

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW

1st December 2008 – 30th November 2009



Ice flows on River Nith at Blackwood

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

REPORT

01.12.08 – 30.11.09

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AGENDA
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
for year
01.12.08 – 30.11.09

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 18.02.09
2. Annual Report
3. Annual Accounts
4. AOCB

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

On

18th February 2009 at 10 am

1. PRESENT

Tom Florey – Chairman – Portrack & Ellisland
Mike Keggans – Angler
Tom Brown – Nith Haaf Net Association
Gordon McGregor – Angler
Sir David Landale – Dalswinton
Ronald Weir – Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Brian Lord – Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Liam Chalmers – Nith Fishing Improvement Association
Wally Wright – High Kelton
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock
Ronald Clark - Drumburn
Percy Weatherall - Cowhill
Andrew Harvey – Upper Nithsdale Angling Club
Maxwell Keggans – Upper Nithsdale Angling Club
Alan Bryden – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Mark Coombs – Buccleuch Estates
Roy Green – Buccleuch Estates
John Kingan – North Corbelly
Geoff Walters – Closeburn Castle Fishings
N Wright– Closeburn Castle Fishings
David Matthews – Blackwood
John Charteris – D & G Council
Brian Fox – POFR
Simon Kelly – POFR
Nick Brown - POFR

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)
Ms Gillian Reid – Auditor
Barry Young – Senior Bailiff

3. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

4. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF 4TH DECEMBER 2007, ERRORS AND OMISSIONS and MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting asked attendees to raise any issues or approve the Minutes of the Meeting. The Chairman pointed out a few typographical errors and FD asked Mr Keggans on the correct spelling of his surname. There were no other errors or omissions. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising.

Mr Walters stated that he would like to clarify the situation concerning Closeburn Castle Fishings and Mr Prince's comments at the last AGM. He stated that Closeburn Castle Fishings were not invited to attend the Fresh Water Fisheries Forum and the views expressed by Mr Prince at that meeting were not necessarily the views of Closeburn Castle Fishings. Closeburn Castle Fishings wished to disassociate themselves from any of the points raised by Mr Prince at that meeting. Mr Walters asked that a written confirmation of this statement be made to Closeburn Castle Fishings The Chairman confirmed that this would be confirmed and commented that he was pleased that this matter could be closed.

The Chairman made reference to the previous minutes page by page and asked if there were any further comments to be made on them. The Clerk advised that there were a number of action points from the previous AGM and spoke about them.

- Consultancy Income – The Clerk advised that there had been comment made at the previous AGM about the designation within the accounts of "Consultancy Income". This had been considered and with reference to the Professional Indemnity Insurance policy which provides cover in respect of consultancy income. Accordingly the Board were satisfied that consultancy income was a reasonable term to be used within the accounts to describe that type of income generated by the Board.
- Board Minutes – The Board are now operating a website and an abbreviated version of the meeting minutes are published after they had been approved at the next available meeting.
- Fund Holding – Funding has now been spread between the Clydesdale Bank and the Scottish Building Society due to the current Financial Climate.
- Spring Salmon Initiative – This point was taken to the Board meeting immediately following the AGM and after much discussion a unanimous decision was taken that the dates recommended by the Board to all proprietors and anglers for the return of spring salmon and the previously agreed size categories of sea trout should remain as they are.

Mr Walter asked if the minutes could be circulated within one week to the Board members for approval as it was a long time to wait for the minutes to be circulated given that the last AGM was over a year ago. Mr Mike Keggans stated that the standing Instructions for the Board would have to be changed to allow this to happen, as at the moment, the minutes have to be approved at the following meeting. Mr Keggans also pointed out that this point had been raised before to which the Chairman replied that it would be raised at the next Board Meeting.

ACTION TCF

5. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman stated that the Annual report was a document for public reading and it was hoped that it had been written in such a way that reflected this. He stated that the river had a good season. FD added that the river as a whole had done well and produced approximately 4,500 Salmon and Grilse and approximately 1,100 Sea trout. Mr Andrew Harvey disagreed with the statement given by FD stating that the return for fish in the UNAA were poor. The Chairman pointed out that the Board was only reporting factual figures for the whole river system.

The Chairman advised that the last period had been a very busy one for the staff and asked those present for any comments or thoughts. Mr Chalmers raised a concern regarding the staffing levels with regards to the two members of staff who had left employment during the season. He commented that the Board should possibly examine why two well trained staff left and that the Board would have to work on retaining staff. He pointed out that he was aware of the employment of one full time member of staff plus an additional seasonal staff member but he still felt that the staffing compliment was insufficient. He stated that he felt that due to the recession there may be an increased risk of poaching in the season to come. The Chairman stated that this point had been discussed at previous Board meetings, he then asked the Clerk to explain the situation.

The Clerk stated that there were two points to be considered:

1. What happened last year
 2. What does the average year's work and activities for Board staff comprise and what steps have been taken.
-
1. One employee (Duncan Thomson) left last year as he had obtained other employment. Five weeks after leaving the Board's employment he started a grievance procedure raising issues which stretched over the whole of his employment with the Board. It turned out that the grievance procedure, although arguably incompetent in that it had been commenced after Thomson had left his employment with the Board, was a mechanism to allow Thomson to make any further procedure under employment law competent, and that after he confirmed that he didn't want to have a hearing in relation to his grievances he had proceeded through his solicitor to raise an action against the Board claiming constructive dismissal.
The Board decided to consult an employment lawyer to represent its interests. The Board had raised its written defences and its solicitor had asked for a preliminary hearing on Thomson's case because the Board's solicitor was of the professional opinion that a large amount of what Thomson had raised within his action was not sustainable as a basis of proceeding with his claim any further. The preliminary hearing was held on 6th December 2008 and a substantial amount of the case was thrown out as ill founded. The Employment Judge had commented both verbally at the hearing and in his written judgement that the remainder of the grounds had little or no prospects of success. A date for the final hearing has not yet been set but it is hoped that this case will come to a conclusion soon.

Scott Bazinet instigated a grievance procedure while still in employment with the Board. The nature of his grievances was fully investigated by a sub committee of the Board, all members of staff were interviewed and several meetings were held with Mr Bazinett before the grievance procedure was closed. Mr Bazinett then chose to hand in his resignation and left employment with the Board in September 2008.

2. As a consequence of these two issues last year had been a fractured year in terms of staffing; Mr Thomson left employment in May 2008 while Mr Bazinet left in September. A full time bailiff was employed in August and a seasonal bailiff was employed from October through to December. A casual member of staff was also employed to help. In total there were approximately 7 or 8 members of staff last year. After interview of suitable applicants Deborah Parke was employed last year and she works with the senior bailiff. She is sitting her law exam this year to complete the written requirements of being employed as a water bailiff and she was fully involved with the hatchery operations last year including catching up and stripping broodstock and daily hatchery maintenance duties. She has also used her training and qualifications to assist in office work and in particular in respect of the application for and coordination of grant aided schemes for the benefit of the Board's habitat enhancement initiatives and in relation to the educational schools projects.

The Clerk had met with senior Bailiff Young as part of regular discussion and review of all Bailiff activities and required staffing levels during the year had been considered carefully, particularly with regard to the busy and quiet times during the course of a year. FD stated that from January to June is a fairly quiet time and that it is a struggle to find work for two full time staff, the busy time is from June to December, the Board will take on 1 or 2 seasonal bailiffs. The seasonal bailiff employed last year is very capable person and would like the opportunity to return this year.

Mr Mike Keggans stated that this flexible approach to staffing should be reviewed at the end of this year.

Mr Walter asked with regards to overheads for the Board, why the Director needed a Landover Discovery when there are much cheaper 4 wheel drives available. The matter was discussed. Previous vehicles had been used but were insufficient for what was required of them, particularly with regard to towing in off and on road conditions.

Mr Weir stated that anglers on the river bank feel that if they see the bailiffs on a regular basis then they are getting value for money. If they do not see them then they feel that they are not getting value for money. FD stated that this point had been raised at previous Board meetings and having spoken with the Senior Bailiff they have come up with a strategy for this year which will see a greater visible presence on the river. Mr Mike Keggans stated that the Board members should explain the strategy more clearly to anglers as it seems that they have not been very good at this. Mr Lord suggested that continuity of employment should be explored fully and that the Board has not provided a road show trip around the catchment for many years.

Mr Maxwell Keggans stated that the bailiffs did not need to spend time checking tickets in Upper Nithsdale waters as they had their own people to check tickets. He stated that if the bailiffs were needed then they would be called and they had always attended when called for in the past.

Mr Walters stated that there was no indication of how often Board members attended at Board meetings, Mr Mike Keggans suggested that a table was used to show this information.

Mr Walters stated that there was a typographical error in the Chairman's foreword it should read December 07 and not December 08.

6. ACCOUNTS

The Chairman asked the Clerk to address the attendees on the Statement of Accounts. The Clerk drew the attention of the attendees to the Accounts, to the Statement of Accounts and to the Clerks Notes thereon.

Mr Walters asked if the accounts showed the Clerks fee as being £7,050 for each of the 2 periods when in reality it should have only shown half of the £7,050 for the six month period. Ms Reid stated that this was historical as it had never been shown as accrued. Further discussion ensued and the Chairman stated that all the figures would be rechecked and looked at again.

ACTION RRS/GR

The Clerk pointed out that the legal fees were for the tribunal and that subscriptions to ASFB had increased and would increase again the following year to £3,600. The Chairman stated that this figure was approved at ASFB AGM where in reality it was to help the smaller Boards. NDSFB spoke out against this but were outnumbered. The Board has discussed continuing to be members of ASFB and has agreed to continue for the moment.

Sir David Landale asked that it be noted at this AGM that there must be few Boards that have the capital resources that the Nith Board has. He stated that this was due to consultancy income and the work of the Director. The Chairman stated that consultancy income may not last forever. Mr Walter asked if the Board were classed as a trading company regarding tax. The Clerk replied that the Board had asked for clarification on this in the past from HM Revenue and Customs and the Board pays Corporation Tax on investment Income. Mr Walter asked if it would be possible to have the budget from the Board earlier so that proprietors could be given the likelihood of the next assessment level. Mr Mike Keggans stated that if this was to be done it would have to be the gross assessment level, the Chairman also stated that the Budget was finalised before Christmas.

