

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

**MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW
1st December 2012 - 30th November 2013**



Electrofishing in the lower Crawick

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AGENDA

for the

ANNUAL PROPRIETORS MEETING

for year

01.12.12 - 30.11.13

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 12.03.13
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 2013 at 10.15 am

PRESENT

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Brian Fox – P.O.F.R CIC
Tom Brown – Netting Representative
David Kempself – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Jim Gregory - Mid Nithsdale Angling Association
Wally Wright – Netting Representative
Geoff Walters – Closeburn Castle Fishing
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishing

IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)
Deborah Parke – Nith Catchment Fishery Trust (FB)
David McMichael – Senior Water Bailiff
Shona Mitchell – Administration
John Millar

APOLOGIES

John Kingan
Robbie Cowan
Mark Coombs
Thomas Florey
Peter Landale

The Chairman welcomed those attending, introduced himself and opened the Annual General Meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 12 MARCH 2012 & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The Chairman referred to these, hoped that everybody had had the opportunity of reading them and recommended their acceptance. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman referred to the terms of the Annual Report and to the season 2012 commenting that it was not as good a season as all would have liked. There were pressures on stocks and on environment and problems on the high seas.

The Chairman asked for questions on the Annual Report.

Brian Fox made reference to the alleged offences of illegal fishing and asked for details. FD responded that he was unable to provide more detail because both matters were still *sub judice*.

FD reported on the contents of the Tay Annual Report. The Tay Board run a formidable anti-poaching team with full equipment. They had three cases of poaching last year which was comparable with cases detected on the Nith. Poaching would not go away but it was not as bad as it had historically been.

The Chairman reported on the meeting of Clubs and Association approximately two weeks ago. He hoped that those who had attended felt that it had gone well.

Nick Brown referred to page 26 of the Report – Licence for Cormorants and Goosanders – and asked what had been achieved. FD responded that he had managed to obtain a Licence for the increased numbers of two Cormorants and eight Goosanders, which was more than last year and similar to the Licence given to the River Tay.

3. ACCOUNTS

The Clerk referred to the Accounts and the Clerk's Notes.

Nick Wright asked what level of consultancy income might be available during the forthcoming year and from where. The Clerk responded that it was difficult to predict. Consultancy income was primarily derived from the renewables industry in respect of reports prepared for wind farms and micro hydro schemes, and the coal industry. Applications for renewables schemes arrive continuously but predictably so it would be impossible to predict the income that might be generated from them. In addition, there was consultancy income that could be relied upon as being forthcoming as a consequence of monitoring agreements having been put in place with the coal industry over a 20 year period.

FD reported on the projects that were being developed including major wind farms and in respect of the new quarry at Barburgh Mill. Agreement had been reached with the new owners of the quarry for monitoring over the course of the life use of the quarry.

Jim Gregory asked if it would be cheaper for the Board to lease its vehicles. The Clerk said no. The matter had been investigated in the past and usually the Board managed to sell on its vehicles privately or get good trade in prices to the extent that the sum received for the sold vehicle was usually in excess of the book value provided for within the Accounts.

There was unanimous approval of the Annual Report and the Accounts.

4. A.O.B.

The Chairman raised the issue of Signal Crayfish, the on-going monitoring and the attempts to control them. He pointed out that it would be almost impossible to eradicate Signal Crayfish if they got into the River System. Nith Catchment Fishery Trust is the organisation taking on the fight against invasive non-native species. Debbie Parke is dealing with the matter. There is no Government funding.

Brian Fox pointed out that Friars Carse was this year was placing emphasis on hygiene and bio security in the hope and expectation that it would assist in the improvement of the health of the River.

Geoff Walters asked if the Board for the River System was thinking of going along the lines of the River Annan in relation its fish conservation policy and the use of barbless hooks.

FD responded that the whole matter of conservation policy was under review. The policy of the Board thus far had been to encourage catch and release. The Board has the ability to be able to seek to raise an order from Government but would prefer to try to prevail upon proprietors to get the message across. The Board

would strive to continue to improve the position. The Chairman asked the Trust Biologist for confirmation of data in relation to catch and release. His recollection was that if 70% of the salmon caught were released it would have resulted in the deposition of 3,000,000 extra eggs into the River System. FB agreed with this.

Davie Kempself pointed out that catch and release was increasing steadily. The figure had been 10% in 2001, 30% in 2010 and had now risen to 40%. Matters were improving.

There being no other business, the Chairman thereafter closed the meeting.

Chairman's Foreword

The 2013 season catch statistic returns for salmon and sea trout in the Nith system were disappointing. Despite our best endeavors to protect the juvenile and returning adult fish in the river by mounting river patrols to curtail poaching, continuing with the work in respect of established habitat enhancement projects and mitigation of damage to the fishery from the adverse effects of open cast coal mines, energy wind farms, micro hydro schemes and industrial agricultural and forestry operations, the numbers of adult fish returning from sea to our river system appears to have fallen.

I take little reassurance from the fact that the downturn in catches occurred not only in the Nith system but in the Solway Rivers and many rivers throughout Scotland. This gives real cause for concern in respect of what is happening to the fish during the marine part of their life cycle.

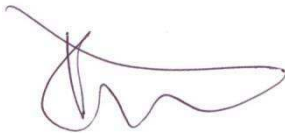
It is at this time when catches are low that we must maintain our policies of conservation of stocks and encourage all who have an interest in having salmon and sea trout in our river system to follow our recommended catch and release policy, encouraging anglers who are visiting the river system to do the same. This enhances maximum spawning potential of adult fish, one of the best ways of promoting a recovery of the salmon and sea trout resource.

The Celtic Sea Trout Project is coming to a close and the preliminary results of the research into sea trout are emerging. It is clear that we still know very little about this fish, a disadvantage when trying to implement best management practice.

At the time of writing this the Nith has breached its banks yet again, almost a weekly occurrence, consequently offering additional challenges to effective management.

As a Board we have reacted to the changes brought about in the Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture Act enacted during 2013. Our next challenge will be the Review of Fishery Management structures throughout Scotland, to take place during 2014. We look forward to this to be able to demonstrate that as a Board we are doing all that we can for efficient and effective management of our fishery.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our fishers a successful 2014 season.



