

# THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

## MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW

1st December 2018 - 30th November 2019



*"2019 Opening Day at Carnsalloch"*

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# **AGENDA**

for the

ANNUAL QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS MEETING

for year

01.12.18 - 30.11.19

**10am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**  
**The Marquee, Friars Carse Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries**

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1. Minutes of Annual General Proprietors Meeting 22.03.19
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 MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS**

**HELD AT TARFF VALLEY CONFERENCE ROOM,**

**LOCKERBIE ROAD, DUMFRIES**

**ON**

**22 MARCH 2019 AT 10AM**

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**PRESENT**

Percy Weatherall – Chairman  
Raymond Mundle – DGAA  
Thomas Florey – Angling Representative  
Richard Gladwin – Blackwood Estate  
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishings  
Anna Ferguson – Buccleuch Estates  
Jim Gregory – Angling Representative  
Tom Brown - Netting Representative  
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock Estate  
Wally Wright – Netting Representative  
John Charteris - Dumfries & Galloway Council  
Peter Hutchison – Douglas Hall Fisheries

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Geoff Walter  
Scott Kerr

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

David Kempzell  
Mike Machin  
Peter Landale

The Chairman convened the meeting and welcomed everybody in attendance.

The Chairman referred to the Agenda.

**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman asked for comments and objections in relation to the Minutes of the AMQP on 20 March 2018. There were none. The Chairman sought formal approval for the Minutes of that meeting. These were unanimously given.

**2. ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report which had been circulated and was available on the Board's web site and asked for comments thereon. There were none. The Chairman sought approval subject to ratification of these Minutes at the Annual Public Meeting, which was unanimously given.

### **3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Chairman referred the matter of the Accounts to the Clerk who drew attention to the Clerk's Notes on the Accounts and in particular the sums made by FD and FB in regard to Consultancy income. The Chairman asked for comments – none were forthcoming. The Chairman asked that the Accounts be considered approved subject to final approval at the APM, which was unanimously given.

### **4. MANAGEMENT PLANS**

FD reminded those present of the Management Plan with its six-year cycle. The Management Plan had been due for renewal in the previous year but Scottish Government (SG) were intending to draft and finalise an agreed template for the form of a Management Plan to apply throughout the whole of Scotland. The arrival of the template was to have happened eighteen months ago. Simon Dryden of Scottish Government had advised that there was no point in updating the Management Plan until the template was available. SG are still working upon a template and advise that it will arrive imminently. In the meantime, the Board was still utilising its own Management Plan which FD believes adopts best practise. Peter Hutchinson asked if the template will be a compulsory format. FD replied that it would be.

### **5. A.O.C.B.**

The Chairman asked for views on any other competent business. There being none the meeting was formally closed.

# **AGENDA**

for the

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

for year

01.12.18 - 30.11.19

**10am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**The Marquee, Friars Carse Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries**

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1. Minutes of Annual Public Meeting      07.06.2019
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 ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD AT FRIARS CARSE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL,  
AULDGIRTH, DUMFRIES**

on

**7 JUNE 2019 AT 10AM**

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**PRESENT**

Percy Weatherall (Chairman)  
Peter Landale  
Wally Wright  
Nick Wright  
Raymond Mundel  
David Kempself  
Richard Gladwin

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC IN ATTENANCE**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Roderick Styles (Clerk)  
James Henderson (Fishery Director)  
Deborah Parke (Fishery Biologist) (Nith Catchment Fishery Trust)  
David McMichael (Senior Water Bailiff)

**APOLOGIES**

Robbie Cowan  
Tom Brown  
Peter Hutchison  
John Charteris  
Anna Fergusson

The Chairman welcomed everyone present. The Chairman referred the business of the meeting to the Clerk.

The Clerk referred to the Agenda previously circulated and published in the Notice of the Annual Public Meeting.

**Annual Report and Accounts**

The Clerk reminded those present that these had been discussed and approved at the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and were subject to final approval at this meeting. They were unanimously approved.

**AOB**

There being none, the Chairman closed the Annual Public Meeting.

## Chairman's Foreword

As I write this, on 1st May 2020, we all find ourselves in extraordinary circumstances. Thanks to Covid-19 the country is in 'lockdown' and normal life has been suspended. It seems, however, that we may be past the worst of it and, hopefully, we will see a return to normality over the next few months.

The 2019 Nith fishing season was, regrettably, another poor one. Fewer fishers targeted fewer fish so, unsurprisingly, fewer fish were caught. Less fish caught translates into less income which means we face a financial squeeze.

The Nith is by no means alone in being confronted by this challenge. It exists throughout the country and on an international scale impacting many rivers in the northern hemisphere covering the whole range of the Atlantic Salmon.

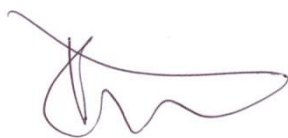
Your Board is doing its utmost to ensure that any action we initiate is for the benefit of the salmon and sea trout in our river. We continue to work on enhancing riparian habitat in our nursery areas and headwaters. We also have plans to work with the Atlantic Salmon Trust on a smolt-tracking project to try to discover where some of our fish are being lost on their seaward migration. The Nith is also working with Marine Scotland Science on investigating the level of impact piscivorous birds have on our fish stocks.

In recent years we have had great success with our Fishing for the Future project which works with local schools to educate young people about the habitat of the River Nith and the sport of fishing. This project will restart when schools reopen and will continue to promote greater understanding of both our wonderful countryside and the joys of angling. The average age of fishers on our river has been rising steadily in recent years. We are doing what we can to encourage a new generation.

Fish populations are currently at a low ebb but we remain positive and optimistic on the longer-term prospects for salmon and sea trout in Scotland. Here on the Nith, we will continue to do what we can to reverse the fortunes of the fish in our river. Success will be reflected, in the years ahead, in rising populations of salmonid fish.

It would be remiss of me not mention the sterling work done through the year past by your Fishery Director and his team. Much excellent and remunerative consultancy work was identified and executed which helped to compensate for the reduction in your board's 'fishing' income. I am sure you will join me in thanking them all for their efforts during the year.

These are difficult times. Keep safe, fish when you can and may your lines be tight in 2020.



E.P.K. Weatherall  
Chairman





## Introduction

### 1. Constitution and Area

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board is constituted under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003. Tri-annual elections were held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.