ACTION RRS

The Chairman asked if there were any further comments on the accounts and thanked Ms Gillian Reid for her efforts.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no further questions and the Chairman declared the AGM closed.

8. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD

There then followed the demitting of office of all Board Members and the Clerk advised those present of the election procedures for the election of new Board Members to serve for the next three year term. He advised those present that those proprietors who had served on the Board for the previous 3 year term had all expressed their wishes to continue as Board members. After the procedures had been followed the new Board members were confirmed as:-

Upper Proprietors

Sir David Landale
Tom Florey
David Matthews
Roy Green
Alan Bryden

Upper Co-optees

Mike Keggans
Maxwell Keggans
Ronald Weir
Nick Brown

Lower Proprietors

John Kingan
Robbie Cowan
Ronald Clark

Lower Co-optees

Wally Wright
Tom Brown
John Charteris

Chairman Thomas Florey

Thereafter the meeting closed at 11.37a.m.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

01.12.08-30.11.09

Chairman's Foreword

The longer I am involved with the management of the River Nith the more that I realise that there is no such thing as a "normal" year for weather/water conditions! 2009 was no exception and we experienced some of the worst floods that I can ever remember, and with them came various fishery management issues with which the Board's staff had to contend.

The year proved to be an extremely busy one in fisheries management terms. Legislation and regulation changes continue to challenge proprietors and their ability to manage their fishings in the traditional way to which they have become accustomed. Controlled Activities Regulations, administered by the Scottish Environment Agency, dictate that activities such as gravel extractions are subject to licenses. These, well intended, regulations continue to frustrate fishing proprietors who suffer as a result of gravel build up in their sections of the river. Often these frustrations and complaints are voiced at Fishery Board Meetings and the Nith Board has acted as a mediator in some instances.

Whilst 2009 will not produce any record numbers of fish caught, I believe this was caused by the many weeks of unfavourable fishing conditions. Our fishery management staff confirmed that many fish did enter the river system and were seen on the spawning beds. At the time of writing this introduction, some returns are still to be collected, but from those returns that are in, the numbers of sea trout are up on the poor returns of recent years.

Restoring the sea trout population to its former levels remains the Boards number one priority. To assist this cause the Board have committed funding to the Celtic Sea Trout Programme. We are pleased to announce that this project has received grant funding from European sources and will be officially launched in March 2010. It is hoped that this project will answer many of the questions on which the NDSFB and others striving to manage sea trout seek answers.

We are currently at a very exciting but challenging position in the salmon fisheries management world. Throughout Scotland every area has collected genetic material from salmon. Advances in genetic science now enable the identification of individual stocks of salmon. This knowledge is intended to aid and provide better advice for appropriate management decisions.

Throughout Scotland the Government is promoting many forms of renewable energy. These policies include the promotion of hydro electricity generation schemes. NDSFB considers that its statutory duties to manage the welfare and resource of salmon and sea trout are incompatible with hydro electric generation schemes. Wherever possible the Board seeks to express its views on such proposals and ensure that account is taken of the requirement to carry out adequate environmental investigation of likely affected watercourses and the appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that the highest standards of protection for salmon and sea trout are provided for in any approved hydro electric scheme.

The Board has been involved in the consultation process through *Fresh Water Fisheries Forum* over several years and has been alert to the developing nature of Fresh Water Fisheries Management as promoted by Scottish Government and all interested parties. As a consequence, the Board resolved by formal decision approximately two years ago to investigate the feasibility of a Fisheries Trust and to assist in and contribute towards the proposed formation of a Fisheries Trust for Fresh Water Fisheries Management in the Nith Catchment.

The Board has been persuaded to do so for a number of reasons, but primarily because:-

- (a) The Habitat Enhancement work currently carried out at the Board's expense can be carried out by the Trust.
- (b) The Trust will register for charitable status giving rise to substantial tax advantages in relation to work currently carried out by the Board.
- (c) The Trust is much better placed to attract charitable funding and grant aid for all types of work to assist in the promotion of Fresh Water Fisheries Management.
- (d) The Trust can deal with all species management of fresh water fish.
- (e) The Trust is a management vehicle, which is acceptable to Scottish Government, a primary source of grant aid.
- (f) The Trust will run its Fresh Water Fisheries Management operations in a manner compatible with and complementary to the Boards Salmo specific programmes.

Consultations have taken place with parties throughout the catchment who have a relevant interest in Fresh Water Fisheries Management, the Trust has been formed, drawing on personnel with these relevant interests and it now holds charitable status.

The Board will have a leading role in the management of the new Trust in that Board's Chairman and Fishery Director will be key Directors and Members. It is expected that this will create a harmonious working relationship for both organisations.

Deborah Parke, currently employed by the Board, will be directly employed by the Trust as its Biologist (for which she is fully qualified) in the future. It is anticipated that her role will include that of Company Secretary to the Trust and that she may be sub-contracted to the Board for any Salmo specific biology work as and when appropriate.

The Board has resolved to support the Trust by making available personnel, equipment and finance on terms and conditions to be agreed between the Board and the Trust. The Board will provide a level of financial support which will not be greater than that currently expended on Habitat Enhancement and related works currently carried out by the Boards employees.

Consequently, there will be no greater cost incurred by the Board or its Proprietors than that which they are currently paying for in respect of services provided by the Board and indeed it is expected that once the Trust is fully active and functioning there will be cost benefit efficiencies for the Board.

The Board very much hopes that by working in partnership with each other the Board and the Trust will be able to take forward Fisheries Management for all species throughout the Nith Catchment in the most efficient and cost effective manner as possible.

These are exciting times for NDSFB and opportunities to expand knowledge and therefore best management practice exist in the future. Our Board continues to evolve with the modern thinking on fisheries management and I am enthused by the commitment of our Board members and their participation in contributing to management decisions at Board Meetings.



INTRODUCTION

1. Constitution and Area

The Board for the period comprised:-

Chairman	Mr Thomas Florey	
Lower Proprietors	John Kingan Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark	North Corbelly Caerlaverock Estate Drumburn
Upper Proprietors	Sir David Landale David Matthews Roy Green Alan Bryden	Dalswinton Estate Blackwood Estate Buccleuch Estates Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Lower Co-optees	Wally Wright Tom Brown John Charteris	Netting Representative Netting Representative Angling Representative
Upper Co-optees	Mike Keggans Maxwell Keggans Ronald Weir Nick Brown	Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative

Additional Members without voting power

Invitees	Gordon McGregor Percy Weatherall	
	Fiona Naysmith Stuart Graham	SEPA SNH
Officers	Roderick Styles Gillian Reid, Messrs Carson & Trotter Chartered Accountants	Clerk Auditor
Staff	James Henderson Barry Young Deborah Parke Craig Henderson Daniel Potts Sheena Dalziel	Fishery Director Senior Bailiff Bailiff Seasonal Bailiff Seasonal Bailiff Administrative Assistant

Its main areas of jurisdiction comprise the principal River System of the River Nith and all its tributaries including parts of the Solway Firth.

2. Invitees

In addition to the elected Chairman, lower proprietors and upper proprietors, the Board has invited representatives from the Scottish Environmental Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Board has also successfully made representations to Dumfries and Galloway Council and East

Ayrshire Council to be considered as Consultees in respect of any works undertaken in the region that would or could have impact on watercourses within the catchment.

3. Research and Improvement

In 1991 the Board, together with Nith Fishing's Improvement Association (NFIA) instructed that a research report be prepared by West GFT (now GFT) in connection with the ecological and biological condition of the catchment and as a result of the preparation of that Report the Board together with NFIA formed the Nith Habitat Enhancement Committee (NHEC). NHEC has been subsumed into the Board as the environmental and habitat department. In addition, the Board has built and operates its own hatcheries.

4. Staff

The Board staff during the period comprised Fishery Director Jim Henderson, Head Bailiff Barry Young and Bailiff Deborah Parke. Lauren Lochrie was engaged as a student placement in summer 2009. During the summer the Board bailiff team was supported by two seasonal bailiffs, Craig Henderson and Daniel Potts. The Fishery Director is qualified in the diploma of Institute of Fisheries Management, Basic I.T., Management and holds an honours degree in Environmental studies. Deborah Parke holds qualifications of HND Fish Farm and Fisheries Management, and an Honours degree in Aquaculture. The water Bailiff staff are suitably qualified in fisheries management. Individual members of staff are qualified in the use of Chainsaws, electrofishing equipment and other associated vocational qualifications. They undertake updated training courses as required on a regular basis.

5. Objectives

The Board is constituted under the Salmon Fisheries Legislation commencing in the 1860s as subsequently amended and presently stated in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003. The Board is empowered under the 2003 Act and other legislation to do such Acts as it considers expedient for the protection, enhancement and conservation of stocks of salmon and sea trout and the general protection and enhancement of the fishery itself.

The Board's principle objectives are therefore to preserve, protect and enhance stocks of migratory salmonids in the Nith catchment and to preserve, protect and enhance the fishery.

The Board's principle objectives as set out above are likely to be significantly widened as a result of the Water Framework Directive, also as a consequence of initiatives and possibly legislation arising from consultations organised by the Scottish Executive's Freshwater Fisheries Forum and in respect of initiatives relating to integrated Catchment management. The Fisheries Director attends regular meetings convened by SEPA concerning the development of the Nith Catchment Management Plan. It is important that the Board, in responding to this wider remit, should never lose sight of its basic principle objectives but on the other hand should seek to promote these through exercise of its anticipated rights and obligations as a "Competent Authority" under E.C. Directives.

Specific angling interests are from time to time dealt with by an entirely separate body, the Nith Fishings Improvement Association, an organisation comprising members some of whom are also members of the Board.

6. How the Board Works

The Board is constituted by voluntary non-remunerated members and meets at least four times a year. It reports to proprietors at the Annual General Meeting once a year at which the proprietors meet for the purposes of considering the report and audited Accounts.

Day to day responsibility for administration of the Board rests with the Clerk who reports to the Chairman and liaises with the Fishery Director on a regular basis.

The Fishery Director and Bailiffs are responsible for the protection and enhancement of the stocks of fish and these measures undertaken include anti-poaching enforcement measures, catchment patrol, sea patrol, pollution observation, conducting fishery research, providing advice on best practices in respect of civil engineering works that might impact upon the river systems and other general responsibilities. Work

particularly during the summer months can involve long nocturnal hours. The liaison with proprietors, keepers and river watchers is a priority.