E.P.K. Weatherall
Chairman



Introduction

1. Constitution and Area

The Board for the year comprised:-

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 David Kempzell	Dalswinton Estate Friars Carse Closeburn Castle Fishing Buccleuch Estates Limited D & G Angling Association 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 Rob Davidson Danny Marshall	Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative

- Alan Bryden retired and the Board accepted David Kempzell as a new Upper Proprietor
- John Charteris retired and the Board accepted Rob Davidson as a new Angling Representative
- Maxwell Keggans retired and the Board accepted Danny Marshall as a new 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 Fishings 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, Administrative Assistant Shona Mitchell, Senior Bailiff David McMichael, Seasonal Bailiffs Jim McKie and John Audsley. 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 and Management and holds an honours degree in Environmental studies. The Water Bailiff staff are suitably qualified in fisheries management. Individual members of staff are qualified in the use of Chainsaws, electrofishing equipment and other associated vocational qualifications. They undertake updated training courses as required on a regular basis.

5. Objectives

The Board is constituted under the Salmon Fisheries Legislation commencing in the 1860s as subsequently amended and presently stated in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 as amended. The Board is empowered under fisheries 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 the 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.

The Board is in the course of undertaking its duty to deal with good governance requirements of the new legislation (Appendix 2).

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 representatives 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.

As a consequence of the new legislation, the public have access to Board meetings, the details of which are available on the Board's website.

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 (*lampreta planeri*). In recent years a number of local lochs have been stocked with rainbow trout (*oncorhynchus mykiss*) that have subsequently found routes into the river system. However, there is no evidence that they have established a breeding population. The 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 a 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 system 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. 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 (km)	Year/s work carried out
Dalwhat	1.5	1997
Spango	8	1997
Upper polneul	4	1998
Marr burn	1	1998
Kello water	6	1999
Kello water	4	1999
Nith	3	2000

Pennyland	3	2000
Clauchrie Burn	1	2001
Carron	8	2002
Cairn & tribs	1	2003
Cample	4	2004
Pennyland	0.5	2005
Wanloch	5	2006
Shinnel	2	2007
Lower Polneul	2	2008
Craigdarroch	5	2009
Mennock	3	2009
Nith	2.5	2011
Nith	5.5	2012
Crawick Water	7.5	2013,2010, 1999, 2005
Total	77.5km	

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. The District Salmon Fishery Board staff, supported by the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust Biologist, has conducted 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 2013, a total of 90 sites were surveyed by fully trained staff using single run, semi-quantitative survey protocols developed by the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre. 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.

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 of 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 2013 at the following locations:

Species	Number	Location
Salmon	20,952	Crawick
Salmon	6,028	Nith (Kier)
Salmon	18,523	Euchan Water
Salmon	6,000	Burn Sands Burn
Salmon	35,837	Kello Water
Sea Trout	9,901	Nith (Kier)
Sea Trout	27,357	Kello Water

Total fry stocked out **124,598**

The hatchery is a useful tool for allowing people to learn about the lifecycles of salmon and sea trout and their importance to the Nith System 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 2013 the following schools visited the hatchery; Sanquhar Academy, Sanquhar Primary, Kelloholm Primary, Wallace Hall Academy, Closeburn Primary, Heathhall Primary, Loreburn Primary, Kirkbean Primary, Lochrutton primary, Dumfries High School and the Youth Justice Service.

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.

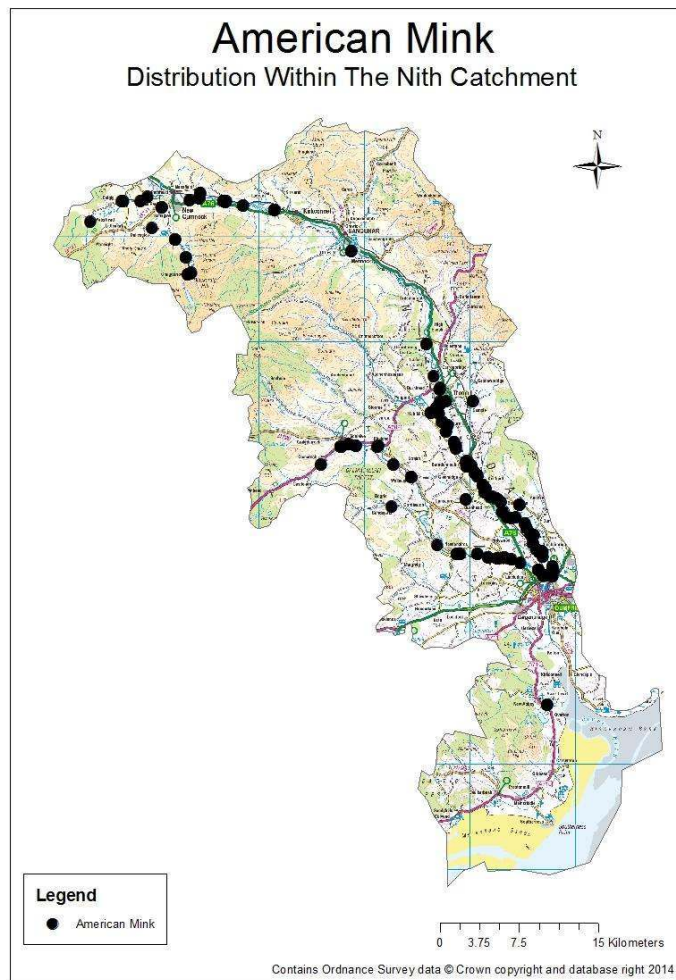
20. Predators - Statistics

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. Twenty one 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 number of studies have proved that if fish are handled carefully they have a high rate of survival.

The Board keeps under regular review and actively supports and encourages an evolving policy on catch and release.

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 system 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. It is essential that 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 system during 2013, as was the case in many rivers throughout Scotland.

