

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of  
The Ythan District Salmon Fishery Board  
held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at  
the Haddo Estate Office at 2 pm**

**1. Present:**

J. Kerry	Don District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent
R. Coutts	Newburgh Angling Club
E. Ritchie	Ramornie, Ellon
M. Stewart	Haddo House Angling Club & R.Y.T. Chairman
J. Pirie	Ardlogie, Fyvie
A. Kloppert	R.T.Y. Director

**2. In Attendance:**

M H T Andrew	Clerk to the Board
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**3. Apologies for Absence:**

R. Dey	Chairman: ADAA Machar Pool
C. Wolridge Gordon	Esslemont
V. Leeming	M. Bruce & Partners, Ellon
A. Paterson	ADAA: Ardlethen

In the absence of Mr. Day the Clerk took the chair.

**4. Consideration of the report by the Clerk and the accounts to 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.**

The Clerk asked if everyone had seen the report and the accounts which had been published on the Board Website ([www.ythan.co.uk](http://www.ythan.co.uk)).

There was considerable discussion about the impact of seals on the ability of anglers to fish. The estuary fishings (Newburgh A.C) were badly affected as seals follow boats up river and seals swim up river overnight and rest up around the railway bridge and swim through the Ellon area scattering fish up towards Esslemont from Boatie Tams'. The Clerk was asked to find out what the results of analysis of DNA within seals' diets in regards the amount of salmon / sea trout in the seal diet. Also to ask the Dee Board if we could borrow a seal scarer for use either at Ramornie or the estuary (or both).

Jim Kerr read through the red count report which is annexed to this minute. Although a number of redds had been identified along most of the areas surveyed, the numbers were quite small and demonstrated the overall low population of spawning salmon.

**5. Programme of Activities for 2020**

There were continued within the report. Additional emphasis would be placed on debris removed from parts of the upper stem of the river and tributaries where it was thought that these could be obstructing the upstream passage of fish (eg. Seggat)

It was suggested that the Service Level Agreement should include for spraying invasive plants such as giant hogweed as the bailiffs all had the necessary training and certificates.

**6. Proposals by those attending**

The Clerk advised that he would be making an application for the control of pisciverous birds in 2020 with assistance from the Dee / Don Biologists / Director,

Mr. Coutts recommended people watch "Fishers or Foe" which as about Usans' netting activities (when they were legal) and the efforts of others to prevent them. Particularly those who wanted to stop the killing of seals from around the netting station.

**7. The next meeting would be held in the latter part of June.**

**8. AOCB**

Mr. Pirie advised the Clerk to see the Red Burn in Rothienorman and to check for pollution.