The Nith Board for the year comprised: -

<b>Chairman</b>	Percy Weatherall	
<b>Lower Proprietors</b>	Robbie Cowan John Charteris Peter Hutchinson Tom Brown	Caerlaverock Estate Dumfries and Galloway Council Douglas Hall Fishery Drumburn Estate
<b>Upper Proprietors</b>	Peter Landale Nick Wright Anna Fergusson David Kempself Richard Gladwin	Dalswinton Estate Closeburn Castle Fishing Buccleuch Estates Limited D & G Angling Association Blackwood Estate
<b>Lower Co-optees</b>	Mike Mackin Wally Wright	Netting Representative Netting Representative
<b>Upper Co-optees</b>	Thomas Florey Jim Gregory Raymond Mundle	Angling Representative Angling Representative Angling Representative

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

### 2. Invitees

In addition to the elected Chairman, lower proprietors and upper proprietors, the Nith Board has invited representatives from the Scottish Environmental Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), however in recent years SEPA and SNH no longer have officer time available to fulfil these invitations.

### 3. Research and Improvement

In 1991 the Nith 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 Nith Board together with NFIA formed the Nith Habitat Enhancement Committee (NHEC). NHEC has been subsumed into the Nith Board as the environmental and habitat department and this important work is now conducted on behalf of the Nith Board by the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. In addition, the Nith Board has built and operates its own hatcheries.

### 4. Staff

The Nith Board staff during the period comprised Fishery Director Jim Henderson and Senior Bailiff David McMichael. During the summer the Nith Board Bailiff team was supported by the addition of Auxiliary Water Bailiffs who have worked enthusiastically during their time with permanent staff. The Nith 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 staff employed by the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. A reciprocal arrangement exists so that the Trust gets assistance from Nith Board staff in dealing with Trust business.

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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith Board Works**

The Nith 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 Nith Board rests with the Clerk who reports to the Chairman and liaises with the Fishery Director on a regular basis.

The Fishery Director and staff 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 staff also run the Board's hatchery operation 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 Nith Board adheres to the statement of Good Governance (Appendix 2).

## **7. Funding**

The Nith 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 Nith Board is levied against all salmon fishing proprietors to meet the assessment needed to fund the Nith Board.

The Nith Board also receives consultancy income from various third parties (such as civil engineering contractors and others) who require information and guidance from the Nith 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 Nith Board's jurisdiction.

## **8. Constitutional Evolution**

The Nith 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 Nith Board extended invitations to SNH and SEPA.

As a consequence of the new legislation, the public have access to Nith Board meetings, the details of which are available on the Nith 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*), stoneloach (*neopmacheilus barbatulus*), three spined stickleback (*gasterosteus aculeatus*) and grayling (*thymallus thymallus*).

Three varieties of lamprey are also present sea lamprey (*petromyzon marinus*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and the fresh water resident brook lamprey (*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. Since the Scottish Government’s inception of “The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016” fishing for salmon in the seaward part of the Nith Estuary has been banned. This has effectively stopped the stake net fishery and those haaf nets located in the seaward area from operating.

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 fish - 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 three angling associations on the River Nith as follows: -

Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association  
Upper Nithsdale Angling Association

Dumfries and Galloway Council water is administered by the Council but is not limited by numbers of permit holders or visitors. 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.

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 years. 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 decades. 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. Annual maintenance of the Board's habitat schemes continues to be conducted with supplementary planting where required.



Afton Water habitat scheme – Before (1996)



Afton Water habitat scheme - After (2019)

Table 1 – List of Habitat schemes

River	Bank length	Instigation/extension/improvements of scheme
Dalwhat Water	1.5 km	1997
Spango Water	8 km	1997
Polneul Burn	6 km	1998, 2008
Marr Burn	1 km	1998
Kello Water	10 km	1999, 2016
Upper Nith	11.5 km	2000, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2019
Pennyland Burn	3.5 km	2000, 2005, 2016, 2017, 2018
Clauchrie Burn	1 km	2001
Carron Water	8 km	2002
Cairn and tribs	1 km	2003, 2016
Cample Water	4 km	2004
Wanlock Water	5 km	2006
Shinnel Water	2 km	2007, 2018
Craigdarroch Water	5 km	2009
Mennock Water	3 km	2009
Crawick Water	16 km	1998, 1999, 2005, 2010, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019
Dalgig Burn	3 km	2018
Craigman Burn	2 km	2019
Coal/Loch Burn	6 km	2009
Carcow Burn	3 km	1996
Afton Water	8 km	1996
<b>Total</b>	<b>108.5 km</b>	

## 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 Nith Board and Trust staff are qualified, equipped and capable of conducting these research surveys.

Every summer, between May and September, the Nith Board and Trust conduct electrofishing surveys throughout the entire Nith catchment to assess the status of juvenile salmonid populations. This is an important aspect of the Trust's work. On average, over 150 sites are surveyed each year. Some of these sites are repeated on a regular basis whilst other provide us with new information on watercourses that have never previously been surveyed. The resulting data can provide us with an insight into the productivity of the River Nith and identifies any areas where there may be issues such as pollution, lack of habitat or barriers impacting on the number of salmonids.

These surveys are conducted by fully trained staff using a mixture of single run semi-quantitative and three run fully-quantitative survey protocols developed by the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre. The densities of fry and parr are 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.

Locally, 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.

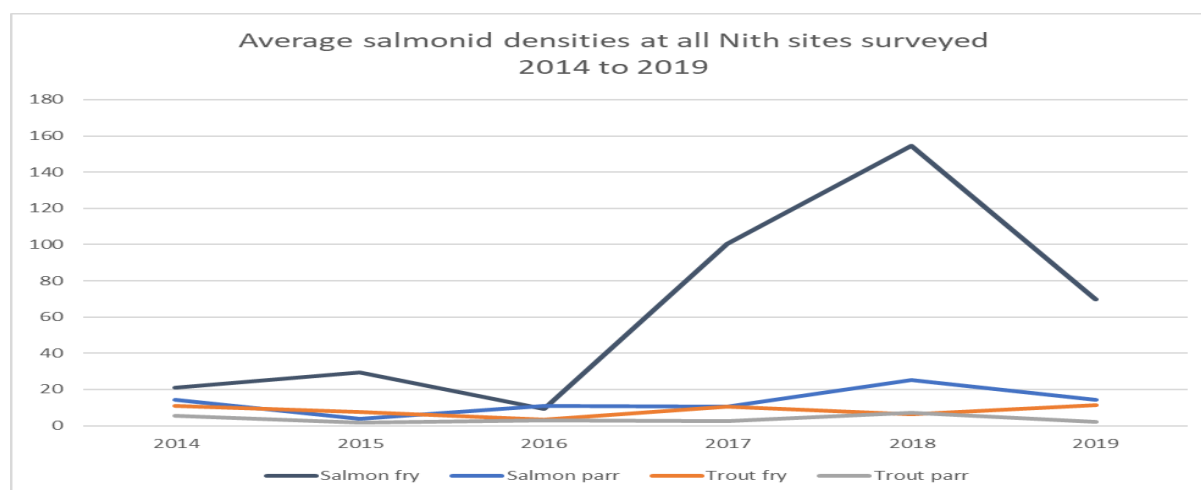
The table below shows the results from the 10 sites that are surveyed on an annual basis. These results show that salmon fry densities have dropped from approximately 150 fry per 100m<sup>2</sup> to 70 fry per 100m. This decrease is due to the increased water levels experienced in 2019 compared to the summer drought that occurred in 2018. The average densities of salmon fry present still fall within the "Excellent" classification and parr densities are classified as "Good". Most sites surveyed are considered to contain prime habitat for salmon. The Dalwhat Water and Mennock Water are predominantly sea trout tributaries. The data below is consistent with that. The low densities of salmon and complete lack of trout in the Nith at the site at Auldgirith New Bridge is due to a shift in gravels reducing available habitat at that site.