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 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. 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) was a European Union, Interreg IVA-funded, Ireland-Wales collaborative project on the status, distribution, genetics and ecology of sea trout around the Irish Sea. The project was completed during 2013 but the results will not be written up until 2014. An event took place in Dumfries to disseminate the findings of the work of the Celtic Sea Trout Project during the summer of 2013. More information about the project can be found at: www.celticseatrout.com

24. Engineering and Other Works

Open Cast Coal Mining

Open cast coal mining continues within the River Nith catchment, however two companies namely ATH Resources and Scottish Coal experienced operating difficulties during 2013 and went into liquidation. Both of these sites have been taken over by Hargreaves Surface Mining Ltd. In addition to the annual monitoring that the Board conducts to measure impacts on the fish community the Board's staff have been involved in the design of a second river diversion of a section of the main stem of the River Nith on Kier's site at Greenburn. The work has involved planting the banks of the new channel to establish riparian growth prior to the diversion going live, due to take place in the summer 2014.

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

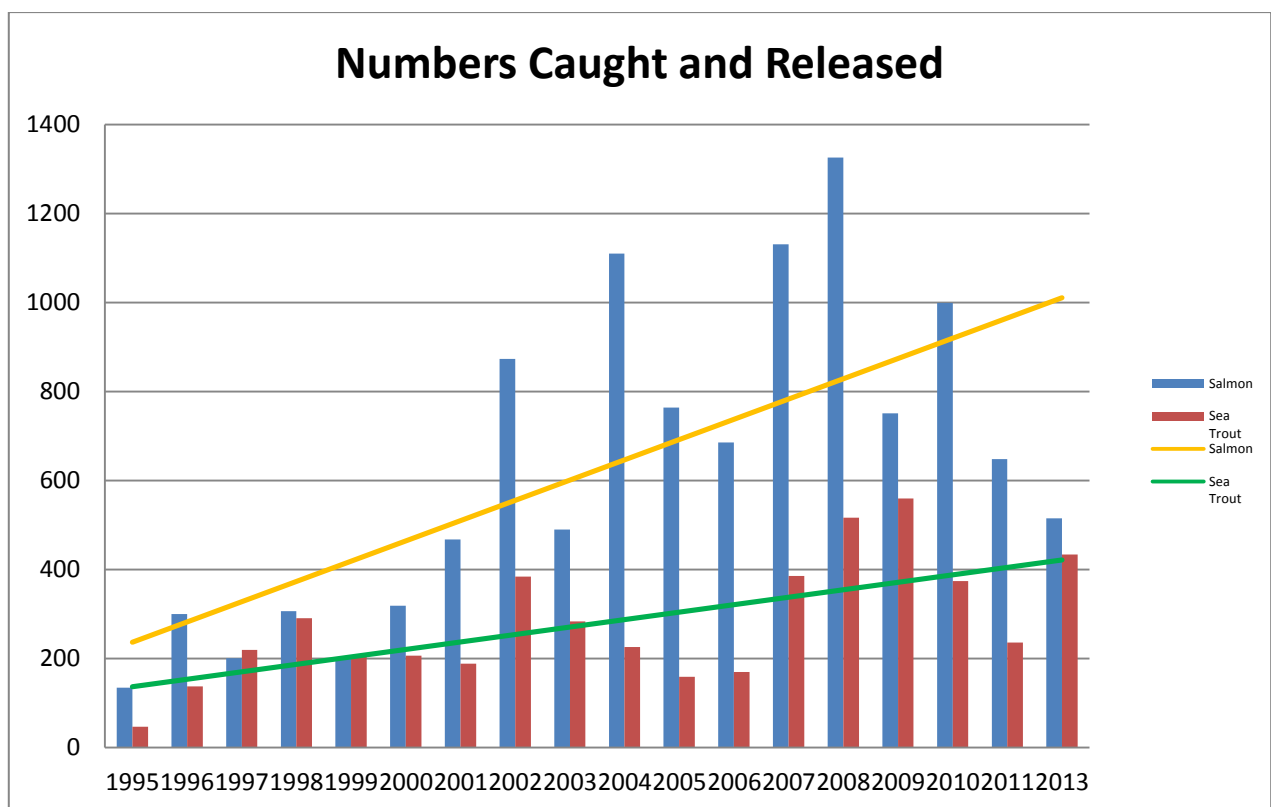
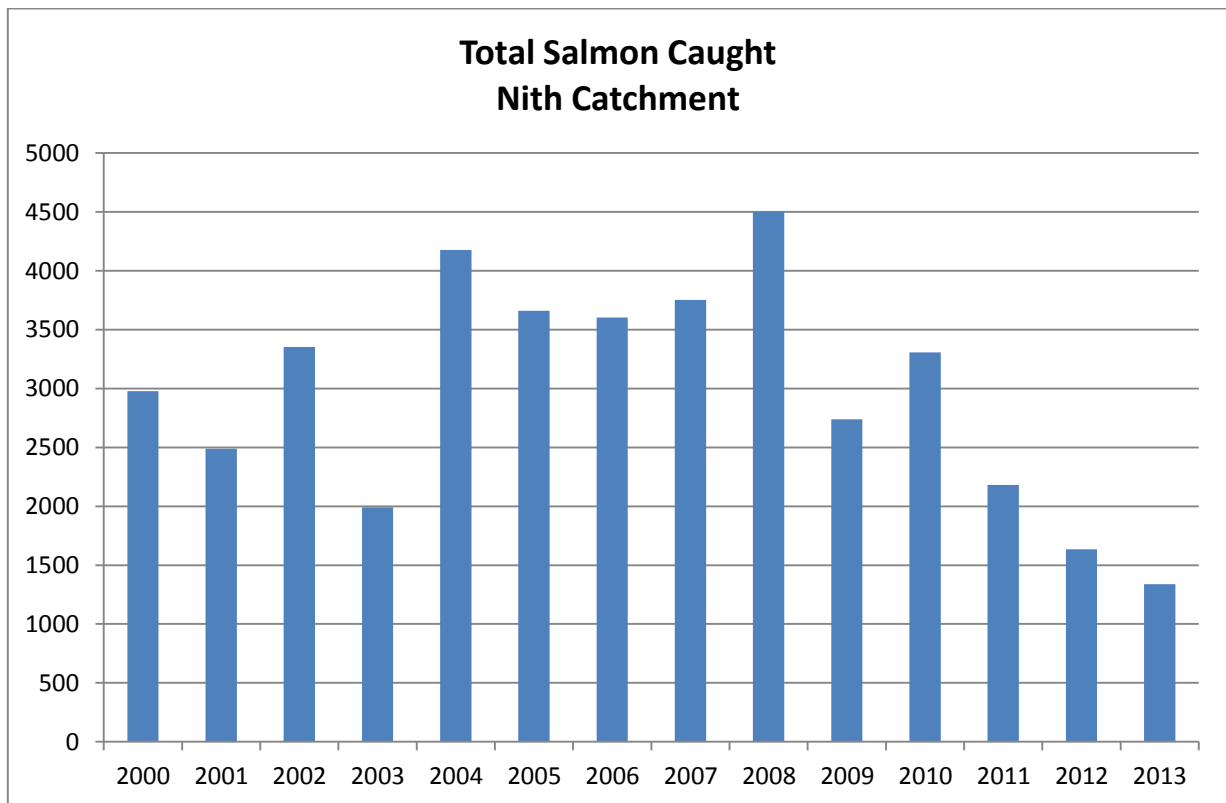
The Board has been consulted by the Forestry Commission and private Forestry interests regarding many forest plans throughout the catchment. Forest design plans indicate the management actions such as harvesting, replanting and the time scales when these operations are likely to occur. The Board responds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

