

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 8th November 2018 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
A. Buchan for Score Group plc
W. Stephen for Ugie Angling Association

In Attendance: T. Horne for Bruce Milton, Clerk to the Board

APOLOGIES None

MINUTES

A Buchan (Lunar) proposed that the Minutes of the last meeting be taken as read this was seconded by W. Stephen

Matters Arising

Conservation Status

The River Ugie remains as category 3 in the conservation status meaning compulsory catch and release. A Buchan (Score) brought up the report that was in the media recently and stated how it made it unclear regarding the catch and release and also asked the question of how the Government can judge the River when they do not know it. J Yule commented that there were now a very high number of rivers in category 3 and majority of local ones are in this category.

Fish Counter

J Yule produced a graph of the figures that the Fish Counter had produced over the past couple of years which showed on average 1200 sea trout and 250 salmon had entered the river.

In contrast to the Fish Counter figures the table below shows the actual catch returns of the Ugie Anglers for the last three years.

| <u>Salmon</u> | <u>Trout</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| 32 in 2016 | 176 in 2016 |
| 29 in 2017 | 338 in 2017 |
| 24 in 2018 | 226 in 2018 |

These figures need to be considered in the light of the prevailing weather conditions, the decreasing number of anglers and the fishing effort i.e the time spent fishing on the river.

Now that the fish counter has been in operation for a few years it is now showing a valuable piece of equipment to show the activity in the river.

Re-stocking/Hatchery Work

A Buchan (Lunar) thought that there needs to be a clear direction for the hatchery and the board are to make the decision. A Buchan (Lunar) also pointed out that there are enthusiastic men that are willing to help with the hatchery and it would be a shame to lose them. W Stephen and A Buchan (Score) pointed out that hatchery work involves a lot of time and is a long-term commitment and very tying. W Stephen also pointed out that there are legal obligations with regards to hatcheries and that they also need to be registered with Marine Scotland these would also need to be adhered to. A Buchan (Lunar) proposed that D Will to get people in place to catch the fish, strip the fish and to look after the eggs in order for the hatchery to go ahead. J Yule reported that it would be beneficial to keep the expertise of hatchery work to keep going and overall, he felt it was still a worthwhile project if it is carried out correctly.

Bailiff

J Yule advised the Board that D Will was looking to retire from his fulltime employment in June and brought up the subject of his wage increase, the board agreed that his wage would go up to £10,000. A Buchan (Lunar) brought up the point that the Bailiff position is part time only and this should be highlighted to D Will. All Board members are happy with the new Bailiff and work he is doing. W Stephen also highlighted that he has seen D Will a couple of times out patrolling the river which is an important part of his job.

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 24th May, 2019 at 3p.m. and this would be immediately followed by a Board Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.


Joseph Yule
Convenor