

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW 1st December 2013 - 30th November 2014



Adult Brown Trout Captured During Fish Rescue

Contents

AGENDA	3
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	4
Chairman’s Foreword	8
1. Constitution and Area	9
2. Invitees	9
3. Research and Improvement	9
4. Staff	9
5. Objectives	10
6. How the Board Works	10
7. Funding	10
8. Constitutional Evolution	10
9. Fish Species present in the Nith	11
10. Fishing Methods	11
11. Salmon and Sea Trout Populations	11
12. Marine Pressures/International Impact	11
13. Angling Availability	12
14. Water Quality and Riparian Habitat	12
15. Fish Access	12
16. Riparian Habitat Assessment and Management	12
17. Juvenile Salmon and Trout Populations	13
18. Hatchery Stocking	14
19. Sea Trout/Brown Trout	14
20. Predators – Statistics	14
21. Exploitation	15
22. Salmonid Stocks	15
23. Celtic Sea Trout Project	16
24. Engineering and Other Works	16
25. Illegal Fishing	16
26. Catch & Release Conservation Policy	17
27. Legislation and its Development	17
28. Summary of Events from 01.12.13 – 30.11.14	19
29. Biologist’s Report 2014	19
Nith District Salmon Fishery Board Statement	19
Nith Fishery Management Plan Prescriptions	20
Incidents of Illegal Fishing Poaching Activities - 01.12.13 – 30.11.14	23
Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects - 01.12.13 – 30.11.14	25
Appendices	27
1. Attendances at Board Meetings	28
2. Statement of Good Governance Compliance	29
3. Register of Complaints	29
4. Nith System Catch Data	30
5. Nith Salmon and Sea Trout Catches 1952 – 2008	30
6. Clerk’s Notes and Accounts	37
7. Annual Accounts	39

AGENDA

for the

ANNUAL PROPRIETORS MEETING

for year

01.12.13 - 30.11.14

1. Minutes of Annual General Proprietors Meeting 25.03.14
2. Annual Report
3. Annual Accounts
4. Management Plans for the Forthcoming Year and the Near Future
5. AOCB

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

on

25 March 2014 at 10.00 am

PRESENT

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishing
Mark Coombs – Buccleuch Estates Limited
Wally Wright – Netting Representative
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock
David Kempself – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Thomas Florey – Smiths Gore
Peter Landale - Dalswinton
Brian Fox – P.O.F.R.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Roana Clark
Peter Hutchison
Dougie Smith
Ed Baxter
David Tait

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 – Fishery Reporter

The Chairman welcomed those attending, introduced himself, opened the meeting and asked the Clerk to address the meeting.

The Clerk advised those present about the new legislation and procedures and the requirement to hold two annual meetings. The first of these is the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors convened for today. The second is the Annual Public Meeting, to be convened on 12th June 2014. These meetings replace the Annual General Meeting. The Clerk advised that he had written to all proprietors in good time to advise them of the date of this meeting and the Agenda contents and had requested their contact email address in order to make communications more effective and efficient, especially in emergency situations. The Clerk reported that in addition the date for this convened meeting had been published on the Board's website with more than the required notice having been given to anyone who wanted to attend.

The Clerk informed those present of the code of good governance, which requires a record of members of the public attending Board meetings be kept for Scottish Government compliance and asked that those who had not made themselves known to Shona Mitchell to do so now for the purposes of having a complete record of attendance. The Board meeting agendas and documentation will be publicised through the website: www.river-nith.com.

The Clerk referred to the Agenda for the meeting comprised in three agenda items (as follows)

1. BOARD'S ACTIVITIES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR – (reference the draft annual report)

The Clerk referred to the draft Annual Report, published on the website. It was not in final form because any issues that might be raised during this meeting that might occasion alterations to the draft Annual report would have to be taken account of.

The Clerk advised that in circulating notice of the Annual Proprietors Meeting he had also asked for advance written notice of any questions or issues that anyone might competently wish to raise in order for such questions and issues to be properly addressed and dealt with as fully as possible. The Clerk advised that no questions had been submitted and asked for any comments/questions/queries from those present regarding the draft Annual Report. None were raised.

2. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – (reference the draft annual report)

The Clerk referred to the accounts and his notes thereon in the draft Annual Report, requesting any questions. No questions were raised. The Clerk asked for approval of the draft Annual Report and the Accounts. There was unanimous agreement of all present that the draft Annual Report and Annual Accounts be accepted and taken forward to the Annual Public Meeting.

3. MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR AND THE NEAR FUTURE – (reference the draft annual report and Fishery Management Plan)

The Clerk referred to the areas of work and planning of the Board's activities that were detailed in the draft Annual Report and advised of the time, effort and consultation process that had resulted in the production of the settled Fishery management Plan in winter 2013. He asked for any questions/comments on the publication.

Peter Landale stated that at the previous Board meeting it was agreed that reporting would be put in place on how the Fishery Management Plan prescriptions were accomplished/addressed. The Chairman agreed and stated that this would be incorporated within the regular reports of the Fishery Director and the Fishery Biologist to Board meetings.

Thomas Florey referred to the recent problems with flooding and asked if the Board had found SEPA's approach to flood banks and gravel abstraction had relaxed to accommodate works. FD responded by stating that SEPA are bound by the EU water framework directive, however due to the damage to thousands of homes across the country from recent flooding the people are demanding changes to be made in order to safeguard their homes. FD predicts SEPA looking upon removal of some areas of sediment build up, more favourably if properly conducted with correct licences etc. if it would potentially save homes. A discussion ensued regarding the management of the river courses.

The Clerk advised that a licence must be obtained from SEPA in order to do any works relating to a watercourse but that SEPA seemed to have relaxed the process by which these licences are obtained, rather than changing the rules/law that must be adhered to.

The Clerk asked for any further questions and there were none.

4. A.O.B.

Robbie Cowan informed all present that at The Nith Estuary Haaf Netters Association AGM the Chairman Ronald Clark and the Treasurer Tom Brown both resigned. They will be holding an extraordinary AGM to elect a new Chairman and Treasurer. Therefore the association is dormant at the moment.

