

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW 1st December 2009 – 30th November 2010



Stake Net, Colvend

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

REPORT

01.12.09 – 30.11.10

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AGENDA

for the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

for year

01.12.09 – 30.11.10

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 17.02.10
2. Annual Report
3. Annual Accounts
4. Angling Conservation Methods
5. AOCB

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

On

17th February 2010 at 10 am

1. PRESENT

Tom Florey – Chairman – Portrack
Mike Keggans – Angler
Tom Brown – Nith Haaf Net Association
Gordon McGregor – Angler
Ronald Weir – Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Brian Lord – Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Wally Wright – Netsman
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock
Ronald Clark – Drumburn
Maxwell Keggans – Upper Nithsdale Angling Club
Alan Bryden – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
John Kingan – North Corbelly
Geoff Walters – Closeburn Castle Fishings
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishings
David Matthews – Blackwood
John Charteris – D & G Council
Brian Fox – POFR
Simon Kelly – POFR
Nick Brown – POFR
Debbie Parke – Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

1. IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)

2. APOLOGIES

Sir David Landale – Dalswinton
Roy Green – Buccleuch Estates
Stuart Graham - SNH
Shona McFarlane – SEPA

3. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF 17th FEBRUARY 2010, 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 of 18th February 2009. The Chairman pointed out that he did not represent Ellisland. There were no other errors or omissions. The Chairman asked those present how the upper beats had fared during the 2009 season. Mr Weir stated that there was too much water; Mr Max Keggans stated that they had a more favourable season with sea trout. The Clerk informed those present that D Thomson since abandoned his case against the Fishery Board. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising.

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 stated that he had received a very technical email from the

auditor regarding Clerks Fees, which he read out and stated he would make the email available to Mr Walters after the AGM.

ACTION RRS

Mr Walters stated that at the previous AGM he had asked whether 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. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that a draft minute would be circulated to Board members for agreement at the next Board meeting which would be in May, it would then be circulated to all those present at the AGM. Mr Walters stated that he had not received the minutes until 2 weeks ago. The Clerk expressed concern as the minutes had been circulated in July. The Clerk also stated that he was aware that Closeburn Castle had not received the assessment previously sent out to Closeburn Castle Fishings, a matter that he had carefully checked at point of mailing. The Clerk asked if Mr Walters could provide an email address so that correspondence could be emailed to him. The Clerk asked that the email be given to him after the AGM or indeed sent in a letter to him.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman stated that the Annual report was a lengthy document and again should be made available for public reading. He also stated that extra copies would be produced in future to facilitate the need for Angling Associations etc. to have more than one copy for circulation amongst committee members and the likes. The Clerk pointed out that at the moment a print run of 50 was produced at a cost of £7.50 each. He suggested a print run of 60 – 65 would be in order to allow further distribution. Mr Weir stated that this report was what Anglers wanted to see. He suggested that a report should be put in the fishing huts for the anglers to read.

ACTION RRS

Mr Matthews asked if the Board had secured a licence to shoot cormorants and goosanders. FD replied that he had been successful in gaining a licence again this year. Miss Parke stated that she had spent over a week collating information to add to the licence application. She had to calculate the level of smolt production and had made the economic argument to support licence application. FD stated that it was getting more and more difficult to get a licence. Mr Lord asked if ASFB had been putting pressure on Government regarding this licence. FD stated that the lobbying voice of RSPB at the moment was louder than that of Fishery interests. The Chairman asked that if anyone has the time to lobby Government then they should do so; the more voices heard the better it would be. Mr Matthews asked if the Board could prepare a standard letter that could be emailed to proprietors to make it easier for them to send to Government. Mr Fox asked if it would be useful to copy the Board in to any correspondence that POFR sent to Government regarding this issue. FD agreed that it would be useful. Mr Charteris pointed out that RSPB poisoned and trapped birds (crows) to protect other favoured species. Mr Charteris stated that RSPB licence themselves to conduct this trapping. Mr Mike Keggans stated that the focus should always be on the economic argument. FD stated that he had indeed used this argument when applying for the licence. Mr Bryden confirmed that the Board was very lucky to gain a licence as he had tried to gain a licence for the still water that he fished on but was **not** granted the licence due to the absence of valid bird counts. FD added that Board staff conducts bird counts twice a year.

Mr Matthews advised that as a result of the pollution incident last year from Kier mining OCCS, he was trying to gain compensation for loss of fishing during that incident. He stated that he has to quantify what he had lost; he added that the river is starting to get polluted when the water is good for fishing, and that it surely would have a knock on effect to future angling. The Chairman advised those present that FD had conducted an electrofishing survey, which Keir Mining paid for, but no damage to the fish stocks was found. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding this matter the following points were made by the Clerk:

- the incident was not a primary loss, no bodies of dead fish were found.
- the incident was more likely to have resulted in loss of fishing and the number and cost and value of days lost would have to be claimed .
- a civil damages action could be brought by the affected proprietor, but not by the Board but there would be difficulties with regard to quantification of damages, which would have to be quantified with reference to 5 year catch statistics before incident then a further 5 year statistics after the incident to show a diminution in respect of the catches and hence the value of the affected fishery.
- construction contractors should in future be made aware of the potential to not only lose eggs and fish, but the loss of fishing in addition.
- a record should be kept of fishing days lost and the value of lost and cancelled fishing days due to pollution.

