

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 8th June, 2017 at 3.00pm

Present: Joseph Yule (Convenor)
Alexander Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited
David Low Mandatory for I J Booth
Alexander Buchan for Score Group plc
William Stephen for Ugie Angling Association

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

Apologies: None

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting on 10th November 2016 were taken as read. These were proposed by A Buchan (Score) and seconded by A Buchan (Lunar).

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES

None

ASSISTANT BAILIFF

The Convenor reminded the Board that a decision on finding another Bailiff as an assistant to Bob Davidson had been left in abeyance due to the uncertainty regarding amalgamations of Boards which it is noted is not now proceeding. D Low asked if it was known if Bob was happy to consider continuing and the general consensus was that he was in good health and happy with the reduced hours required of him. It was also noted that when Bob does need help he has been able to call on Dougie Wallace. W Stephen suggested that another possible source of help may be the keeper at Rattray Estate. The overall view is that the Board would look favourably at either of these if they were to consider some work on Bailiff duties. A Buchan (Lunar) also mentioned that the Dee Board was providing some bailiff cover to the Don and Ythan Boards and that the Ugie Board could consider a similar arrangement, for a fee, with a neighbouring Board such as the Deveron. A Buchan (Lunar) proposed to meantime leave Bob to continue cover alone unless he feels unable and then to consider the other options discussed.

DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MAY, 2017

There was placed before the meeting a Draft Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet as at 31 May, 2017 prepared by the Clerk, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. The Clerk explained the income and expenditure for the year as detailed in the Draft Accounts, and that, subject to Board approval, these would now be sent for

examination and final preparation by Messrs Bain Henry Reid. W Stephen proposed the draft accounts be accepted and this was seconded by D Low.

FINANCE AND RATES

The Board considered the projected expenditure for the year to 31 May, 2018 and the Clerk explained the difficulty in setting a rate because the District Assessor had not yet finalised the rating re-valuation and that there was some doubt as to what value would be allotted to netting stations when they were under a government restriction on catching salmon. A Buchan (Lunar) pointed out that the restriction was only for salmon and did not prevent these stations taking sea trout. J Yule also mentioned that some netting stations were able to claim government compensation for the loss of salmon income and for both these reasons the netting stations should still have a rateable value. The Clerk had suggested that if the rateable values were the same as last year then, in view of the better bank balance, a lower rate could be considered. A Buchan (Lunar) suggested that because of the uncertainty the rates should remain at £2.44 and that the healthier bank balance would absorb any shortfall in income if rateable values are changed. It was agreed the Clerk would issue rates notices at £2.44 in the pound based on the latest rating values available.

WILD FISHERIES REVIEW

The Convenor reported that the 54 recommended changes by Andrew Thin in 2015 had all collapsed due to lack of funding from the Scottish Government. The 3 year ban on net fishings is to be looked at after 3 years but could become an indefinite ban. The Ugie Board area was classed as category 3 in the conservation status, resulting in mandatory catch and release. The conservation status of each river's stock is defined by the probability of the stock meeting its conservation limit over a five-year period. If fish returns improve then the probability of meeting the conservation limits increases, and we could then move from category 3 to category 2. This would allow the Board to manage catching of fish for either release or not i.e. catch and release would not apply throughout the season but may be applied at times the Board decrees.

A Buchan (Lunar) went on to explain that the conservation limit is based on weighted area sampling where the size of the watercourse determines the number of fish eggs that can be supported and that factor is then applied to every tributary and offshoot. If it can be shown that any of these small tributaries have never been known to support salmon then this will greatly reduce the weighted area and could allow the Board to move up to category 2. A Buchan (Lunar) was aware that Ythan Board had achieved success in looking at reducing the expected limit of fish that can be supported, rather than this Board's approach of looking for a higher number caught and furthermore pointed out that the level of proof required can be a mere statement from a proprietor that there has never been a stock in a particular stream.

The Convenor agreed that this avenue will be followed and will also look at what fish are in the river by using the fish counter and by catch data. A Buchan (Lunar) explained that there are anomalies with the fish counter when the water was high and the amount of particles increased which had an effect on the density causing larger fish recorded as small. Work was ongoing with this problem. The Convenor stressed the need to improve on the recording of catch data on a more regular basis and also stated that it was just as important to get nil returns noted as fish caught.

The Convenor reported on a scientific project by Marine Scotland involving acoustic tagging research which will track salmon from the North coast of Scotland to see their final destination rivers. There will be two receivers placed in the river with anchors which we must put in and take out after the summer runs are over. This project will involve not only the Ugie Board but also Dee, Don, and Ythan and other rivers around Scotland.

AOCB

Re-stocking

D Low asked if re-stocking was still going ahead and J Yule assured him it was.

Election of Board

A question was asked about Board elections and the Clerk confirmed members stand for 3 years and those shown below were elected on 10 November 2016. The next election is therefore due in November 2019 (not 2018 as was incorrectly stated).

<u>Upper Proprietors</u>	<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Score Group plc	Alexander Buchan	D. Low	J. Yule
Booth, Ednie	David Low	J. Yule	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 (Score)	D. Low

<u>Co-Opted</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Ugie Angling Association	W. Stephen	J. Yule	D. Low

<u>Convenor</u>		<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Joseph Yule		A. Buchan (Score)	D. Low

W Stephen intimated that although he was no longer on the Ugie Angling Association committee he was still a member and would be happy to continue representing anglers if the Board wished. The Board valued W Stephens contribution to the work of the Board and hoped he would continue to serve.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Annual Meeting of Proprietors and Board Meeting was set for Thursday, 9th November, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph B. B. B.", is written in black ink.

River Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board

**Profit and Loss Account
and
Balance Sheet
as at 31 May 2017**

River Ugie District
Salmon Fishery Board

Profit & Loss Account for the year ended 31st May 2017

2016

Income

15,482	Rates	15,481.80
-	Donations	-
<u>2</u>	Bank Interest	<u>1.70</u>
15,484		15,483.50

Expenditure

11,000	Bailiff's Retainer	7,231.04	
-	- Telephone	-	
-	- Rent	-	
358	Insurance	348.98	
-	- Advertising	-	
360	Accountancy fees	360.00	
2,640	Clerks Fee	2,640.00	
-	- Bank Interest	-	
60	Bank Charges	66.20	
1,200	Hire Fish Counter	1,200.00	
509	Miscellaneous	398.00	
<u>16,127</u>	- Depreciation	-	<u>12,244.22</u>
<u>-£ 643</u>	<u>Net surplus (deficit) for the year</u>		<u><u>£ 3,239.28</u></u>

Miscellaneous Expenses

Bailiff's protective clothing	-
Seminar fee	-
ASFB Annual subscription	398.00
	<u>£ 398.00</u>

River Ugie District
Salmon Fishery Board

Balance Sheet as at 31st May 2017

Fixed Assets

Communications Equipment at cost	1,826.00
Less aggregate depreciation	<u>1,826.00</u>
	-

Current Assets

Cash at bank :	Current A/C	7,035.62
	Invested	2,016.96

Deduct Current Liabilities

Sundry Creditors	3,012.00	6,040.58
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>£ 6,040.58</u>

Represented by

Revenue Reserves

As at 31st May 2016	2,801.30
Net surplus/deficit for the year	<u>3,239.28</u>
	<u>£ 6,040.58</u>