The Fishery Director and Bailiffs also run two hatcheries and principle duties include collection of brood stock, maintenance of salmon and sea trout ova, rearing fry and releasing fed fry into suitable stream areas.

7. Funding

The Board under its legislative powers derives its income each year from all proprietors of Salmon fishings in the district. All assessments are based on rateable value as calculated by the Local Authority Assessors for the respective beats and a sum determined by the Board is levied against all salmon fishing proprietors to meet the assessment needed to fund the Board. In addition the Board has received direct or indirect financial and grant assistance from:-

RAFTS
Invicta Trout
Airtricity

The Board also received donations for its hatchery operations from Nith Estuary Haaf Netting Association and Dumfries and Galloway Angling Association.

The Board is enormously grateful for the support that it receives from the above and other sources.

The Board also receives consultancy income from various third parties (such as civil engineering contractors and others) who require information and guidance from the Board in connection with the likely environmental impact that any work to be carried out might have upon the river system and the steps that are necessary to mitigate against adverse environmental consequences for the river system under the Board's jurisdiction.

8. Constitutional Evolution

The Board has, for many years, comprised a chairman and representative of lower and upper proprietors. The upper members represent angling proprietors while lower members represent coastal and estuarine proprietors involved in net fishing.

Even prior to recommendations from the Nixon report (Scottish Salmon Strategy Task Force, 1997) the Board extended invitations to SNH and SEPA. Although these invitees do not have voting powers their attendance at meetings has been substantially beneficial since the inception of this arrangement in 1996.

9. Fish Species Present in the Nith

The Nith is similar to many Scottish rivers and supports only a limited number of fish species. These include Atlantic salmon (*salmo salar*), trout (*salmo trutta*) as migratory Sea trout and as resident Brown trout, European eel (*anguilla anguilla*), pike (*esox lucius*), minnow (*phoxinus phoxinus*), stoneloach (*neopmacheilus barbatulus*), three spined stickleback (*gasterosteus aculeatus*) and grayling (*thymallus thymallus*).

Three varieties of lamprey are also present, sea lamprey (*petromyzon marinus*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and the fresh water resident brook lamprey (*lamprera planeri*). In recent years a number of local lochs have been stocked with rainbow trout (*oncorhynchus mykiss*) that have subsequently found routes into the Nith itself. However, there is no evidence that they have established a breeding population. This trend of stocking rainbow trout into ponds is of concern to NDSFB due to the predatory nature of this species of non indigenous fish.

10. Fishing methods

Four methods of salmon and sea trout fishing are operated in the Nith District, fixed engine on the coast, haaf netting on the tidal river estuary, net and cobble in the River Cairn and rod and line in the rivers. The current season for haaf netting extends from 25th February to 9th September in each year with a weekly "slap time" or period of no netting activity from Friday at 6pm to the following Monday at 6am.

Most of the angling on the Nith is concentrated from Sanquhar to the river mouth. However, salmon are taken further up stream and also from a number of tributaries most notably the Cairn. The current season extends from 25th February to 30th November and angling for salmon and sea trout is not permitted on Sundays in Scotland by law.

11. Salmon and Sea Trout Populations

Both salmon and sea trout are anadromous fishes – that is to say they spawn and undergo their early lives in freshwater but experience most of their growth at sea. In Scotland, a period of sea growth is pre-requisite for the attainment of sexual maturity in hen salmon, but not for cocks, a proportion of which first contribute to the spawning act as mature parr. The dynamics of sea trout populations are more complex in that both sexes may attain sexual maturity while in fresh water. However, this tendency to early maturation is much more strongly developed in cock trout.

Rod and line fisheries for salmon are based upon the interception of sea run adults returning to spawn. The interception usually takes place in rivers of origin but a few fish, especially those entering fresh water many months before spawning, may be caught during the course of temporary excursions into non-native rivers. Exploratory behaviour of this sort is seen to a greater extent in sea trout that may also use non native fresh and estuarine waters for feeding and over wintering purposes. However, as with salmon, the abundance and timing of spawning migration are the primary factors that determine the availability of sea trout to the fisheries.

In relatively large rivers like the Nith, the seasonal characteristics of the fisheries vary and the extent of the variation is greater for salmon than for sea trout. Generally speaking, it is believed that the earliest running salmon are derived from and home to the upper part of the river and the later running fish to the lower. There is increasing genetic evidence that the homing behaviour leads to a degree of reproductive isolation among various main groups of fish that may therefore be regarded, for management purposes, as separate self-sustaining populations. Within each population, it is generally found that the higher the sea age the earlier the seasonal date of river entry by Salmon.

12. Marine pressures/International Impact

It has been known for many years that long-term changes take place in the numbers and seasonal availability of salmon. When such changes take place, their effects tend to be widely felt and there is increasing evidence that alterations in marine climate may lie behind them. The slower fish grow, the more vulnerable they remain. Similarly, the faster fish grow, especially in the spring, the earlier they are likely to mature and return. Because different populations of salmon appear to migrate to different parts of the North Atlantic, the effects of changes in marine climate may differ among the various groups of fish. The result for the fisherman may be a radical alteration, lasting for much of his fishing lifetime, in the numbers and seasonal distribution of the resource available to him. Growth and survival opportunities for salmon are currently poor for much of the North Atlantic. This conclusion is especially true in the North West Atlantic where many of the older sea springers complete their growth cycles.

Current insights into the likely causes of both short and long term changes in the abundance and structure of Atlantic salmon resources are largely based on the work of British, Norwegian and North American scientists as discussed at the regular meetings of the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) Working Group on Atlantic Salmon.

In addition to changes in marine climate, the Working Group has recently drawn attention to other factors such as predation by seals and the side effects of marine fisheries for other species. So far as the Nith is concerned, the key requirements during the current lean period are to ensure that smolt production is not limited by lack of spawning adults. The risk of such limitation is greatest for the populations of early running salmon that currently spawn mainly in the upper catchment of the river.

13. Angling Availability

There are five angling associations on the River Nith as follows: -

Dumfries & Galloway Council (Burgh Anglers Association)
Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association

The public can also easily gain access to the other beats on the river. A trend, which has been developed by many owners over recent years, is to allow for evening sea trout fishing at a very reasonable cost to the public on various beats of the Nith. This has proved to be very successful financially for those beats letting the fishing. It has also been successful in dissuading poachers from settling in to a night of crime on an otherwise deserted beat. The Nith provides more public access to angling than many other major Scottish rivers.

14. Water Quality and Riparian Habitat

Clean and well-oxygenated water is obviously of paramount importance in safe guarding fish stocks of all kinds within the Nith. The quality and quantity of water in the Nith catchment is monitored by SEPA and apart from a few isolated pollution incidents the quality of the river is considered excellent.

15. Fish Access

Access to spawning areas is of paramount importance for salmon and sea trout to complete their life cycle successfully. There are few obstructions to fish passage on the Nith and those that exist are largely natural waterfalls. The Board has initiated several management options including stocking with juveniles above these impassable obstructions to try to improve smolt output. These stockings from Hatchery reared fry are easily monitored. The results obtained from electrofishing are not massaged in any way by natural stocks.

Other threats to adult access to spawning areas were recorded on a number of burns due to road bridge construction and natural blockages such as log jams over the course of the year. These have been dealt with and removed as appropriate. Discussions with road departments have resulted in securing bridge constructions that do not compromise adult access on a number of tributaries. Discussions now take place with Contractors prior to their moving onto site with full consultation with the Fishery Director. The District Salmon Fishery Board has good liaison with Dumfries & Galloway Council Roads and Bridges Department to ensure future consultation on any projects on or near to the watercourse.

16. Riparian Habitat Assessment and Management

Management of the riparian zone is an area of interest that has developed rapidly during the last decade. Pioneering work on the Tweed has illustrated the advantage of reinstating bankside vegetation and improving in-stream cover for fish. In addition there is clear evidence that a well vegetated and maintained riparian zone offers considerable advantages in terms of shading, a source of food production and habitat for salmonids. There are also additional benefits to the watercourse such as improved bank stability and more varied habitat for other wildlife. To this end the work previously carried out by the Nith Habitat Enhancement Committee, which was formed in July 1995, continues under the guidance and control of the Board.

The Board continues to carry out habitat enhancement work throughout the Catchment. The Habitat Enhancement work is of long term benefit and the river is unlikely to see the benefit of this initiative in the short term.

Reference is made to the enclosed report about Nith Habitat Enhancement work at page 30 of this report.

17. Juvenile Salmon and Trout Populations

The Nith Fishings Improvement Association commissioned a report, prepared by Dr. Alistair Steven, BSC PHD of Galloway Fisheries Trust and started a programme of juvenile surveys in 1991. The aims of this initiative were to determine the distribution and density of juvenile salmon and trout within the Nith, and use this data to estimate smolt output, monitor changes in fish populations and identify weak areas of the catchment in terms of low juvenile densities. The report showed that in general juvenile salmon and trout are well distributed throughout the catchment and often present in high densities. Poorly stocked areas are also evident particularly above physical obstructions such as Shinnel falls and Rouken Bridge on the old water of the Cairn. Ongoing survey work to assess juvenile population densities has continued on an

annual basis. Galloway Fisheries Trust in the past carried out this work but in recent years the District Salmon Fishery Board bailiffs have also conducted their own electrofishing surveys. The Board's staff is qualified, equipped and capable of conducting these research surveys.

18. Hatchery and Stocking

Following Galloway Fisheries Trust juvenile salmon and trout survey in 1991 it was evident that there was a need to produce hatchery stock to restock areas that were devoid of salmonids by reason of poaching, pollution and degraded habitat. To meet that need the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board established a Hatchery at Blackwood Estate in 1994. This Hatchery has the capacity to hold brood stock and produce ova and resultant fry for the catchment. Invicta Trout, Newtonairds Fish Farm, supplies all feed for fed fry.

