

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of
The Ythan District Salmon Fishery Board
held on 19th January 2021
by an online meeting due to Covid restrictions**

1. Present:

P. Adderton	ADDA Machar Pool
V. Leeming	M. Bruce and Partners, Ellon
R. Coutts	Newburgh Angling Club
M. Stewart	Haddo House Angling Club & R.Y.T. Chairman
J. Pirie	Ardlogie, Fyvie
A. Kloppert	R.T.Y. Director
C. Wolrige Gordon	Eslemont
A. Paterson	ADAA Ardlethen & Methlick RYT Secretary

2. In Attendance:

M.H.T. Andrew	Clerk to the Board
J. Kerr	Don District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent
J. Urquhart	Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, Biologist and Administrator of SLA

3. Consideration of the report by the Clerk and the accounts to 25th 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).

The Board had hired a boat mounted seal scarer from Peterhead which had been moored at Boatie Tams' thanks to the kind assistance of George Smith. This had worked to deter seals from ascending further up river and kept the Ellon fishings free of their damaging activities. It had been agreed with Lunar Fishings and the Ugie D.S.F.B to hire the boat and seal scarer in 2021.

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 remain small and demonstrate the overall low population of spawning salmon and seat trout.

The Board Accounts to 25th July, 2020 had been published on the website and made available to all proprietors. There were no points raised in regard to the accounts.

4. Programme of Activities for 2021

These were identified within the report. Additional emphasis would be placed on river bank restoration where this has been seriously eroded, clearing potential spawning gravel areas of ranunculus and easing gravel beds, clearing impassable woody (and other) obstructions.

5. Proposals by those attending

The Clerk advised that he would be making an application for the control of piscivorous birds in 2021 with assistance from the Dee / Don Biologists / Director.

Mr. Coutts requested the bailiffs spend some time checking tickets of anglers in the estuary and ensure they abide by the Conservation Code applicable there. Mr. Stewart asked the bailiffs to watch out for potential poaching activity in the latter part of the season in the Ardlethen / Methlick water where there had been suspicious activity in 2020. The presence of the bailiffs would probably be sufficient to deter any would be poachers.

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

Following the public meeting the proprietors confirmed the Board election.