## Electrofishing results for the Ten Annual sites in 2019

Watercourse	Site code	Location	Salmon fry (/100m <sup>2</sup> )	Salmon parr (/100m <sup>2</sup> )	Trout fry (/100m <sup>2</sup> )	Trout parr (/100m <sup>2</sup> )	Other species
Nith	1	Downstream of Nith Lodge, New <u>Cumnock</u>	47.38	38.29	7.41	6.26	SL
Nith	2	Downstream of Boig Road Bridge, New <u>Cumnock</u>	2.50	9.23	1.25	2.50	SL, M
Nith	3	Upstream of Guildhall Bridge, Kirkconnel	106.12	10.17	16.50	0.00	SL
Nith	4	At Auldgirth New Bridge	4.44	6.67	0.00	0.00	SL, E
Afton	5	Upstream of Blackcraig Bridge	109.41	30.04	3.85	7.69	-
Crawick Water	6	Downstream of Spango Bridge	55.94	22.92	3.20	0.00	-
Mennoch Water	7	Upstream of confluence with <u>Glenim</u> Burn	69.08	4.14	42.04	3.21	-
Scaur Water	8	Downstream or Bridge at <u>Glenwhargen</u>	36.90	19.32	6.08	0.00	-
Cample Water	9	Downstream of bridge at <u>Kirkbog</u> Farm	265.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	SL, M
Dalwhat Water	10	Upstream of <u>Bailwood</u> Plantation	0.68	0.00	31.08	5.41	-
<b>Average of all sites:</b>			<b>69.80</b>	<b>14.08</b>	<b>11.14</b>	<b>2.31</b>	

Key to other species: E – Eel, M – Minnow, SL - Stone Loach, L – Lamprey, SB – Stickleback, G – Grayling, F – Flounder, P – Pike.

Key to classification of salmonids per 100m<sup>2</sup>



### National Electrofishing Programme Scotland (NEPS)

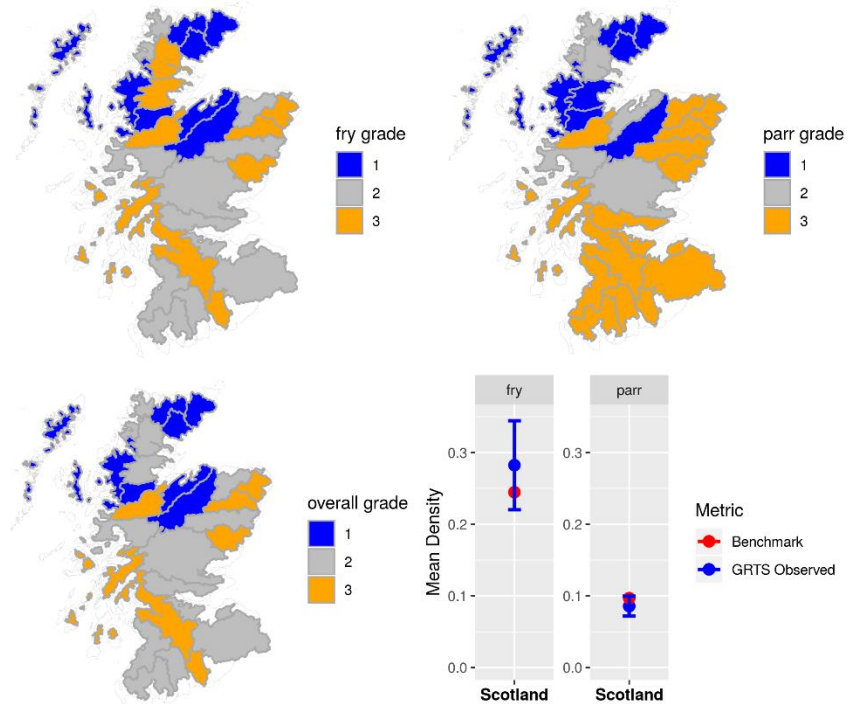
The National Electrofishing Programme Scotland (NEPS) is a national programme of electrofishing organised by Marine Scotland and funded by Marine Scotland, SEPA and SNH to gain a clearer picture of juvenile salmon population levels throughout Scotland. The data on the ground was collected by local Fishery Boards and Trusts using a strict protocol. The programme started in 2018 when 30 electrofishing sites per catchment were selected, at random, and assigned to Trust and Board areas throughout Scotland. Twenty-eight sites were assigned to the Nith catchment – five of which are surveyed on an annual basis, four of which are surveyed once every three years and the remaining four are surveyed once every nine years. This provides both temporal and spatial data to gain an overall idea of juvenile production through the catchment. The results for the surveys undertaken in 2018 have been compiled and made public through a Shiny app produced by Marine Scotland. Full details of the project and the results can be accessed at <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Monitoring/ElectrofishingProgramme>. In 2019, 28 sites in the Nith were surveyed and the data submitted to Marine Scotland. As of writing this report, the 2019 results are not yet available.

The data collected from the Nith in 2018 was compared against benchmarks that had been modelled using historic electrofishing results and habitat characteristics of the watercourses. It should be noted that these benchmarks are for long stretches of watercourse and do not necessarily reflect the true nature of the watercourse at the exact point of surveying. For example, you can have a watercourse that is a productive salmon spawning river but the site selected for surveying is located on a stretch that has poor instream salmonid habitat or is above the natural limits for salmon.

It was found that the observed fry densities in the Nith were within confidence limits however the observed densities of parr were below the benchmark. These low parr densities were noted in the majority of the areas in the south of Scotland and the possibility that emigration of 1-year-old parr as smolts had occurred before the electrofishing season.

The results from the 2019 season will be available in 2020 and will add to our understanding of juvenile salmonid populations.

At the time of surveying, scale and genetic samples were also taken along with water samples to be analysed at a later date.