Mr Charteris asked that as the Board is a “Fishery” Board, could the constitution be changed to reflect that it is the fishery that is protected. The Clerk stated that the constitution could only be changed by the Government; it was set by Statute. The Clerk pointed out to those present that when a contractor is fined

for polluting a watercourse, any fine monies do not go to the person whose fishery has suffered the damage, but is sent to the Crown. Further discussion took place regarding the use of Fish Legal to assist with claims. Points raised were

- The Board uses Fish Legal for corporate advice.
- Proprietors would look for general advice.

FD stated that he always enters into discussions with contractors first to resolve any potential issues; he stated that if he felt he was out of his depth then he would approach Fish Legal.

Mr Nick Wright stated that he was surprised to see how few incidents of poaching had been reported during the previous year. FD informed those present that although there is still poaching taking place it is not nearly as bad as it was 18 years ago. The Bailiffs were putting time and effort into enforcement duties and it is now known that the bailiffs are working at night, which seems to be acting as a deterrent. FD also stated that there was a lot more policing being done by clubs and associations.

The Chairman stated that out of all of the rivers in South West Scotland the Nith is the only one that has been successful in rearing its full quota of ova in its hatcheries. The Ayrshire Rivers did have eggs this season but ice formation touched them and they did not survive. Mr MacGregor asked if the Board would publicise this information about the success of the hatcheries. The Chairman stated that it would be mentioned at various events including the RAFTS AGM which was being held at the beginning of March.

5. 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. The Chairman also stated that this year the Board had managed to match income and expenditure and that there was a sum of £140,000 in the consultancy fund. The Clerk stated that the auditor was not in attendance as she was on holiday.

Mr Walters asked the dramatic increase of expenditure over the previous years. The Clerk went through each item individually and explained the reasoning behind the increase. FD stated that there had also been some unexpected repairs due to the extreme weather at the end of the previous year. Mr Mike Keggans observed that as the volume of work had increased so to would the cost headings as most are volume controlled.

The Chairman indicated that one of the expenses was for the very successful Fishery Awareness Seminar that had been held at Drumlanrig Castle at the beginning of September, at which both the Procurator Fiscal and D & G Planning department attended. FD stated that one area of work which had increased related to the proliferation of micro hydro proposals. One such proposal was proving difficult as a result of SEPA classifying watercourses of less than 2 metres wide as not requiring a full electrofishing survey. In this instance the planning department is fully supporting the Fishery Board in their need for an electrofishing survey. The Chairman stated the Nith Board has always been seen to be very alert to commercial opportunities and FD is making a presentation on industrial/commercial issues and their impacts and mitigation at this year's RAFTS Conference.

The Clerk stated that he was acutely aware of the expenditure incurred by the Board and he stated that if the Board was going to do its job properly then it would have to pay for it. He also stated that if the Board did not do any of the work then there would not be such a good river for proprietors and anglers to enjoy. Mr Charteris agreed that although there had been extra expenditure for the year there had also been a surplus for the year. He stated that he thought the Board were keeping their finances in balance and that the accounts show that the Board is "on the right side of the line".

The Chairman asked if there were any further comments on the accounts to which there were none.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Fox asked if there were any further developments regarding weed control on the river bank. FD stated that although it had taken 3 years approximately £250,000 of funding had been secured to employ an invasives project officer. There were 25 applicants so far and interviews were taking place the following week. The Trust would take on some of the line management for this person and the project would cover a 5 year period. The position is on a 2 year fixed term in the first instance. Mr Fox thanked FD and looked forward to meeting the new invasives officer.

ACTION FD

Mr Fox then informed those present of the conservation measures that POFR were looking at for the future. He put these points to the floor for feedback:

- Introduction of upper size limit. Initial thoughts were greater than 13 inches to be returned
- Return of all hen fish

Discussion ensued and Mr Bryden commented that if he caught his first 30lb fish he would not be putting it back. Mr Fox thanked everyone for their comments.

The Chairman asked if there was a policy that the hatchery used. Miss Parke stated that there was not a policy as such but that bigger fish produced more eggs. She stated that a fish on 30 inches would weigh approximately 17lbs and that a fish of 36 inches would weigh approximately 21 lbs. Further discussion ensued regarding the use of barbless hooks, banning of worm fishing at certain times of the year, the use of tagging released spring fish, and only using single hooks rather than trebles. It was agreed that the Board would conduct a review of catch and release and offer guidance to proprietors on what to do on their individual beats.

ACTION FD

Mr Lord asked if there had been any further developments with regard to Crayfish. Miss Parke replied that she had obtained a very limited amount of funding for monitoring of crayfish but she would monitor this potential impact when electrofishing for salmonids.

