

NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS
HELD AT FRIARS CARSE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL
AULDGIRTH, DUMFRIES

on

20rd March 2018 at 10.00 am

PRESENT

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock
Peter Landale – Dalswinton Estate
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishing
David Kempself – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Wally Wright – Netting Representative
Peter Hutchison – Netting Representative
Thomas Florey – Angling Representative
Nick Brown – Friars Carse
John Charteris - Dumfries & Galloway Council
Richard Gladwin – Blackwood Estate

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Brian Fox
Tom Brown
Karl Savege
Mike Machin
Geoff Walter
Jim Gregory
Dorothy Ashworth
Steven Ashworth

IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)
Deborah Parke – Nith Catchment Fishery Trust (FB)
Davie McMichael – Senior Water Bailiff
Ruth Davies - Administrator

APOLOGIES

John Kingan
Derek Hextall

The Chairman convened the meeting and welcomed everybody in attendance.

The Chairman referred to the Agenda.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman asked for comments on these Minutes. There were none. The Chairman sought formal approval for the Minutes of AGMQP 23/3/17, which was unanimously given.

2. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report which had been circulated and was on the web and asked for comments thereon.

DK noted catch and release figures were generally good, however, 12% for the Nets was not so positive. PH stated he would like to see figures for the effort involved in fishing, for sea trout and salmon. FD highlighted that the return rate for the angler diaries issued was, very poor, at 50%. This issue had been discussed at the last Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) meeting and the Forth & the Tweed reported similar problems with their log book returns. RG suggested working with FishPal to progress a technology solution, however, FD advised that this would only cover 15% of ticket sales on the Nith. PL suggested he could attach a log book to post at both ends of Ellisland Pool. TB advised he had contacted Marine Scotland regarding logbooks, as the Environment Agency issue them in England, however no support was provided.

RG referred to the 'Average salmonid densities at annual Nith sites 2014/2017' graph asking if 2016/17 was really a standout year. JH confirmed yes it was, probably due to the mild conditions and there being no big flood event. The data relates to 10 annual monitoring sites. The question is whether these figures will convert it PARR who return to sea.

The Chairman sought formal approval for the Annual Report which was unanimously given.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Chairman stated that the Accounts were broadly in good order. There were no questions or objections. The Accounts were unanimously approved by all concerned.

4. MANAGEMENT PLANS

FD confirmed that there were no radical plans to change the approach. New FMS management plan templates are awaited and we continue with BAU until these are received.

The Chairman offered, that he was surprised by the re-categorisation of the Nith to a Cat-1 status, however, suggested on a positive note it made the river look more attractive to others. As David Kempzell had mentioned earlier, catch and release figures were good for the Cat-2 status last year. He stated he hoped this approach continues this year and hopes the Board supports this.

DK confirmed he thought anglers and netsmen would continue to support this approach.

5. A.O.C.B.

The Clerk advised that Triennial elections for NDSFB would be held in the lead up to July and invited current members of the board and the public to give this matter some consideration. Members should continue to represent angling proprietors, net proprietors and anglers.

The Clerk confirmed John Kingan had tendered his resignation from the Board due to illness which resulted in his place being available for netsmen to consider.

TF asked what was happening in the Marine Environment. Is there anyone we should support? FD responded the Atlantic Salmon Trust were at the forefront of tagging projects.

NDSFB attend their meetings and provide as much support as they can e.g. providing samples.

PL advised that a big project was about to start the details of which would be covered at the Board meeting.

The chairman closed the meeting with thanks at 10.30am.