

**MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 immediately following the Annual Public Meeting of the River Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board.**

**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)  
 David Will, Water Bailiff (DW)

**APOLOGIES**

None.

**ELECTION OF BOARD**

The following members of the board were duly elected:

<b>Upper Proprietors</b>	<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Score Group plc	Alexander Buchan	D. Low	A. Buchan (Lunar)
Booth, Ednie	David Low	S. Stephen	A. Buchan (Score)
Lunar Fishing Co Ltd	Alexander Buchan	D. Low	A. Buchan (Score)

<b>Lower Proprietors</b>	<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Lunar Fishing Co Ltd	Joseph Yule	A. Buchan (Lunar)	D. Low

<b>Co-opted</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Ugie Angling Association	Simon Stephen	A. Buchan (Lunar)	D. Low
Ugie Angling Association	William Stephen	A. Buchan (Lunar)	D. Low

<b>Convenor</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Joseph Yule	A. Buchan (Lunar)	D. Low

After the above members of the board were elected, ABL stated that the young men who attended the public meeting (Stephen Buchan and James Ritchie) should be invited to join the board.

JY undertook to contact Stuart Aird at the Ugie Angling Association (UAA) to extend the invitation.

## **MINUTES**

ABL proposed that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be taken as read and this was seconded by ABS.

## **APPROVAL OF DRAFT ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2021**

The Clerk produced a draft set of accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, which had been prepared by Bain Henry Reid Accountants. The following queries were raised;

- ABS enquired about the fish counter fee. JY explained that the fish counter had been purchased by Lunar, and is maintained by Lunar, and the board pays an annual leasing fee to use it.
- ABL noted that there was no electrofishing survey fee for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 shown in the accounts, whereas it had been included in the profit & loss account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. JY advised that this was because the grant received for it had been paid directly to Ritchie Miller, unlike the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 when it was paid to the board who then forwarded the payment to Ritchie.
- ABL also noted that there was no clerk's fee included in the expenses for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. The Clerk confirmed that she and the other partners at Masson Glennie had decided to waive the fee for the 2020/21 year in recognition of the fact that there had been no face to face meetings held since November 2019.

Once the above queries had been addressed, SS proposed the approval of the accounts and this was seconded by ABL.

The Clerk agreed that she would go ahead and settle the outstanding Bain Henry Reid invoice for the preparation of the accounts.

## **FINANCE & RATES**

The Clerk then produced a projection of income and expenditure for the 12 months up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. The Clerk advised that the only outstanding rates still due to be paid were those from Aberdeenshire Council. The Clerk agreed that she would issue a reminder at the same time as this year's rates collection notices.

After consideration of the financial projections, a new rate of £2.40 in the pound was proposed by DL. This was seconded by ABL. The Clerk agreed she would issue the rates notices accordingly.

## **FISH COUNTER REPORT**

ABL advised that he receives a seasonal report every 4 months based on the data produced by the fish counter. The reports for the last 4 months of 2021, and the first 4 months of 2022 have seen the first increases in numbers in a long time.

ABL thinks that the reports are very helpful in monitoring the levels of fish, and providing an insight into what is happening on the river.

JY stated that it would be useful for every member of the board to receive copies of the seasonal reports, and there was agreement from everyone that this should happen going forward.

### **BAILIFF'S REPORT**

DW delivered his report for the 2021 and 2022 seasons (copy attached). With Covid restrictions easing at last, there seems to have been a gradual return to normalcy with the return of both old and new anglers to the river.

DW stated that the UAA had taken responsibility for strimming and maintaining the banks and that this was going well.

There were a few minor incidents involving diesel spillages and poaching, and DW stressed the importance of being contacted immediately when these kinds of incidents occur. In each case, he was not informed until at least a day had passed, meaning that there was little he could do to rectify the situation. DW reiterated that if he is notified without delay, he can take action straight away and hopefully resolve any issues.

DW finished by commenting that relations with the UAA were very positive at the moment, and he hopes that this continues.

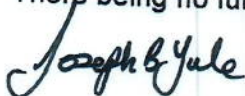
### **AOCB**

None.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Board Meeting was set for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 3:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.



Joseph Yule  
Convenor

## Bailiffs report 2021/22

In season 2021 we were still very much in the grip of the covid pandemic. Measures had been relaxed and everyone was encouraged to partake in outdoor activities providing social distancing was observed. Angling in all its forms became popular once more as the public looked for ways of enjoying the great outdoors and fresh country air once again.

This was indeed a bonus to our river with increased ticket sales helping to balance the books. As well as our regulars, many anglers returned to the sport after several years of abstinence and it was heartening to see some new anglers joining the ranks.

Fishing was slow to start but some nice fish were taken throughout the season though perhaps not as many as we would have liked.

The UAA committee did a grand job strimming the banks and have set up a subcommittee to ensure the banks are kept clear throughout this season.

I am pleased to report that only a few minor incidents occurred in the 2021 season with regards to water quality. Diesel was reported entering the Collie Burn which killed a few smolt as they made their journey through the estuary to the sea. SEPA were alerted but unfortunately it was the next day that I was alerted to the situation and informed them of the incident by which time it was too late to prove the source of the spillage. The association president informed the anglers of the urgency of reporting incidents of this nature as they find them but I still seem to get any information from a third party a day later.

Night patrols started as usual in mid June and there was no evidence of night poaching recorded. The long dry summer saw few fish running in the drought like conditions and this led to a build up of sizeable numbers of seatrout at the river mouth. This was monitored closely but as sods law would have it the only witnessed case of fish being killed was when I was in Edinburgh for a few days. As I was indisposed at the time I tried to contact the police to have them show face in an effort to deter the poachers. Unfortunately after more than an hour trying to get through unsuccessfully to Police Scotland it was reported that the lads had packed up and were leaving.

The next day on my way home from Edinburgh I received another call from a member of the public to say they were back and again and seatrout had been seen to be dispatched. I was unable to drive due to the treatment received at the hospital but on returning home my wife drove me to Peterhead. Again it was impossible to contact the police but a police officer about to start duty was willing to accompany myself to the Buchan haven area and confront the poachers. Unfortunately as the officer was getting ready to start his shift I received word that the chap holding the bag of fish had left for home.

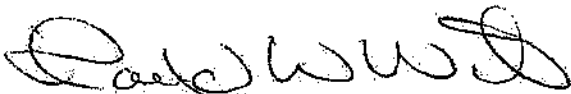
The word in their ear seemed to have had an effect as they were not seen again.

This season 2022 things are just starting to get going and a few nice fish have been grassed. As ever the angling community are hopping for rain to encourage a fresh run. Thus far there seems to be more anglers on the banks than last season and on most days there are a few out wetting a line.

Again this season the chaps fishing at the river mouth have returned as the trout numbers build up awaiting rain to run up stream. Constant visits seem to be having an effect as they disappear on seeing that they are being watched. Otherwise only minor incidents of unlawful fishing has been witnessed and dealt with so far this year so let's hope the trend continues.

Unfortunately a repeat spillage was reported in the Collie burn this year though no dead fish were reported. Again a day had passed until I was informed, a delay in reporting the incident meant that the perpetrators are free to contaminate the river yet again. Incidents such as these need to be reported to myself without delay. Reporting these types of incident as they are witnessed is paramount and again the committee has informed its members to contact myself as soon as possible. Other than the above mentioned no other cases of pollution has been witnessed.

We now look forward to the main seatrout run and hope for a healthy run of salmon in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. W. W. D.', written in a cursive style.