Mr Lord commented that a Trust and Board Road show would be very helpful to promote the work of the Board and the Trust. Miss Parke agreed that this would be a good thing, she had already presented at the Burgh Anglers AGM. The Chairman stated that road shows were planned.

There were no further questions and the Chairman declared the AGM closed at 1205hrs.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

01.12.09-30.11.10

Chairman's Foreword

Another fishing season closes and it is at this time of the year that we reflect back on the runs of fish and the catches of the season now past. The 2010 season was no more than average with some beats reporting good numbers of fish whilst others did not fare so well. Such mediocrity reminds me that despite our best efforts to manage and preserve stocks of salmon and sea trout, much is still left in the lap of the gods, favourable angling conditions (or not!) and a degree of good fortune. We do all that is within our power to assist these species of fish but a large part of their life cycle is spent beyond our jurisdiction or sphere of influence. We are told by the scientists that marine survival of salmonids is poor at present and it would be understandable to become despondent. However we must continue to ensure that those parts of the salmonid life cycles that we **can** influence and improve are done so to the best of our ability and therefore ensure that the greatest number possible of Nith fish successfully migrate back home to our river.

I am pleased with the working relationship that has been created between the newly formed Nith Catchment Fishery Trust and our Board. The existence of the Trust strengthens the overall management of the aquatic environment within our catchment and an example of this was illustrated to us all during 2010 when a major pollution incident occurred on the River Nith. The Trust and the Board worked tirelessly to ensure that the effects of this incident were investigated and damage to the river assessed.

At this time of global recession the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board is continuing to deliver **all** the management that is considered necessary for the protection and enhancement of salmon and sea trout within the Nith catchment. This compares very favourably with the efforts in other catchments. Innovative ideas and funding initiatives are being considered to assist our permanent staff to deliver the work on the river bank and an example of this was the Future Jobs Scheme administered by Dumfries & Galloway Council during 2010. This scheme provided the Board with a young person for six months during the 2010 season and was considered a great success by both parties. Sadly the Future Jobs Scheme was a casualty of government cut backs but other opportunities exist and we are currently considering these.

Over the course of 2010, our staff has collected the necessary genetic samples for the Celtic Sea Trout Project and results are starting to emerge. It is hoped that this research will assist us in managing this species more effectively in the future and we look forward to gaining a better understanding of this illusive creature.

The Board continues to be busy with many applications for the construction of renewable energy generation plants throughout the catchment. Whilst these forms of energy generation have environmental welfare as their primary goal, we in the fisheries management world must continue to make sure that the species that we are statutorily charged with managing are not compromised in the process.

At the time of writing this I wonder how the prolonged spell of extremely cold weather with temperatures of minus 15 degrees will impact on the fish. Then again, I imagine they will have seen it all before! I just cannot wait for the start of next season and the promise of warmer weather!

T. Clancy

INTRODUCTION

1. Constitution and Area

The Board for the period 18th February 2009 – 30th December 2010 comprised:-

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Chairman | Mr Thomas Florey | |
| Lower Proprietors | John Kingan Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark | North Corbally Caerlaverock Estate Drumburn |
| Upper Proprietors | Sir David Landale David Matthews Roy Green Alan Bryden | Dalswinton Estate Blackwood Estate Buccleuch Estates D&G 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 | SEPA | |
| Stuart Graham | SNH | |
| Officers | | |
| Roderick Styles | | Clerk |
| Gillian Reid, | | Auditor |
| Messrs Carson & Trotter | | |
| Chartered Accountants | | |
| Staff | | |
| James Henderson | | Fishery Director |
| Barry Young | | Senior Bailiff |
| Craig Henderson | | Seasonal Bailiff |
| Morgan Little | | Seasonal Bailiff |
| Shona Kennedy | | 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 and this important work is now conducted on behalf of the Board by the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. 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 Seasonal Bailiff Craig Henderson. During the summer the Board bailiff team was supported by an additional Seasonal Bailiff funded through the council's Future Jobs Fund. The Fishery Director is qualified in the diploma of Institute of Fisheries Management, Basic I.T., and Management and holds an honours degree in Environmental studies. The Water Bailiff staff is 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 is 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 have been significantly widened as a result of the Water Framework Directive, also as a consequence of initiatives and consultations organised by the Scottish Government 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.

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.

The Board also received donations for its hatchery operations from Nith Estuary Haaf Netting 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 (*lampreta 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 prerequisite 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
Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Upper Nithsdale Angling Association
New Cumnock 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 Nith Catchment Fishery Trust.

Habitat enhancement work is conducted 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 27 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 and constructed a second hatchery at Dalswinton during 2008. These Hatcheries have 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.