25. Illegal Fishing

Statistics of incidents are provided further in this report.

26. Catch and Release Conservation Policy

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 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 in the Nith System and benefits from the long and wide experience of its netting members.

Hatcheries

The Board believes that the use of hatcheries has a specific role to play in the management of the fish stocks within the Nith System 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 rogue 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 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 responds to all consultations in relation to fisheries management and is complying with the recently enacted Aquaculture Act & Freshwater Fisheries. During 2014 there will be a review of Scottish Fishery management organisations which will include Fishery Boards. The Nith Board will respond to this both directly and through the Fishery Director who sits on the Management Committee of the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and has input to their responses.

28. Summary of Events from 01.12.12 - 30.11.13

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:-
11th December 2012,
12th February 2013,
12th March 2013 (AGM),
11th June 2013,
27th August 2013.

The Board continues to be very busy attending to its statutory duties of managing the migratory stocks of salmonid species of fish throughout the 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.

The Board was represented at meetings and events throughout the catchment over the year. The Board recognises 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. During 2013 a special meeting was convened to permit representatives of angling groups to put a series of questions to the Board. Angling representatives from the entire length of the river attended. In addition the Director from the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, Dr Allan Wells and Mr Toby Metcalf representing the Crown Estate were also invited. By convening this meeting the Board hopes that it will encourage 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, presentations to police probationers, Association of Salmon Fishery Board's Management Committee meetings, the Rivers and Fishery Trusts of Scotland AGM, D&G Council Wildlife Open days, various meetings with the Scottish Fishery Directors, 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. 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.

29. Biologist's Report 2013

The 2013 season has been a poor one with low numbers of salmon returning from the Atlantic to run the river. This has been experienced in the majority of rivers throughout Scotland and there is increasing concern about the fate of salmon in the marine environment. Research carried out by Professor Chris Todd from St. Andrews University has highlighted the poor condition of salmon returning from the sea, indicating that they are not finding enough food to be able to put sufficient weight on to survive their return journey and the subsequent trials of spawning. There is very little that fishery managers can do to assist salmon whilst they are at sea but by striving to increase the number of salmon smolts leaving the system hopefully more salmon will survive to return. Professor Chris Todd states "This approach might be considered as "lamb to the slaughter", but over millions of years salmon have survived ice ages and eras of global warming. Helping salmon populations recover naturally is clearly a better strategy than rearing them artificially." It is important that we all continue to try to conserve salmon within our river through increasing catch and release, improving habitat both in-river and on the banks and increasing the amount of habitat available for fish to spawn in.

In-river conditions were difficult for anglers with low water conditions and bright days making fishing hard. The low water had the additional effect of holding salmon back in the lower stretches and the higher catch returns for the lower river reflect this. However once the water levels increased in late summer the salmon appeared to run straight through the system resulting in low catch returns in the middle and upper beats. Good numbers of salmon were found in the upper spawning grounds towards the end of the year.

On a positive note, catch and release rates for rod and line caught salmon have increased from 40% in 2012 to 59% in 2013. This is a really positive step in the right direction and will have resulted in at least an additional 2.5 million salmon eggs being laid down that previously would never have made it that far. The number of sea trout being released has also increased from 55% in 2012 to 62% in 2013. A number of beats have decided to go to 100% release for all sea trout during the 2014 season.

Juvenile electrofishing surveys carried out during the summer of 2013 demonstrate that although there were low returns of salmon and sea trout during the 2012 season, spawning was successful and there has been no significant decline in the number of salmonid fry throughout the system.

The NCFT has continued to tackle Japanese knotweed and Giant hogweed, treating over 12,840m² of knotweed within the catchment during 2013. This project has been funded by SEPA, Landfill Communities Fund and D&G Council. However, funding for the Riparian INNS project finishes at the end of 2014 but we are already looking into new funding streams to improve habitat and biodiversity throughout the catchment.

The NCFT feels that in the future, young people will play an important part in protecting our river and the fish species within. To this end the NCFT have put together an education project called "Fishing for the Future" and have received funding from D&G European Fisheries Fund and Holywood Trust for the next two years. This project aims to introduce pupils from schools throughout the Nith catchment to the aquatic environment and about the sustainability of our fish stocks. The project also gives the participants a chance to try fishing, hopefully encouraging them to take it up as a hobby.



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. The Board also works to a five year Fishery Management Plan which outlines the Boards intentions for the foreseeable future. The second five year plan has just been written and approved. It represents the future aims and activities that the Board will embrace over the course of the next working year and beyond.

General Policy and Future Management

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 and operate in an open and transparent manner in accordance with the law.

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 fishers to return fish to the river where possible and appropriate.
- Encourage fishers 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 fishers at any time and from time to time, Restrict, where appropriate, spring fishing to protect the vulnerable early running populations of salmon, Encourage proprietors to ensure that the level of fishing effort is reasonable, and take other appropriate steps to protect, conserve and enhance the stocks of fish and to give publicity thereto.

Catch and Release

The Board will: -

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

Netting

The Board will: -

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

in their endeavours to restrict and where possible remove 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.