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Grades were obtained for each life stage using the following rules:

- \* Category 1: The estimate of mean observed density exceeds the benchmark
- \* Category 2: The benchmark is within the confidence limits of mean observed density
- \* Category 3: The upper 95% confidence limit of the mean observed density is below the benchmark

Next, the grades for the two life stages are combined to provide a single (overall) grade for the juvenile assessment method using the following rule-based system:

		fry		
		1	2	3
parr	1	1	1	2
	2	1	2	2
	3	2	2	3

Results from NEPS surveys 2018

## 18. Hatchery and Stocking

Following Galloway Fisheries Trust juvenile salmon and trout survey in 1991 it was evident that there was a need to produce hatchery stock to restock areas that were devoid of salmonids by reason of poaching, pollution and degraded habitat. To meet that need the Nith 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.

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 Nith 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 Nith Board has countered the effects of these incidents by using hatchery stock to replace lost fish.

Fry were planted out in the spring of 2019 at the following locations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Location</b>
Salmon	80,000	Nith Greenburn
Sea trout	19,730	Nith Greenburn
Brown trout	4,500	Dibbin Lane, Cairn
Salmon	11,350	Crawick Water

Total fry stocked out  
115,580

The capture of adult broodstock for the hatchery is conducted during October/November of any year. 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.

## 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

Although present in the Solway Firth, seals do not appear to be the threat that they are in other Salmon Districts. The Nith Board does have a licence and has the trained staff to be able to deal with any rogue seals that may cause issues. During 2011 the Nith Board had a member of staff trained as an accredited marksman to enable the Nith Board to shoot seals under licence from the Scottish Government. The Nith Board continues to apply for a licence to shoot seals on an annual basis and makes the appropriate quarterly returns.

Cormorants and goosanders are known predators of juvenile fish and the Nith Board staff applies for and obtains an annual license to cull/scare limited numbers of avian predators. During 2019, the Nith was one of four Scottish rivers participating in a research licence which enabled us to kill a number of these species and recover the bodies for gut analysis.

This is important scientific research which will assist Scottish fishery managers to quantify the impact that these predators are having on our stocks of fish. The process involves the birds being initially frozen, then transported to laboratories in central Scotland. The gut is removed from each bird and then individually processed and dried. The remains then consist of various bones which can be identified by the experts conducting the analysis. The bones can be assigned to species and size of individuals which can be used to determine the biomass that each bird has consumed.

This is essential research which will enable us to determine, if our concerns about these birds preying on fish in our rivers are founded or not. They may be having an impact but that impact may be negligible. We will know at the end of this project when the results are published.

Counts of goosander and cormorants are conducted on the mainstem and a number of tributaries annual. 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.

Mink continue to be seen throughout the catchment of the River Nith and the Nith Boards policy of controlling mink continues. The Bailiff Staff continues to follow Nith Board approved policy on mink control. Twenty-two mink were captured during the period December 2018 to November 2019 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.



The concept of Catch and Release as a conservation policy for salmon stocks is firmly established on the River Nith now. 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. Catch and release rates for rod caught salmon within the River Nith catchment for the 2019 salmon fishing season was 93%. The catch and release rate for sea trout over the same period was 83%.

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

## 22. Government Conservation

The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 outlined a system whereby the Scottish Government categorised the conservation status of individual rivers to manage the killing of Atlantic salmon in inland waters on an annual basis. In 2019, the River Nith was categorised as a Category 2 river, which means further management interventions were required to sustain stocks.

The Board notes the mandatory total catch and release requirement for salmon on all River Systems throughout Scotland to 1st April in any given year.

The Board notes the voluntary total catch and release policy for salmon from 1st April to 31st May on the River Nith system in any given year.

The Board recommends for conservation purposes that wherever possible total catch and release policy be adopted for the whole river system, but taking into account its conservation category status, if salmon are to be taken then no more than two salmon per person per season be taken with a view to achieving in excess of 90% catch and release of salmon for the 2019 season.

## 23. Salmonid Stocks

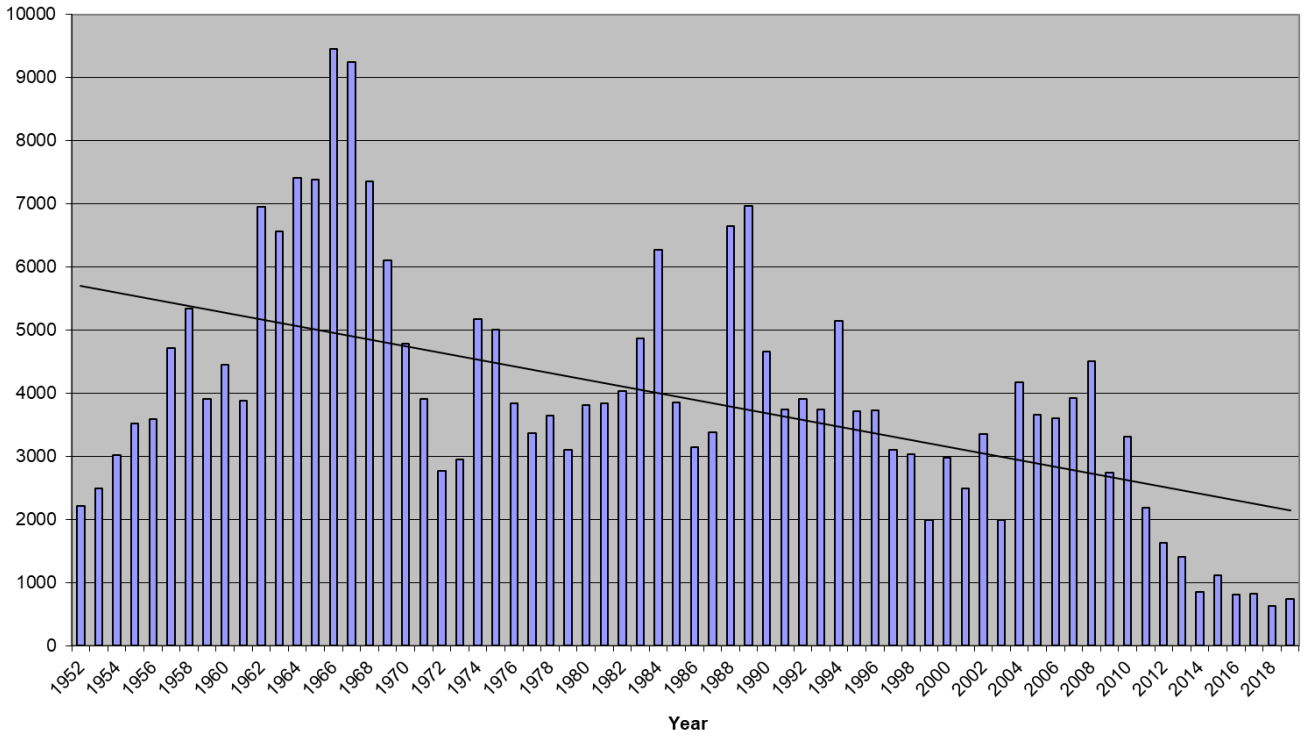
**Juvenile Stocks** Our surveys show that in general stocks of juvenile salmonids are at a satisfactory level in the majority of the catchment. There are, however, some tributaries in which numbers are well below optimum levels. Monitoring will help to determine which of these tributaries require Habitat 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. From 2015, the Scottish Government introduced a ban on the killing of any salmon prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> each year. In addition, the Nith Board recommends that no salmon should be killed prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June in any year.

