

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW 1st December 2011 - 30th November 2012



Salmon Parr Visiting The Galloway Country Fair

**THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
REPORT
01.12.11 - 30.11.12**

Contents

AGENDA	4
MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 12.03.12	5
MANAGEMENT REPORT	12
Chairman's Foreword	12
1. Constitution and Area	13
2. Invitees	14
3. Research and Improvement	14
4. Staff	14
5. Objectives	14
6. How the Board Works	15
7. Funding	15
8. Constitutional Evolution	15
9. Fish Species Present in the Nith	15
10. Fishing Methods	16
11. Salmon and Sea Trout Populations	16
12. Marine Pressures/International Impact	16
13. Angling Availability	17
14. Water Quality and Riparian Habitat	17
15. Fish Access	17
16. Riparian Habitat Assessment and Management	18
17. Juvenile Salmon and Trout Populations	18
18. Hatchery and Stocking	20
19. Sea Trout/Brown Trout	21
20. Predators - Statistics	21
21. Exploitation	22
22. Salmonid Stocks	23
23. Celtic Sea Trout Project	23
24. Engineering and Other Works	24
25. Illegal Fishing	25
26. Exploitation	25
27. Legislation and Its Development	27
28. Summary of Events from 01.12.11 to 30.11.12	28
29. Fishery Biologist's Report	30
NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD POLICY STATEMENT	31
Incidences of Illegal Fishing/Poaching	36
Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects	36
NITH SYSTEM CATCH DATA	37
Catch Statistic Returns	38
Attendances at Board Meetings	43
Clerks Notes on the Accounts	45
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	48

AGENDA

for the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

for year

01.12.11 - 30.11.12

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 12.03.12
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
12 March 2012 at 10.15 am

1. PRESENT

Thomas Florey – Chairman
Brian Fox – P.O.F.R CIC
Simon Kelly – P.O.F.R CIC
Nick Brown – Friars Carse
Mike Keggans – Angling Representative
John Kingan – North Corbelly
David Matthews – Blackwood Estate
Percy Weatherall – Cowhill Estate
Sophy Weatherall
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock Estate
Tom Brown – Netting Representative
Alan Bryden – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Steve Ashworth - Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Gordon McGregor – Angling Representative
Brian Lord – Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Maxwell Keggans – Angling Representative
Jim Gregory - Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Peter Landale - Dalswinton Estate
Dougie Smith – Barjarg
Mrs Celentano – Old Mains
Bill Howden – Old Mains
Wally Wright – Netting Representative
John Charteris – Dumfries & Galloway Council
Mark Coombs – Buccleuch Estates
Geoff Walker – Closeburn Castle Fishing
George Gourlay – Ellisland Trust
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishing

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)
Deborah Parke – Nith Catchment Fishery Trust (FB)
Shona Kennedy - Administration

3. APOLOGIES - None

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred to the article appearing in Dumfries & Galloway Standard to the effect that this was the 150th year of the existence of the Board.

4. MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1 MARCH 2011, & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The Clerk commented on three action points arising from these Minutes. The Clerk referred the Board to Page 7 and Brian Lord's comments in respect of correlation of Board Catch Statistics with those produced by Fresh Water Fisheries Lab. The Clerk advised that it was not possible to correlate Fresh Water Fisheries Lab's Catch Statistic Returns with the Board's Returns because the statistics produced by Fresh Water Fisheries Laboratory lag one year behind the production of the statistics gathered by the Board.

Brian Lord commented that in fact it was not the correlation of the statistics that were of concern to him but that the statistics that the Board now produced be produced in a form that was similar to the statistics previously produced by Fresh Water Fisheries Lab.

The Clerk drew attention to the second action point being page 7 and comments made by David Matthews who had asked if it would be possible to show catch and release of fish as a percentage statistic of the whole numbers of fish declared in returns for the year. The Clerk referred to the Fishery Biologist's Report on catch statistic returns at page 30 of the Report which was hoped would provide answers in relation to this.

The Clerk drew attention to page 9 of the Report where it had been minuted that the Board were taking forward the issue of a revised Angling Code. The Clerk reported that the Angling Code had been given full consideration, revised and published by August 2011.

There were no other comments on the Minutes and it was agreed unanimously that they reflected an accurate recording of the conduct of the Annual General Meeting of 1 March 2011.

5. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman referred to the contents of the Annual Report and in particular his Foreword. He commented that he had felt that a lot had been achieved by the Board during the course of the previous six years. It was essential that the Board took angling representation with them. Anglers needed a voice on the Board and the Board needed to provide for better communication with anglers on Board Policy.

The Chairman referred to Page 14 of the Report and of the most recent news to the effect that NASCO, an inter-governmental organisation set up by treaty to deal with the affairs of conservation of salmon and involving representation from Canada, Denmark, all twenty seven countries of the European Union, Norway, Russia and North America. The 2012 Annual Meeting of NASCO is scheduled to take place in Scotland to be hosted by the Scottish Government. The Nith Board has been asked by Scottish Government to host a visit for all NASCO Members to the open cast coal sites at the north of the catchment to show how it is possible for these sites to operate in conjunction with best practise of fishery management. The Trust is to receive a donation of £10,000 from Scottish Government to assist in connection with the hosting of the meeting and providing hospitality. The Chairman considered that the Board was to be congratulated and that this represented a "feather in the cap" of the Board for its organisation.

The Chairman referred to the remainder of the Annual Report page by page. He referred to a perception being generated of larger fish returning to rivers usually entering the river system earlier than grilse. There had been virtually no grilse returned to the river system during the course of the last year. One theory is that salmon are staying at sea for longer and coming back bigger but fewer in number.

The Chairman referred to the Hatchery and stocking section of the Report with a new expanded section dealing with answers to frequently asked questions about Hatchery. The Chairman advised everyone present that the Board was bound to keep the Hatchery operations going with regard to its commitments to provide for compensatory restocking as a consequence of engineering works, including open cast coal operations, in the catchment. It was hoped that the Report on Hatchery would clear up myths relating to its operation and provide accurate information on the reasons for Hatchery Operations. More work was being done on the genetics of salmon to identify more information on salmon, their movements within a river system and other important information that may be gathered from the analysis of these genetics. The Chairman stated that in his opinion the Hatchery was good for education of children. He also stated that Hatcheries were a good management tool but were no substitute for natural spawning.

The Chairman reported on the Predator Culling Licence with substantial cutback of numbers available of cormorants and goosanders for culling. The Licence was the subject of an appeal procedure.

The Chairman reported that mink catching continued with numbers returned for last year roughly similar to those in previous years. The Fishery Director reported that mink trapping work was generally being carried out in Ayrshire this year and that the Board had been awarded grant aid from the Coalfield Environment Initiative.

The Chairman stated that there had been more spring fish caught last year because of an emphasis on trying to get more anglers to fish for spring fish, with a view to getting more information on their possible numbers within the catchment.

The Chairman observed that brown trout numbers appeared to be increasing as shown by the electro fishing statistics ingathered from various sites within the river system and he expressed the hope that larger numbers of brown trout would give rise to the possible smolting of brown trout and therefore an increase in sea trout numbers.

The Chairman raised the subject of Celtic Sea Trout Project which is now well under way with the Fishery Director now standing as Chairman of that project. FD reported that the information being ingathered by the project was very technical with work involving DNA analysis. There would be real benefit to the Board in asking for the relevant scientist to provide a report to the Board following on from the initial report given to interested parties at Cairndale Hotel in March 2011.

FD reported that as many trout as possible from all waters flowing into the Irish Sea had been genotyped. In addition, marine sampling had been carried out over the Irish Sea by use of a chartered trawler. Fifty nine sea trout had been caught and attempts were being made to genotype these sea trout back to their rivers of birth. Information was coming which showed that the project could get better assignment back to rivers of birth. FD gave thanks to Robbie Cowan for use of his boat last year in connection with the obtaining of sampling. FD recommended another visit from Celtic Sea Trout Project staff to provide more information on the project. The Chairman asked if there would be interest in such a meeting and a general expression of interest was given from people present.