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 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 Natural Heritage (SNH) Forestry Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Forestry Commission (FC) Environment Agency (EA)
Industrial Companies	Kier Mining Highways Agency Windfarm Operators Network Rail Hargreaves Surface Mining

Nith Fishery Management Plan 2014-18 Prescriptions

The following prescriptions are to be found in the Fishery Management Plan, full details of which can be found on the Board's web site.

The prescriptions have been agreed by fishery proprietors and managers as necessary to promote the welfare of populations of fish within the River Nith catchment.

Poaching (High Priority)

- Maintain a team of Water Bailiffs commensurate with the threat of illegal fishing.

Exploitation (High Priority)

- Encourage the promotion of sustainable fishing throughout the catchment with all of its proprietors using the angling code and to develop an annual conservation code to be made available to all anglers.
- Promote accurate recording of all catches.
- Further endorse sustainable fishing via its education programme and by raising awareness of the benefits of catch and release.
- Adopt and promote carcass tagging which is anticipated will be initiated within the term of this fishery management plan for the purpose of assisting with the sustainable management of fish stocks.
- Discourage further exploitation of the resource.

Engineering procedures (High Priority)

- Respond to applications to conduct engineering and offer advice on mitigation and environmental protection in order to prevent degradation of habitat or fishing potential.
- Conduct monitoring in relation to engineering works.

Renewable energy (High Priority)

- Respond and comment on applications to construct renewable energy projects.
- Provide data and scientific input in relation to consideration of all renewable energy projects.
- Conduct monitoring to establish fishery data.
- Recommend mitigation to prevent damage to the resource.

Biosecurity (High/Medium Priority)

- Take full cognisance of the River Nith Biosecurity Plan when responding to consultations.
- Combat invasive non-native species throughout the catchment and continue to raise awareness about this issue.
- Participate in catchment, local, national and international initiatives to combat INNS.

Habitat degradation (High Priority)

- Carry out habitat surveys within catchment to identify potential habitat improvements.
- Carry out habitat works where identified and permitted.
- Maintain existing habitat schemes.

Access for fish (High Priority)

- Prioritise barriers within the Nith catchment using recognised barrier assessment tools.
- Remove temporary impediments to migration.
- Seek removal of any man-made obstruction to fish.

Water Quality (Medium Priority)

- Liaise with SEPA and other agencies regarding potential or existing water quality issues.
- Respond to any reported incident with the potential to impact on fish stocks and pursue through appropriate channels.

- Expand the Riverfly Partnership Anglers Monitoring Initiative.

Marine survival (High Priority)

- Participate in appropriate local, national and international research projects.
- Work with other agencies to gain knowledge.
- Use latest science to advise and make informed management decisions on local and national levels.

Predation (Medium Priority)

- Conduct predator counts to provide accurate data for license applications.
- Apply for annual licences to predators.
- Conduct annual licenced predator culls.
- Conduct mink trapping within the Nith catchment.
- Improve counting techniques and keep abreast of alternative means of control.

Fish stock data (High Priority)

- Conducting electrofishing surveys throughout the catchment.
- Conduct repeat annual electrofishing surveys at core sites throughout the catchment to assess annual fluctuations.
- Carry out scale reading of adult and juvenile salmonids to gain data on the structure of fish populations.
- Continue to participate in national research programmes to determine stock dynamics and populations trends within the Nith catchment.

Artificial enhancement programmes (High Priority)

- Continue to operate a hatchery at levels agreed by the NDSFB Stocking Committee.
- Endeavour to maximise natural stock production by improving habitat, access and conserving stocks of returning adults rather than stocking artificially.
- Authorise and stock fry into areas identified.
- Monitor any salmon and sea trout stocking.
- Comment on applications made to Marine Scotland to stock brown trout.

Incidents of illegal Fishing/Poaching Activities 1/12/12 - 30/11/13

- Two grayling fishers were cautioned for fishing on Blackwood.
- One person fishing on Mid Nithsdale was charged for fishing without a licence, his accomplice was given a police caution.
- A net was handed into Fishery Board Bailiffs from New Cumnock.
- One person was cautioned for fishing below the Bardenoch/Blackwood boundary.
- Fishing tackle was seized from an angler on the Dumfries Burgh water and handed to the police.
- Three persons were cautioned for not have permits in their possession, all were later found to have permits.
- A net was recovered from Airds point on the Solway Firth.
- Two persons were charged for fishing on Blackwood water without permits.
- A 2kg tin of Cymag was found near to a tributary of the River Cairn and was safely disposed of.

Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects - 1st December 2012 to 30th November 2013

During 2013 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.

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Appendix 1: Attendances at Board Meetings

Board Meeting Dates	No. Board Members Attended	Attendance Rate (%)
11 th December 2012	11 (max 15)	73
12 th February 2013	12 (max 15)	80
12 th March 2013 (AGM)	6 (max 15)	40
11 th June 2013	12 (max 15)	80
27 th August 2013	11 (max 15)	73

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees (apologies)
11 th December 2012	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Nick Brown John Kingan Robbie Cowan Alan Bryden Maxwell Keggans Peter Landale Wally Wright Nick Wright Thomas Florey Jim Gregory Rob Davidson Tom Brown Ronald Clark Mark Coombs
12 th February 2013	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Tom Brown Wally Wright Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark Alan Bryden Peter Landale John Kingan Mark Coombs Nick Wright Jim Gregory Tom Florey Nick Brown Maxwell Keggans (together with intimation of resignation on his part)
12 th March 2013 (AGM)	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Brian Fox Tom Brown David Kempself Jim Gregory Wally Wright Geoff Walters Nick Wright Robbie Cowan John Kingan Mark Coombs Thomas Florey

	Peter Landale
11th June 2013	Percy Weatherall – Chairman David Kempzell Tom Florey Peter Landale Mark Coombs Nick Wright Nick Brown Wally Wright Tom Brown Robbie Cowan Ronald Clark John Kingan Rob Davidson Jim Gregory
27th August 2013	Percy Weatherall – Chairman David Kempzell Nick Brown Ronald Clark John Kingan Robbie Cowan Wally Wright Jim Gregory Danny Marshall Peter Landale Thomas Florey Nick Wright Mark Coombes Tom Brown

Appendix 2: Statement of Good Governance Compliance (Draft)

Meetings

The annual meeting of qualified proprietors was held on 25th March 2014 at Friars Carse Country House Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries. The meeting was publicised by means of notice on the Board website and a copy of the notice was sent to the Scottish Government on [date]. [number] members of the public chose to attend. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed at [e.g. website].