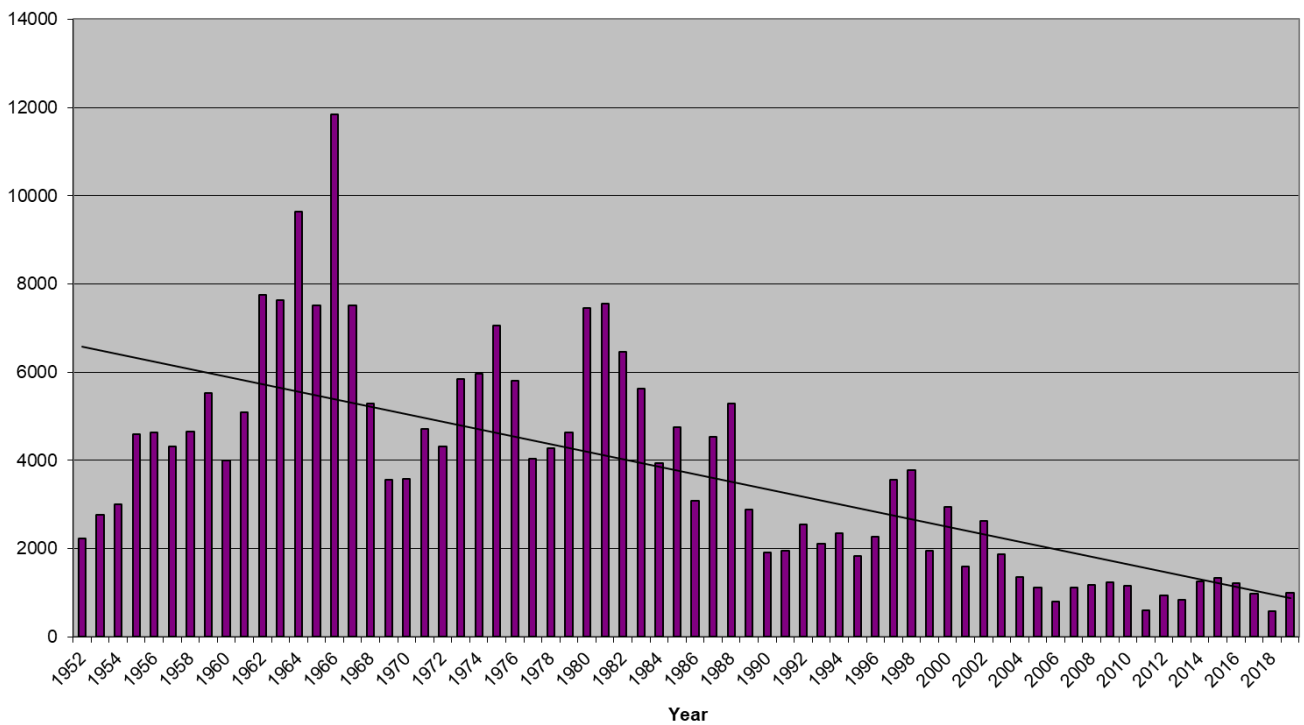
**Grilse and Autumn Fish** The availability of grilse and summer salmon plays an important part in providing fishing for local rods before many visitors come to the Nith for the autumn fishing. The grilse run on the River Nith system is not as consistent now as it once was.

**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. The Nith 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 one sea trout taken per rod per day. The Nith 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 populations within the Nith system.

Total Salmon and Grilse Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2019



Total Sea Trout Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2019



## 24. Engineering and Other Works

### Open Cast Coal Mining

The two surface coal mines located upstream from New Cumnock, namely Greenburn and House of Water, both remain operational. They are both concentrating on land restoration, post coaling. The Board continues to monitor fish populations in the watercourses which traverse both mine sites. This is a critical stage in the working life of the mines because with so much earthworks and soil being spread, impacts can be manifest in the river system following heavy rainstorms.

### Renewable Energy

Renewable energy projects in the form of windfarms continue to be proposed in the catchment of the River Nith. NDSFB always provides comments to both the planning authorities and Scottish Government on the potential for these projects to impact on the aquatic environment. NDSFB conducts a series of surveys to monitor the impact on the aquatic environment in relation to individual windfarms. This often involves conducting a fisheries audit to establish baseline data, repeat audits are conducted during the construction phase and again, post completion.

## **Forestry**

The Nith Board has been consulted by Forestry and Land Scotland 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 Nith Board responds when appropriate on issues that could potentially influence fish or the habitat in which they reside.

## **High Voltage Electricity Infrastructure**

The Nith Board were consulted on plans to construct a major power line through the east of the River Nith catchment. The Nith Board conducted electrofishing surveys and provide consultancy services to this project. The Nith Board have conducted further follow up surveys to validate the environmental protection measures adopted to protect the aquatic environment.

## **25. Illegal Fishing**

Statistics of incidents are provided further in this report.

## **26. Conservation Policy and Angling Code**

Catch and Release	Further to the statutory conservation measures implemented by the Scottish Government for salmon (see section 22. Government Conservation) the Nith 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 one (1) 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.
Netting	The Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith Board attaches much emphasis to Habitat Enhancement. Naturally produced fish have been shown to be much hardier than those produced in a hatchery. The Nith Board is mindful of maintaining a proper balance between resources used for hatcheries and those used for Habitat Enhancement.
Water Quality	Close liaison with SEPA is maintained by the Nith Board. As part of our monitoring conducted throughout the catchment, aquatic invertebrate data is obtained and water quality data recorded.
River Engineering Works	The Nith 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.

## **27. Public Access**

Most fishing beats within the Nith catchment are directly available to public access for fishing. Further public access was afforded during the River Nith sea trout event which ran over four Friday evenings in the summer of 2019 and the Salmon Open Day which ran at the end of the summer 2019. Anglers were given free access to the various beats to fish. The Nith 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.

## **28. Legislation and Its Development**

The Nith Board responds to all consultations in relation to fisheries management.

## **29. Summary of Events from 01.12.18 - 30.11.19**

The Nith Board wherever possible tries to ensure that Nith 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 Nith Board met on: -

10<sup>th</sup> December 2018,

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 (Annual General Meeting of Qualified Proprietors followed by Board members meeting),

7<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Annual Public Meeting followed by Board members meeting),

26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The Nith 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 Nith Board is able to contribute meaningfully to policies and future strategies. Nith Board members are aware of the importance of informing political leaders regarding the work of the Nith Board and the issues faced in managing salmon and sea trout.

