

**MINUTES of ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT
SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on
Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 3.00pm**

Present:

Joseph Yule (Convenor) (JY)
Alexander Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited (ABL)
Alexander Buchan for Score Group plc (ABS)
Simon Stephen for Ugie Angling Association (SS)
David Low Mandatory for Mrs Booth, Ednie (DL)

In Attendance:

Louise Kershaw for Bruce Milton, Clerk to the Board (LK)
Stephen Buchan for Ugie Angling Association (SB)
James Ritchie for Ugie Angling Association (JR)

CONVENOR'S REPORT

The Convenor delivered his report (copy attached) on the activities of the board for the previous two years, confirming that despite Covid restrictions the day to day running of the board has been maintained by himself and the Clerk.

The proposed activities of the board for the coming year were then set out, with the main goal of the board being to protect the ecology of the river and ensure the well-being of the stocks of wild salmon and sea trout.

The Convenor then opened up the meeting to any members of the public to ask any questions.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

SB began by stating how grateful the Ugie Angling Association (UAA) is for the board and all that they do. Both he and JR, along with the UAA, are committed to ensuring the long-term future of the river as well as assisting in any way they can with improvements to the river.

SB and JR are interested in opening up the hatchery again. They wanted to know what would be involved if this were to go ahead, and if licences would be required.

JY advised that although a licence was not required in the past, it is now. He also commented that both Marine Scotland and some Salmon Fishery Boards have generally negative views on hatcheries. There would be many obstacles in the way, and any proposal to re-open the hatchery would need to be justified.

SS advised that his view is that the river Ugie is not large enough to justify a hatchery. It would not be worthwhile given the amount of work involved in setting it up and maintaining it.

ABL agreed with SS, stating that large hatcheries do seem to work but the Ugie is simply not big enough.

SS thinks it would be a big project to take on for little reward. Micro-hatcheries could be an option, however in his opinion it would still not be worth it given the level of mortalities.

ABL commented that volume would be a problem, and that it would be too big a project to take on. He also mentioned that the feasibility of a hatchery has been looked into before, and another issue would be the chemicals required to keep stock fish and whether they would be permitted or not. He does not think it would make a difference to the amount of fish caught by anglers.

SS agreed with ABL, stating that this was his experience as well. The mortality rate is too high.

DL advised that a hatchery was attempted around 20 years ago, and there was no difference made to the level of fish.

JY agreed that it would need to be proven to make a difference before it could be deemed to be worthwhile. The project would require total commitment and everyday supervision.

ABL stated that he believes the focus should be on maintaining the river's natural habitat.

JR agreed with ABL and asked if there could be anything more done to improve the river's natural habitat.

ABL advised this would likely cost millions of pounds. Even installing spawning channels would cost at least two to three million pounds.

JY commented that the Marine boards and Fisheries Managements Scotland etc. are all boosting ecology rather than hatcheries.

SB acknowledged that his query had been answered.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ABL suggested that the UAA should have a member on the board and stated that they are always happy to consider new members, especially from the younger generation.

JY reminded SB and JR that the board is always open to ideas, comments and criticism whether they come from members of the committee or not.

SB stated that the UAA's goal is to make the river as good as possible, and that he and JR appreciate the suggestion from ABL to join the board. SB then asked when electrofishing would next be happening.

DL advised that the board has the equipment to carry out electrofishing and that this equipment is currently stored with Bob Davidson.

ABL commented that anyone using the equipment needs to have the relevant qualifications and that all health and safety requirements must be met.

JY reiterated again that the board welcomes any queries, and that they wish to encourage the younger generations.

No further questions were raised and there being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Yule". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Joseph Yule
Convenor

UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING 23RD JUNE 2022

The activities of the board have continued as best as they can given two years of covid restrictions. Although we could not meet face to face the Clerk and the Chairman have been continuing the day to day running of the board, dealing with correspondence from various bodies and taking on board the regular updates and advice from Fishery Management Scotland (Association of District Salmon Fishery Boards)

We have maintained the raising of finances from the proprietors on the river, which have enabled us to carry-out our statutory duties, including the provision of a clerk to the board, a water bailiff to police the river and coast and we continue to retain the services of an accountant to audit our accounts:

Our Accounts for the last two years and our projected expenditure for the next twelve months will be discussed and hopefully approved at the board meeting later today. These approved accounts will be available for inspection some time after that meeting.

The proposed activities of the board for the next year will be to continue to do all we can to promote and protect the ecology of the River Ugie and to ensure the well-being of the stocks of wild salmon and sea trout in the River Ugie. We will work hard to continue to meet our financial obligations and comply as best we can with our statutory duties. We would like to continue to be open to working together in co-operation with Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council and ^{SEPA} other Salmon Fishery Boards. As ever we are grateful for the support and confidence of the Proprietors on the river and for the close relationship we enjoy with the committee and members of the Ugie Angling Association and the wider Angling fraternity.

We now open the meeting to any members of the public to ask any questions. No written requests or proposals have been made to the Clerk but the board will note any suggestions members of the public want to put to the board. These suggestions and proposals will be considered by the board at the board meeting.