The annual public meeting was held on [date] at [location]. This meeting was publicised by means of notice on the Board website and a copy of the notice was sent to the Scottish Government on [date]. [number] members of the public chose to attend. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed at [e.g. website].

In addition, further meetings of the Board were held on [dates]. Of these meetings the one held on 10th December 2013 was the first which the public were permitted to attend. This meeting was publicised by means of notice on the Board website. Two members of the public chose to attend each meeting. The minutes from these meetings can be viewed on the Board website

Annual Report and Accounts

This annual report will be published on the Board website.

The accounts will be published on the Board website.

Complaints

The Board has set up and maintains a complaints procedure which can be viewed on the Board website. The procedure was reviewed on 10th December 2013 and remains unaltered.

Members' interests

The register of members' interests can be viewed on the Board website. We have included a standing item at each Board meeting inviting Board members to declare new/amend existing interests and all such instances are recorded in the minutes of these meetings.

Appendix 3: Register of Complaints

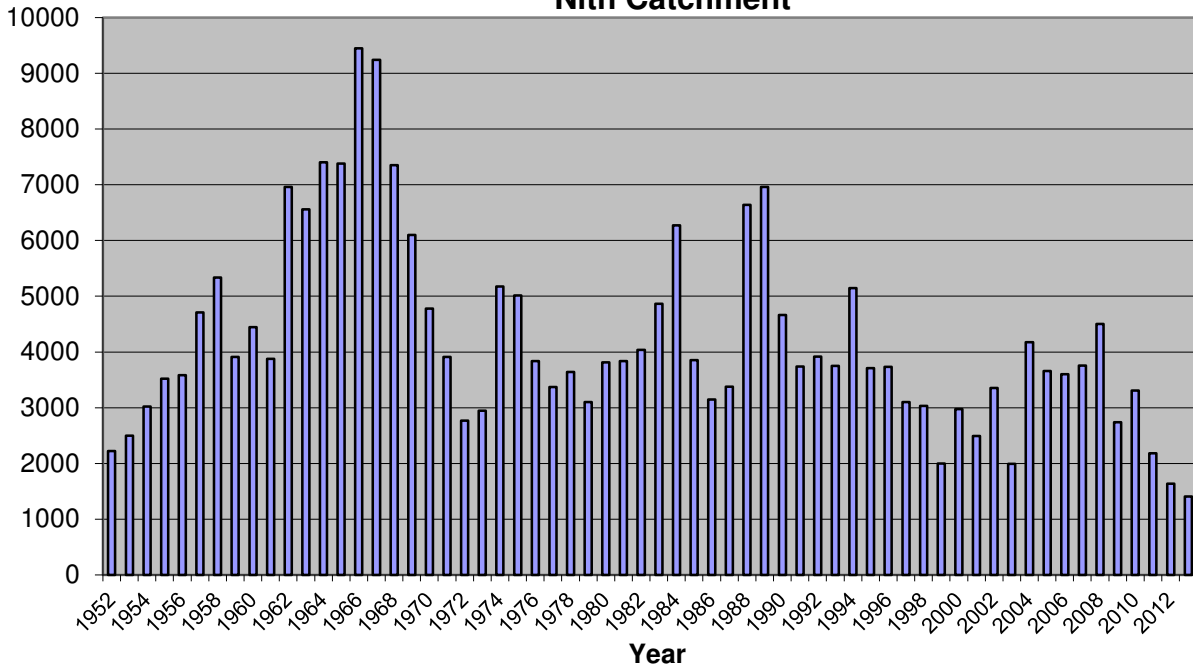
1. Complaints received:

During the last 12 months Nith District Salmon Fishery Board received no complaints.

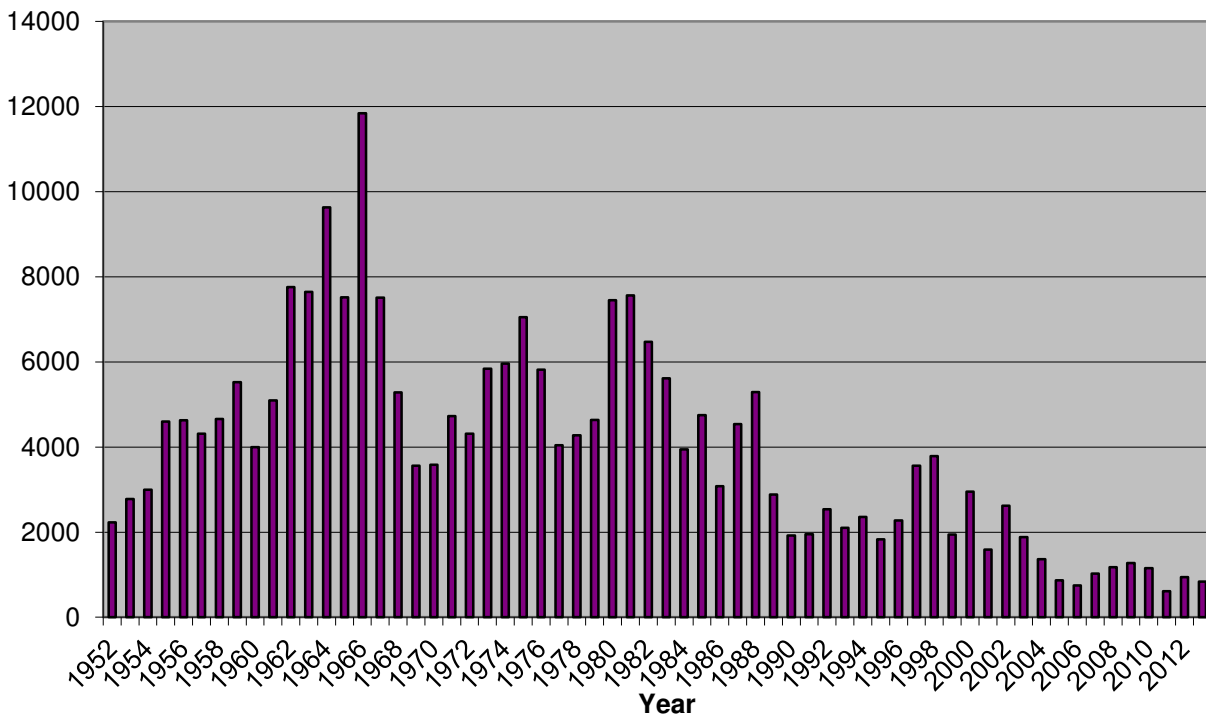
Appendix 4: Nith System Catch Data

The Board now collects its own data from all proprietors. The charts show the returns to season end 2013.