The Chairman referred to Sam Valentine's Malloch Trophy winning fish and the presentation to take place later this year. FD thanked Dougie Smith for the photograph which had provided very good publicity to promote the river. Brian Lord advised that it gave hope to a lot of fishers on the river.

The Chairman reported on on-going engineering works within the river as declared within the Report. The Fishery Director reported that a six hundred and fifty metre long river diversion was planned and another diversion was in the course of construction.

The Chairman expressed real enthusiasm for what had been seen at the visit to the open cast coal site with the Environment Minister in November 2011. The condition of the newly instated water courses seemed to give rise to better habitat and better sinuosity of the river course. The Chairman felt that in the past farmers had simply made arrangements to divert the river into a confined canalised water course. The river appeared now to be in a better condition with improved habitat and greater sinuosity in the new water course than had been the case in the old water course.

Alan Bryden raised the issue of SEPA not being prepared to deal with bank revetment and repair work yet being prepared to allow and permit for substantial river diversion to take place.

FD stated that the Board would not be in a position to stop open cast coal operations. Scottish Coal or Kier will get what they want through the planning system to be able to abstract coal and provide for diversion of the River. All that the Board could try to do was to keep the profile of their river system high enough for planning considerations to allow for the Board to provide for reinstatement of the river in the best possible way.

The Chairman suggested that the whole matter of SEPA's involvement in bank revetment and repair work should be taken forward through ASFB for them to raise matters with Scottish Government in relation to the concerns expressed by a large number of people about bank repairs and SEPA's policy towards them.

John Charteris advised that this may be difficult as SEPA are in fact advisors to the Minister and therefore if called upon to produce a report would be somewhat biased. Alan Bryden reported on attempts made by parties to have the island below the Caul removed in the past. Apparently, SEPA stated that the gravel bar is a "feature".

FD referred to renewable energy schemes and in particular, the Board's concerns for SEPA requirements for walk-by survey in respect of micro hydro schemes for salmon in tributaries under one metre width.

The Clerk referred correspondence and in particular, the letter produced by SEPA in relation to bank revetment work at Carnsalloch. SEPA's letter was read out. The contents of the letter were discussed.

The Chairman referred to catch and release statistics applicable to the catchment and reported that in his view Proprietors had got to get better at dealing with catch and release. He referred to the Fishery Biologist's Report.

The Chairman asked for views on catch and release and fish conservation. He pointed out that some river systems have a total catch and release policy that is mandatory. A middle course might be to follow the code of conduct that the Board had produced.

Brian Lord asked about the adoption of a tagging scheme. FD reported that he wholeheartedly supported it. The Fresh Water Fisheries Bill was coming through consultation stage. Tagging is being considered as part of that consultation process. FD supported the idea of all fish being tagged. He did not know if the Government would ultimately support total tagging. FD felt that total tagging of all fish caught would allow the Board to have an easy tool to use in respect of dealing with illegally caught fish and in respect of reporting on fish conservation. FD reported that the Nith is one of the three worst river systems in Scotland for dealing with catch and release. Dougie Smith reported that it seemed to be that older anglers were worst on catch and release. Younger anglers seemed to be more conservation minded and were prepared to return fish. Mike Keggans stated that he felt that the FB's report was a most compelling report for reasons for catch and release. Peter Landale requested that the Report be publicised as a separate document and made available to everyone throughout the catchment and put in fishing huts to try to support the concept of catch and release.

Alan Bryden made reference to catch and release being a form of statistics. He stated that these statistics do not take into account the number of anglers on particular beats. The Nith has a large number of anglers. In particular, clubs and associations had large memberships. He stated that he felt that too much worry was being attached to what are in essence statistics.

FB stated that the analysis of percentage catch statistic returns had been dealt with on a river by river basis. Taking all factors into account, the Nith River System was in the bottom three in terms of percentage caught and released fish even in rivers that were well fished and of comparable size.

Mike Keggans pointed out that in terms of FB's Report, if more fish were returned then this would cut back on the necessity for Hatchery. Dougie Smith reported that the bottom beats were full of fish but Barjarg numbers caught were down.

FD reported that one hundred and ten thousand fish had been caught in Scotland in the year 2010 but that numbers had dropped to eighty thousand fish in 2011. The Tweed's catch statistic returns had dropped from twenty three thousand in 2010 to sixteen thousand in 2011. Dougie Smith asked if it would be possible to produce information of fish caught per beat. FD replied that it was impossible to disclose this information because of data protection legislation.

David Matthews asked if it would be possible to supply figures of a percentage of fish caught and release for each beat. The Clerk and FD thought probably not because this would again be covered by data protection.

Much discussion ensued on the subject. A feeling was expressed that the Nith System needed to do better with regard to the promotion of catch and release.

The Chairman advised of the forthcoming Trust Annual General Meeting and that all would be welcome to attend.

The Chairman asked for any other comments on the Annual Report. There were none. The Chairman then asked the Clerk to speak to the Accounts. The Clerk reported that he had provided detailed notes in connection with the production of the Accounts and hoped that most questions in relation to them were answered by these notes.

Mark Coombs referred to the balance sheet and the cash reserves held by the Board. He asked whether or not any of these cash reserves were earmarked. The Clerk reported that of the cash reserves held by the Board

£35,000 had been agreed by the Board for refund of rates. £40,000 had been agreed by the Board for support to the Celtic Sea Trout Project. The Board had agreed to keep a cash reserve of £50,000.

Mark Coombs asked whether or not the Board supported the Trust in any financial way. The Clerk advised that the Board continued to support the Trust on a financial basis to an agreed level of £35,000, although since the inception of the Trust that full figure had never been drawn down and as the Trust moved on with its own projects it was becoming more and more self-sufficient.

6. ANGLING CONSERVATION METHODS

The subject matter was raised following on from earlier comments. FD advised that he supported the idea of catch and release. It was far better to return fish caught to allow them to spawn naturally than have to rely upon Hatchery operations. David Matthews stated that he felt that the Board had to be much firmer and insist that conservation methods be applied. The Clerk advised that it would be impossible for the Board to insist upon this and impose rules, regulations or law against all proprietors in relation to the matter. The only way in which this could be done would be to seek Government regulation in connection with some form of conservation methods.

Mike Keggans asked for information on the process on how regulation could be created and imposed by the Government. The Clerk advised that this would have to be undertaken by means of petition to the relevant department of the Scottish Government with publication of the proposed petition by a set process through local press so that objections might be received and considered by the Scottish Government before the rule be accepted by Scottish Government, drafted and put into force.

Peter Landale suggested that without divulging the specific catch statistic returns to each beat, the Board should "name and shame" those beats whose catch statistic return levels were much lower than others.

Geoff Walters suggested that private beat owners should impose regulations on their anglers but that this was not easy to do amongst associations and clubs.

Alan Bryden stated that so far as Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association's business was concerned approximately three hundred to three hundred and fifty anglers including visitors fished their waters each year. They were at the lower end of the system. The fish arriving in DGAA's waters were good quality fish. A lot of visiting anglers took day tickets. Why was it unreasonable for them to take a fish? The combination of the makeup of the Angling Association combined with its number of day ticket visitors inevitably provided a greater number of fish taken from water like DGAA's.

Mike Keggans suggested that the Board should undertake a consultative process on catch and release amongst all proprietors with a view to taking regulation in draft form through to Scottish Government.

The Chairman asked for a message to take forward to Proprietors on fish conservation methods.