It is well documented that salmon return to the rivers and tributaries of their origin to spawn. Recent research by Verspoor (1995) looking into the genetic variation among salmon populations in the River Dee (Aberdeenshire) indicates that each tributary may contain a separate breeding population. It is likely that the Nith Salmon populations are similarly structured. This has implications for the management of the stocks. The collection of brood stock from certain tributaries and the planting out of fry in other parts of the river could be creating unnecessary havoc with the natural genetic mix. All stocking conducted by the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board is the subject of follow-up electrofishing survey work to ensure survival of the fry. In general, fed fry exhibit good survival rates even when introduced to more extreme areas of the catchment. Fry are stocked into suitable tributaries at a stocking rate of 3 to 5 fry per square metre. Although many anglers, gillies, proprietors and fishery biologists acknowledge that stocking can be used to supplement salmon stocks, difficulties arise in measuring the returning rates of the adult stock to the fishery. However, stocking within the Nith should not be implemented in isolation but in combination with other techniques reducing obstructions, habitat management predator control and so on.

There was released from the hatchery for this year 859,481 fed salmon fry and 301,123 fed sea trout fry. The increase in hatchery produced sea trout is one initiative undertaken by the Board to attempt to ameliorate the perceived decline in the numbers of adult sea trout returning to the river system to spawn. The Board have had to compromise the production of salmon ova to accommodate the increased numbers of sea trout produced in the hatchery using their existing facilities. Therefore an additional hatchery has been constructed during 2008 to accommodate the requirement to produce additional Sea trout. This hatchery was completed and operational by Autumn 2008.

Fry were planted out at the following locations in the Spring of 2009:-

<u>Salmon</u>		<u>Sea Trout</u>	
157,509	Euchan Water	50,000	Mennoch Water
61,058	Burnsands Burn	45,153	Wanlock Water
5,000	Muirfoot Burn	2,000	Nith (Cowhill)
29,741	Spango Water	91,000	Euchan Water
10,000	Pollneul Burn	28,356	Shinnel Water
97,817	Kello Water	56,258	Cample Water
5,000	Polnagrie Burn	5,000	Muirfoot Burn
10,000	River Cairn	<u>23,356</u>	Spango Water
119,359	Shinnel Water	301,123	
27,724	Kirkburn		
75,000	Nith (Thornhill)		
15,068	Scaur Water		
10,000	Glenmidge Burn		
2,000	Nith (Cowhill)		
300	Penpont Burn		
63,795	Crichope Linn		
71,645	Old Water		
91,465	Castlephairn Water		
<u>5,000</u>	Kenmuir Burn		
859,481			

Number of ova incubating in Blackwood hatchery are 761,724 and numbers of ova incubating in the new Dalswinton hatchery are 388,000



The hatchery is a useful tool in allowing people to learn about the lifecycles of salmon and sea trout and their importance to the River Nith in a fun, interactive and hands-on manner. Hatchery visits prove to be very popular with those pupils from schools involved with the “Salmon in the Classroom” project and gives them a unique opportunity to see how salmon are stripped of their eggs and how those eggs are incubated within the hatchery. This initial hatchery visit sets the scene for them looking after their own salmon eggs in the classroom right through to stocking them into their local river. In 2009 the following schools visited the hatchery; Sanquhar Academy, Sanquhar Primary, Kelloholm Primary, Dunscore Pre-school and Wallace Hall Academy.

Hatchery visits are not just for schools and other groups such as the Dumfries Befriending Group, the Rotary Club of Dumfries Devorgilla, Haaf Netters Association and local wildlife crime officers have also had the opportunity to try stripping a salmon themselves.

19. Sea Trout/Brown Trout

Salmon and trout do not exist in isolation and inevitably interact with other species. Salmon and trout at all life stages represent a food source for predators. The main predators in the Nith system include pike, otter, heron and mink within the river, seals which primarily forage around the river mouth and along the coast, and the goosander, and cormorants which migrate between the sea and river depending on the season. Ospreys also capture smaller salmonids.

20. Predators - Statistics

Counts of goosander and cormorants were conducted on the mainstem and a number of tributaries during the early 1990's and numbers varied considerably both seasonally and from year to year. These counts indicated that large numbers of goosanders and cormorants were often present in the lower Nith during the early months of the year. During the summer month's numbers dropped considerably and were predominantly female birds with young. While in autumn numbers began to increase again as male and immature birds returned to the river.

A licence is applied for annually from the Scottish Government to cull avian predators. This policy is carried out taking account of best practice and in consultation with SNH.

The Bailiff Staff continues to follow Board approved policy on mink control. Fifty mink were captured during the period January to October inclusive; this is conducted at suitable times when the river is not in spate.

21. Exploitation

Early work by Shearer (1988) suggested that in summer between 5% and 8% of the returning adult salmon are captured by anglers. However, because early running spring salmon remain in the river for longer they may be subjected to higher levels of exploitation. There is some limited evidence from radio tracking (Laughton, 1991b) and mark recapture studies (Davidson, Cove, Milner and Purvis, 1996) to support this suggestion.

There is increasing interest in Catch and Release as a conservation policy for salmon stocks. Although concerns have been raised that this is damaging to the fish and may compromise survival, a recent study by John Webb (Biologist with the Atlantic Salmon Trust) on the Aberdeenshire Dee refutes this. His work clearly indicates that spring and early summer salmon caught and returned by anglers, provided they are handled with care, can complete their spawning migrations successfully (Webb, 1998).

22. Salmonid Stocks

Juvenile Stocks	<p>Our surveys show that in general stocks of juvenile salmonids are at a satisfactory level in a majority of the catchment. There are, however, some tributaries in which numbers are well below optimum levels. Closely monitored trial stockings will help to determine which of these tributaries require Habitat Enhancement measures before their potential can be realised.</p>
Spring Fish	<p>The Nith does have a run of spring fish (those fish available to be caught from 25th February to 30th April) however numbers of these fish are very much reduced from what they were in the 1960s. A small number continue to be caught each year despite an apparently low fishing effort. It is essential this genetic core be safeguarded if there is to be any chance of an increase in its numbers.</p> <p>The Board seeks to reduce the exploitation of stocks of spring salmon further by promoting their Return & Reward scheme. This scheme rewards fishermen by giving them a sweatshirt for returning a spring salmon.</p>
Grilse and Autumn Fish	<p>The availability of grilse and summer salmon plays an important part in providing fishing for local rods before many visitors come to the Nith for the autumn fishing. Current stocking policies appear to be helpful in sustaining this element of the Fishery.</p>
Sea Trout	<p>The Nith has no fish farms close to its estuary or adjoining coastline and has not suffered the near extinction of its stocks experienced by many Scottish, especially West coast, rivers. A considerable decrease in the number of Sea trout caught has occurred within the Nith system. Decreasing numbers of Sea trout has been experienced throughout Britain and Southern Ireland. The Board has over recent years sought to lay down and bring on to release a greater proportion of sea trout in its hatchery operation. The Board has also sought to encourage a policy amongst proprietors, anglers and nets men of return of sea trout over 3lbs in weight with a limit of two sea trout taken per rod per day during the course of the season commencing in 2007. The Board will continue to monitor the position with a view to deciding upon what courses of action it might take to try to stem the apparent decline in the sea trout population within the Nith system.</p> <p>The Return & Reward scheme rewards fishermen with a cap for returning any sea trout over the weight of 3lbs.</p>
Celtic Sea Trout Project	<p>The Nith Board is collaborating with other agencies in Wales England Ireland and other Scottish Solway Rivers in a Sea trout project entitled the Celtic Sea Trout Project. This group has applied to INTERREG for funding for a research project into stocks of sea trout in the Celtic seas area. The Project's aims are to understand and describe sea trout stocks in the Irish Sea and thereby enhance sea trout fisheries and strengthen their contributions to the quality of life, to rural economies and to National biodiversity; and also to explore the use of sea trout life history variation as a tool to detect and understand the effects of climate change. Many questions regarding sea trout life cycles remain unanswered. We do not know where they go at sea, or when in the marine environment what they feed on, their growth and sea survival rates are. The Celtic Sea trout Project seeks to answer some of these questions. Nith District Salmon Fishery Board has committed £40,000 towards this research project. The Board holds a seat on the CSTP steering Group committee and Management Group Committee.</p> <p>The project will officially be launched in March 2010 in Wales. NDSFB have already started to collect scale and tissue samples during 2009. Anglers and nets men have been helpful in providing sea trout for scale sampling. The Board are grateful to the anglers and nets men for their cooperation and would ask that this would continue till 2012.</p>

23. Engineering Works

Open Cast Coal Mining

The coal industry continues to thrive in the River Nith catchment. Extensions are proposed for most of the major sites as new reserves of coal are discovered. Nith District Salmon Fishery Board continues to conduct annual monitoring surveys of all Opencast Coal mining operations within the Board's jurisdiction. Extensive annual electrofishing surveys were conducted for the following organisations:

Kier Mining at Greenburn
Scottish Resources at Scottish Coal's site at House of Water
ATH Resources at Grievehill & Garleffan
ATH Resources at Glenmuckloch

In addition to conducting electrofishing surveys the Board is also commissioned by Mining Companies to conduct habitat restoration schemes in the Riparian zone of rivers traversing opencast sites. The Board continues to work on the river diversion habitat zone of the River Nith at House of Water Open Cast site.



The photo to the left shows the growth of alder and willow which were planted in 2004/2005 at House of Water. These trees are creating fish habitat and performing an engineering function of binding the river banks behind and between the rocks placed on the outside of a bend in the river where erosion is likely to occur.

Renewable Energy

Micro-hydro power is becoming ever more popular and is amongst the suite of renewable energy schemes being promoted by Government policies. NDSFB does not support hydro proposals as a matter of policy because such schemes are completely incompatible with protection of the Fishery under the Board's charge.. The Board considers each individual proposal to assess it on its merits. The Board must satisfy itself that detrimental, irreparable impacts are not manifested on fish populations as a result of any hydro proposals, and where appropriate offers advice on measures to mitigate adverse environmental impact on any fishery likely to be affected by such a proposal.



The photo to the left shows engineering works associated with the construction of infrastructure for the intake to a hydro electricity generating plant. These works are only conducted after fish rescue has been performed in order that no fish are present within the working zone.

