

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 5th November 2015 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

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

APOLOGIES W Stephen U.A.A.

MINUTES

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

MATTERS ARISING

None.

FINANCE

The Clerk produced a projection of income and expenditure for the 6 months up to 31st May 2016. 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.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ON SALMON CONSERVATION

The Convenor explained that the Scottish Government's proposals are ongoing and it will probably be well into next year before definite instructions are received. At present catch and release applies up to end of April but there is the possibility this will be extended for the whole season. Mention had been made of categorising fishery districts in relation to their conservation status and it will therefore be important to have true and accurate catch figures. It was felt there could be confusion with neighbouring Boards such as Deveron, Ugie, and Ythan having 3 different rules for keeping salmon based on their different conservation status.

A Buchan went on to explain that amalgamation of these 3 Boards may not be easy to achieve because of intrinsic differences in the areas covered. D Low did however envisage changes in operation, perhaps with an appointed overseer of all Boards, to ensure all operate along the same lines.

NEW BAILIFF

The Clerk confirmed that following the last Board meeting an opinion was sought from the employment lawyer who advises that the Board can pay John Chalmers on a self-employed basis as long as it is clearly defined between John and the Board that it is John who determines when and where to deploy his services and that John accepts he is responsible for reporting his income to H M Revenue & Customs and be responsible for any tax and national insurance liabilities. The lawyer strongly advises that a Contract of Services be drawn up and he can arrange for such a document and that so long as there are no long drawn out negotiations the cost would be no more than £300 plus vat. In addition he suggests that John invoice the Board for his services.

A Buchan intimated that John was looking for some changes and rather than ultimately being the sole Bailiff he would prefer to share these duties on a 50/50 basis. He also asked if there was assistance available to provide a vehicle; accepting that his remuneration would be reduced. A discussion followed on the practicalities of the Board taking on a vehicle but as this would lead to PAYE issues it was agreed this was not feasible. A Buchan then suggested that in order to keep within an overall budget for Bailiff services of £10,000 John Chalmers would be offered £5,000 for 50% cover, to be paid in two instalments.

J Yule and D Low agreed to speak with the Bailiff and seek agreement on these terms and thereafter instruct the Clerk how to proceed.

A O C B

The Convenor had been asked about the possibility of night vision glasses. The cost of these was reported to be in excess of £3,000 and it was agreed to hold back this for discussion at the next meeting.

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 5th May, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. and this would be immediately followed by a Board Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

Joseph Yule
Convenor