The new hatchery at Dalswinton has performed well and has produced hoped for results. The increased capacity and water has improved the Board's ability to manage the stock that is produced. The winter of 2009/2010 proved very difficult to say the least for many hatcheries throughout Scotland. The extremes of low temperatures (minus 14⁰C) resulted in ice forming in egg boxes. Fortunately the facilities at Dalswinton have been designed to withstand these climatic conditions and whilst uncomfortable to work in, no adverse impacts were experienced by the stock

Fry were planted out in the spring of 2010 at the following locations:

| Salmon | | Sea trout | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Number | Location | Number | Location |
| 47,836 | Shinnel | 26,026 | Cample |
| 77,699 | Nith | 52573 | Mennock |
| 87,320 | Old Water | 47818 | Wanlock |
| 47,751 | Mennock | 24967 | Cample |
| 10,000 | Glenmidge Burn | 34120 | Spango |
| 27,172 | Crichope Linn | 94574 | Euchan |
| 15,167 | Polnagrie Burn | | |
| 140,000 | Kello | | |
| 15,404 | Burnsands Burn | | |
| 16,000 | Polneul Burn | | |
| 17,312 | Kirk Burn | | |
| 227,363 | Euchan | | |
| 10,000 | Cairn | | |
| Total 739,006 | | Total 280,078 | |



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 2010 the following schools visited the hatchery; Sanquhar Academy, Sanquhar Primary, Kelloholm Primary, and Wallace Hall Academy.

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 eight 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 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.

Spring Fish 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.

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.

Grilse and Autumn Fish 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.

Sea Trout 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.

The Return & Reward scheme rewards fishermen with a cap for returning any sea trout over the weight of 3lbs.

23. Celtic Sea Trout Project

Celtic Sea Trout Project, Angler Feedback,

Introduction

The Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP) is an Interreg IV-funded collaborative project looking into the status, distribution, genetics and ecology of sea trout around the Irish Sea (celticseatrout). This note briefly outlines progress in 2010 for the many helpers and participants in angling clubs, river trusts and other organisations. More detailed technical detail will be available in due course.

Project management

Two fulltime staff were appointed in May 2010, one each in Ireland and Wales, as project officers to run the sampling and data handling tasks that support the rest of the CSTP. Contractors were also appointed by August 2010 to undertake certain of the specialist tasks (fisheries analysis, life history analysis and modelling, and hydrodynamic modeling). Formal launch meetings were held in Wales and in Ireland.

Sampling

The CSTP is totally reliant upon effective sampling to collect data and material (fish, tissues, gut contents, gonads scales etc) for the scientific analysis. For example, the genetics and microchemistry analysis, that will tell us about the mixing and distribution of stocks, requires a baseline of measurements to be made in all the principal rivers around the Irish Sea. This river sampling was the focus of the CSTP team's work in 2010 and was completed in full using a large scale electro-fishing programme, taking 50 parr from each of around 80 rivers.

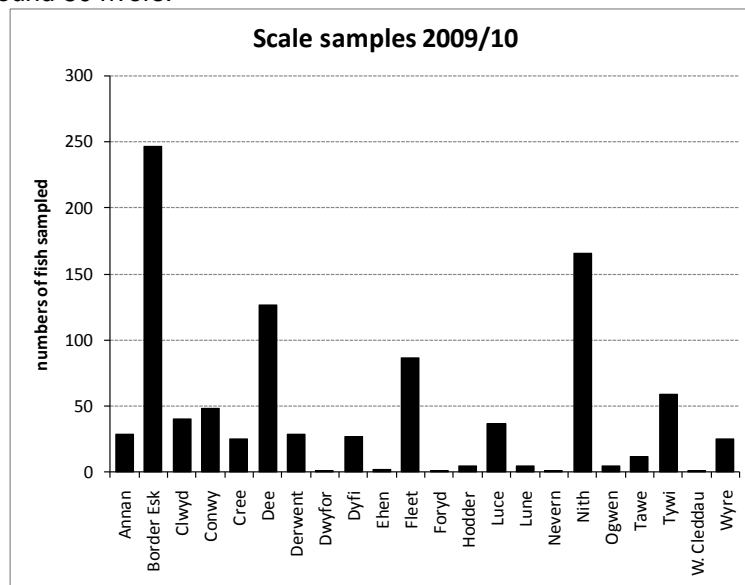


Figure 1 Scale sample sizes in rivers during 2009/2010.

A major part of the sampling programme is the collection of scales for analysis of life histories, and growth rates in sea trout. This is particularly difficult because, apart from fish traps of which there are only three across the whole CSTP area, the sampling of adults in rivers has to be done by angling. Moreover, scale reading is labour-intensive, time-consuming which limits the numbers of samples that can be dealt with. Accordingly, we have restricted this part of the programme to about 25 rivers, selected to cover the Irish Sea and where angling catch has historically been large enough to provide the samples.

This part of the sampling programme has required extensive liaison with angler groups and distribution of sampling kits and scale envelopes. Several talks on the CSTP were given during the winters of 2008/9 and 2009/10 to clubs and associations across Wales, England and Scotland. We aim to collect scales from at least 300 adult sea trout from each of the 25 rivers over the two main years of sampling (angling seasons 2010 and 2011). Unfortunately this aspect has not gone as well as the juvenile sampling and the returns to date fall well short of the indicative 150 in 2010 (See Figure, which includes a small number of samples taken in 2009). Only the Nith and Border Esk rivers reached the target sample levels and many others achieved less than 10% of the targets. A major effort will be made in 2011 to promote scale sampling by anglers.