Brian Fox suggested that three questions needed to be asked, these being:-

- (1) Optimum figure of catch and release for the river.
- (2) What is achieved by way of catch and release for the river at present.
- (3) What is the actual beat catch and release figure per beat.

Thereafter supplying the particular information for a beat to each beat proprietor and asking them to implement a target for catch and release to be achieved.

John Charteris suggested that the best way of achieving this would be to support a phased increase percentage of catch and release to over a period of time to achieve a target and he suggested five years. Geoff Walters agreed to the idea of phased targets.

Alan Bryden suggested that it was such a huge subject that the matter should be taken forward to the next Board Meeting for a full discussion of matters. It was agreed that this would be done.

The Chairman advised the meeting that POFR is now a Community Interest Company (CIC).

7. A.O.C.B.

Brian Lord advised that he had been associated with the Habitat Enhancement Committee for many years and had always accepted what FD had said with regard to the catching of brood stock from the upper reaches and the planting out of their fry to the upper reaches. Brian Lord suggested that there be a research project undertaken on fish returning to the river year by year to establish where these fish return to.

FD supported the idea. He reported that FB now has tagging equipment which was obtained from EA as a consequence of them closing their Carlisle operations. That equipment could be used to try to track fish. He reported that research was not cheap and would involve cash and time.

The Clerk asked Mr Lord to clarify what he hoped to achieve from the project. Brian Lord stated that the project if set up was to try to establish if stocked fish that were planted out in the upper reaches of the head waters returned to the upper reaches of the head waters as adult fish. In other words he would like to see a smolt tagging programme to determine whether or not tagged smolts that were migrating to sea which came back as adults could be tracked within the river system.

The Chairman indicated that other such projects had been carried out in other river systems and that these should perhaps be looked at for the information that they produce.

Mark Coombs reported that he was Chairman of the Upper Nithsdale Angling Club. He stated that myths abounded about fish not getting past the Hatchery at Dalswinton. He stated that he believed that there was a communications issue with anglers and it was necessary for the Board to try to get information to all anglers on a regular basis. Mark Coombs stated that he would like the Board to work hard at getting catch statistic details for analysis and for monitoring of the position.

Wally Wright advised of a question that had been put by a non angler to him recently about the stress to salmon caught that were on the point of spawning.

FD reported that there were published guidelines in respect of catch and release and provided that these guidelines were followed carefully it was hoped that the issue of stress would be reduced and minimised.

The Chairman referred to Section 21 of the Annual Report and the comments attributable to John Webb whose work indicated that spring and early summer salmon caught and returned by anglers, provided that they were handled with care, could complete their spawning migration successfully.

FD reported on Brian Lord's earlier comments made to him on predators prior to the meeting commencing. He advised that the Licence available and issued to the Board this year had reduced numbers from thirty four goosanders and twenty cormorants to two goosanders and one cormorant. Whilst an appeal procedure was being undertaken no support would be required for a shooting party.

Dougie Smith raised the issue of the clarity of water and when it coloured up with coal dust or with mine effluent the difficulties that this presented in putting fish down. FD reported that he could do nothing about

this unless fish were killed. SEPA were not interested in the nature of the discharge because it met their required parameters for discharge.

David Matthews pointed out that this was an issue that he had raised previously. Geoff Walters asked the Clerk what procedures might be available in connection with prosecuting issues for discolouration of the water.

The Clerk reported that the matter of discolouration of water and a Proprietor's perception of damage to his fishings was very much a matter for each Proprietor. No criminal prosecution under pollution legislation would

be possible if SEPA took the view that the discolouration of the water was still within required discharge parameters. Each Proprietor who felt that he had been affected would have to show what had gone wrong with the water, who was at fault for causing what had gone wrong with the water and thereafter quantify what loss that Proprietor had suffered as a consequence of the water being discoloured by those involved. This may be extremely difficult to do and it may be that affected Proprietors should join Fish Legal with a view to presenting a “class” action on the matter.

Dougie Smith raised the matter of the difficulties with flood bank repairs. The Clerk read out the response received from SEPA as a consequence of his having been instructed to write to SEPA on behalf of the Board in relation to the concerns that the Board had on SEPA’s stance relating to flood bank repairs.

Alan Bryden considered that the problems will still increase unless hard engineering solutions were built into the banks.

Bill Howden raised matters of bank repairs. Buccleuch Estates Limited would not repair the banks. SEPA required a consent fee of £500 for the whole work. However, this was not payable if a “like for like” repair would be carried out and this would not be possible if the bank owner would not consent.

The Chairman then advised that he thought a point had been reached whereby the Meeting could be closed. He stated that the Board would demit office and election procedures would follow per the correspondence and voting procedure intimated by the Clerk to all Proprietors in recent correspondence. The Board then demitted office in toto.

The Clerk stated to the Meeting that the Chairman was demitting his post as Chairman. The Clerk extended grateful thanks to the Chairman for the function that he had performed and the help and assistance that he had given in his capacity as Chairman over the course of the preceding six years.

Everyone present at the meeting endorsed the Clerk’s comments and Mr Florey was given a round of applause.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

01.12.11-30.11.12

Chairman's Foreword

One year into my chairmanship of the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board and my knowledge of our river and the management of the fish within it continues to expand with each meeting I attend or through the issues that arise from time to time. I thought I would get off to a logical start by learning more about the River Nith. I arranged to walk the entire length of the Nith from source to mouth over a contiguous period of four days. Walking from the headwaters in East Ayrshire downstream to the industrialised expanse of the coal mines that surround the town of New Cumnock, the scale of this industry is striking. There is real potential for it to impact on our river and I can appreciate the requirement to keep a close watching brief to ensure that no harm comes to the river. I made note of varied characteristics of the river as it flows south and of the potential challenges faced by anglers at some locations.



During the course of the year our Board meetings have been well attended and I believe one of our great strengths as a Board, is the diversity of characters involved and the inclusiveness of the representation on the Board. Free and open debate is discussed across the table in a transparent manner with all contributions aimed at the common goal of improving the welfare of salmon and sea trout. Achieving this goal is no easy task and whilst never neglecting the traditional threats of poaching and predation, we must now look to more contemporary measures to help maintain stocks. The practise of "catch & release" must be embraced by all who enjoy the sport of fishing and want to continue to fish in a sustainable manner. I personally believe that if stocks permit, then to take a fish for the table is perfectly acceptable but we must change the perception of many that we fish for food.

I have heard the criticism that the Board and its work is considered by some to be covert and discreet. This is most definitely not the case and I want to ensure that the Board continues to be as open and transparent in every aspect of its work. We will continue to encourage participation through our membership and will collaborate with all stakeholders using our website to promote our work.

Currently the Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill is proceeding through the consultation process advancing towards creating new legislation. Having been briefed on the Bill and the process, I am confident that if we are to have any influence at all, we must continue to work with our colleagues within the wild fish sector and the Scottish Government. We can only do this by participating at national events, an important factor in the increasingly political world of fisheries management.

I commend our annual report to you all and wish you "tight lines" for the coming season.

E.P.K. Weatherall
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

1. Constitution and Area

The Board for the year prior to the Triennial elections comprised:-

Chairman	Mr Thomas Florey	
Lower Proprietors	John Kingan Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark	North Corbely 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	Officers	
Gordon McGregor	Roderick Styles	Clerk
Percy Weatherall	Gillian Reid, SEPA	Auditor
Shona McFarlane	SNH	Messrs Carson & Trotter
Stuart Graham		Chartered Accountants
Staff	James Henderson Barry Young Shona Mitchell Robbie Cowan David McMichael Jim McKie	Fishery Director Senior Bailiff Administrative Assistant Auxiliary Bailiff Auxiliary Bailiff Auxiliary Bailiff

The Annual General Meeting took place on 12th March 2012 after which (as is required by governing legislation) the Board demitted office and election procedures were undertaken. The Board formed and which will hold office for the next three years comprises:-

Chairman	Percy Weatherall	
Lower Proprietors	John Kingan Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark	North Corbely Caerlaverock Estate Drumburn
Upper Proprietors	Peter Landale Nick Brown Nick Wright Mark Coombs Alan Bryden	Dalswinton Estate Friars Carse Closeburn Castle Fishing Buccleuch Estates Limited D & G Angling Association
Lower Co-optees	Tom Brown Wally Wright	Netting Representative Netting Representative
Upper Co-optees	David Mathews Maxwell Keggans Tom Florey Jim Gregory John Charteris	Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative

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).

