions on river management very difficult.

We are in the second year of a three year extension to the angling season to try to glean more information about the runs of salmon and trout and will be making a full report available after the third years results are collected. Initial findings on the first two years are showing no great amount numbers of salmon entering the river in November and as expected no fresh run trout showing at that time of year.

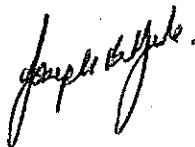
Much work is being done on the river to improve the habitat and the banks, we all realise the importance of the ecology of the river to the welfare of the stocks. It is a major concern to the board that in many places the farmers adjacent to the river are showing a disregard for the code of good practice for cattle and sheep grazing near to a water course, and we are actively pursuing these cases with SEPA with a view to stop animals gaining access to the river banks.

The work of the board continues with many new challenges facing us, as we seek to comply with all the information we need now by law to collect and make public. With the employees of the board and the board members determined to do our utmost to carry out our duties to the best of our abilities, the welfare of the salmon and trout in the river Ugie will continue to be uppermost in our minds and in our actions.

My thanks to Bob Davidson, Donnie McLean and the members of the board for their time and effort in the day to day running of the board and for all they do to promote the interests of the River Ugie.

Joseph Yule (Convener)

November 2013



## REPORT ON THE RIVER UGIE FISHERIES 2013

THE 2013 SEASON HAS BEEN VERY POOR WITH VIRTUALLY NO SEA TROUT BEING CAUGHT ALTHOUGH THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE VERY DRY SUMMER. SALMON APPEAR TO BE LATER IN ENTERING THE RIVER ALTHOUGH A FEW FISH WERE TAKEN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS AND THESE APPEARED TO BE IN VERY GOOD CONDITION.

POACHING ON THE BEACH THIS YEAR HAS NOT BEEN SUCH A PROBLEM DUE TO THE LACK OF FISH BUT WE HAVE LIFTED 2 NETS AND MUST KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE SITUATION.

POLLUTION STILL CAUSES A PROBLEM, QUITE A FEW SEPTIC TANKS OVERFLOWING INTO THE RIVER HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO S.E.P.A'S ATTENTION AND WE HAVE HAD ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH CATTLE CROSSING THE RIVER AND DAMAGING THE BANKS AND RIVER BED ETC.

ONCE AGAIN THERE SEEMS TO BE MIXED FEELINGS AMONGST THE ANGLERS AS TO THE MAINTENANCE WORK DONE ON THE BANKS BUT UNFORTUNATELY YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERY BODY

AS ALWAYS I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE DEVERON BOARD SUPERINTENDENT (JAMES MINTY) FOR HIS ASSISTANCE ON THE BEACH IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

BOB DAVIDSON  
WATER BAILIFF