

The scheduled meeting of the Board was held at Friar's Carse on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

There was not a great deal which I considered needed to be communicated to you.

However, it should be mentioned that:

1. There would appear to have been a better run of sea trout this season. This is confirmed particularly from Upper Nithsdale where I understand one member has had over 40 fish to his own rod.
2. Happily, there is not yet any evidence of the spread of signal crayfish in the catchment. The possibility of diverting the Lochfoot burn through Scottish Water's treatment plant is to be investigated.
3. There appears to be a new licence which can be applied for to SEPA for the removal or shifting of gravel. I know that Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association are investigating this with Jim Henderson and SEPA. I shall let you know what the rules and regulations are, since I am to attend that meeting or those meetings.
4. The new 5year Management Plan for the catchment should be published by the end of this year.
5. Buccleuch Estates are apparently giving up the running of the Fishnith website. This will not be taken over by the Board. The Nith website itself now has a weekly report page. It is hoped that all fisheries will report the catches on their beats on a weekly basis so that this information is generally available. The Board is keen that every fishery reports in its figures.
6. Catch and release and tagging were discussed. It would appear that tagging will be a legal requirement from 2015. I have not detected a lot of strong opposition to tagging, which most anglers regard as inevitable. There is strong opposition to 100% catch and release for diverse reasons. 100% catch and release is not however a policy which the Board is pursuing.