The Clerk advised that he had received no confirmation from Ronnie Clark that he was retiring, but on the assumption that he was, there were three Board members that have retired from the Board these being Mr Tom Brown – Netting Representative (Lower Co-optees), Mr Ronald Clark – Drumburn (Lower Proprietors) and David Mathews – Blackwood Estate (Upper Co-optees).

The Clerk outlined the election/co-opting procedures for assuming new Board members and asked if there were any views or suggestions on replacing these Board members, pointing out that whoever was suggested would

have to fulfil the equivalent status of the retired Board member and be chosen from among upper and lower river representation as appropriate.

It was suggested that Richard Gladwin (of Blackwood) be put forward for the upper co-optees position. The Clerk asked for any other nominations for this position. There were none. It was unanimously agreed that an invitation be put forward to Richard Gladwin of Blackwood for him to join the Board as an upper co-optee.

David Kempself suggested Roana Clark be elected to the Board, this was agreed. However Roana Clark responded by stating that her interest in joining the Board would need to be voted on at the next committee meeting of the Common Good Fishings on the 28th April. She undertook to inform the Board of the outcome.

It was suggested that Peter Hutchison (of Douglas Hall Fishing) be put forward for the Lower Proprietors position. The Clerk asked for any other nominations for this position. There were none. It was unanimously agreed to put and an invitation to Peter Hutchison to join the Board as a Lower Proprietor. He agreed to accept the position of Lower Proprietor.

FD reported that during the previous week he attended the ASFB/RAFTS AGM and the main topic of discussion was the Scottish Government's review of Boards and Trusts to be conducted by Andrew Thin and his management team. The review will be completed by September and could have serious repercussions for the future of Boards and Trusts.

FD outlined some of the implications of this review and reported that three models have been discussed. At present there are 41 Fishery Boards in Scotland, model one looked at reducing the number to 20 Fishery Boards, model two looked at reducing the number to 10 Fishery Boards and model three looked at reducing the number to 8 Fishery Boards in Scotland. This would equate to the loss of some Fishery Boards and amalgamations/takeover of others. FD will be engaging with Andrew Thin and his team in the next 5 months and will have the opportunity to discuss and interact with him and his management team.

ASFB are looking to protect the successful Fishery Boards so these skill sets are not lost or diluted when amalgamating with under achieving Boards. A discussion ensued as to the uncertain implications for the Boards and the Trusts. FD advised that he had been making sure that NDSFB and NCFT were fit for purpose and compliant to all targets set. FB had spoken to a member of the management team and the discussion was very positive, confirming that the Nith is held in high regard and that if the Nith was approached to do something it would be guaranteed to be done.

Thomas Florey voiced his concerns that wild fisheries is a huge subject to cover in 6 months and that the review can't possibly take everything into account sufficiently.

Peter Landale voiced his concern that this would be a distraction to the Nith Fishery Management Plan prescriptions and the time frame for them to be completed. FD agreed and asked all present what they would like him to focus his efforts on, the Nith prescriptions or the survival of the Fishery Boards and Trusts.

It was unanimously agreed that FD will continue to balance his workload and prioritise the review while keeping the Nith prescriptions in mind.

The Clerk advised that it is likely that the proprietor's right of property of salmon fishings will be undermined. While they will still retain the property rights it is likely that the management of the fishery will be changed by the outcome of the review to the effect that they will be managed as part of some form of national environmental management scheme and that local management as the Board currently understood it would be diminished or lost.

Roana Clark asked how the Board could put its point of view over to Andrew Thin and his management team. FD stated that Mr Thin has announced 18 venues across Scotland to meet and engage with Boards and Trusts. FD will be attending as many as possible locally and informed all present that ASFB strongly advise that no private meetings be sought with Mr Thin as he is committed to meeting his deadline and any such action would be poorly received and could possibly be damaging to our position. A discussion ensued as to the possible future Board catchment areas, funding, administration, staffing etc.

FD stated that the Fishery Boards have existed for 150 years and that he has been tasked by ASFB to open a dialog with the Scottish Netting Association to engage with netting representatives. The Nith have

representatives of both upper and lower and angling and netting interests on the Board, however not all Boards do.

The Clerk informed all present that he will write to all proprietors that have not provided him with a contact email address to request a contact email address, in order to keep them apprised of any changes. Roana Clark informed all present that monthly bulletins are available on the Scottish Governments website for publications of interest. Roana Clark asked if Andrew Thin's review should be reported to the Common Good Committee to get support locally as local councillors are not aware of this review. FD agreed that it should be on the agenda for the Common Good Committee meeting.

FD reported that the Fish Nith meeting held at the Blackwood hatchery office was well attended and it seemed the river proprietors will get together to make Fish Nith successful. FD and David McMichael are part of the newly formed subcommittee for Fish Nith.

FD reported that DGAA have approached the Board and Trust concerning a project for stocking trout into the Cairn Water. In order to harness the wild stocks currently present in the Cairn Water, wild adult brown trout would be captured then incubated and released back into the Cairn Water. DGAA would like to use the Board's hatchery and staff to oversee the project. FD stated that brown trout are not part of the Board's working remit, however the biology between brown trout and sea trout are one of the same and this project could in fact benefit sea trout by assisting brown trout. The Board would be completely funded for the project by DGAA. FD reported that the proposal for the project is at an early stage and the Board would need to acquire a licence from the Scottish Government and other permissions before going ahead. David Kempself reiterated DGAA's intentions for the project and stated that DGAA have contacted New Cumnock Angling Association as they have a successful hatchery operation. The Chairman agreed to take this item forward to the next Board meeting.

The Chairman informed all present the Trust AGM had taken place the previous evening at which it was announced that the Trust will be holding a fund raising event at the Easterbrook Hall on the 25th October with entertainment etc. to raise the profile of the river and raise money for the Trust.