Total Salmon Caught Nith Catchment



Total Sea Trout caught Nith Catchment



Appendix 5: Catch Statistics Returns 1952-2008

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

Appendix 5: 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
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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.

Appendix 6: Clerk's notes on the Accounts

01.12.12 – 30.11.13

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

This 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. The consultancy income generated was less in the year largely as a result of the time spent on preparation of the second five year Catchment Management plan.

Other Direct Income

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.

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 Fishery Director, an Admin. Assistant, a Head Bailiff, and two seasonal Bailiffs, one of which was additional to the previous year. Seasonal members of staff were employed during the summer and Autumn. Salaries increased as a combination of employing an additional seasonal bailiff and applying the annual increase to existing salaries.

Grant to NCFT

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

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 fees paid to the Trust Biologist are also reflected in the 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 2013. 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. This increased in respect of additional training for the new Head Bailiff and the additional seasonal bailiff.

Celtic Sea Trout Project

This is a minor run off payment arising after the end of the Board's contribution to the three year project.

Insurance

Premia increased because of the engagement of an additional seasonal bailiff.

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

This increased because of the engagement of an additional seasonal bailiff.

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., computer printing peripherals. In this year there were additional copies of the Annual Report ordered. The expenditure increased as a consequence partly for advertising for post of an additional seasonal bailiff and partly because of increased administrative and bureaucratic workload arising out of the initial implementation of the new Aquaculture and Fisheries legislation. This expenditure is likely to increase still further as the full impact of the new legislation is felt.

Computer Costs

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

Hire of Equipment

Hire of quad bike required for various projects in respect of which Consultancy Income is engathered.

Accommodation & Subsistence

Attendance of staff at Bailiffs and other Fishery related Conferences and meetings. This has increased as a consequence of the Board's involvement in the Northern Periphery Project; the increased costs incurred being earmarked for claim back from the project funders at the appropriate juncture.

Legal and Professional

Advice was taken from Employment Law specialists in respect of employment issues in the year to 30.11.13. This is the final payment made in respect of the last invoice received after the close of the last financial year.

General Expenses

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

Subscriptions

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

Depreciation

A new vehicle was acquired in December 2011.

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Plant & Machinery

As detailed in the Fixed Assets Schedule.

Motor Vehicles

As detailed in the Motor Vehicles Schedule. A new vehicle was purchased in December 2011.

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.

Appendix 7: Annual Accounts

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board
Board members report and financial statements
for the year ended 30th November 2013

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

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Board members report	1
Auditors' report	2
Income and expenditure account	3
Balance sheet	4
Notes to the financial statements	5 - 7

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Board members report **for the year ended 30th November 2013**

The board members present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30th November 2013.

Principal activity

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

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

Board of Members

The members who served during the period are shown at Section C of the Report and Review.

Responsibilities of the board

We, as board members are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Board members are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. We have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Board members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the surplus or deficit of the organisation for that period. In preparing these financial statements, we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the organisation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003. We are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

The auditors, Messrs Carson & Trotter, C.A., have indicated their willingness to accept re-appointment.

This report was approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by

P Weatherall
Chairman

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Independent auditors' report to the members of The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

We have audited the financial statements of The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board for the year ended 30th November 2013 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the members, as a body, in accordance with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the organisations members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the organisation and the organisation's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of board members and auditors

As set out in the statement of board members responsibilities, the members of the board are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the organisation's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of the significant accounting estimates made by the board members ; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities of the state of the organisation's affairs as at 30th November 2013, and of its surplus/(deficit) for the period then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003 ; and
- the information given in the Board Members' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Carson & Trotter Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
123 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PE

Date:

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Income and expenditure account
for the year ended 30th November 2013

		2013	2012
	Notes	£	£
Turnover	2	210,722	240,047
Cost of sales		(34,845)	(34,989)
Gross surplus		<u>175,877</u>	<u>205,058</u>
Administrative expenses		(214,955)	(223,625)
Other operating income		415	2,468
Operating deficit	3	<u>(38,663)</u>	<u>(16,099)</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income		<u>1,489</u>	<u>1,699</u>
Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation		(37,174)	(14,400)
Tax on deficit on ordinary activities	5	(298)	(340)
Deficit for the financial year		<u><u>(37,472)</u></u>	<u><u>(14,740)</u></u>

The notes on pages 5 to 7 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Balance sheet
as at 30th November 2013

	Notes	2013		2012	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		36,132		46,517
Current assets					
Debtors	7	21,375		14,175	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,669		131,923	
		<u>122,044</u>		<u>146,098</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(4,883)</u>		<u>(1,850)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>117,161</u>		<u>144,248</u>
Net assets			<u>153,293</u>		<u>190,765</u>
Capital and reserves					
Income and expenditure account	9		<u>153,293</u>		<u>190,765</u>
Members' funds			<u>153,293</u>		<u>190,765</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on and signed on its behalf by

P Weatherall

The notes on pages 5 to 7 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30th November 2013

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year, and also have been consistently applied within the same accounts.

1.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

1.2. Revenue Recognition

In accordance with the principles of revenue recognition, income is recognised as the right to consideration obtained through performance of contractual obligations, and is included in the financial statements when the organisation is legally entitled to the income.

1.3. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Tenant's improvements	-	10% reducing balance
Plant and machinery	-	25% reducing balance
Nightsights	-	20% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance

1.4. Pensions

The board operates a defined contribution scheme. The costs of contributions are written off against profits in the year they are payable.

2. Turnover

The total turnover of the board for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the UK. The board's turnover represents the value of goods and services supplied to customers during the year.