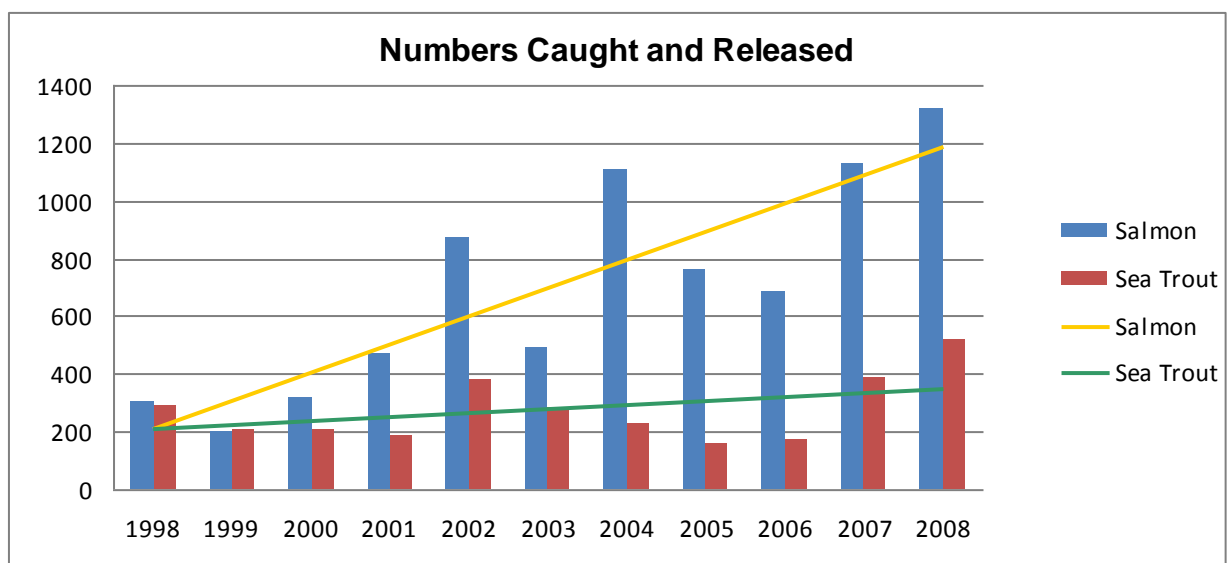
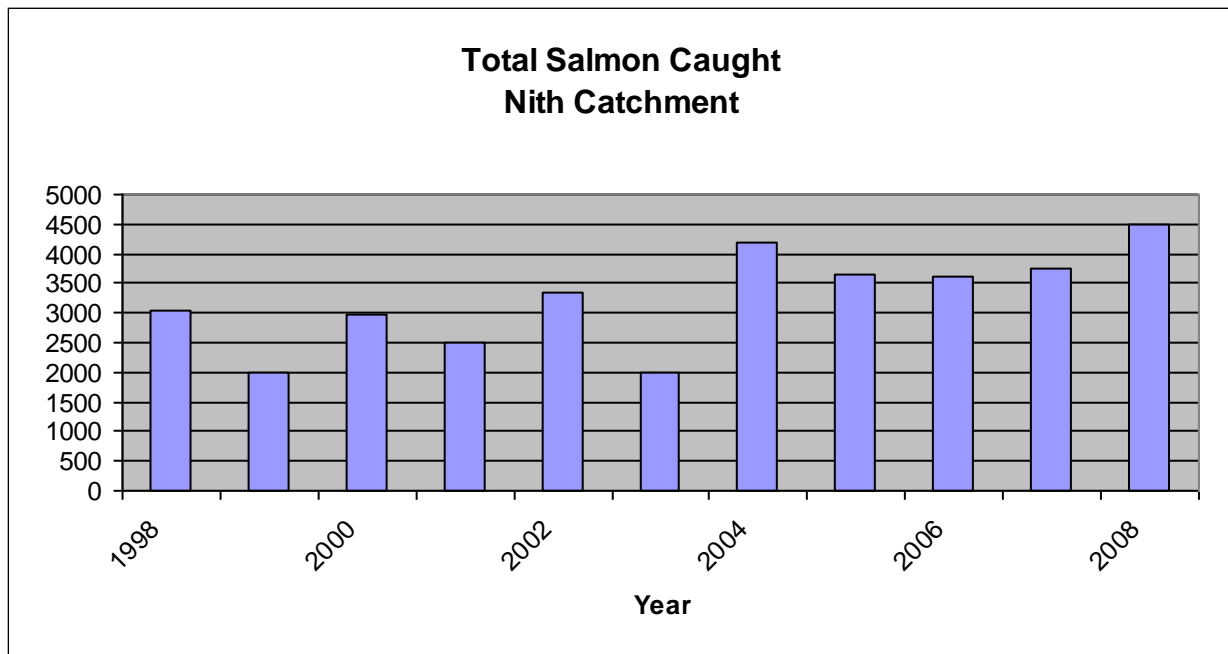
24. Illegal Fishing

Statistics of incidents are provided at page 29 of the report.

25. Exploitation

Catch and Release

Following on from the comments about the stock of spring fish the Board has recommended to all proprietors and anglers to adopt catch and release of spring fish. NDSFB recognises the contribution which catch and release can make to conserving salmon stocks and has encourages this practice. Proprietors and fishers have embraced this initiative enthusiastically. The Board also requested that all proprietors seek to impose a restriction upon the taking of the numbers and size of sea trout caught and retained during any one day by anyone fishing for them suggesting that a maximum of two (2) sea trout may be caught and retained per day and that all sea trout over the weight of 3 lbs should be returned to the river. NDSFB adopts a Return & Reward scheme (see page 19).



Netting	The Board is representative of all fishery proprietors on the Nith and benefits from the long and wide experience of its netting members.
Hatcheries	The Board believes that the use of hatcheries has a necessary role to play in the foreseeable future and therefore operates two hatcheries within the catchment for the propagation of salmon and sea trout,
Habitat	The Board attaches much emphasis to Habitat Enhancement. Naturally produced fish have been shown to be much hardier than those produced in a hatchery. The Board is mindful of maintaining a proper balance between resources used for hatcheries and those used for Habitat Enhancement.
Predators	<p>Although present in the Solway Firth, seals do not appear to be the threat that they are in other Salmon Districts. Cormorants and goosanders are known predators of juvenile fish and the Board staff applies for and obtains an annual license to cull limited numbers of avian predators. Scottish Office research scientists have analysed the birds' diet and use the findings to establish a case for the sensible and effective management and control of these species. Mink appear to be increasing especially within the catchment of the major tributary Cairn.</p> <p>The Board operates a mink control policy.</p>
Water Quality	Close liaison with SEPA results in the Board having access to water quality monitoring data on the Nith.
River Engineering Works	The Board continues to provide guidance upon safe methods of work in relation to engineering works in or near the environs of watercourses to minimise risk of environmental damage to the river system.
Public Access	Approximately 62% of the mainstem of the Nith is directly available to public access for fishing via local associations. Of the remaining 38% the vast majority is available by daily or weekly rental. The Board considers this to be a very satisfactory situation; there is plenty of access for local anglers and good access for visiting anglers whose contribution to the Catchment's economy is considerable and vital. A recent report from Stirling University opined that Salmon Angling at 1999 figures was worth in excess of £2.2 million to the local economy.
Open Cast Coal Mining Sites	The Board has established good liaison with the Planning Departments of Local Authorities whose areas include OCCS. It takes up to 18 years before some OCCS complete their restoration and the Board where possible will seek a bond from contractors to ensure that restoration is completed even if the contractor should go into liquidation.

26. Legislation and Its Development

The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 received royal assent in early 2003 and is now in force. The Board contributed to the consultation process on this legislation and is pleased to report that for once its views were taken account of in the final production of the legislation. This legislation now provides statutory recognition of haaf netting and retains the protection of the Solway Act 1804 in respect of all watercourses draining to the Solway Firth.

Freshwater Fisheries Consultation.

The Board continues to participate in and contribute to all relevant consultation documentation associated with Fisheries Management issues within their jurisdiction and on a National basis when appropriate.

27. Summary of Events from 01.12.08 – 30.11.09

The Board met on 2nd December 2008, 21st January 2009, 18th February 2009 (AGM), 12th May 2009 and 15th September 2009.

- Louise Donnelly, head of Freshwater Fisheries Policy Making Group for the Scottish Government, attended NDSFB meeting on 12th May 2009. Having sat through the Board meeting Louise had lunch with Board members then attended onsite at House of Water Open Cast Coal Mine. She was able to see the work of the Board staff in restoring the new river channel which traverses the site.
- Reference is made to hatchery operations at section 18 of the report for the statistics upon released salmon and sea trout fry from the hatchery. The Board were assisted with their stocking by members of the local angling clubs in the relevant areas:
 - Personnel from the Burgh Anglers Association assisted in the lower river.
 - Members from Dumfries and Galloway Angling Association assisted in the lower tributaries.
 - Members from Mid Nithsdale Angling Association assisted in the stocking of the main stem River Nith and tributaries.
 - Members from the Upper Nithsdale Angling Association assisted in the many tributaries that the Board stocks in that part of the catchment.
- The school liaison project with various schools continues.
- Fishery Board staff attended at the Dumfries and Galloway Environment Fair held in the DGOne leisure complex, Dumfries
- Fishery Board staff participated in Dumfries & Galloway Wildlife Festival and World Oceans Day
- Fishery Board staff attended at a Wildlife Festival held at Allanton House
- During the Course of the year the Fishery Director represented the Board at ASFB Council meetings, the annual water Bailiffs Conference, The Institute of Fisheries Management Training Panel, Kier Mining Technical Working Group meeting, ATH Technical Group Meetings, Scottish Coal Technical Working Group meetings, Cairnhead Community Forest Trust, the Solway Firth Partnership, the Nith Catchment Management Plan meetings, Freshwater Fisheries Forum meetings, Celtic Sea Trout Project meetings, the Barony College Fisheries Management Industry Group meetings, the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland meetings and other associated conferences.
- All Fishery Board staff assisted with the litter picking days on Dumfries and Galloway Council water.
- The Fishery Director delivered lectures on Fisheries legislation to Police Probationers.
- The Fishery Director delivered presentations to Burgh Anglers, Upper Nithsdale Angling Association, Nith Fishing Improvements Association, Dumfries Probus Club and Dumfries Devorgilla Rotary Club.
- Fishery Board staff assisted in organising a Casting for Recovery day at Glenkiln Reservoir. This project is intended to assist the recovery of cancer patients who have undergone breast surgery. The casting action and the movement of the upper arm aids recovery of damaged muscles.
- NDSFB staff assisted Thornhill and District Rotary Club with their charity fundraising duck race on the River Nith. This event was not onerous for the Board staff and did help to maintain good public relations with the Nithsdale community.