The Chairman announced that The Clerk is celebrating his 25th anniversary with the Board this year and offered him thanks on behalf of the Board for his services to the Board and the river. The Chairman also announced that FD is celebrating his 30th anniversary with the Board this year and thanked him on behalf of the Board for his dedication to the Board and the river. The Chairman reiterated the importance of having the Clerk and FD's valuable experience for the future uncertainty of Fishery Boards.

Roana Clark announced the next Stake Holders Meeting will be held on the 24th June 2014 and extended an invitation to all present to attend. The Chairman stated that this would be circulated.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.01.

Chairman's Foreword



The fall in catches of salmon and sea trout on the River Nith continued, one might say accelerated, during 2014. As recently as 2008 some of the best catches for decades were enjoyed by many on our rivers. Last year they were the worst. Needless to say I am extremely concerned by this decline.

Across Scotland rivers are experiencing reductions in catches, some more, some less, but the problem seems to be both national and international. Salmon and sea trout numbers have always functioned cyclically for reasons that are, at best, only partially understood. There is a growing suspicion that the source of the current decline lies in the marine environment where research into activities of migratory salmonids is notoriously difficult.

Another major feature of 2014 is the completion and publication of, on behalf of the Scottish Government, Andrew Thin's Wild Fisheries Review. This review makes many recommendations which, if adopted, will have a profound effect on how our river is managed. Amongst these recommendations are proposed the disbanding of River Boards and Trusts and replacing them with fewer "Local Fishery Management Organisations." We will do whatever we can to ensure that change, when it comes, is for the better so far as the Nith Catchment is concerned.

In the meantime we will work with our colleagues from other rivers, to urge the Scottish Government to allocate resources towards investigating the plight of salmonids, particularly in the marine environment, where individual rivers like ours are powerless.

During 2014 we continue to do good work in areas where we can make a difference. Minimising damage from wind farms, hydrogenerators, destruction of vermin, control of invasive non-native species, habitat improvement and education to name just a few.

Notwithstanding the low catches there was a sharp increase in the percentage of our fish caught and released. It is vital that this trend continues until there is a recovery in fish numbers. All anglers are urged to resist the temptation to kill fish.

My term as Chairman has so far, to my regret, coincided with a worrying decline in catches in the Nith. I know we will do what we can to optimise conditions on our river while encouraging and supporting work in international waters. The ways of migratory salmonids is, to say the least, mysterious. You may, however, be assured that I, your Board and your Trust will do what we can to improve the situation.

Let us all hope for a better season in 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E.P.K. Weatherall'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

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 Ronnie Clark	North Corbely Caerlaverock Estate Drumburn
Upper Proprietors	Peter Landale Nick Brown Nick Wright Mark Coombs David Kempsell	Dalswinton Estate Friars Carse Closeburn Castle Fishing Buccleuch Estates Limited D & G Angling Association
Lower Co-optees	Peter Hutchison Wally Wright	Netting Representative Netting Representative
Upper Co-optees	Richard Gladwin Danny Marshall Thomas Florey Jim Gregory Tom McAughtrie	Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative

- During the course of the year Ronald Clark intimate his desire to retire from the Board
- Rob Davidson retired and the Board accepted Tom McAuctrie as a new Angling Representative
- Tom Brown retired and the Board accepted Peter Hutchison a new lower co-optee
- David Mathews retired and the Board accepted Richard Gladwin as a new Upper co-optee

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

The Fishery Director is qualified in the diploma of Institute of Fisheries Management 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 Proprietors 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 adheres to the statement of Good Governance (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 (*lampetra planeri*). In recent years a number of local lochs have been stocked with rainbow trout (*oncorhynchus mykiss*) that have subsequently found routes into the 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 four angling associations on the River Nith as follows: -

Dumfries & Galloway Council (Burgh Anglers Association)
 Dumfries & Galloway 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 2014, a total of 115 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.

In order that we can compare year to year performance we have selected 10 sites throughout the catchment. These sites are located on the main stream River Nith and its tributaries. The ten sites will be sampled every year and it is anticipated that over time, long term trends will be established. The intention here is to detect any issues specific to individual areas of our catchment and enable managers to address those issues timeously.

Table 1. Density of juvenile salmonids per 100m²

Site	Watercourse - Location	Salmon fry	Salmon parr	Trout fry	Trout parr
1	Nith - Nith Lodge	9	16	38	3
2	Nith - Boig Road Bridge	6	21	0	0
3	Nith - Guildhall Bridge	30	12	0	0
4	Nith - Auldgirth New bridge	3	1	0	3
5	Nith - Martington Railway	12	0	0	0
6	Crawick - Spango bridge	17	5	1	0
7	Mennock - Glenim	5	9	8	6
8	Scaur - Glenwhargen	44	24	32	8
9	Cample - Kirkbog Farm	64	5	4	0
10	Dalwhat Water - Bailwood	0	4	1	2

Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor	Very Poor	Absent
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Sites 1 to 5 are all main stem River Nith, starting with Site 1 at Nith Lodge, which is the most northerly site, and working downstream to Site 5 near Nunholm in Dumfries. Throughout these sites there was an average of 12 salmon fry (moderate), 10 salmon parr (good), 7.6 trout fry (moderate) and 1.2 trout parr (very poor) found to be present. It is to be expected that higher densities of juvenile salmonids are to be found in the main stem of the river as trout generally prefer smaller rivers to spawn in. The number of juvenile salmonids spawning in the River Nith varies from site to site, mostly due to the type of instream habitat available to them. Electrofishing in main stem locations is notoriously difficult due to the increased depth and flow of the water.

It can be seen that the Scaur Water is one of our most productive rivers, containing excellent densities of salmon fry and parr, and trout fry. The Crawick and the Mennock contain poor to moderate densities of juvenile salmon with the Mennock containing more trout parr.

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 2014 at the following locations:

Species	Number	Location
Salmon	17915	Nith (Kier)
Salmon	94531	Euchan Water
Salmon	74747	Wanlock Water
Sea Trout	12000	Menock Water
Sea Trout	565	Kello Water
Sea Trout	565	Pennyland Burn
Sea Trout	565	Crawick Water
Sea Trout	565	Marr Burn
Sea Trout	14293	Nith (Kier)

Total fry stocked out **215746**

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 "Fishing for the Future" 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 2014 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, Maxwellton High, Wallacehall activity group, and St Teresa's nursery group .

