

RIVER YTHAN TRUST

Minutes of 6th Annual General Meeting, 14th December 2016.

Location- Haddo Estate Office.

Present.

Mark Andrew (MA)	Alec Paterson (AP)	Dr John Pirie (JP)	Michael Stewart (MS)
Sandy Milne (SM)	Jim Adie (JA)	Anouk Kahanov – Kloppert (AK)	Dr Mark Young (MY)
Richard Macdonald (RM)			

Apologies – None.

Item	Comment	Action
Chair	MS took the chair and welcomed all present to the 6th AGM of the River Ythan Trust.	
Minutes of the 5 th AGM, 8 th December 2015.	MS asked if the 2015 AGM minutes were accepted as being an accurate record. Minutes were adopted, proposed by MA, seconded by AP. No matters arising.	
Chairman's Report.	MS Read his Chairman's Report for the 2016 AGM. <u>Introduction.</u> Good evening everyone. <u>Rivers and Fishery Trusts of Scotland. (RAFTS.)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RAFTS are currently in the process of winding down, but will continue in operation until the end of March 2017.• A new single new body covering the duties of the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (and Trusts should they wish to join) has now been formed, possibly as an interim measure until the final organisations agreed by the Wild Fisheries Reform process are applied.• The new organisation is called Fisheries Management Scotland, (FMS) - rivers/fisheries trusts included in the organisation on a temporary basis until February/March 2017.	

Chairman's Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to receiving further information and consultations, trusts will be given the opportunity to join FMS. • Should the River Ythan Trust wish to join (we have no details at present) the annual fee will be similar to RAFTS, at £1000.00. <p><u>Wild Fisheries Reform.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little progress has been made by Scottish Government since the last election, and there will be no Wild Fisheries Bill in this session. • No timetable has been stated, but the WFR is expected to go ahead. • Consideration is being given to the formation of an FMO (North East Fisheries Foundation) incorporating Dee, Don, Ythan and Ugie – only few meetings have been held so far to discuss the general principle – very early days. <p><u>Marine Scotland Science Scotland. Salmon Scotland Regulations September 2016.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document gives the proposed river categories relating to the conservation of salmon in all Scottish Rivers. – all to be reviewed annually • Category 1. – River is meeting its conservation limit for salmon for more than 80% of the time in the last 5 years -exploitation is sustainable and therefore no additional management action is currently required. • Category 2. – River is meeting its conservation limit for salmon 60-80% of the time in the last 5 years – management action is necessary to reduce exploitation; mandatory catch and release will not be required in the first instance. • Category 3. – River is failing to meet its conservation limit for less than 60% of the time in the last 5 years – exploitation is unsustainable and mandatory catch and release (all methods) for 1 year will be required. • The Ythan was provisionally classed as grade 3 (59.2%), and was expected to be confirmed as such, meaning there would be mandatory catch and release for salmon in 2017. However, following the consultation period for responses (which were made by the RYT) the category was raised to category 2 for 2017. Unless catches and return rates have improved significantly in 2016 and going forward, it is likely that the category 3 status will be imposed for 2018, and possibly for many years to come. 	Action
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Chairman's Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The model used by Marine Scotland Science is complex takes no account of minor obstacles to fish migration, angler participation and several other issues. • The model is recognised as being far from perfect and is evolving, and next year will consider juvenile figures – unfortunately comprehensive recent data on juvenile salmon figures for the Ythan is not available. <p><u>Bio security Plan//Biosecurity.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding Giant Hogweed (GH) and Japanese Knotweed (JK), we have continued our involvement with the Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers (YBV) to carry out spraying of both invasive plant species over the whole Ythan and Tarty Burn. • At last year's AGM, AP reported that funding for INN plant control in 2016 had not been obtained, however, in early spring Aberdeenshire Council and their Formartine Area Committee provided funding to the YBV sufficient to the for the project to carry on during 2016 • As in 2015, a contractor was employed to carry out most of the spraying on the upper Ythan and tributaries. (Fyvie upstream) and in the case of Fyvie downstream and Tarty Burn – carried out solely by River Ythan Trust volunteers. • To date no funding for 2017 INN plant control has been found. <p><u>Scottish Invasive Species Initiative. (SISI.)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAFTS are still working with SNH regarding a funding package for a Heritage Lottery funded INNS control project (including North American Mink). • Following the demise of RAFTS at the end of March 2017, the project will be taken over by SNH. • We have put together all the details required for RAFTS to include the RYT area – RAFTS had aimed to have the bid submitted at the end of November, however, has been delayed - even if successful will not be submitted in time for funding in spring 2017. • There is no certainty that the project bid will be successful and go ahead in 2018. 	Action