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 who following resignation was replaced by David McMichael and Seasonal Bailiff Jim McKie. During the summer the Board bailiff team was supported by the addition of Auxiliary Water Bailiffs who have worked enthusiastically during their time with permanent staff. The Board has committed to training these volunteers to the same standard as the permanent staff and equips them with all that is necessary for them to fulfil their tasks. Throughout the busy summer months the Water Bailiff team is also supported by the seasonal staff employed by the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. A reciprocal arrangement exists so that the Trust gets assistance from Board staff in dealing with invasive species control.

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 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 principal 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 principal 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 principal 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 funding from Invicta Trout.

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*), stone loach (*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 (*Lampetra 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 upstream 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 difficult obstructions to try to improve smolt output. These stockings from Hatchery reared fry are monitored by means of electrofishing.

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.

Table 1 – List of Habitat schemes

River	Bank length (m)	Single/Double bank
Afton Water	1500	Single
Dalwhat Water	2000	Double
Carcow Burn	400	Single
Crawick Water	6000	Double
Crawick Water	1000	Double
Kello Water	1500	Double
Cample Water	1000	Double
Cample Water	1500	Double
Pollneul Burn	3800	Double
Glenesslin Burn	1500	Single
Collieston Burn	3000	Single
Skelston Burn	1000	Double
Skelston Burn	1000	Single
Spango Water	1000	Single
Spango Water	3000	Single
Pennyland Burn	550	Single
Pennyland Burn	1500	Single
Carron Water	2000	Double
Carron Water	1500	Single
Craiglearen Burn	600	Double
Craigdarroch Water	300	Single
Coal Burn	1000	Double
Total	36.65km	

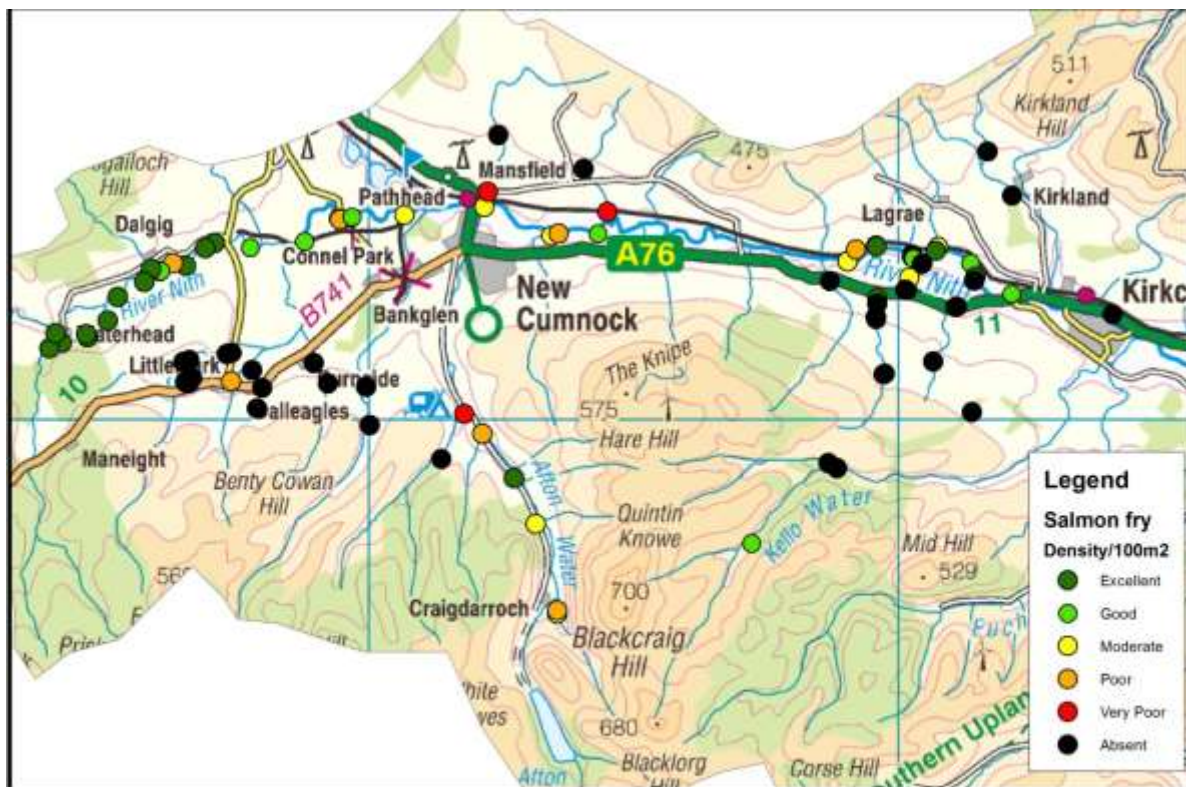
17. Juvenile Salmon and Trout Populations

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 staff supported by the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust Biologist have conducted their own electrofishing surveys. Our Board and Trust staff are qualified, equipped and capable of conducting these research surveys.

Electrofishing is conducted within the Nith catchment every year to monitor the populations of salmon and trout juveniles present in different watercourses. In 2012, over 120 sites were surveyed by fully trained staff using single run, semi-quantitative survey protocols developed by the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre. In response to concerns raised in 2011 regarding the effects that the Open Cast Coal Mines may be having on the salmonid populations, detailed surveys were carried out on the Upper Nith (from the source of the Nith to Kirkconnel) and on the Afton Water. The Afton Water is a tributary of the Nith but is not influenced by coal mining so acts as a good control to assess if there are any impacts on the salmonid populations. The densities of fry and parr were then classified using the SFCC national classification scheme. This classification scheme categorises the data according to five categories derived using data from over 1600 Scottish sites.