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.

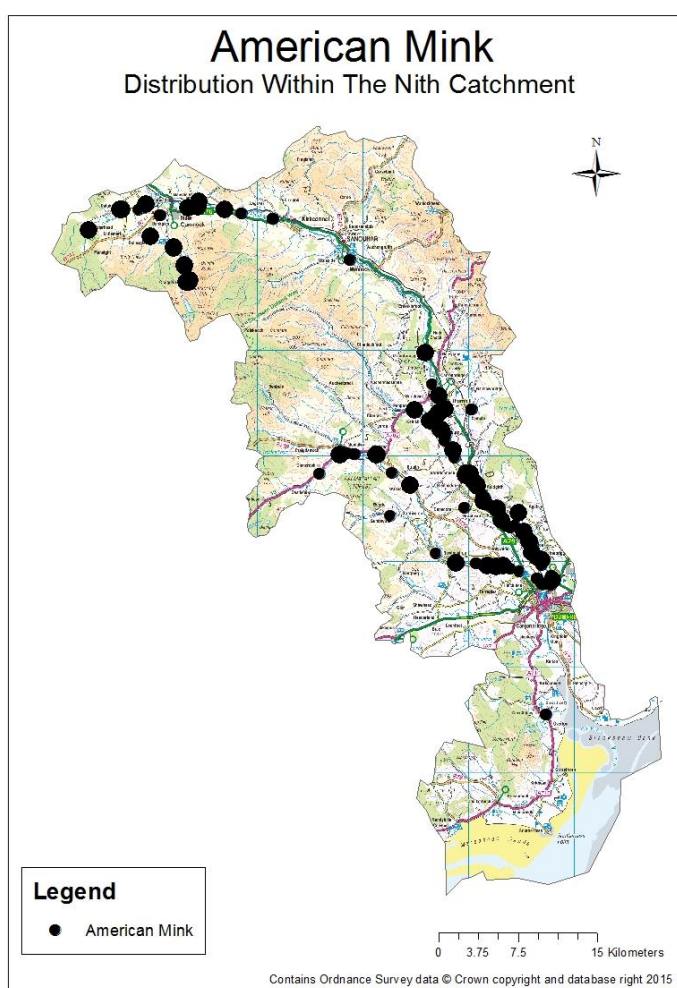
20. Predators - Statistics

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 Scottish Natural Heritage 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. Ten 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 2014, 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. Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis and Saprolegnia sampling

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board has part funded and supported a PhD research project which is investigating skin infections of wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout. The background to this project is that in recent years a number of wild Atlantic salmon have turned up in some Scottish rivers infected by Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) and there are concerns that this could increase. NDSFB would all like to know more about this disease in order that if it flares up we may be better equipped to treat it or prevent its spread. In addition the project is researching all other skin infections including the common saprolegnia fungus often seen on salmon and sea trout.

This is important research that cannot be conducted without access to samples. The River Nith samples were collected from fish that were captured during hatchery brood stock operations and from samples that were gained whilst electrofishing.

24. Engineering and Other Works

Open Cast Coal Mining

Open cast coal mining continues within the River Nith catchment. 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 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 rescuing fish from the original channel and transferring them to a place of safety whilst the diversion was taking place. The diversion took place in June without incident.

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

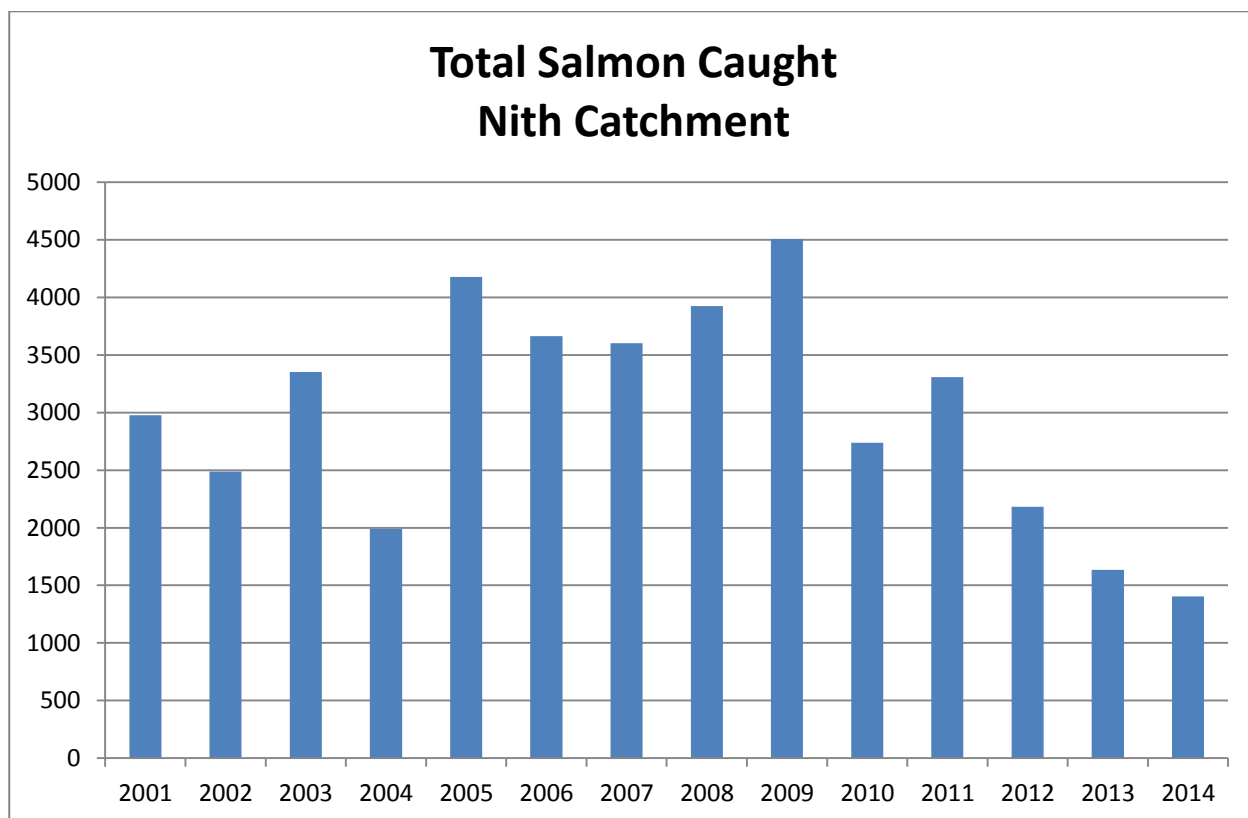
The Board has been consulted by the Forestry Commission and private Forestry interests regarding many forest plans throughout the catchment. Forest design plans indicate the management actions such as harvesting, replanting and the time scales when these operations are likely to occur. The Board responds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