Data analysis

For most of the programme this requires information from the fresh samples taken in last year's surveys. Genetic analysis at the Universities of Cork and Bangor is now in full swing, and a first look at the base line description should be possible in March 2011. The scale data for life history analysis has been less forthcoming, so far. Fortunately, historical scale samples were available from the River Dee Stock Assessment Programme, based on the Chester trap run by the Environment Agency, Wales. These, coupled with the extensive and immensely valuable catch statistics also from the EA, have allowed a provisional trial of some of the methods we intend to develop in the CSTP.

24. 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

Rail infrastructure

This year the Board was consulted on two rail infrastructure engineering works which could have potential implications for the migratory stocks of fish in the Nith system. One project involved the placement of stone at the edge of the railway property along the edge of the River Nith, north of Kirkconnel and the other was the construction of a pile sheeting barrier to protect the railway at the Holm Farm at Holywood.

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 Board has been consulted during this year on 6 separate proposals to construct micro hydro schemes.



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.

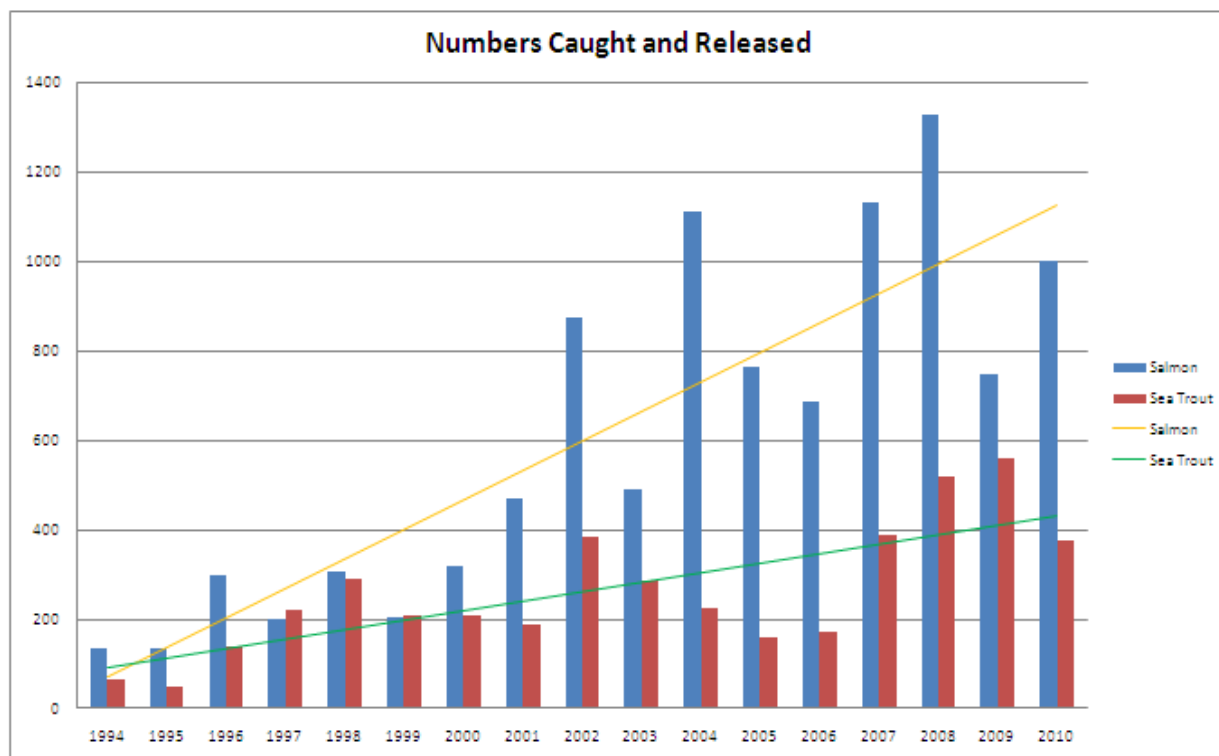
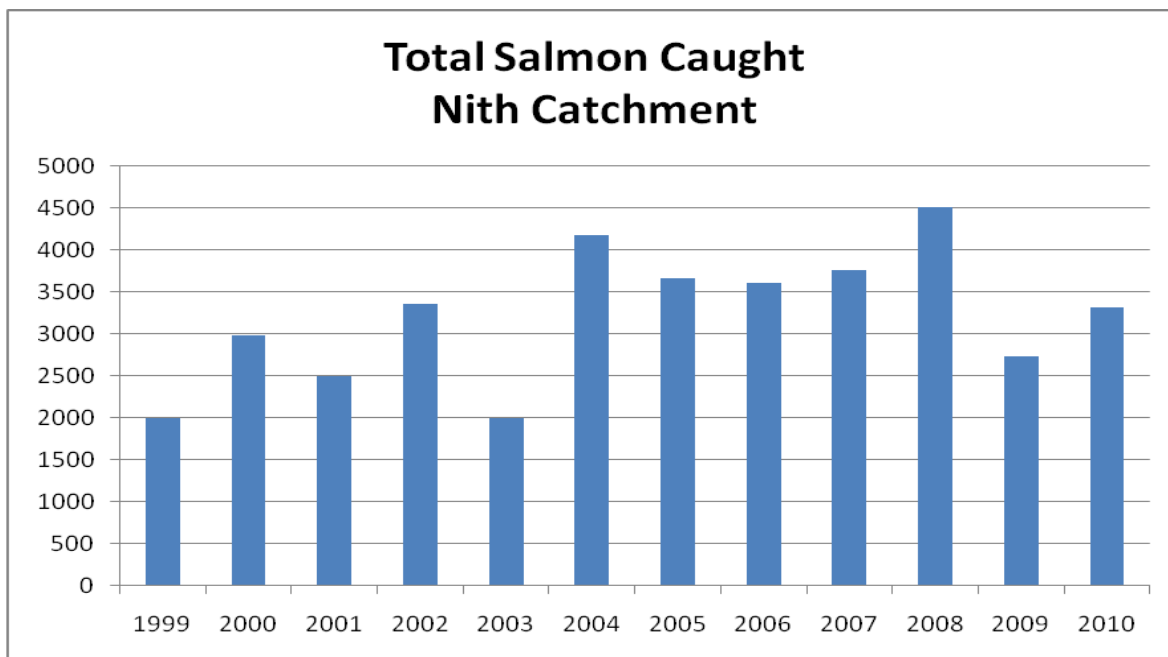
25. Illegal Fishing