The Nith Board was represented at meetings and events throughout the catchment over the year. The Nith Board recognises the importance of a presence at the various events in order that the anglers and netmen are afforded the opportunity to question the Nith Board's staff on any issues of concern.

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

All coal mining Technical Working Groups, Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, the Fisheries Management Scotland AGM, 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 Nith Board.

The Nith Board opted to participate in the Galloway Country Fair which was held in the grounds of Drumlanrig Castle. This event was considered a success for the Nith Board and afforded the opportunity to interact with the public. The Nith Board plan to continue to attend Galloway Country Fair.

## **30. Biologist's Report 2019**

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust continues to support NDSFB by providing advice from their Biologist. 2019 was a very busy year for the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. We conducted as many electrofishing surveys as we have ever done. This was primarily due to the quantity of construction projects being carried out in our catchment and the associated aquatic environmental protection. In addition, our Trust has been responsible for conducting the National Electrofishing Project (NEPS) and reporting the results to Marine Scotland Science. This project entailed conducting an additional 28 electrofishing sites chosen by Marine Scotland at random and we conducted detailed electrofishing surveys. This is the second year that we have participated in this project and the results are starting to reveal geographic trends and similarities with other regions across the south of Scotland.

Looking forward, I am delighted that the Nith has been selected to be one of the key west coast rivers to be taking part in the West Coast Tracking project. This project is coordinated by the Atlantic Salmon Trust and will involve us in the trapping of smolts on their seaward migration and fitting them with acoustic tags. Monitoring stations will listen for the tagged fish as they descend the river and seaward up the west coast of Scotland towards the Norwegian Sea. This is fascinating science and we will play an important role in catching the smolts in our, newly acquired, smolt trap.

Having analysed catch return data for 2019, the data shows a slight increase of both salmon and sea trout returning during the 2019 season. This is encouraging, particularly considering the lack of anglers on the river bank. The largest increase is in the number of sea trout. This is encouraging and hopefully will attract more anglers to our river banks.

All of the work discussed above is conducted alongside our "Fishing for the Future" project which has received national acclamation. Many other Scottish rivers look to achieve similar success to our project and it continues to grow from strength to strength.

# 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 Nith Board outline their current policy on a number of key areas and issues as described in Section 5. The Nith 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 Nith Board will embrace over the course of the next working year and beyond. During 2017, Scottish Government attended Nith Fishery Board meeting where it was decided that the creation of a new Fishery Management Plan would be suspended whilst we await the imminent production of the new Fishery Management Plan template from Scottish Government.

## General Policy and Future Management

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

## Enforcement

The Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith Board will: -

- Continue to operate the Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith Board will: -

- Continue to encourage control of salmonid predators such as, but not limited to, sawbills by continued application to Scottish Government/SNH/SASA 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 and Land Scotland and Planning Authorities.

### **River Engineering Works**

The Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith Board will: -

- Adhere and promote the Scottish Governments conservation policy with regard to conservation of salmon regulations which has categorised the River Nith as a 2 for the 2019 season. In addition, the Nith Board will seek to conserve stocks of sea trout as discussed in Section 26. Conservation Policy and Angling Code. See Appendix 6 for the 2019 Angling Code.

### Netting

The Nith Board will: -

- Continue to take an interest in the level of high seas exploitation to support bodies such as, but not limited to: -
  - Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)
  - Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST)
  - North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

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

### Nature Conservation

The Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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 Nith 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.

<b>Local Organisations and Groups</b>	Proprietors and Agents Nith Haaf Net Fishers Association Anglers and Angling Clubs Local Authorities and Councils Other Fishery Boards Police Scotland
<b>National Organisations (Fisheries)</b>	Scottish Government (Marine Scotland) Fisheries Management Scotland Scottish Net Fishing Association North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Other Fishery Boards
<b>National Organisations (Conservation/Protection)</b>	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)

	Environment Agency (EA)
<b>Industrial Companies</b>	Kier Mining TranServe Scotland Windfarm Operators Network Rail Hargreaves Surface Mining Gas Infrastructure Iberdrola, AMEC and Scottish Woodlands Scottish Power Renewables



## **Nith Fishery Management Plan 2014-18 Prescriptions**

**As agreed at previous Board meetings, this plan and its prescriptions have been extended to take account of the interim period whilst we await the Scottish Government's Fishery Management Plan template.**

The following prescriptions are to be found in the Fishery Management Plan, full details of which can be found on the Nith 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.

### **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 within Scottish Government Guidance.
- 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.

<b>Prescription</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bailiff team comprised 3 employed warranted bailiffs and 2 volunteer warranted water bailiffs</li> <li>• 6 incidents dealt with by enforcement staff – including 1 breach of spring salmon regs, 1 incident of spawning bed disturbance by gold panning 2 incidents of on permit fishing at Buccleuch Estates, 1 incident of obstructing enforcement staff at Crawick, 1 incident on upper Cairn investigated (Sunday fishing)</li> <li>• Continued Professional Development undertaken training at Penrith</li> <li>• Assisted with the development of regs for D&amp;G Council</li> <li>• Policing of the commercial Haaf net fishery tagging regs</li> <li>• In river patrols permit checks</li> <li>• Coastal patrols for gill netting incidents</li> </ul>
Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch and release 93% for salmon and grilse and 83% for sea trout by rod and line and 73% for salmon and 31% for sea trout by nets during 2019.</li> <li>• Collated all Nith catch data</li> <li>• Assisted D&amp;G Common Good with fisheries management advice</li> <li>• Altered Nith Angling code to reflect Scottish Government policies</li> <li>• Conservation promoted through education projects, outreach programs and distribution of conservation codes</li> <li>• Issued carcass tags to Haaf Netters and administered the tagging scheme on behalf of Scottish Government</li> <li>• Ran Nith Sea Trout Experience</li> </ul>
Engineering and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consulted on multiple engineering projects</li> <li>• Inspected flood damage on Nith prior to repairs</li> <li>• 7 electrofishing surveys carried out in connection with engineering works taking place throughout the catchment</li> <li>• 4 fish rescues throughout the catchment.</li> <li>• Consulted on the SWS Overhead Powerline, Scottish Water Terregles, SPEN Carron and Scaur Water (pole crossings) and bank repairs at HOW coal mine.</li> <li>• Reinstated Craighburn at HOW Surface Coal Mine</li> <li>• Attended all Open Cast Coal Mine TWG's</li> </ul>
Renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 surveys carried out in connection with renewables taking place throughout the catchment.</li> </ul>