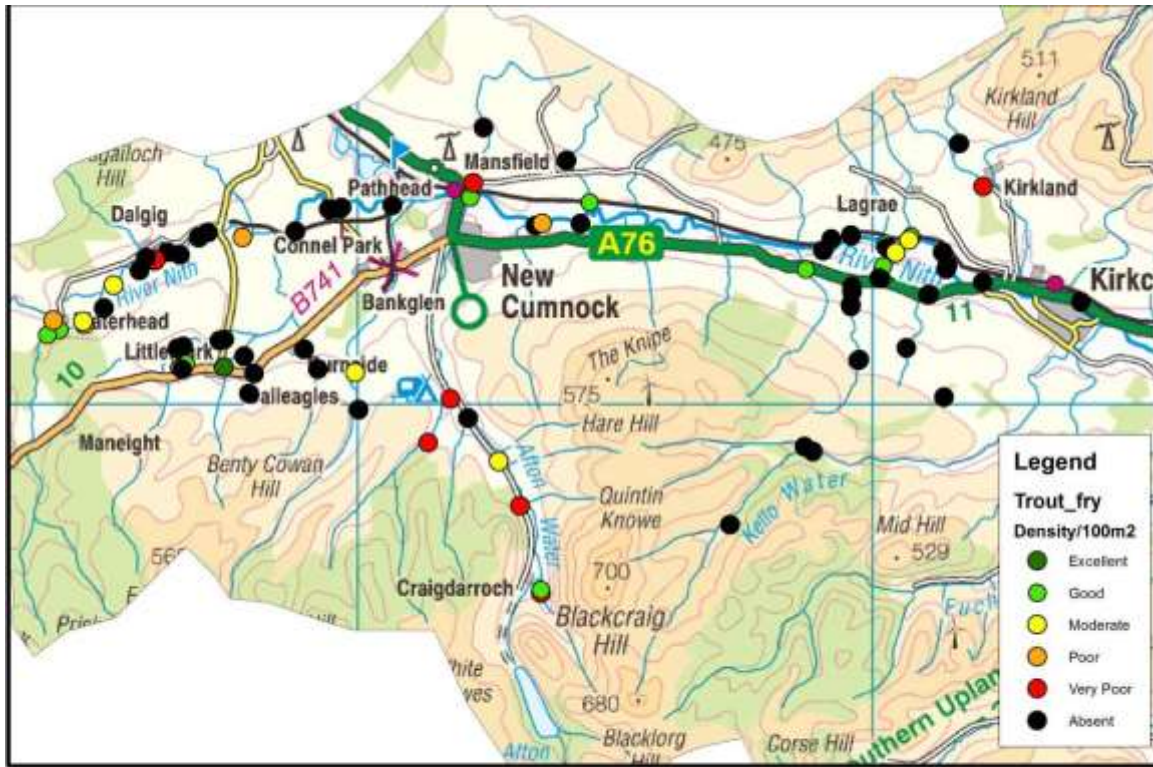
The results for the Upper Nith and the Afton are shown on the maps below. It can be seen that salmon fry are found in excellent densities in the upper reaches of the Nith, where the river flows past the coal mines, but further downstream densities are lower with moderate to good numbers being found. Trout fry densities are poor or absent in the upper stretch, however this is nearly always the case where salmon are present as they out-compete trout fry. Trout fry and parr are more often found in the smaller tributaries of the Nith and Afton where salmon cannot access. Densities of salmon and trout were moderate to very poor on the Afton with occasional areas of high densities.



Densities of salmon fry in the Upper Nith and Afton Water



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Densities of trout fry in the Upper Nith and Afton Water



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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 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.

Since the inception of the Hatchery program, the emphasis on the reasons for continuing with it have changed as a consequence of the commencement of substantial Open Cast Coal Operations at the top of the Catchment.

The use of hatcheries in modern fisheries management is a subject on which almost all involved in the fisheries world has an opinion. Historically, there have been hatcheries on lots rivers across Scotland but many of these are now gone and those that are still in existence are there to fulfil specific requirements. Hatcheries are no substitute for wild fish spawning naturally without the intervention of man.

So why does the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board operate a hatchery programme?

Because there is a requirement to produce hatchery reared fish to replace stocks lost as a result of mining activity in the upper catchment. Over the last decade there have been several major mainstream river diversions and loss of spawning watercourses due to the expansion of coal mining in the catchment. Part of the mitigation package negotiated by the Board with site operators to offset any adverse impacts on the numbers of juvenile salmonids as a consequence of these operations is to provide additional indigenous salmonid stocks to restock coal abstraction areas once they have been reinstated. In addition, over the years, incidents have occurred involving mining operations which have resulted in the total loss of fry and parr from areas of the Nith catchment. The Board has countered the effects of these incidents by using hatchery stock to replace lost fish.

Fry were planted out in the spring of 2012 at the following locations:

Species	Number	Location
Salmon	10,000	Crawick
Salmon	24,623	Mennock Water
Salmon	107,073	Shinnell Water
Salmon	109,920	Shinnell Water
Salmon	22,889	Euchan Water
Salmon	130,340	Euchan Water
Salmon	18,424	Euchan Water
Salmon	4,965	Kirk Burn
Salmon	5,000	Enterkin Burn
Salmon	18,424	Burn Sands Burn
Salmon	19,329	Cample Water
Salmon	10,000	Kello Water
Sea Trout	85,856	Mennock Water
Sea Trout	33,589	Wanlock Water

Total fry stocked out **600,432**

The hatchery is a useful tool for 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 2011 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 mainstream 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.

During 2011 the Board had a member of staff trained as an accredited marksman to enable the Board to shoot seals under licence from the Scottish Government.

The Bailiff Staff continues to follow Board approved policy on mink control. Forty seven mink were captured during the period January to November 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 study by John Webb (Biologist formerly 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). Additional work conducted on the Naver suggests that even deep hooked, bleeding fish still survive.

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. Monitoring 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 31st May) however numbers of these fish are very much reduced from what they were in the 1960s. 2012 saw an increase in the number of spring fish in the river and a number were captured by the few anglers who made the effort to fish on the river. 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. Grilse numbers were low in the Nith during 2012 and this was experienced in many rivers throughout Scotland. However the presence of large salmon in the river system was evident right throughout the year and the average size of salmon captured was approximately 1 Kg heavier.

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

The Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP) is a European Union, Interreg IVA-funded, Ireland-Wales collaborative project on the status, distribution, genetics and ecology of sea trout around the Irish Sea. This project is due to complete in 2013. The Nith were one of the few rivers that did fulfil their quota of supplying 300 samples of adult sea trout. The project is no longer receiving samples and is now on the final stages of analysis and dissemination of results. The results of this project will be reported at events in Ireland, Wales and Scotland during 2013. Further details can be found at:

www.celticseatrout.com

24. Engineering and Other Works

Open Cast Coal Mining

Open cast coal mining continues with all three operators within the River Nith catchment namely ATH Resources, Scottish Coal and Kier Mining. In addition to the annual monitoring that the Board conducts to measure impacts on the fish community we have been involved in the diversion of a section of the main stem of the River Nith on Kier's site at Greenburn.



Renewable Energy

Renewable energy projects continue to be proposed throughout the Nith catchment. Many small watercourses are the subject of micro-hydro proposals and the Board maintains its policy of not supporting these proposals. That said, providing that the Board can establish accurate fishery data prior to these developments being constructed and contribute to the plans in order that they can be adapted to be fish friendly, then re assess, post commissioning to ensure that the fish community has not been adversely impacted, then the Board does not object to schemes.

In addition to hydro, wind energy proposals continue to be forwarded from the planning authority for comment from the Board. The Nith catchment seems to have more than its fair share of windfarms and this trend seems set to continue. Each windfarm proposal requires a complete set of electrofishing surveys of all watercourses in the vicinity of the construction site and along the route of the cabling to effect a grid connection. Whilst these renewable energy proposals are branded as “green” the Board is aware of the potential for such large scale construction works to create adverse impacts in the aquatic environment.