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

26. 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 17).



| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 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. |

27. 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.

28. Summary of Events from 01.12.09 – 30.11.10

The Board met on 8th December 2009, 26th January 2010, 17th February 2010 (AGM), 25th May 2010 and 21st September 2010



NDSFB hosted the annual Water Bailiffs conference in March. This was a very enjoyable event well attended by Water Bailiffs from all over Scotland. Field visits and lectures were arranged and the Board was able to demonstrate examples of work in the catchment from the coal mines at New Cumnock to the low reaches of the river system. D&G Constabulary attended to convey the importance that is afforded to wildlife crime in Dumfries and Galloway.

- Reference is made to hatchery operations at section 18 of the report for the statistics upon released salmon and sea trout fry from the hatcheries. The Board was assisted with the 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 the D&G 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.
- 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.

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 hatcheries,
- 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 nterceptor 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 (Marine Scotland) 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 |

Incidents of illegal Fishing/Poaching Activities 1/12/09 – 30/11/10

- 2 persons charged with fishing during annual close time (Blackwood)
- 1 person reported to police, wildlife crime porpoise killed in paidal net (Drum Burn)
- 2 Gill nets seized (Dumfries Burgh)
- 2 persons reported for unsporting practise (Dumfries Burgh)
- 1 person charged with using illegal method (West Cluden Farm)
- 1 person charged with using shrimp bait (Carse Mains)
- 2 persons charged with using illegal methods (West Cluden Farm)

Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects – 1st December 2009 to 30th November 2010

- Tree Planting on Brandleys Habitat Scheme (1500 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

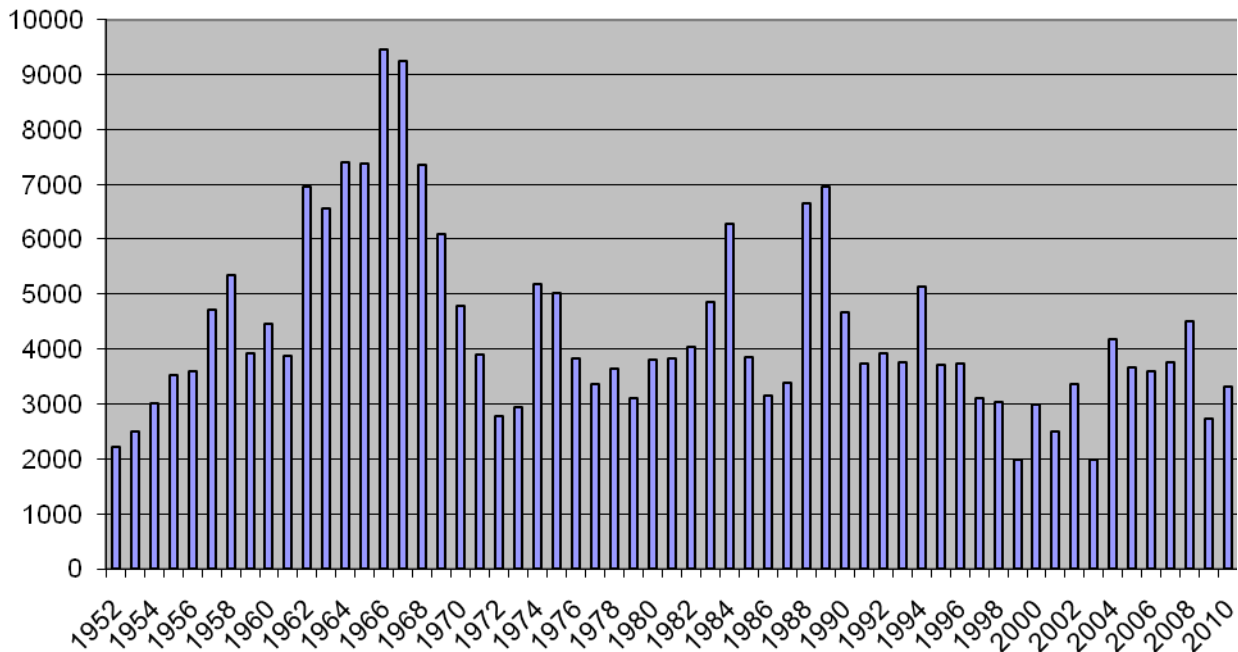
All habitat enhancement works conducted by Nith District Salmon Fishery Board and formerly Nith Habitat Enhancement Committee are surveyed annually. All works are assessed for repairs and maintenance to be conducted by Fishery Board staff where possible or alternatively to suitably qualified contractors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