Planning and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning lists checked on a weekly basis and responses made where appropriate to Dumfries and Galloway Council and East Ayrshire Council.</li> </ul>
Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crayfish refuge traps and Lochfoot Burn monitored for crayfish spread</li> <li>• All Nith Giant hogweed treated</li> </ul>
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All habitat schemes checked and water gates repaired</li> <li>• New section of habitat scheme erected on Crawick Water</li> <li>• Replanting trees on Crawick and Pennyland habitat schemes</li> <li>• Repaired fence on Wanlock habitat scheme</li> <li>• Planted trees on Criagman habitat scheme</li> <li>• Planted trees on Sheil Burn</li> </ul>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obstruction tree cut at Denholm's Wood, DGAA water</li> <li>• Removed tree from Closeburn Castle Water</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported issues on the Gallaberry Burn</li> <li>• Reported slurry at Polshill Farm, A76</li> <li>• Took 28 water samples in relation to Scottish Government NEPS project</li> <li>• 45 aquatic invertebrate surveys completed</li> </ul>
Marine survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied for and obtained a seal control license</li> <li>• Attended 2 AST meetings to discuss West Coast Smolt Tracking Project</li> <li>• Purchased Smolt trap</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Health and Safety at work Policies updated</li> <li>• Reviews and updated website</li> <li>• All appropriate licensing requirements in place</li> <li>• Various meetings attended - see Page 20 for full list of meetings/events</li> <li>• Staff training carried out</li> <li>• Fishery Catch Returns compiled</li> </ul>
Predation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licenses applied for and gained to prevent serious damage to wild stocks of salmon/sea trout by cormorants, goosanders and seals.</li> <li>• License returns completed</li> <li>• 22 mink trapped</li> <li>• Participated in Government Piscivorous bird research project</li> </ul>
Fish stocks and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018 catch data collected and reported on website</li> <li>• Provided electrofishing data to SFCC</li> <li>• Surveyed 28 sites as part of National Electrofishing Programme Scotland</li> <li>• NCFT/NDSFB conducted electrofishing at over 163 sites throughout the catchment</li> <li>• 10 annual electrofishing sites surveyed</li> </ul>
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 115,580 fry stocked</li> <li>• Post stocking electrofishing surveys carried out</li> <li>• Brood stock captured for fry production for 2019/20</li> </ul>
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nith Salmon Season Opening Event held at DGAA Carnsalloch</li> <li>• Nith Salmon Fishing Experience – one day of free salmon fishing on participating beats on the River Nith</li> <li>• Nith Sea Trout Experience – four days of free fishing to promote sea trout fishing on the River Nith.</li> <li>• Various shows and fairs attended - See Page 20 for full list of meetings/events attended</li> <li>• Ran Fishing for the Future programme in schools and groups to over 256 children</li> <li>• Run 9 Nith Young Anglers Club fishing days and 3 Angling Taster days</li> </ul>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations given to other organisations</li> <li>• PR via website, social media, TV and newspapers</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## **Incidents of illegal Fishing/Poaching Activities 1/12/18 - 30/11/19**

- 6 incidents dealt with throughout the catchment.

## **Nith Habitat Enhancement Projects - 1st December 2018 to 30th November 2019**

During 2019 all habitat schemes throughout the Nith catchment were maintained and those where planting of trees has been conducted have been checked and re-planted as necessary. Various tributaries have been cleared of woody debris where this was causing an impasse to migrating salmonids. The existing habitat scheme on the Crawick Water was extended following discussions with the landowners. This has extended the habitat scheme by a further 1km upstream.

### **Appendices:**

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## Appendix 1: Attendances at Nith Board Meetings

Nith Board Meeting Dates	No. Board Members Attended	Attendance Rate (%)
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	10 (max 15)	67%
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 (AQPM & Board meeting)	12 (max 15)	80%
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018 (APM & Board meeting)	7 (max 15)	47%
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018	10 (max 15)	67%

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees ( <i>apologies/absent</i> )	
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 <b>Board meeting</b>	<b>Board members</b> Percy Weatherall <b>Robbie Cowan</b> John Charteris <b>Peter Hutchinson</b> Tom Brown Peter Landale <b>Nick Wright</b> Anna Fergusson David Kempzell Richard Gladwin <b>Mike Mackin</b> Wally Wright Thomas Florey <b>Jim Gregory</b> Raymond Mundle	<b>Members of the Public</b> Scott Kerr Christine Carson
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2019 <b>Annual General Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Board Meeting</b>	<b>Board members</b> Percy Weatherall Robbie Cowan John Charteris Peter Hutchinson Tom Brown <b>Peter Landale</b> Nick Wright Anna Fergusson <b>David Kempzell</b> Richard Gladwin <b>Mike Mackin</b> Wally Wright Thomas Florey Jim Gregory Raymond Mundle	<b>Members of the Public</b> Geoff Walter Scott Kerr
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 <b>Triannual Elections, Annual Public Meeting and Board Meeting</b>	<b>Board members</b> Percy Weatherall <b>Robbie Cowan</b> <b>John Charteris</b> <b>Peter Hutchinson</b> <b>Tom Brown</b> Peter Landale Nick Wright <b>Anna Fergusson</b> David Kempzell Richard Gladwin <b>Mike Mackin</b> Wally Wright <b>Thomas Florey</b> <b>Jim Gregory</b> Raymond Mundle	<b>Members of the Public</b> None

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees (apologies/absent)	
<p>29<sup>th</sup> September 2019  <b>Board meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Board members</b>  Percy Weatherall  Robbie Cowan  John Charteris  Peter Hutchinson  Tom Brown  Peter Landale  Nick Wright  Anna Fergusson  David Kempzell  Richard Gladwin  Mike Mackin  Wally Wright  Thomas Florey  Jim Gregory  Raymond Mundle</p>	<p><b>Members of the Public</b>  Scott Kerr</p>

## **Appendix 2: Statement of Good Governance Compliance**

### ***Meetings***

The annual meeting of qualified proprietors was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 at Tarff Valley Conference Room, Dumfries. The meeting was publicised by means of notice on the Nith Board website and a copy of the notice was sent to the Scottish Government. Two members of the public chose to attend. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed at [www.river-nith.com](http://www.river-nith.com)

The annual public meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Friars Carse Country House Hotel, Auldgirth, Dumfries. This meeting was publicised by means of notice on the Nith Board website and a copy of the notice was sent to the Scottish Government. No members of the public chose to attend. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed at [www.river-nith.com](http://www.river-nith.com)

In addition, further meetings of the Nith Board were held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. These meetings were publicised by means of notice on the Nith Board website. The minutes from these meetings can be viewed on the Nith Board website.

### ***Annual Report and Accounts***

This annual report will be published on the Nith Board website.

The accounts will be published on the Nith Board website.