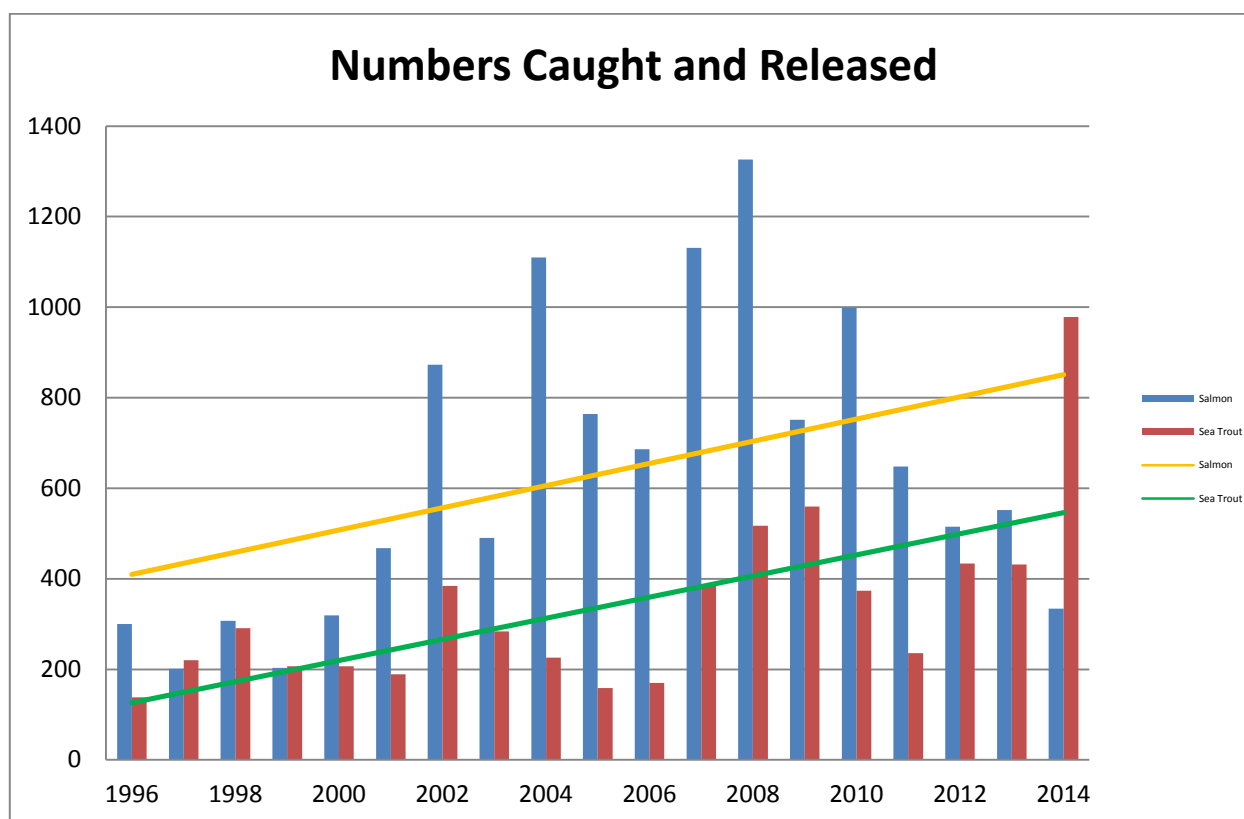
25. Illegal Fishing

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 harder 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 including the Wild Fisheries Review which was conducted by Andrew Thin during 2014. 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 01.12.13 - 30.11.14

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:-

10th December 2013,

11th February 2014,

25th March 2014 (Annual General Proprietors Meeting),

12th June 2014,

12th June 2014 (Annual Public Meeting),

12th September 2014.

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.

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

All coal mining Technical Working Groups, Bailiff Training meetings, Dumfries Burgh Fishings Sub Committee, Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, Burgh Anglers AGM, Environment Days, Burgh Work party days, Annual Bailiffs conference, Fish counters meeting, Crayfish meeting with the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, 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, various site meetings to discuss renewable energy proposals and many other events to promote the work of the Board. The Fishery Director chairs the national Water Bailiff Development Group and has assisted the Scottish Government with its discussions with the Salmon Net Fishing Association.

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 2014

The last year has had its ups and downs. The lack of salmon caught during 2014 highlighted the ever decreasing downturn in salmon numbers and the fact that this is not just happening on the Nith or even just the Solway rivers but that nearly all rivers throughout Scotland have experienced poor numbers of returning adult salmon. In fact, these same decreases are being experienced in Iceland, Norway, Canada and other European countries. This all points to the fact that the problems are happening out at sea. It is, however, very difficult to track salmon once they are out at sea and although a lot of research has been carried out over the last few years into the marine phase of the salmon's lifecycle, there are still large knowledge gaps. On a local level, we can continue to protect the salmon in its freshwater environment and try to ensure that those salmon that do make it back have the best opportunity to spawn and that juveniles have the best chance of survival. We therefore come back to what we can do at a local level and the Trust will continue its work towards improving fish habitat, monitoring and researching the aquatic environment and promoting best practice and conservation initiatives to increase fish stocks. However, it is not just the Trust or Board which is responsible for making sure that future generations get to enjoy the pastime of fishing for salmon. Anglers, farmers, landowners, industry and other river users also need to be responsible for their actions.

