

MINUTES of ANNUAL MEETING of QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS OF THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 5th November, 2015 at 3.00 p.m.

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

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

Apologies: Burnett & Reid as Trustee of A E Jones Estate

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.

BAILIFF'S REPORT

Both Bailiffs had prepared a report which the Convenor read out and these are attached to these Minutes. D Low referred to Bob Davidson's report and queried to what extent nets placed on the banks to hold back weeds had affected the cover. A Buchan explained it was only a small section downstream from the castle, it was the most effective method at that point to hold back weeds, and it was insignificant in the overall maintenance of riverbank that had been undertaken. Also referring to Bob Davidson's report A Buchan asked R Tait if he was aware of any problems on his own fishings. R Tait advised that he was aware the police had been called out which he understood was following a complaint from the Ugie Board. The police had made enquiries, established the extent of his fishings, and he assured them he was not aware of any poaching at Cairnbulg. The Convenor assured R Tait that there was absolutely no complaint from the Board.

ACCOUNTS

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st May, 2015 were received and adopted on the proposal of D Low and A Buchan .

AOCB

R Tait asked for the Board to send out details of the close season. The Convenor confirmed that government restrictions on catching of fish were presently being reviewed but that the Clerk will write to confirm the season.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Yule', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph Yule
Convenor

Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board

Convener's Report 2015

2015 has seen the Ugie Board continuing to deal efficiently and satisfactorily with the day to day problems and difficulties that have arisen over the year.

Fish returns have shown a significant improvement over the last five years average, with a particular good early run of bigger than average sea trout entering the river about a month earlier than normal.

With our Logie fish counter now up and running, we are getting a much clearer picture of the returning adult salmon and trout populations. Comparing the figures we have for this year, to last year, there appears to be very little difference in the returning amount of adult salmon and sea trout entering the river. This would underline, in the light of the improved catches of sea trout this year especially, that abundance of fish in a river system cannot accurately be calculated from rod catch figures alone. As we thought when the counter was first fitted, we will need several years' 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 out to consultation 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. There is a proposal for a three year ban on any salmon being caught and killed outside the estuary limits.

If the new proposals are implemented, we on the Ugie have been placed in a group 3 category where we will need to implement a catch and release policy from next year. This has come about directly from our poor published rod catch figures over the last 5 years, underlining the need for us to press harder for more accurate returns from our anglers and proprietors.

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.

We have introduced John Chalmers our new water bailiff on the river and to the anglers, and though there is bound to be a settling in period for all concerned, I am hopeful John will prove to be a very able member of our fishery team.

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, we will continue to run the board as efficiently as we can, for as long as we can, for the greater good of all with an interest in the salmon and sea trout in our area.



Joseph Yule

5/11/15

Convener

Water Bailiff Report - 2015 - JOHN CHALMERS

February 2015 - Bob Davidson showed me round different parts of the Ugie and tributaries and passed on his experience & knowledge.

I went on the IFAM Water Bailiffs course and passed the exam to become a bailiff.

I've helped out with different tasks, i.e. removing trees from the river, clearing out ditches and helping maintain river banks.

I've taken part in the catching of fish for the hatchery.

I've regularly walked the river banks and met most of the fishermen and introduced myself as the new water bailiff.

I've spent many hours during the day and night patrolling both the river and the beach which has hopefully been a deterrent to poachers.

Working with other people who are involved with ongoing projects and gaining from their experience. i.e. Dougie, Andrea, Willie, Simon & Bob.

Working with the Farmers and building good relations and gaining access for stimming work to be done.

I've taken out day ticket holders and showed them round the river - best places to fish and places to park.

Good working relationship with Joseph & Alex and good understanding of what's required from me as a Water Bailiff and I have appreciated their help & support with any queries that have arisen.

UGIE FISHING FOR 2015 SEASON

The 2015 season has been extremely mixed with a lack of water early on although a few sea trout were taken. It appears there were a few good runs of sea trout but they went straight up stream. I personally believe they went right up into the single water. There were quite a few good Grilse taken and some Salmon.

There has been a big problem with pollution just recently at Middleton of Rora which I reported to S.E.P.A and they are conducting an ongoing investigation into. There have also been several smaller cases of septic tanks etc which have been brought to S.E.P.A attention.

Poaching has not been quite such a problem this year although there is a case of poaching on the beach at Cairnbulg which is currently being attended to by the police and we hope that they secure a prosecution.

Although there is an ongoing river bank maintenance program it appears that perhaps we have to take a close look at the effect this has on the fish in the river as neither Stonemill nor Ednie have produced the same amount of fish as they have done in previous years this I believe is due to the lack of cover on the banks. We must remember that lack of cover at the waterside results in fish being spooked. The majority of fish are being caught in parts of the river where banks are being cut with strimmers.

I am very disappointed in both S.E.P.A and the police. I would urge the board to contact Fraserburgh police and ask for an update on the

aforementioned poaching case at Cairnbulg and to contact S.E.P.A for an update on the pollution case at Middleton of Rora.

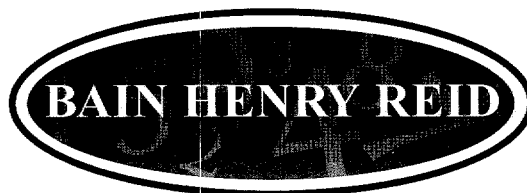
Signed

R. W. Davidson

RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

31ST MAY 2015



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

www.bainhenryreid.co.uk

RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Rates		15,482		15,482
Donations		-		-
Building society interest		2		2
		<u>15,484</u>		<u>15,484</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Bailiffs retainer	9,500		9,500	
Telephone	500		500	
Advertising	-		120	
Insurance	358		358	
Accountancy fees	360		360	
Clerks fee	2,640		2,640	
Bank interest	-		-	
Bank charges	61		59	
Hire fish counter	1,200		-	
Miscellaneous expenses	580		591	
Depreciation	-		-	
		<u>15,199</u>		<u>14,128</u>
Net surplus (deficit) for year		<u><u>285</u></u>		<u><u>1,356</u></u>

RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST MAY 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Communications equipment, at cost	1,826	1,826
Less aggregate depreciation	<u>1,826</u>	<u>1,826</u>
	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	6,445	6,172
DEBTORS		
Sundry debtors	12	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year:		
Sundry creditors	<u>3,012</u>	<u>3,012</u>
	<u>3,445</u>	3,160
NET ASSETS	<u><u>3,445</u></u>	<u><u>3,160</u></u>
Represented by:		
REVENUE RESERVES		
At 31st May 2014	3,160	1,804
Net surplus (deficit) for year	<u>285</u>	<u>1,356</u>
	<u><u>3,445</u></u>	<u><u>3,160</u></u>

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

We have made an examination of the books and accounts of the River Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board and have prepared therefrom the foregoing financial statements which are in accordance with the books and accounts and the explanations given to us.

PETERHEAD
September 2015

BAIN HENRY REID
Chartered Accountants