Forestry

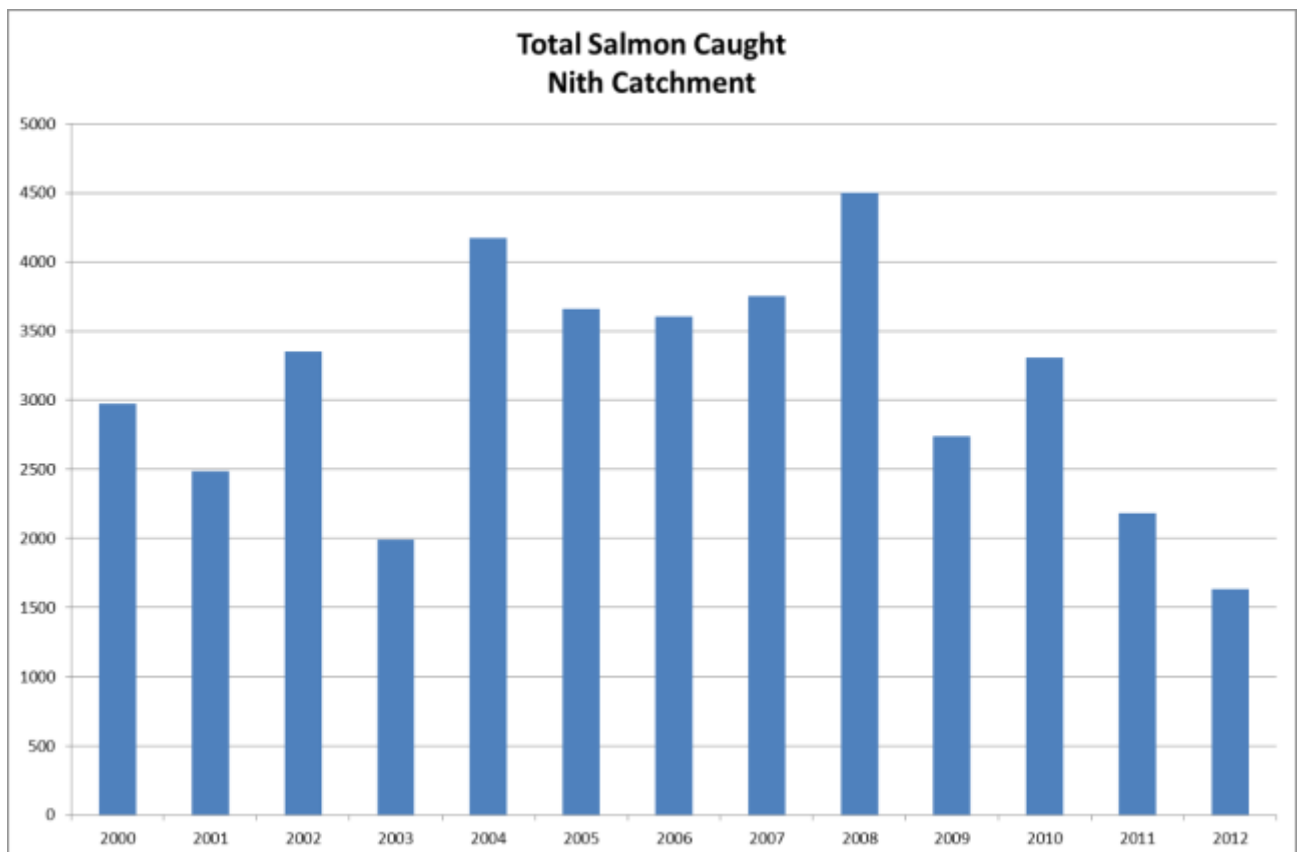
The Board has been consulted by the Forestry Commission and private Forestry interests regarding many forest plans throughout the catchment. Forest design plans indicate the management actions such as harvesting, replanting and the time scales when these operations are likely to occur. The Board responds when appropriate on issues that could potentially influence fish or the habitat in which they reside.

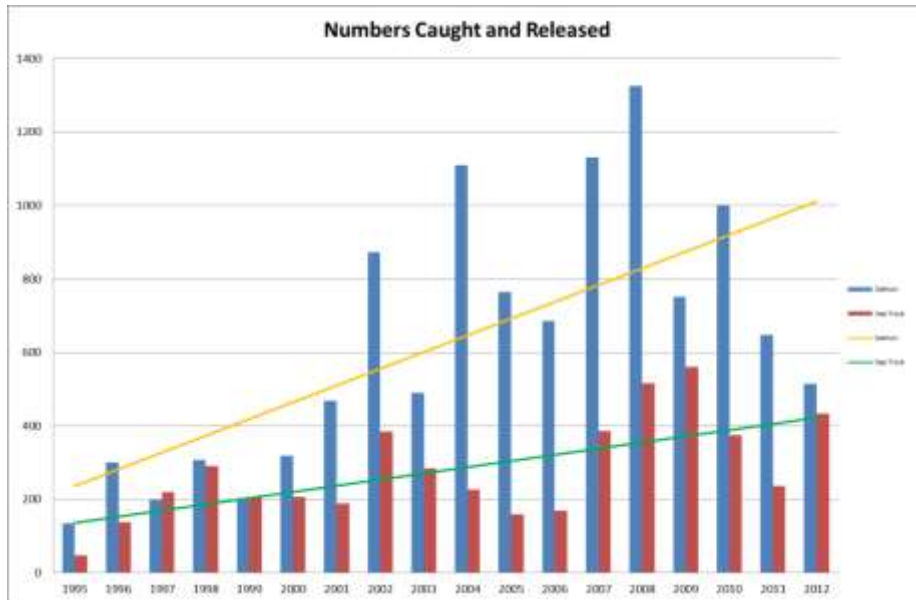
25. Illegal Fishing

Statistics of incidents are provided at page 36 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. 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.





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 its hatchery programme 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 Although present in the Solway Firth, seals do not appear to be the threat that they are in other Salmon Districts. The Board does have a licence and has the trained staff to be able to deal with any rouge seals that may cause issues. 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 the Cairn. The Board operates a mink control policy.



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 mainstream 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.

27. Legislation and Its Development

The Board has responded to the Freshwater Fisheries & Aquaculture Bill both directly and through the Fishery Director who sits on the Executive Committee of the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and has input to their responses. Prior to the Bill being considered by those in governance we played host to a political visit to enable us to discuss our aspirations of the forthcoming legislation.

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.



MSP Jim Hume visits The Nith

28. Summary of Events from 01.12.11 - 30.11.12

The Board wherever possible tries to ensure that Board members are kept fully informed about the changing circumstances that affect the day to day management of the river system and meetings are often called at short notice.

The Board met on:-

6th December 2011,

8th February 2012,

12th March 2012 (AGM), Triennial Elections and Board meeting thereafter,

29th May 2012,

28th August 2012,

19th September 2012.

The Board continues to be very busy attending to its statutory duties of managing the migratory stocks of salmonid species of fish throughout the River Nith catchment. As well as delivering management on the river this also involves the attendance of staff at various consultation meetings and national events to engage at the highest levels to ensure that the Board is able to contribute meaningfully to policies and future strategies. Board members are aware of the importance of informing political leaders regarding the work of the Board and the issues faced in managing salmon and sea trout.

At the request of the Scottish Government, the Nith Board played host to the delegates of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation conference who were holding their annual meeting in Scotland. Having met in Edinburgh during the week, the conference arrived by coach to the Nith where they were given a presentation on the work of the NDSFB then a field trip to the coal mines.



NASCO visit to the coal mines



NASCO visit to the coal mines

The Board was represented at meetings and events throughout the catchment over the year. The Board recognise the importance of a presence at the various events in order that the anglers and netsmen are afforded the opportunity to question the Board's staff on any issues of concern. The Board requires the support of the anglers and netsmen for some of the initiatives that the Board is currently pursuing, such as the updated Angling Code "catch & release" policy. The Board strongly recommends that anglers adopt this policy as part of necessary salmon and sea trout conservation measures for the river. The alternative is to have compulsory catch and release measures being imposed on the system with Government involvement.

The Fishery Director represented the Board at various events throughout the year including:-

All coal mining Technical Working Groups, Celtic Sea Trout Project, Bailiff Training meetings, Dumfries Burgh Fishings Sub Committee, Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, Burgh Anglers AGM, Environment Days, Burgh Work party days, Annual Bailiffs conference, presentation to police probationers, Association of Salmon Fishery Board's Executive Committee meetings, the Rivers and Fishery Trusts of Scotland AGM, D&G Council Wildlife Open days, various meetings with the Scottish Fishery Directors, Wallace Hall Academy Coal Mine trip, Dumfries Civic Pride litter picking on the River Nith, various site meetings to discuss renewable energy proposals and many other events to promote the work of the Board.

The Board opted to participate in the Galloway Country Fair which was held in the grounds of Drumlanrig Castle. This involved substantial organisation and the voluntary participation and cooperation of many members of staff. The event was considered a success for the Board and afforded the opportunity to interact with the public. The Board are planning to attend the Country Fair on an annual basis.