3. Operating deficit

	2013	2012
	£	£
Operating deficit is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned assets	11,360	14,727
Auditors' remuneration	2,075	1,941
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
and after crediting:		
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	-	2,468

4. Pension costs

The organisation operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the organisation in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the organisation to the fund and amounted to £3,880 (2012 - £3,775).

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th November 2013

..... continued

5. Tax on deficit on ordinary activities

Analysis of charge in period	2013	2012
	£	£
Current tax		
UK corporation tax	298	340
	<u>298</u>	<u>340</u>

The organisation is exempt from the charge to Corporation Tax on its trading activities as agreed with HM Revenue & Customs. Corporation Tax is only chargeable on investment income arising in the period.

6. Tangible fixed assets

	Nightsights	Tenant's	Plant and	Motor	Total
	£	Improvements	machinery	vehicles	£
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1st December 2012	7,257	5,326	40,195	55,848	108,626
Additions	-	-	1,150	-	1,150
Disposals	-	-	(175)	-	(175)
At 30th November 2013	<u>7,257</u>	<u>5,326</u>	<u>41,170</u>	<u>55,848</u>	<u>109,601</u>
Depreciation					
At 1st December 2012	5,236	2,584	31,241	23,048	62,109
Charge for the year	404	274	2,482	8,200	11,360
At 30th November 2013	<u>5,640</u>	<u>2,858</u>	<u>33,723</u>	<u>31,248</u>	<u>73,469</u>
Net book values					
At 30th November 2013	<u>1,617</u>	<u>2,468</u>	<u>7,447</u>	<u>24,600</u>	<u>36,132</u>
At 30th November 2012	<u>2,021</u>	<u>2,742</u>	<u>8,954</u>	<u>32,800</u>	<u>46,517</u>

7. Debtors: all receivable within one year

	2013	2012
	£	£
Trade debtors	20,808	13,528
Prepayments and accrued income	567	647
	<u>21,375</u>	<u>14,175</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th November 2013

..... continued

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2013	2012
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	50
Other taxes and social security costs	2,898	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,985	1,800
	<u>4,883</u>	<u>1,850</u>
	<u><u>4,883</u></u>	<u><u>1,850</u></u>
9. Reserves	Income and expenditure account	Total
	£	£
At 1st December 2012	190,765	190,765
Surplus for the financial year	(37,472)	(37,472)
At 30th November 2013	<u>153,293</u>	<u>153,293</u>
	<u><u>153,293</u></u>	<u><u>153,293</u></u>
10. Controlling interest		

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board is under the control of the Board Members.

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Balance Sheet
as at 30th November 2013

	2012	2012
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tenant's Improvements	2,468	2,742
Nightsights	1,617	2,021
Plant & Machinery	7,447	8,954
Motor Vehicles	24,600	32,800
	<u>36,132</u>	<u>46,517</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors	20,808	13,528
Prepayments	567	647
Clydesdale Cashflow Account	157	5,770
Clydesdale Cash Management Account	25	21
Scottish Building Society Scotplus Account	88,466	120,624
Scottish Building Society Vehicle Account	12,021	5,508
	<u>122,044</u>	<u>146,098</u>
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors	-	50
Corporation Tax	-	-
PAYE outstanding	2,898	-
Accruals	1,985	1,800
	<u>4,883</u>	<u>1,850</u>
Net Current assets	117,161	144,248
Net assets	<u>153,293</u>	<u>190,765</u>
Income and expenditure account	<u>153,293</u>	<u>190,765</u>
Members' funds	<u>153,293</u>	<u>190,765</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Turnover		
Assessments receivable	175,390	166,698
Payments from NCF Trust	4,081	9,103
Consultancy income	31,251	64,245
	<u>210,722</u>	<u>240,046</u>
Less: Refund of dues	(34,845)	(34,989)
	<u>175,877</u>	<u>205,057</u>
 Other operating income		
Sundry Income	415	-
Bank interest	1,489	1,699
	<u>177,781</u>	<u>206,756</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
brought forward	177,781	206,756
Overheads		
Wages and salaries	108,281	92,728
Grant to NCF Trust	31,950	31,339
Trust Biologists Fees	6,300	8,450
Staff pension costs	3,880	3,775
Staff training	2,339	684
Celtic Seatrout Project	35	18,319
Insurance	3,637	3,256
Repairs and maintenance	557	2,365
Hatchery and habitat enhancement expenses	26	93
Clothing allowance	1,678	1,231
Printing, postage and stationery	3,053	1,975
Telephone and internet	2,806	3,008
Computer costs	848	1,264
Hire of equipment	975	-
Motor expenses	16,287	17,812
Accommodation and subsistence	3,910	2,640
Promotional & public relations expenses	317	-
Legal and professional	68	1,736
Clerk's fee to Walker & Sharpe	8,400	9,600
Audit fees	2,075	1,941
Bank charges	595	653
General expenses	986	972
Subscriptions	4,592	5,057
Depreciation	11,360	14,727
Gain on sale of fixed assets	-	(2,468)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(214,955)	(221,157)
(Deficit) before tax	(37,174)	(14,401)
Taxation	(298)	(340)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Deficit) for the year	(37,472)	(14,741)
Retained surplus brought forward	190,765	205,506
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained surplus carried forward	153,293	190,765
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2013

£ £

Tenant's Improvements

Opening Balance	2,742
Less: Depreciation for year @ 10%	274
Closing Balance	<u>2,468</u>

Nightsights

Opening Balance	2,021
Less: Depreciation for year @ 20%	404
Closing Balance	<u>1,617</u>

Plant & Machinery

Opening Balance	8,954
Additions	
Pruner	68
6 Stealth Cameras	750
Chainsaw & bar	332
	<u>1,150</u>
	10,104
Disposals	
Fridge	50
Camera	125
	<u>175</u>
	9,929
Less: Depreciation for year @ 25%	2,482
Closing Balance	<u>7,447</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2013

	£	£
<u>Motor Vehicles</u>		
Landrover Defender SA09 SKN - balance b/f	6,633	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	1,658	
	<hr/>	4,975
Landrover Discovery - balance b/f	26,167	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	6,542	
	<hr/>	19,625
Closing book value		<hr/> <hr/>
		24,600