

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of  
The Ythan District Salmon Fishery Board  
Held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023  
At the Haddo Estate office at 2pm**

1. Present:

Paul Adderton	- ADDA Machar Pool
John Pirie	- Ardlogie
Charles Wolrige Gordon	- Esslemont – Chairman
Ken Mackenzie	- Newburgh AC
Anouk Kloppert	- River Ythan Trust
Eric Ritchie	- Angler

2. In Attendance:

Mark Andrew - Clerk to the Board  
Jim Kerr - Don District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent  
Jamie Urquhart - Dee District Salmon fishery Board Biologist and Administrator of SLA

3. Apologies for absence:

Ron Coutts - Newburgh AC  
Alec Patterson - ADDA Ardlethen  
Val Leeming - M. Bruce & Partners – Logie Buchan

4. Consideration of the Report by the Clerk and the Accounts to 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022:

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)).

Included in the report was the catch for the year and it was reported by ADAA and other clubs that although members generally reported their catch this was not fully guaranteed.

The Board had once again hired a boat mounted seal scarer from Peterhead which had been moored at Boatie Tams' thanks to the kind assistance of George and Wayne Smith. This had worked to deter seals from ascending further upriver and kept the Ellon fishings free of their damaging activities. It has been agreed with Lunar fishings and the Ugie D.S.F.B to hire the boat and seal scarer in 2023.

The Board accounts to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 had been published on the website and made available to all proprietors. There were no points raised regarding the accounts and they were signed by the Chairman.

5. Programme of Activities for 2023

These were identified within the report. Emphasis would be placed on riverbank restoration where this has been seriously eroded, clearing potential spawning gravel areas of ranunculus, easing compacted gravel beds and clearing impassable obstructions.

The Clerk, reporting for the River Ythan Trust, advised that the weir on the Bronie Burn at Scottisley (which is close to where the burn outfalls into the river) had been successfully removed under a SEPA project and the bed of the burn re-graded to include some large in-stream boulders and other fish-friendly obstructions. The whole cost, which was more than £250,000 was paid by SEPA. This would allow salmonids to ascend the watercourse and spawn upstream in most normal water conditions. Previously it would only have been possible for salmon to ascend in very high water. The Bronie is one of the burns that is surveyed for redds by the bailiffs.

6. Proposals by those attending:

The Clerk advised that he was not making an application to control seals as all applications had been refused last year and that NS / Nature Scot would not grant a license until the seal scarer proved to be a failure. So far, no seals had ventured past it.

7. The next Public meeting would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June at Newburgh