The Board's tent at Galloway Game Fair, Drumlanrig.

Fishery Biologist's Report

The Nith Catchment Fishery Trust has had a very busy year dealing with invasive non-native species, both new and established. North American Signal Crayfish have been found for the first time in the Nith catchment. The signal crayfish were found in Lochrutton and in the Lochfoot Burn during routine monitoring which is carried out on an annual basis by the Trust at various sites throughout the catchment. Lochrutton is located at the top of the Cargen Water, which flows into the River Nith approximately 1.5 km downstream of Kingholm Quay. Recently there has been a reported sighting of NASC at Kingholm Quay although this has not yet been confirmed and surveying will continue in 2013 when water temperatures rise in the spring.

Preliminary, in-depth surveys were carried out in 2012 to identify the extent of the population in Lochrutton and regular meetings have taken place with SEPA, SNH and Marine Scotland to determine if eradication is possible. Unfortunately due to the size of the loch and the fact that they have been found to extend down into the Lochfoot Burn eradication is not thought to be possible. The Trust is currently looking at strategies to slow down the spread of NASC and is trying to prevent further introduction from occurring by raising awareness of the problem.

In most cases, signal crayfish are spread by humans and can be introduced in a number of different ways; from accidentally introducing them on angling and boating equipment to intentionally introducing them in the mistaken belief that they are helping the fishery. Signal crayfish can have a devastating impact on the ecology of our rivers and lochs causing irreversible damage and reducing biodiversity. Ultimately, this can have a negative effect on fisheries and end up reducing fish stocks or making it virtually impossible to fish, as has happened in Loch Ken.

Of course NASC are undesirable in a healthy salmonid fishery such as the River Nith due to them competing for food and habitat, their predatory nature and their propensity to burrow into the river banks, destabilising them. However we must be careful not to embark on a knee jerk reaction in an attempt to quickly eradicate Crayfish from our catchment. Previous work has shown that it is very

difficult to eradicate North American Signal Crayfish and we must ensure that our actions do not exacerbate an already bad situation. We must ensure that anglers and other water users are fully aware of the presence of NASC and of the potential for them to be spread. By raising awareness we hope to preserve the biodiversity of other parts of the River Nith Catchment.

Everyone can help in preventing the spread of signal crayfish by following some simple steps when fishing between different watercourses.



Please remember it is illegal to release any non-native species into the wild and it is illegal to trap, move or keep crayfish without a license - any crayfish caught accidentally should be killed on site. Illegal trapping and/or movement of crayfish should be reported to the local Police as quickly as possible.

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 programme,
- 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:-
 - o Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
 - o North Atlantic Salmon Fund (UK)
 - o Atlantic Salmon Trust
 - o North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

in their endeavours to restrict and where possible remove interceptor 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 1/12/11 - 30/11/12

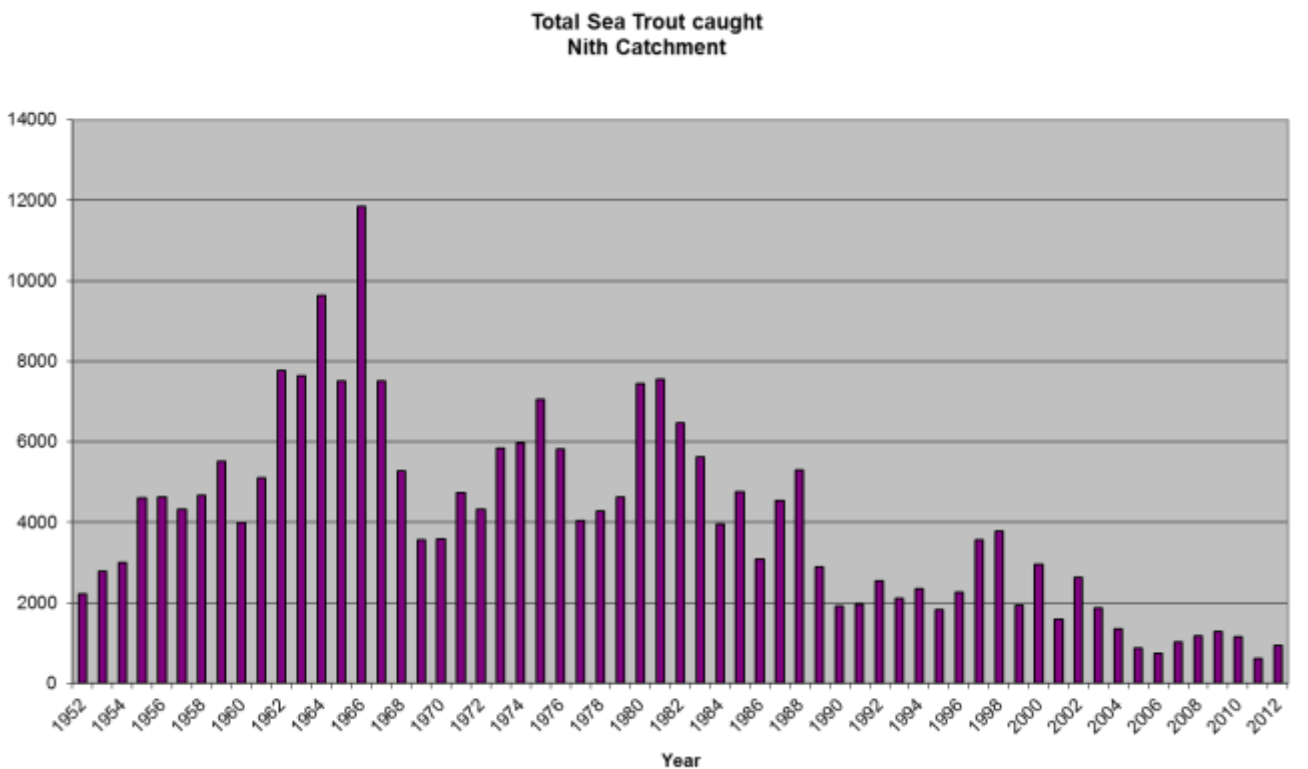
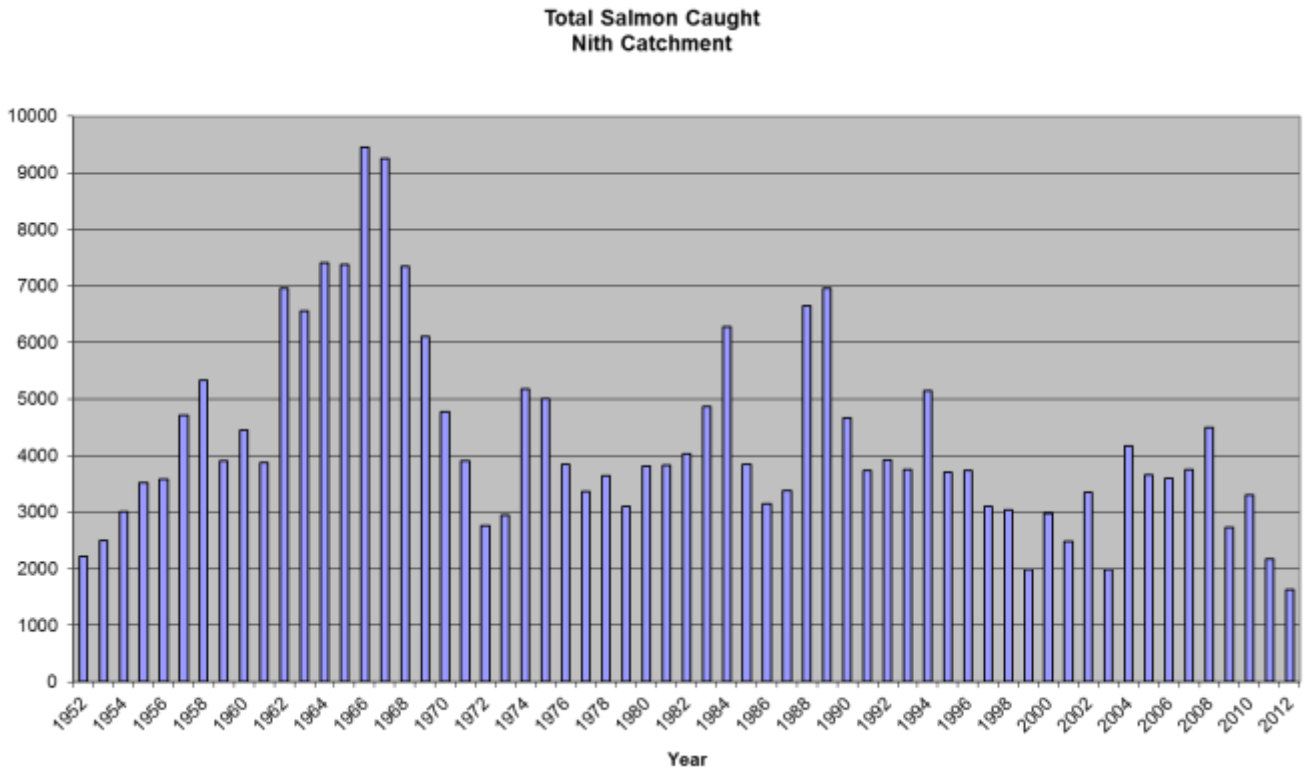
Two persons were reported to the authorities for separate cases involving illegal fishing.

Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects - 1st December 2011 to 30th November 2012

During 2012 all habitat schemes throughout the Nith catchment were maintained and those where planting of trees has been conducted have been checked and re-planting conducted where necessary. Various tributaries have been cleared of woody debris where this was causing an impasse to migrating salmonids.

NITH SYSTEM CATCH DATA

The Board now collects its own data from all proprietors. The charts show the returns to season end 2012



Catch Statistics Returns 1952-2008

The data below 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

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	% Attendance Rate
6 th December 2011	9 (max 15)	60%
8 th February 2012	8 (max 15)	53%
12 th March 2012 (AGM)	16 (max 16)	100%
29 th May 2012	13 (max 16)	81%
28 th August 2012	12 (max 16)	75%
19 th September 2012	10 (max 16)	62%

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees (apologies)
6 th December 2011	Thomas Florey – Chairman Sir David Landale Ronald Clark Maxwell Keggans Michael Keggans Wally Wright David Matthews Nick Brown Gordon McGregor Tom Brown John Charteris Ronald Weir Alan Bryden Robbie Cowan
8 th February 2012	Thomas Florey - Chairman Sir David Landale Maxwell Keggans Michael Keggans Wally Wright David Matthews Nick Brown Gordon McGregor Ronald Clark Ronald Weir
12 th March 2012 (AGM)	Percy Weatherall - Chairman Peter Landale Alan Bryden Nick Brown Nick Wright Mark Coombs John Kingan Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark Tom Brown Wally Wright David Matthews Maxwell Keggans Thomas Florey Jim Gregory John Charteris

<p>29th May 2012</p>	<p>Percy Weatherall – Chairman Alan Bryden Nick Brown Tom Brown Ronald Clark Maxwell Keggans Thomas Florey Peter Landale John Kingan Wally Wright Robbie Cowan Nick Wright Jim Gregory Mark Coombs John Charteris</p>
<p>28th August 2012</p>	<p>Percy Weatherall – Chairman Nick Brown John Kingan Robbie Cowan Tom Brown Alan Bryden Maxwell Keggans Peter Landale Wally Wright Nick Wright Thomas Florey Mark Coombs Ronald Clark Jim Gregory</p>
<p>19th September 2012</p>	<p>Percy Weatherall – Chairman Jim Gregory Maxwell Keggans Wally Wright Nick Wright Robbie Cowan Alan Bryden Ronald Clark John Kingan Tom Brown Thomas Florey Peter Landale Mark Coombs</p>

Clerks Notes on the Accounts
01.12.11 – 30.11.12

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Turnover

Assessments Receivable

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

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

INNS Project

The initial phase of this project is now finished. The project continues in a modified guise and is run by the Fishery Trust. Consequently was no income directly generated for the Board from this source of funding during the year.

Other Direct Income

Salaries Contributions

Dumfries & Galloway Council ceased to pay for a Temporary Bailiff during the year.

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 (round figures - £35,000).

Other operating income

Sundry Income

Arises from donations and the like. There was no donation from the Haaf netting Association during the year.

Bank Interest

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

Overheads

Wages & Salaries

The Board at the close of the financial year employed a Fisheries Manager, a Senior 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.

The Board declined to take on a Temporary Bailiff for six months during the year. Barry Young resigned from his post as Head Bailiff in early September. His successor David McMichael took up his post in early November 2012.

Grant to NCFT

The Board agreed some time ago to support the formation and initial running costs of NCFT. This period shows the third year of that support. The level of support sought by the Trust increased during the year partly as a result of the Trust Biologist being unable to be involved fully with grant supported ventures and projects during the year because she was engaged in Bailiff and related duties (the discovery and subsequent investigation of the presence of signal crayfish within the catchment) for the Board because of the perceived poaching issues raised as a result of dissatisfaction expressed about the lack of bailiff manpower in certain quarters.

Trust Biologist's Fees

The Board 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, wind farm schemes etc. for which the Board charges the project applicants consultancy fees. The rise in the fees paid to the Trust Biologist is also reflected in the rise in Consultancy Income (above) enjoyed by the Board because of the Biologist's input to the research done for the reports produced for consultancy on third party development projects.

Staff Pensions Costs

These are linked to salaries paid by the Board paying a percentage of salary paid to the employees. This needs to be monitored carefully in respect of the new pensions arrangements forecast for 2012. The Board agreed to increase its pensions contribution from 4% to 7.5% during the financial year.

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.

Celtic Sea Trout Project

This represents the last of two annual payments agreed a number of years ago but only falling due for payment in the last two year.

Insurance

Premia for additional employees reduced because of the decision taken not to engage a temporary bailiff during the year. The Board instructs Insurance Brokers to review its insurance requirements annually.

Repairs & Maintenance

During the course of the year there were payments for office, hatcheries, boat repairs and maintenance, chainsaw and electrofishing equipment servicing, repairs and maintenance, shotgun safety inspection and maintenance etc.

Habitat & Hatchery Expenses

The Board runs two hatcheries. Habitat Enhancement was carried out during the course of the year as detailed within the Annual Report.

Clothing Allowance

Additional employees, to include clothing four additional voluntary Bailiffs.

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. In this year there were additional copies of the Annual Report ordered.

Computer Costs

Monthly maintenance charges for computer equipment – decision made to pay annually. Board website subscription.

Accommodation & Subsistence

Bailiffs Conferences held in Dunkeld. Attendance at "Ocean's Silver" Conference, London.

Legal and Professional

Advice was taken from Employment Law specialists in respect of employment issues.

Clerk's Fee

Increased workload in relation to specific areas of work for the Board during the course of the year.

General Expenses

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

Depreciation

A new vehicle was acquired in December 2011.

Subscriptions

ASFB Subscription, Membership of Fish Legal and Institute of Fisheries Management.

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Plant & Machinery

As detailed in the Fixed Assets Schedule. New computer, chainsaw, radio equipment, speaker and projector and tripod screen acquired during this financial year.

Motor Vehicles

As detailed in the Motor Vehicles Schedule. A new vehicle was purchased in December 2012.

Current Assets

Debtors this year relates to outstanding consultancy income invoices at close of books. All assessments were engathered during the course of the year.

Current Liabilities

Relates to sums outstanding at close of books for the year.