On a more positive note, the Fishing for the Future project, which started in 2013 to raise awareness of the aquatic environment and introduce young people to fishing, has been a great success. During 2014 over 450 individuals took part in 86 sessions and were given the opportunity to learn all about salmon, aquatic

invertebrates, electrofishing, fishing and commercial fisheries. Over 30% of the children who took part said they would like to take up fishing as a result of the project and many more found that they had more respect for the aquatic environment and the animals that reside in it. Encouraging young people into angling is a vital part of ensuring the future of fishing in Scotland. However, providing the next generation with an understanding of how human activities can impact, not just on the number of fish in the river, but the local economy and tourist industry is just as important. These could be our future farmers, teachers, construction workers, civil servants and possibly even prime ministers.



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 was written and approved in 2014. 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 Police Scotland
National Organisations (Fisheries)	Scottish Government (Marine Scotland) Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) 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 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.

Prescription	Actions
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailiff team comprised 1 full time, 2 part-time, 1 seasonal and 2 volunteer warranted water bailiffs • 7 incidents dealt with by enforcement staff – 1 plead guilty, 2 active and 4 cautioned
Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in 2013 catch and release rates • Consulted on Scottish Government Spring Conservation Legislation • Conservation promoted through education projects and outreach programmes and distributions of conservation codes
Engineering and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish rescues conducted for Kier river diversion and for Forestry Commission • Five juvenile fish surveys carried out in connection with engineering works taking place throughout the catchment • Four responses made with regard to forestry plans • Advised on DGAA river engineering works

Renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten surveys carried out in connection with renewables taking place throughout the catchment • Thirteen scoping responses made regarding renewables projects • Nine reports submitted
Planning and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulted on SEPA Flood Management Plan, Whitesands Flood Prevention Scheme and SW Drought Plan.
Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 183 stands of Japanese knotweed treated (98% success rate), 10196.4m² of Giant hogweed treated, 2297m² of Himalayan balsam treated and 373.2m² of Skunk cabbage treated • 59 signal crayfish trapped • Biosecurity signs erected
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat schemes checked and repaired • 3km of river bank planted with over 5000 native trees • Reed bed clearance for Natterjack Toads
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrier data submitted to RAFTS/SEPA • Culvert surveys and barrier assessments conducted • Greenburn Burn barrier modified
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six pollution incidents attended and reported to SEPA • Unlicensed gravel removal reported to SEPA
Marine survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work carried out on application to conduct marine research • Fish counter meeting attended
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended meetings/consultations regarding Wild Fisheries Review • Various meetings attended • Responded to stocking applications • Staff training and appraisals carried out
Predation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licenses applied for and culls carried out • 10 mink trapped
Fish stocks and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 catch data analysed • Annual electrofishing sites surveyed • UDN/Fungus samples taken
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 189,000 salmon fry and 27,000 sea trout fry stocked • Post stocking electrofishing surveys carried out • Brood stock captured
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 of Fishing for the Future Project completed – 447 participants took part • Various shows and fairs attended • Presentations given to other organisations • PR via website, social media, TV and newspapers

Incidents of illegal Fishing/Poaching Activities 1/12/13 - 30/11/14

- One incident dealt with in Burgh Water - Cautioned
- Case taken involving two illegal fishers on Blackwood Estate
- Case taken - Kirkconnel Estate
- Case taken - Kirkconnel Estate
- Cautions issued - Two anglers at Sanquhar cautioned for fishing without a grayling fishing permit in December.
- Incident involving two persons in Burgh Water - Cautioned
- Equipment seizure on Blackwood Estate - Reported to police

Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects - 1st December 2013 to 30th November 2014

During 2014 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.

Appendices:

1. Attendances at Board Meetings	28
2. Statement of Good Governance Compliance	29
3. Register of Complaints	29
4. Nith System Catch Data	30
5. Nith District Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 1952-2008	30
6. Clerk's notes on the Accounts	37
7. Annual Accounts	39

Appendix 1: Attendances at Board Meetings

Board Meeting Dates	No. Board Members Attended	Attendance Rate (%)
10 th December 2013	12 (max 16)	75
11 th February 2014	8 (max 15)	50
25 th March 2014 (AGPM)	9 (max 15)	56
12 th June 2014 + (APM)	10 (max 15)	63
12 th September 2014	10 (max 15)	63

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees (apologies)
10 th December 2013	Percy Weatherall – Chairman David Kempzell Ronald Clark John Kingan Robbie Cowan Wally Wright Jim Gregory Danny Marshall Peter Landale Mark Coombs Nick Brown Nick Wright Thomas Florey
11 th February 2014	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Nick Brown David Kempzell Jim Gregory John Kingan Wally Wright Peter Landale Mark Coombs Robbie Cowan Thomas Florey Tom McAughtrie Nick Wright
25 th March 2014 (AGPM)	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Nick Wright Mark Coombs Wally Wright Robbie Cowan David Kempzell Thomas Florey Peter Landale Brian Fox (stand in for Nick Brown)
12 th June 2014 + (APM)	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Nick Wright Mark Coombs Wally Wright Robbie Cowan David Kempzell Peter Landale Jim Gregory Danny Marshall Nick Brown Thomas Florey Tom McAughtrie John Kingan

12th September 2014	Percy Weatherall – Chairman Mark Coombs Wally Wright Robbie Cowan David Kempzell Peter Landale Danny Marshall Richard Gladwin Peter Hutchinson Thomas Florey Nick Wright Nick Brown John Kingan
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Appendix 2: Statement of Good Governance Compliance

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 6th May 2014. Five members of the public chose to attend. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed at www.river-nith.com

The annual public meeting was held on 12th June 2014 at Friars Carse Country House Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries. 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 13th May 2014. One member of the public chose to attend. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed at www.river-nith.com