Chairman's Report.	<u>Habitat Surveys</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The situation regarding completion of the remaining survey work, mainly on the Water of Cruden, Slains Burn and coastal streams (50km) has not been resolved due to lack of funding, however NESBReC, funded by Aberdeenshire Council have carried out a survey to identify the numbers and locations of INN plants on the Water of Cruden and Slains Burn – we awaiting copies of the survey results. 	Action
	<u>Obstacles to Fish Migration</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We had hoped to modify the channel on the Keithfield Burn at Keithfield Lake in 2016 using our volunteers, however several circumstances occurred making it impossible, the main one being Storm Frank, that involved a huge amount of time by one of our principal volunteers dealing with the aftermath on his own property, also more time than usual required in spraying activities, due to adverse weather conditions. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopefully we will proceed with this in 2017, but is weather dependent – we require low water levels for a sustained period to enable the work to be carried out. 	MS/JA/AP
	<u>Website Matters</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem with the domain name was changed to www.riverythantrust.co.uk sometimes work ok but not always – will use our new Facebook page for communication/publicity purposes. 	
	<u>Facebook Page.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We now have an excellent Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/River-Ythan-Trust-888017091237227/ which was set up and is run by one of our directors and volunteer, Anouk Kahanof-Kloppert. 	AK
	<u>Publicity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We again received a lot of publicity and photos in the local press regarding the Salmon in the Classroom project 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The controversy regarding the original proposed seal haul out site consultation at Newburgh has been a hot topic, our views and articles were publicised in both the local and regional press. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final proposal is to restrict the haul out site to the lowermost north side of the estuary – I believe we paid a significant part in determining this outcome. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint presentations regarding the INN plant control work have been given to the Aberdeenshire Formartine Area Committee and Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers AGM. 	

	<p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Salmon in the Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In spring 2016 (end February – end May) we again ran the project – Auchterellon Primary, Ellon Primary, Ellon Academy and advised and monitored an aquarium at Haddo Country Park. • At Haddo Estate Office, our standby aquarium and salmon ova/fry were ably looked after by Marge Pocknell. • The fry raised by Auchterellon pupils were released in the Ebrie, the fry from Ellon Primary and Ellon Academy in the Modley Burn adjacent to the Ythan at Meiklemill in Ellon. • Meiklemill Primary School have expressed an interest in participation in 2017. <p><u>SEPA and Rural Diffuse Pollution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no update from SEPA regarding their Ythan catchment wide survey, however SEPA, in their River Basin Management Planning North East update May 2016 states that work on this subject will be starting on the Don, Ythan and several other north east waterways. • Our secretary has been in contact with SEPA and is to meet to discuss the matter soon. 	Action
Finance.	<p>Treasurer MA presented a copy of the River Ythan Trust Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document showed the bank balance at 30th April, the end of the 2015/2016 financial year at £14191.11. • Approval of accounts – approved subject to auditor's confirmation. • Current bank balance at the AGM date is £12468.37, sufficient funds to carry on. • MA asked if there were any queries regarding the accounts, since none were expressed, the accounts were approved subject to certification by our auditors. 	AP/AK AP
Resignation/ Election/ Re- election of Directors.	<p>Director Resignations/Re-elections</p> <p>MS advised that under the Articles of Association, one third of our directors require to resign, but may choose to seek re-election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignations were MS JA and RM all wish to seek re-election. • There being no other proposed candidates MS, JA and RM were re-elected as directors. 	

Election of Office Bearers	<p>MS raised the action of election of office bearers and vacated the chair. Nominations and results are shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Chairman - Proposed by AP, seconded by JP, Mike Stewart was elected as Chairman. • Office of Treasurer - Proposed by JP, seconded by MY, Mark Andrew was elected as Treasurer. • Office of Secretary - Proposed by MA, seconded by JP, Alec Paterson was elected as Secretary. 	Action
AOCB	<p>There being no other competent business the chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed.</p>	
Date of 2017 AGM	To be advised.	AP