NITH SYSTEM CATCH DATA

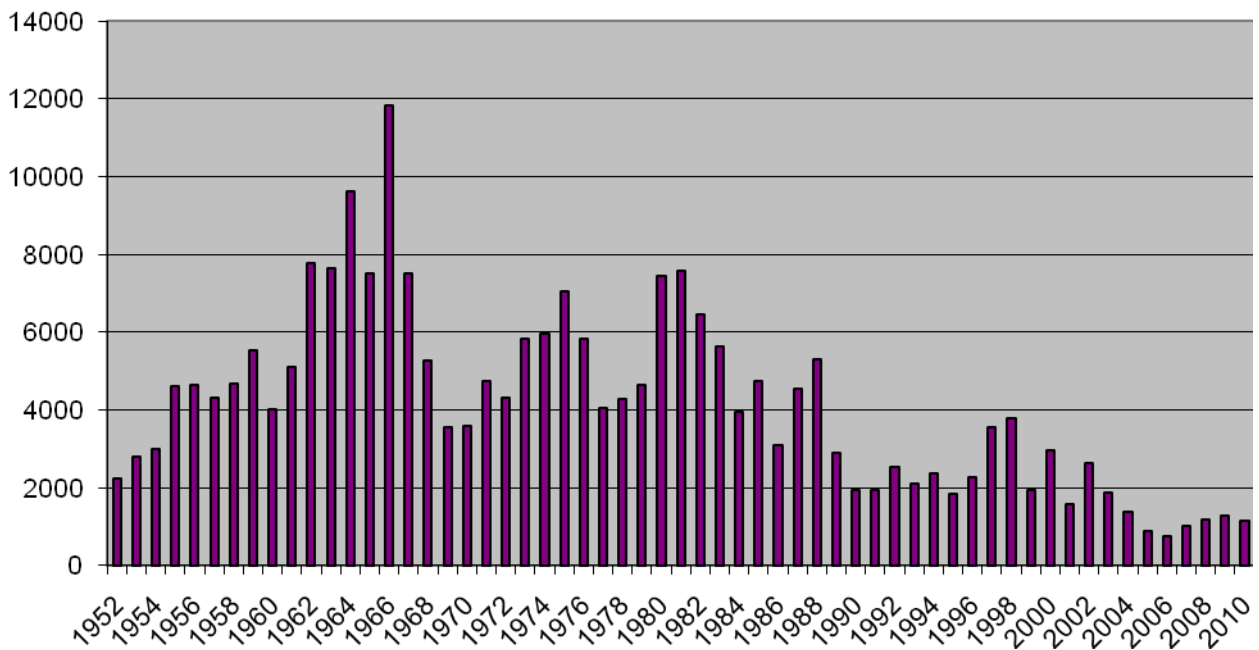
Catch Statistics Returns 1952-2009

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.

Total Salmon Caught
Nith Catchment



Total Sea Trout caught
Nith Catchment



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 |

N.B. From and inclusive of 2009 onwards FRS has changed the bases of providing the Catch Statistics Returns. Below is what can be presented in the new format.

Attendances at Board meetings

| Board Meeting Dates | No. Board Members attended (max 15) | % Attendance Rate |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8th December 2009 | 11 | 73% |
| 26th January 2010 | 10 | 67% |
| 17 th February 2010 (AGM) | 13 | 86% |
| 25th May 2010 | 7 | 50% |
| 21st September 2010 | 9 | 64% |

| Board Meeting Dates | Attendees (apologies) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 8th December 2009 | 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 |
| 26th January 2010 | Maxwell Keggans Gordon McGregor Sophy Weatherall Mike Keggans Ron Clark Roy Green Wally Wright Robbie Cowan Alan Bryden Thomas Florey – Chairman John Charteris David Landale John Kingan |
| 17 th February 2010 (AGM) | Tom Florey – Chairman Mike Keggans Tom Brown Gordon McGregor Ronald Weir Wally Wright Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark Maxwell Keggans Alan Bryden John Kingan David Matthews John Charteris Sir David Landale Roy Green |
| 25 th May 2010 | Tom Florey Roderick Styles |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | <p>Tom Brown Shona McFarlane (SEPA) John Charteris John Kingan Stuart Graham (SNH) Alan Bryden Ron Clark Robbie Cowan David Landale</p> |
| <p>21st September 2010</p> | <p>Thomas Florey – Chairman Mike Keggans Maxwell Keggans Ronald Clark Gordon McGregor Roy Green Wally Wright Brian Fox John Kingan Sir David Landale Ronald Weir Sophie Weatherall Tom Brown David Matthews</p> |