In addition, further meetings of the Board were held on 10th December 2013, 11th February 2014 and 12th September 2014. 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. 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

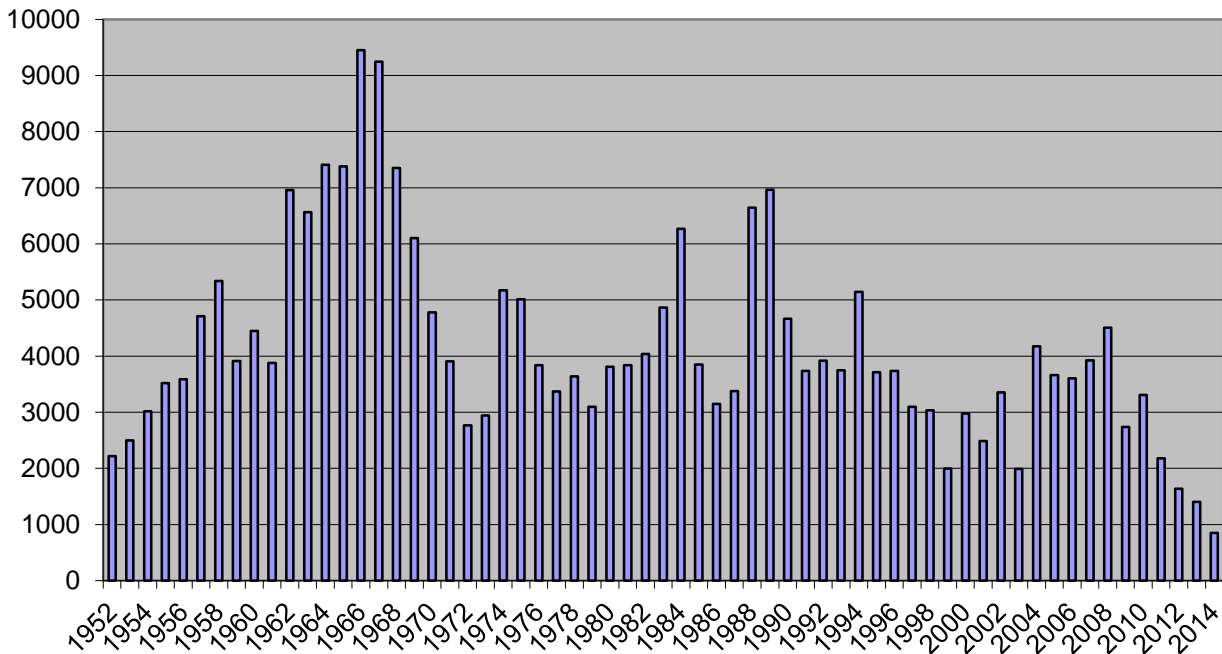
1. Complaints received:

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

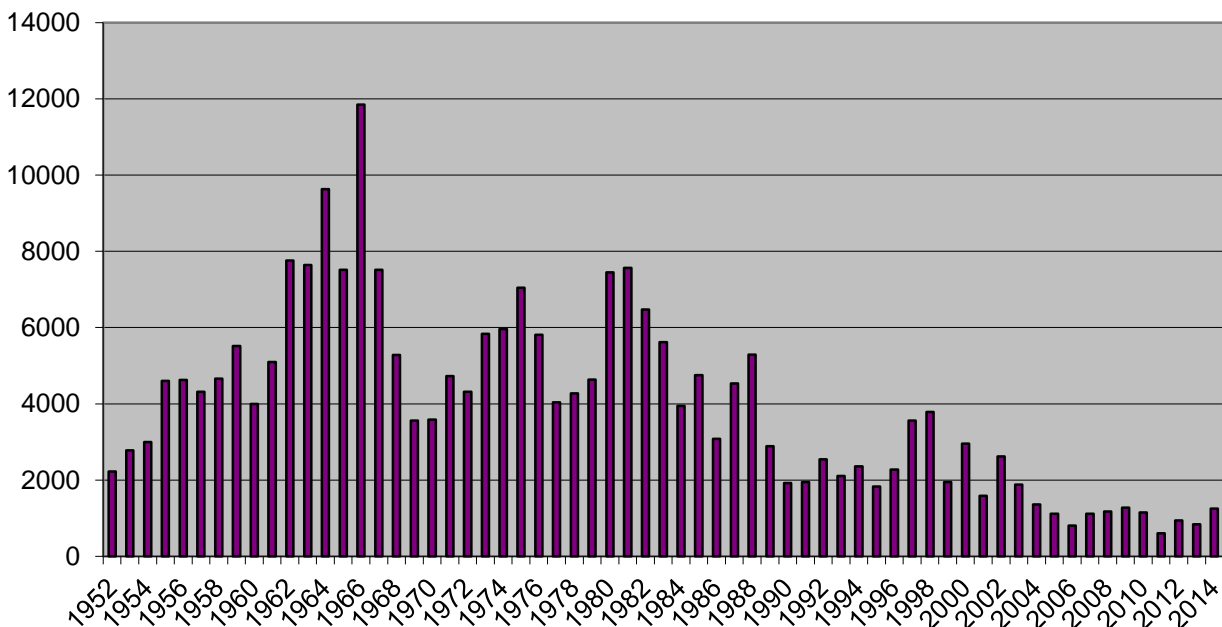
Appendix 4: Nith System Catch Data

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

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.

NDSFB collects fishery data from all proprietors on an annual basis and the tables below show that information.