Fish and Fisheries Awareness Seminar

During 2009 the Board organised a Fish and Fisheries Awareness Seminar, the purpose of which was to inform statutory agencies, key organisations and individuals on how their activities can potentially impact on fish and their habitats. The seminar was a one day event and was well attended. The day consisted of half of the invitees attending demonstration sites in the field whilst the remainder of the group received lectures on legislation and best practice. Following lunch the groups alternated. Feedback from attendees was very positive.

NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

The numbers of salmon available for exploitation in the Nith is, broadly speaking, a product of the numbers of smolts produced by the river and the number of adult salmon that return to it. An upper limit on smolt production is set by the availability of spawning and nursery habitat. Whether or not that limit is attained depends upon the adequacy of egg deposition for each of the main populations of salmon that use the Nith.

The broad objectives are to ensure that smolt production is maximised by focusing exploitation on the most robust populations, currently summer and autumn running salmon and grilse, and by taking all practicable steps to improve adult access and the quality of juvenile habitats.

In this section the Board outline their current policy on a number of key areas and issues as described in Section 5.

General Policy

The Board will: -

- Continue to protect, conserve and enhance all stocks of salmon and sea trout in the River Nith,
- Continue to monitor and encourage stock components in particular the spring salmon,
- Remain accountable to Proprietors and ensure that resources are properly applied such that the most efficient and economically beneficial application of the funds, raised by Proprietors through assessments, is achieved, and
- Continue to liaise with and inform Proprietors, their agents and anglers on the work of the Board.

Enforcement

The Board will: -

- Continue the employment of a qualified Bailiff force of suitable size to curtail unlawful fishing
- methods and activities,
- Maintain both river and sea patrol systems,
- Continue with the development of sophisticated intelligence systems, and
- Promote the prosecution of those breaching salmon fisheries legislation.

Monitoring

The Board will, in liaison with other relevant bodies, continue to monitor and influence:-

- The riverine and related environment,
- Water volume and quality,
- Juvenile stocks,
- Smolt production, and
- Numbers of returning adult fish

and to utilise information arising from all of the above towards the better management of the Nith salmon and sea trout stocks.

Research

The Board will continue and increase where possible its commitment to producing high quality research data to improve the management of the river and its salmon and sea trout stocks. Key areas include:-

- Improving data on spawning escapement through catch data,
- Maintaining and improving data on juvenile salmonid distribution and density,
- Further developing instream and bankside habitat surveys and establishing where improvements, if any, can be made,
- Monitoring the benefits, or otherwise, of stocking and/or habitat enhancement for salmonid stocks,
- Examining current data with respect to any available historical information and catchment land use data using latest available techniques.
- Continuing to promote the work of the Board through presentations and publications at local and national level,
- Providing assistance and encouragement, where possible, to neighbouring Boards with their research and management plans, with a view to establishing as comprehensive a network of information as possible for the Nith and neighbouring Districts, and
- Continuing contributions to and liaison with other fisheries research bodies including, but not limited to, Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre, the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory and the Marine Laboratory Aberdeen, Environment Agency, SEPA and SNH.

Stock Enhancement

The Board will: -

- Continue to operate the Board's hatchery,
- Take all reasonable steps to avoid genetic mixing of ova, and
- Encourage natural spawning where possible but undertake stock enhancement in areas where stocks of fish are seriously depleted.

Sea trout and Spring Salmon

The Board will: -

- Encourage proprietors to act responsibly over fishing methods and effort, and
- Encourage anglers to return fish to the river where possible and appropriate.
- Encourage anglers to return sea trout of appropriate classification

Predators

The Board will: -

- Continue to encourage control of salmonid predators such as, but not limited to, sawbills by continued application to SEERAD for annual licences when deemed necessary,
- Encourage the trapping of mink and other riverside predators where lawfully possible and demonstrated to be damaging salmonid stocks, and
- Resist the re-introduction of the beaver (although it is not a direct predator on salmon) due to its potential harmful effects on riparian habitat.

Transfers of fish and fish disease

The Board will: -

- Maintain vigilance in the unlawful transfer of fish and/or fish diseases both to salmon, sea and brown trout, rainbow trout and other species to continue to monitor and operate surveillance in this regard paying particular attention to keeping Proprietors advised of the information passed to it on best practice for the prevention of outbreak of Gyrodactylus Salaris.

Habitat Management

The Board will: -

- Encourage appropriate instream and bankside management,
- Encourage the adoption of beneficial land management practices, and
- Encourage liaison with and among relevant proprietors and other bodies such as, but not limited to, SNH, FWAG, SEPA, Forestry Commission and Planning Authorities.

River Engineering Works

The Board will: -

- Continue to provide guidance and assistance through its Fishery Director to those wishing to undertake such works enabling repairs to take place, and seek to restrict improvement works without prior consultation and assessment, and
- Provide an Advisory Service to Proprietors.

Abstraction

The Board will: -

- Continue to monitor the amount of abstraction from the river, and
- Monitor the use of water for agricultural irrigation purposes.

Catchment Land Use

The Board will: -

- Liaise with the all relevant bodies over land within the catchment and encourage moves towards integrated catchment management,
- Provide an advisory service preventing irresponsible land use developments which may adversely affect salmonid populations, and/or their habitats, and
- Seek to inform proprietors, where salmon or sea trout angling may not be a priority, of the importance of maintaining upper tributaries and spawning areas in good condition.

Level of Angling Exploitation

The Board will: -

- Monitor levels of fish returning to the river system and encourage proprietors to utilise common sense and sensitivity in the levels of exploitation exercised by anglers at any time and from time to time,
- Restrict, where appropriate, spring fishing to protect the vulnerable early running populations of salmon,
- Encourage proprietors to ensure that the level of fishing effort is reasonable, and take other appropriate steps to protect, conserve and enhance the stocks of fish and to give publicity thereto.

Catch and Release

The Board will: -

- In addition to the general policy of restraint and already advocated encourage, where fish are cleanly caught, the return of spring salmon and hen fish in the autumn and sea trout over 3lbs in weight.

Netting

The Board will: -

- Continue to take an interest in the level of high seas exploitation to support bodies such as, but not limited to:-
 - Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
 - North Atlantic Salmon Fund (UK)
 - Atlantic Salmon Trust
 - North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

in their endeavours to restrict and where possible remove interceptory high seas fishing.

Nature Conservation

The Board will: -

- Liaise with proprietors and bodies such as, but not limited to, SNH, Solway Firth Partnership and SEPA in maintaining the high quality of the natural environment and safeguard the outstanding natural heritage features within the Nith system.

Liaison with neighbouring Boards

The Board will: -

- Continue to liaise and encourage the promotion of good relations with other neighbouring Boards.
- Continue surveillance and enforcement activities in liaison with neighbouring Board Bailiffs and to provide and receive assistance under existing complementary jurisdiction arrangements.

European Directives

The Board will: -

- Continue to consult with SNH and other bodies and will liaise closely with proprietors in promotion of the salmon and sea trout interests covered by the Habitat and Species Directive, and
- Review its potential responsibilities and the advantages to be gained from the Water Framework Directive.

U.K. and Scottish Legislation

The Board Will: -

- Continue to monitor the promotion and development of draft legislation which is likely to have an effect, whether direct or indirect, upon the promotion of the interests of salmon and sea trout, the fisheries related thereto and the sustainable exploitation of the fishing resource within the Catchment.
- Continue to consult with the proprietors in connection with the drafting of responses germane to the interests of proprietors in relation to the promotion of relevant draft legislation by the Scottish, U.K. and European Parliaments.

NITH SYSTEM CATCH DATA

The data is shown in the attached appendices and shows all categories of catch returns including returns of farmed salmon and returns of salmon and sea trout caught and released.

Liaison Organisations

Organisations and groups with which Nith District Fishery Board liaise closely and regularly regarding local, national and international management of salmon and sea trout stocks.

Local Organisations and Groups	Proprietors and Agents Nith Fishing's Improvement Association Galloway Fisheries Trust Nith Haaf Net Fishers Association Anglers and Angling Clubs Local Authorities and Councils Other Fishery Boards The Solway Firth Partnership Solway Heritage Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary
National Organisations (Fisheries)	Scottish Office (FRS Marine Lab, Freshwater Fisheries Lab) Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) Atlantic Salmon Conservation Trust (Scotland) (ASCT(S)) Scottish Net Fishing Association North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Institute of Fisheries Management Other Fishery Boards
National Organisations (Conservation/Protection)	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Scottish National Heritage (SNH) Forestry Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Forestry Commission (FC) Environment Agency (EA)
Industrial Companies	Scottish Coal & Associated Sub-Contractors Kier Mining ATH Resources Amey Highways Windfarm Operators Carillion Construction

Incidences of Illegal Fishing/Poaching activities – 1st December 2008 to 30th November 2009

- One Gill net seized on Burgh Water
- Two Gill nets seized Portling Bay
- One incident reported to Police/Procurator Fiscal

Throughout the year Bailiff staff were joined by members of Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary in joint operations throughout the Nith catchment. It is anticipated that these patrols will continue in 2010 and there would appear to be much greater emphasis put on prevention of wildlife crime in general by national agencies.

Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects – 1st December 2008 to 30th November 2009

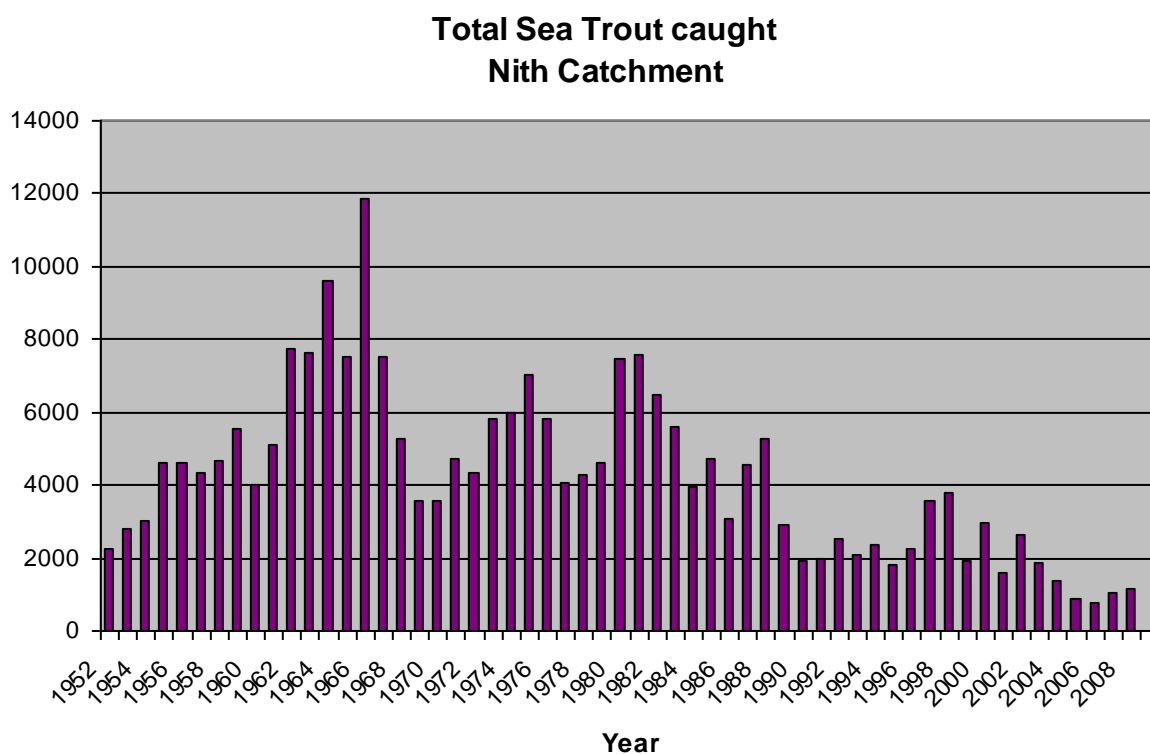
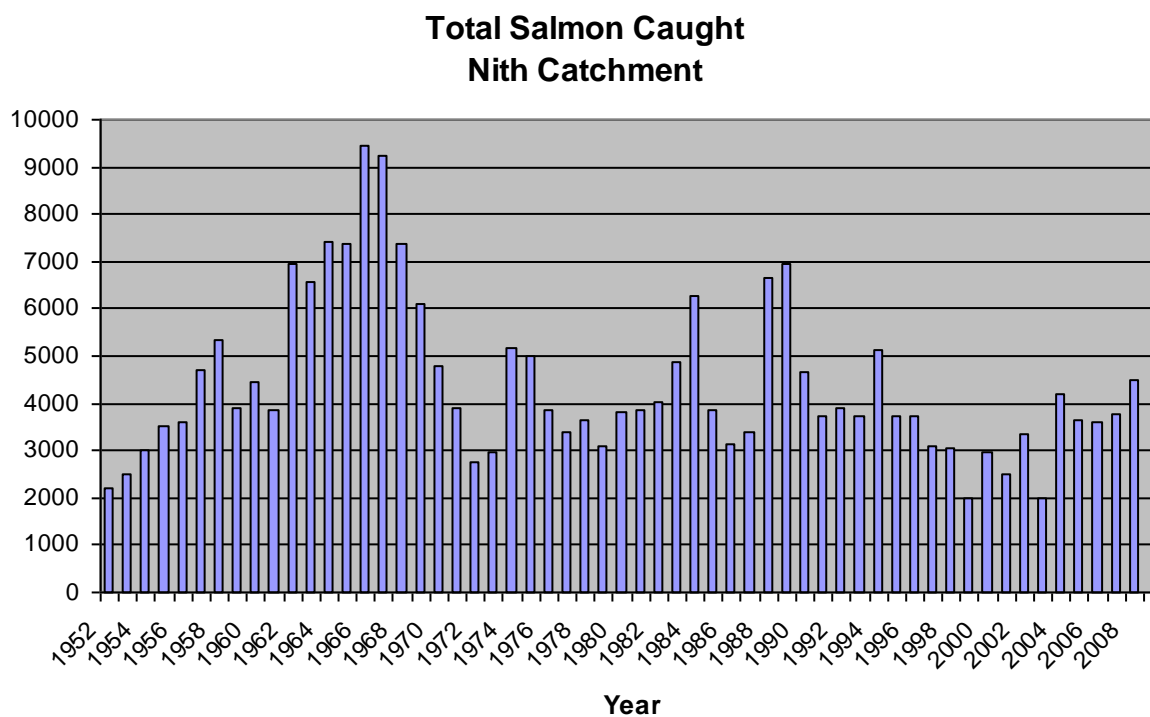
- Tree Planting on Wanlock Water (260 trees)
- Tree Planting on Craiglearn (90 trees)
- Tree Planting on Nethertown Habitat Scheme (210 trees)
- Tree Planting on House of Water (770 trees)
- Watergate repairs on Shinnel and Capenoch

All habitat enhancement works conducted by Nith District Salmon Fishery Board and formerly Nith Habitat Enhancement Committee are surveyed annually. All works are assessed for repairs and maintenance to be conducted by Fishery Board staff where possible or alternatively to suitably qualified contractors when necessary.

NITH SYSTEM CATCH DATA

Catch Statistics Returns 1952-2008

The data is provided by Fisheries Research Services, an agency of the Scottish Government and shows all categories of catch returns currently available from them including returns of farmed salmon and returns of salmon and sea trout caught and released.



Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1952-2008

Wild Rod & Line Retained

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
1952	66	272	338	69	407	1262	0	288	1328	1616	136.98	1753	1128.54	0.00
1953	67	452	519	114	633	1792	0	318	2235	2553	242.22	2795	1372.12	0.00
1954	123	671	794	97	891	1965	0	596	3192	3788	215.00	4003	1908.26	0.00
1955	98	685	783	158	941	2924	0	565	3135	3700	322.05	4022	2904.81	0.00
1956	120	734	854	373	1227	3287	0	454	3254	3708	830.98	4539	2934.29	0.00
1957	298	1217	1515	347	1862	2792	0	1226	5339	6565	777.00	7342	2676.65	0.00
1958	192	1041	1233	325	1558	3480	0	930	4736	5666	724.84	6391	3312.13	0.00
1959	235	953	1188	186	1374	4085	0	1157	4462	5620	364.69	5984	3731.25	0.00
1960	235	1035	1270	172	1442	2995	0	1219	4642	5861	371.49	6232	2915.69	0.00
1961	239	1188	1427	213	1640	4056	0	1171	5932	7103	452.69	7555	3793.39	0.00
1962	227	1859	2086	491	2577	6570	0	1118	8376	9494	1104.04	10598	6208.32	0.00
1963	240	2122	2362	381	2743	6450	0	1041	10190	11230	845.50	12076	6798.44	0.00
1964	154	2233	2387	496	2883	8111	0	736	9922	10658	1123.55	11782	7492.44	0.00
1965	246	1851	2097	436	2533	6417	0	1242	8395	9637	1023.76	10661	6520.84	0.00
1966	338	1874	2212	437	2649	9391	0	1546	8117	9664	928.05	10592	10030.74	0.00
1967	170	921	1091	205	1296	5599	0	824	4174	4998	458.58	5457	5895.34	0.00
1968	75	706	781	261	1042	3377	0	352	2896	3248	547.03	3795	3508.54	0.00
1969	53	911	964	449	1413	2531	0	255	3816	4071	1028.75	5099	2540.57	0.00
1970	59	1272	1331	501	1832	2733	0	279	5346	5626	1050.07	6676	2576.86	0.00
1971	66	857	923	345	1268	3667	0	298	3428	3726	703.52	4429	3334.81	0.00
1972	43	542	585	192	777	3486	0	213	2468	2680	402.79	3083	3328.46	0.00
1973	46	1101	1147	404	1551	5486	0	209	4690	4899	754.78	5654	5234.91	0.00
1974	41	1293	1334	521	1855	4403	0	180	4931	5110	1149.40	6260	3970.29	0.00
1975	62	1025	1087	386	1473	5476	0	274	4537	4811	866.36	5678	5198.62	0.00
1976	31	780	811	303	1114	4898	0	126	3180	3305	626.86	3932	4943.70	0.00
1977	85	869	954	256	1210	3363	0	361	3847	4208	587.86	4796	3441.86	0.00
1978	72	863	935	300	1235	3310	0	309	3673	3982	682.20	4664	3464.08	0.00

Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1952-2008

Wild Rod & Line Retained

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
1979	37	1016	1053	527	1580	3480	0	154	4536	4690	1239.67	5930	3587.92	0.00
1980	50	1313	1363	977	2340	5800	0	222	5416	5638	2096.05	7734	5419.07	0.00
1981	31	1345	1376	365	1741	6375	0	134	6397	6531	815.11	7346	6260.94	0.00
1982	40	1142	1182	640	1822	5004	0	186	4986	5172	1449.68	6622	4742.31	0.00
1983	24	1298	1322	471	1793	4670	0	90	5625	5715	1087.71	6803	4146.29	0.00
1984	21	1628	1649	687	2336	2429	0	86	7247	7334	1524.07	8858	2238.93	0.00
1985	41	2060	2101	761	2862	3798	0	178	9615	9794	1765.84	11559	4247.44	0.00
1986	59	1893	1952	612	2564	2913	0	265	9764	10029	1450.59	11480	2733.35	0.00
1987	28	1969	1997	686	2683	3933	0	124	9226	9350	1617.51	10968	3678.63	0.00
1988	23	3939	3962	1600	5562	4529	0	94	16120	16214	3818.34	20032	4315.48	0.00
1989	30	2420	2450	1022	3472	1974	0	121	10722	10844	2467.09	13311	1861.09	0.00
1990	43	2287	2330	572	2902	1408	0	193	10368	10561	1400.69	11961	1379.83	0.00
1991	26	1955	1981	491	2472	1431	0	100	8411	8512	1136.70	9648	1333.11	0.00
1992	21	1983	2004	672	2676	2194	0	81	8441	8523	1550.83	10073	2325.11	0.00
1993	18	1654	1672	652	2324	1863	0	74	6884	6959	1553.10	8512	1814.82	0.00
1994	45	2096	2141	524	2665	1730	0	207	9046	9253	1312.70	10566	1559.45	0.00
1995	10	826	836	233	1069	1378	0	39	3306	3345	513.47	3859	1065.49	0.00
1996	19	1129	1148	383	1531	1776	0	76	4630	4706	857.40	5563	1700.54	0.00
1997	12	892	904	396	1300	2995	0	51	3532	3583	937.10	4520	3058.50	0.00
1998	9	1217	1226	560	1786	3093	0	35	5159	5194	1314.76	6509	2897.69	0.00
1999	22	566	588	192	780	1348	0	62	2513	2575	423.68	2999	1414.30	0.00
2000	5	1216	1221	590	1811	2488	0	21	4917	4937	1259.33	6196	3225.24	0.00
2001	8	874	882	414	1296	1196	0	43	3759	3802	987.02	4789	1317.24	0.00
2002	14	1158	1172	529	1701	1733	0	45	4891	4936	1309.97	6246	1988.38	0.00
2003	21	704	725	223	948	1455	0	62	3196	3259	561.65	3820	1698.37	0.00
2004	15	1702	1717	597	2314	991	58	40	6789	6829	1493.41	8323	1163.14	34.19
2005	12	1085	1097	420	1517	596	119	47	4442	4489	1036.45	5525	620.03	45.20

Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1952-2008

Wild Rod & Line Retained

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
2006	14	1224	1238	758	1996	483	25	61	5019	5080	1746.60	6827	499.13	10.20
2007	7	1105	1112	510	1622	552	8	23	4398	4422	1295.20	5717	518.71	3.40
2008	9	1550	1559	1335	2894	605	26	36	6563	6599	3079	9678	579	11.90

Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1952-2008

Wild Catch & Release

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
1994	0	106	106	27	133	65	0	0	435	435	62.60	498	59.87	0.00
1995	8	101	109	26	135	47	0	14	377	391	52.16	443	31.75	0.00
1996	3	228	231	69	300	138	0	8	951	960	157.85	1117	114.42	0.00
1997	1	159	160	41	201	220	0	3	621	624	101.20	725	180.30	0.00
1998	7	236	243	64	307	291	0	22	961	983	169.23	1152	260.69	0.00
1999	7	170	177	26	203	207	0	25	784	809	54.45	863	148.77	0.00
2000	7	237	244	75	319	207	0	33	938	971	168.37	1139	205.34	0.00
2001	1	326	327	141	468	189	0	6	1405	1411	346.11	1757	213.68	0.00
2002	5	591	596	277	873	384	0	14	2629	2643	728.23	3371	448.43	0.00
2003	11	389	400	90	490	284	0	27	1607	1635	239.52	1874	267.01	0.00
2004	5	836	841	269	1110	226	61	20	3565	3585	687.89	4273	216.45	29.18
2005	20	574	594	170	764	159	133	122	2447	2569	424.84	2994	205.40	51.50
2006	3	480	483	203	686	170	30	12	1843	1855	489.48	2344	165.16	11.40
2007	3	901	904	227	1131	386	89	8	3262	3269	533.49	3803	410.18	38.75
2008	17	819	836	351	1187	406	121	71	3366	3438	810	4248	467	45.60

Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1952-2008

**Net & Coble
Wild & Fixed Engine**

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May- Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Sea Trout	Finnock
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
2008	4	209	213	523	726	200	0	18.7	989.1	1008	1203.1	2211	202.7	0

Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1994-2008

Farmed Rod & Line Retained

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May- Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Salmon Jan- Apr	Salmon May- Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
1994	0	12	12	2	14	0	58	58	2	60
1995	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1997	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	8	8
1998	0	2	2	0	2	0	7	7	0	7
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	1	1	3	4	0	4	4	5	9
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	4
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2

Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1994-2008
Farmed Rod & Line Released

Year	Salmon Jan-Apr	Salmon May-Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse	Salmon Jan- Apr	Salmon May- Dec	Salmon Annual	Grilse	Salmon & Grilse
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)	Weight(kg)
1994	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	3
1995	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	5	0	5
1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	0	2	2	1	3	0	5	5	3	8
1999	0	2	2	0	2	0	8	8	0	8
2000	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	3	0	3
2001	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	5	5
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	0	2	2	0	2	0	9	9	0	9
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	5	5

Attendances at Board meetings

Board Meeting Dates	No. Board Members attended (max 15)	% Attendance Rate
5 th December 2008	11	73%
21 st January 2009	10	67%
18 th February 2009 (AGM)	14	93%
12 th May 2009	13	86%
15 th September 2009	8	53%

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees (apologies)
5 th December 2008	Thomas Florey - Chairman Mike Keggans Ronald Clark Gordon McGregor Roy Green Wally Wright Alan Bryden Tom Brown Brian Lord John Kingan Percy Weatherall Robbie Cowan Mark Coombs
21 st January 2009	Thomas Florey - Chairman Gordon McGregor Wally Wright Alan Bryden John Kingan David Matthews Sir David Landale Mark Coombs John Charteris Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark Tom Brown Brian Lord Roy Green
18 th February 2009 (AGM)	Tom Florey - Chairman Mike Keggans Tom Brown Gordon McGregor Sir David Landale Brian Lord Wally Wright Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark Alan Bryden Roy Green
18 th February 2009 (AGM)	

	John Kingan David Matthews John Charteris
12th May 2009	Thomas Florey - Chairman Wally Wright Nick Brown Maxwell Keggans Mike Keggans Ronald Clark Tom Brown Ronald Weir Roy Green Alan Bryden John Kingan David Matthews Robbie Cowan
15th September 2009	Thomas Florey - Chairman Nick Brown Maxwell Keggans Mike Keggans Ronald Weir Roy Green Alan Bryden John Charteris Tom Brown Wally Wright Robbie Cowan David Matthews Sir David Landale

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Balance Sheet
as at 30th November 2009

			30/11/08	30/11/07
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tenant's Improvements		3,762	4,180	4,644
Nightsights		3,946	133	166
Plant & Machinery		8,126	10,494	6,484
Motor Vehicles		30,442	27,570	18,231
		<u>46,276</u>	<u>42,377</u>	<u>29,525</u>
Current Assets				
Debtors	17,941		2,083	33,686
Prepayments	10,285		18,714	10,068
Clydesdale Cashflow Account	3,586	2,663	13,004	Clydesdale Cash
Management Account	547	35,322	308	Scottish Building Society
Scotplus Account	66,143		33,562	163,795
Scottish Building Society Vehicle Account	8,193	13,626	18,517	Clydesdale-NHEC
Account	22	2		
Scottish Building Society - NHEC	5		5	5
	<u>106,702</u>		<u>105,977</u>	<u>239,385</u>
Current Liabilities				
Trade creditors	-		-	10,220
Receipts in advance	-		-	28,912
Corporation Tax	36		72	-
P.A.Y.E. outstanding	3,822		3,114	-
Accruals	1,528		1,457	2,585
	<u>5,386</u>		<u>4,643</u>	<u>41,717</u>
Net Current assets		101,316	101,334	197,668
Net assets		<u>147,592</u>	<u>143,711</u>	<u>227,193</u>
Income and expenditure account		<u>147,592</u>	<u>143,711</u>	<u>227,193</u>
Members' funds		<u>147,592</u>	<u>143,711</u>	<u>227,193</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2009

	£	30/11/08 £	16/5/07 - 30/11/07 £
Turnover			
Assessments receivable	155,866	70,883	89,321
Consultancy income	56,748	76,152	18,959
	<u>212,614</u>	<u>147,035</u>	<u>108,280</u>
Other Direct Income			
Salaries contributions	9,695	9,316	8,915
	<u>222,309</u>	<u>156,351</u>	<u>117,195</u>
Less: Refund of dues	30,000	16,862	20,214
	<u>192,309</u>	<u>139,489</u>	<u>96,981</u>
Other operating income			
Repayment Supplement	-	79	-
Bank interest	3,620	8,317	428
Total income	<u>195,929</u>	<u>147,885</u>	<u>97,409</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

brought forward	195,929	147,885	97,409
Overheads			
Wages and salaries	125,616	116,542	61,766
Staff pension costs	2,354	2,261	1,086
Staff training	2,195	995 440 Insurance	2,968
	2,550	1,533	
Repairs and maintenance	2,541	1,409	1,063
Hatchery and habitat enhancement expenses	2,641	61,926	19,577
Clothing allowance	1,560	1,370	52
Printing, postage and stationery	3,545	1,806	869
Advertising & sponsorship	992	638 20 Telephone and	
internet	2,881	2,409	1,685
Computer costs	1,110	55 202	
Motor expenses	9,799	10,275	4,972
Accommodation and subsistence	971	1,129	553
Legal and professional	5,687	5,411	-
Clerk's fee to walker & Sharpe	7,360	7,050	7,050
Audit fees	1,566	1,457	1,175
Bank charges	487	59 2	
General expenses	2,055	1,348	556
Subscriptions to A.S.F.B	3,260	2,741	-
Depreciation	14,260	13,186	4,188
Gain on sale of fixed assets	(2,560)	3,856	-
	(191,288)	(230,761)	(106,789)
Surplus/(deficit) /Surplus before tax	4,641	(82,876)	(9,380)
Taxation	(760)	(606)	932
Surplus/(deficit) /Surplus for the year	3,881	(83,482)	(8,448)
Retained surplus brought forward	143,711	227,193	235,641
Retained surplus carried forward	147,592	143,711	227,193
Nith Habitat Enhancement Committee			
Interest received	-	-	9
Bank charges	-	-	4
Hatchery expenses	(723)	61,926	19,577
	(723)	61,926	19,581
Surplus/(Deficit) on activities	723	(61,926)	(19,572)

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2009

£ £

Tenant's Improvements

Opening Balance	4,180
Less: Depreciation for year @ 10%	418
Closing Balance	<u>3,762</u>

Nightsights

Opening Balance	133
Additions	
Nightsight	4,799
	<u>4,799</u>
	4,932
Less: Depreciation for year @ 20%	986
Closing Balance	<u>3,946</u>

Plant & Machinery

Opening Balance	10,495
Additions	
Generator	339
	<u>339</u>
	10,834
Less: Depreciation for year @ 25%	2,708
Closing Balance	<u>8,126</u>