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

01.12.09 – 30.11.10

Clerks Notes on the Accounts

01.12.09 – 30.11.10

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – Page 2

Turnover

Assessments Receivable

The Sums raised by assessment issued to the Proprietors of Salmon Fishings within the District.

Invoiced to NCFT

Charges raised by the Board to the Trust for the provision of services, manpower and equipment by the Board to the Trust.

Consultancy Income

Arises from the Boards activities in connection with supplying environmental and audit reports derived from electro fishing and other monitoring data collected by the Board.

Other Direct Income

Salaries Contributions

Dumfries & Galloway Council pay for a Temporary Bailiffs salary for 6 months.

Refund of dues

The proportion of refund arising during this accounting year agreed to be paid by the Board to the Proprietors in the last fiscal year.

Other operating income

Sundry Income

Arises from donations and the like.

Pollution Incident.

The sum received from ATH's insurers for the Board's involvement in the pollution incident in respect of investigation, clean up and habitat restoration work plus quantification for compensatory restocking etc.

Bank Interest

This is derived from Board investments. Interest rates have remained low and static during the last financial year.

Page 3

Overheads

Wages

The Board at the close of the financial year employed a Fisheries Manager, a Senior Bailiff, a Junior Bailiff, and a Clerical Assistant. Seasonal members of staff were employed during the summer and Autumn. Salaries increased as a combination of applying the annual increase to existing salaries combined with the decision to employ additional temporary seasonal staff following on from discussions at the AGM in February 2010 and subsequent Board review of policy and staff requirements thereafter. However the amount attributable to salaries has dropped due to Deborah Prke becoming employed by NCFT.

Grant to NCFT

The Board agreed some time ago to support the formation and initial running costs of NCFT. This period shows the first year of that support.

Trust Biologists Fees

The Board now contracts with the Trust for provision by the Trust Biologist of her services for electrofishing and biological work. These costs arise primarily from the involvement of the Biologist in consultancy work

carried out by the Board at the request of project applicants relating to civil engineering projects, e.g micro hydro schemes, windfarm schemes etc. for which the Board charges the project applicants consultancy fees.

Staff Training

Comprised IFM Bailiff training course chainsaw training courses and update training for all relevant staff, electrofishing safety protocols and use and fish awareness seminars.

Inns (Invasive Species) Project

The Board agreed to become involved with SEPA and Annan DSFB in a five year project (Guaranteed two year funding) to attempt to control invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed. The project is funded from a number of grant sources and the Board is currently collating the information from the project and quantifying expenses for reclaim from SEPA who are the lead organisation in the project. This accounting period sees the first year of expenses incurred. The forthcoming financial year should see the refund of the expenses incurred by the Board.

Insurance

Increased premia for additional employees combined with an overall rise in premia generally. The Board instructs Insurance Brokers to review its insurance requirements annually.

Repairs & Maintenance

For office, hatcheries, boat repairs and maintenance, chainsaw and electrofishing equipment servicing, repairs and maintenance, shotgun safety inspection and maintenance etc.

Clothing Allowance

Additional employees.

Printing, Postage & Stationary

Publication of annual report, production of brochure, school competition for Loreburn and Kelloholm Primary Schools and sundry expenditure on stamps, stationary etc.

Telephone and Internet

Has risen as a consequence of:-

- (a) the major pollution incident in summer 2010 resulting in substantial use of phones when in contact with the polluting contractor, ATH and its Claims Adjusters, SEPA and Proprietors and Angling Clubs. This has to a large extent been recovered as a result of settlement of the Board's claim from ATH.
- (b) Supply of a mobile phone to the Invasive Species Officer employed by the Board. These costs are recoverable from SEPA.

Computer Costs

Monthly maintenance charges for computer equipment – decision made to pay annually. Board website subscription. In addition the Board took the decision to seek professional help in upgrading the Board's website at a cost of £3082. In addition a new Domain Name was registered.

Motor Expenses

Increased fuel costs. Increased vehicle use as a consequence of the Pollution Incident. Vehicle use by the Inns Officer, which is recoverable from SEPA. Hire of minibuses etc for the ASFB Annual Bailiffs Conference held in Dumfries for the first time. All costs from this event were recovered from ASFB.

General Expenses

Subscriptions, Shotgun Licence renewal, hire of rooms etc for meetings.

ASFB Subscription

Increased per explanation tendered at 2009 AGM.

Pensions

The Board continues to match up to a level of 4% of those members of staff who contribute to pension scheme.