Annual Salmon and Grilse Catch Data 2005 – 2014

Salmon and grilse					
Year	Rods	Nets	Total	% C&R	10 year average
2007	2993	932	3925	41%	3121
2008	3764	740	4504	35%	3268
2009	2095	644	2739	36%	3342
2010	2336	970	3306	43%	3375
2011	1637	545	2182	40%	3344
2012	1283	352	1635	40%	3173
2013	940	465	1405	59%	3114
2014	520	331	851	64%	2781

Annual Sea Trout Catch Data 2005 – 2014

Sea trout					
Year	Rods	Nets	Total	% C&R	10 year average
2007	1022	100	1122	43%	1919
2008	961	217	1178	52%	1658
2009	1104	136	1240	49%	1588
2010	850	303	1153	44%	1408
2011	515	94	609	46%	1310
2012	782	163	945	55%	1142
2013	671	170	841	62%	1038
2014	1119	132	1251	87%	1026

Appendix 6: Clerk's notes on the Accounts

Clerks Notes on the Accounts

01.12.13 – 30.11.14

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Turnover

Assessments Receivable

The Sums raised by assessment issued to the Proprietors of Salmon Fishing's 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 has increased substantially over the last year as a consequence of staff having more time to deal with consultancy work following on completion of the five year fishery management plan in the previous year.

Refund of dues

The proportion of refund arising during this accounting year agreed to be paid by the Board to the Proprietors in the last fiscal year (round figures - £35,000).

Other operating income

Sundry Income

Arises from donations and the like.

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, Head Bailiff and an Admin. Assistant. Seasonal staff employed during the summer months reduced to one seasonal bailiff. Seasonal members of staff were employed during the summer and autumn free of salary on a work experience basis. Wages and Salaries reduced as a result.

Grant to NCFT

The Board agreed some time ago to support the formation and initial running costs of NCFT. This period shows the year's level of 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 2012. The Board contributes pension contribution of 7.5% of salary paid to employees who have pension plans.

Staff Training

Reduced this year, following on from the training courses completed in the previous year by the newly employed head bailiff.

Celtic Sea Trout Project

This project and thus the Board's contribution to it has finished.

Insurance

Premia increased in line with industry increases.

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. A new Burglar Alarm was installed after break-in to neighbouring estate buildings.

Habitat & Hatchery Expenses

The Board is responsible for two hatchery buildings and re stocking work. Habitat Enhancement was carried out during the course of the year as detailed within the Annual Report.

Clothing Allowance

Payments for staff closing.

Printing, Postage & Stationary

Costs have reduced as a consequence of the decision to publish and circulate the Annual Report on line.

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. This has increased as a consequence of increased consultancy work carried out during the year, giving rise to increased use of the Fishery Director's quad bike.

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

No independent specialist legal advice required during the course of the year.

Clerk's Fees

Increased as a consequence of added workload on consultancy on Wild Fisheries Review and compliance with the 2012 legislation.

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 November 2014 and the old one traded in.

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 November 2014.

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

Balance Sheet
as at 30th November 2014

	2014	2013
£	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tenant's Improvements	2,221	2,468
Nightsights	1,294	1,617
Plant & Machinery	5,805	7,447
Motor Vehicles	32,750	24,600
	<u>42,070</u>	<u>36,132</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors	10,213	20,808
Prepayments	1,421	567
Clydesdale Cashflow Account	26,528	157
Clydesdale Cash Management Account	25	25
Scottish Building Society Scotplus Account	88,700	88,466
Scottish Building Society Vehicle Account	2,503	12,021
	<u>129,390</u>	<u>122,044</u>
Current Liabilities		
PAYE outstanding	-	2,898
Accruals	2,150	1,985
	<u>2,150</u>	<u>4,883</u>
Net Current assets	127,240	117,161
Net assets	<u>169,310</u>	<u>153,293</u>
Income and expenditure account	<u>169,310</u>	<u>153,293</u>
Members' funds	<u>169,310</u>	<u>153,293</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2014

	2014	2013
	£	£
Turnover		
Assessments receivable	182,860	175,390
Payments from NCF Trust	9,297	4,081
Consultancy income	70,281	31,250
	<u>262,438</u>	<u>210,721</u>
Less: Refund of dues	(35,043)	(34,845)
	<u>227,395</u>	175,876
 Other operating income		
Sundry Income	400	415
Bank interest	1,177	1,489
	<u>228,972</u>	<u>177,780</u>
Total income	228,972	177,780

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2014

	2014	2013
£	£	£
brought forward	228,972	177,780
Overheads		
Wages and salaries	100,159	108,281
Grant to NCF Trust	32,541	31,950
Trust Biologists Fees	8,400	6,300
Staff pension costs	4,006	3,880
Staff training	150	2,339
Celtic Seatrout Project	-	35
Insurance	3,789	3,637
Repairs and maintenance	2,901	557
Hatchery and habitat enhancement expenses	1,088	26
Clothing allowance	1,240	1,678
Printing, postage and stationery	1,567	3,053
Telephone and internet	3,094	2,806
Computer costs	515	848
Hire of equipment	2,382	975
Motor expenses	18,467	16,287
Accommodation and subsistence	3,189	3,910
Promotional & public relations expenses	1,356	317
Legal and professional	-	68
Clerk's fee to Walker & Sharpe	8,820	8,400
Audit fees	1,975	2,075
Bank charges	553	595
General expenses	831	986
Subscriptions	5,801	4,592
Depreciation	13,421	11,360
Gain on sale of fixed assets	(3,525)	-
	(212,720)	(214,955)
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	16,252	(37,175)
Taxation	(235)	(298)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	16,017	(37,473)
Retained surplus brought forward	153,293	190,766
Retained surplus carried forward	169,310	153,293

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2014

£ £

Tenant's Improvements

Opening Balance		2,468
Less: Depreciation for year @ 10%		247
Closing Balance		<u>2,221</u>

Nightsights

Opening Balance		1,617
Less: Depreciation for year @ 20%		323
Closing Balance		<u>1,294</u>

Plant & Machinery

Opening Balance		7,447
Additions		
No Glo Camera	190	
Conductivity meter	103	
		<u>293</u>
Less: Depreciation for year @ 25%		1,935
Closing Balance		<u>5,805</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2014

	£	£
<u>Motor Vehicles</u>		
Landrover Defender SA09 SKN - balance b/f	4,975	
Sold during year	4,975	
	<hr/>	
Landrover Discovery - balance b/f	19,625	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	4,906	
	<hr/>	
		14,719
Land Rover - bought during year	24,041	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	6,010	
	<hr/>	
		18,031
		<hr/>
Closing book value		32,750
		<hr/> <hr/>