

**MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 at 3.00pm**

**Present:** Joseph Yule (Convenor)  
Alexander Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited  
Alexander Buchan for Score Group plc  
William Stephen for Ugie Angling Association

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

**Apologies:** David Low

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting on 5th May 2016 were taken as read. These were proposed by A Buchan (Lunar) and seconded by W Stephen. There were no matters arising from the last minutes.

**BAILIFF**

The Convenor read out a letter from John Chalmers resigning his services as Bailiff. Mr Chalmers felt that his position was no longer tenable but he did not elaborate further. The Convenor asked if the Board should investigate the reasons behind the Bailiff's letter or accept the resignation and, if so, should the Board look for a replacement.

A Buchan (Lunar) suggested the Bailiff's letter may have resulted from differences in opinion on certain works involving the hatchery. He went on to explain that under his supervision a holding area for spawning was being developed, the plan was well underway having obtained permissions from the landowner, got the OK from SEPA, and construction with scaffold poles and sleepers commenced. The work was being carried out by members of the Angling Association, working on a voluntary basis, and although not part of his Bailiff duties John Chalmers sometimes assisted with hatchery works. John Chalmers had a different view on how this development should proceed and it caused disruption with the voluntary workforce. As a result A Buchan (Lunar) spoke with the Bailiff saying that although he was doing excellent work as a Bailiff these duties did not extend to the hatchery and therefore he should not be involved with hatchery works.

W Stephen also felt the Bailiff was working well, he seemed happy in the job and his only gripe being looking for the Board to spend more on equipment. A Buchan (Score) asked if we need to accept his resignation. A general discussion followed on the strengths and weaknesses of John Chalmers ending in the Convenor asking for a vote in which the Board unanimously agreed to accept his resignation. The Clerk was instructed to write to John Chalmers and accepting his resignation with regret, and request a final invoice for work done.

### **Fishery Management Organisations**

The Convenor referred to the government's requirement to reduce the current 41 District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFB) down to 12 to 14 Fishery Management Organisations (FMO) and that the preferred solution is for the existing Boards to organise themselves failing which the Scottish Government will dictate the set up. Although this Board had initially considered an amalgamation with Deveron and Ythan it is now becoming apparent that a joint venture with Dee, Don, and Ythan will be the most likely scenario. The Convenor read out a letter from the Don Board and referred to e-mail contact from the Dee Board and the Chairman of the Association of District Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB). Both A Buchan (Lunar) and J Yule will represent the Ugie Board at forthcoming meetings.

A Buchan (Lunar) also explained that the future new management structure, with the introduction of FMO creates uncertainties as to finance because the larger Boards have several full time staff and can call upon income from commercial sources and trusts. The Convenor understood there would be an expectation for government help to assist smaller Boards to assimilate into a larger organisation. W Stephen felt there could well be some benefits to the Ugie from scientific work and a better analysis of the fish counter. A discussion followed on what Bailiff cover we could expect and it was unknown if this may involve shared duties with say Ythan area. In view of this uncertainty it was agreed that the Board would not seek a new Bailiff at this time and would rely on Bob Davidson's cover meantime.

### **AOCB** **Poaching**

The Convenor reported of an individual who was caught by the Bailiff with a sea trout in hand, and rod and line, walking to his car. He was challenged, admitting taking the fish without any permit or authority to fish, and gave false contact details although was subsequently traced as the Bailiff had noted his car registration number. The matter was reported to the police wildlife officer who had contacted the Board saying he has two options: either (a) to give him a warning and put him on a register so that if he re-offends a more serious charge will apply or (b) to charge him with poaching. The wildlife officer was seeking the Board's view before proceeding. A discussion followed with the consensus being that a warning did not give the required message that poaching is totally unacceptable. The unanimous view of the Board was for the police to charge the individual concerned and the Convenor agreed to reply to the police accordingly.

### **NEXT MEETING**

As already arranged at the last Board meeting, the date of the next Annual Meeting of Proprietors and Board Meeting will be Thursday, 3rd November, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

*Joseph B Yule*

29/7/16