### ***Complaints***

The Nith Board has set up and maintains a complaints procedure which can be viewed on the Nith Board website.

### ***Members' interests***

The register of members' interests can be viewed on the Nith Board website. We have included a standing item at each Nith Board meeting inviting Nith 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**

### **Complaints received:**

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

## Appendix 4: Nith System Catch Data

The Nith Board now collects its own data from all proprietors. The charts show the returns to season end 2019.

### Salmon and grilse caught over the last 10 years

Year	Rods (%C&R)	Nets (%C&R)	Total	10-year average
2009	2095 (36%)	644 (0%)	2739	3342
2010	2336 (43%)	970 (0%)	3306	3375
2011	1637 (40%)	545 (0%)	2182	3344
2012	1283 (40%)	352 (0%)	1635	3173
2013	940 (59%)	465 (0%)	1405	3114
2014	520 (64%)	331 (1%)	851	2781
2015	702 (63%)	417 (0.5%)	1119	2527
2016	655 (100%)	163 (100%)	818	2248
2017	695 (89%)	133 (70%)	828	1939
2018	520 (91%)	110 (54%)	630	1551
2019	586 (93%)	158 (73%)	744	1349

### Sea trout caught over the last 10 years

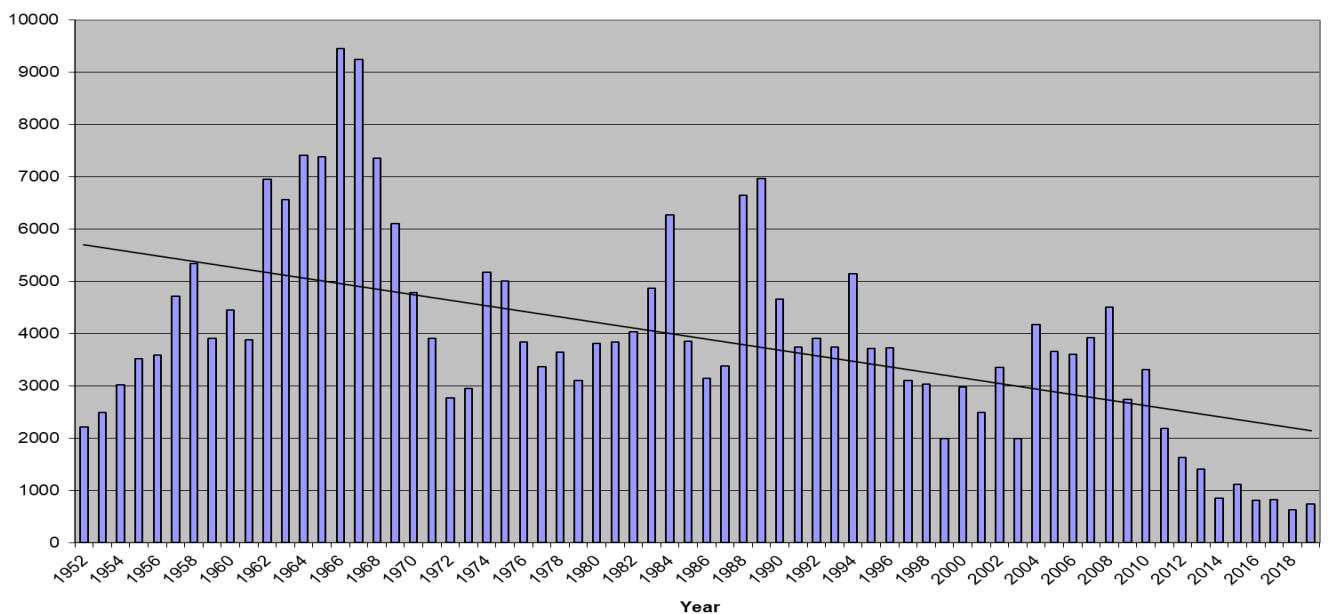
Year	Rods (%C&R)	Nets (%C&R)	Total	10-year average
2009	1104 (49%)	136 (10%)	1240	1588
2010	850 (44%)	303 (0%)	1153	1408
2011	515 (46%)	94 (0%)	609	1310
2012	782 (55%)	163 (1%)	945	1142
2013	671 (62%)	170 (8%)	841	1038
2014	1119 (87%)	132 (8%)	1251	1026
2015	1063 (80%)	283 (4%)	1346	1044
2016	866 (78%)	348 (40%)	1214	1089
2017	768 (83%)	214 (12%)	982	1076
2018	479 (78%)	111 (26%)	590	1017
2019	845 (83%)	157 (31%)	1002	909



**Appendix 5: Nith Salmon and Sea Trout Catches - Catch Statistics Returns 1952-2019**  
**Total Salmon and grilse caught all Methods 1952 - 2019**

Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10 ye av.	Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10 ye av.
1952	2220	-	2220		1986	3147	-	3147	3993
1953	2497	-	2497		1987	3377	-	3377	3994
1954	3018	-	3018		1988	6643	-	6643	4294
1955	3518	-	3518		1989	6962	-	6962	4680
1956	3585	-	3585		1990	4663	-	4663	4765
1957	4711	-	4711		1991	3737	-	3737	4755
1958	5336	-	5336		1992	3917	-	3917	4743
1959	3912	-	3912		1993	3748	-	3748	4632
1960	4447	-	4447		1994	5012	133	5145	4519
1961	3877	-	3877		1995	3576	135	3711	4505
1962	6960	-	6960	4186	1996	3435	300	3735	4564
1963	6562	-	6562	4593	1997	2899	201	3100	4536
1964	7407	-	7407	5032	1998	2727	307	3034	4175
1965	7379	-	7379	5418	1999	1792	203	1995	3679
1966	9452	-	9452	6004	2000	2658	319	2977	3510
1967	9243	-	9243	6458	2001	2021	468	2489	3385
1968	7353	-	7353	6659	2002	2480	873	3353	3329
1969	6100	-	6100	6878	2003	1501	490	1991	3153
1970	4781	-	4781	6911	2004	3067	1110	4177	3056
1971	3909	-	3909	6915	2005	2896	764	3663	3051
1972	2768	-	2768	6495	2006	2917	686	3603	3038
1973	2946	-	2946	6134	2007	2623	1131	3925	3121
1974	5174	-	5174	5911	2008	3178	1326	4504	3268
1975	5013	-	5013	5674	2009	1988	751	2739	3342
1976	3839	-	3839	5113	2010	2307	999	3306	3375
1977	3370	-	3370	4525	2011	1543	648	2182	3344
1978	3640	-	3640	4154	2012	1120	515	1635	3173
1979	3100	-	3100	3854	2013	853	552	1405	3114
1980	3811	-	3811	3757	2014	517	334	851	2781
1981	3837	-	3837	3750	2015	672	447	1119	2527
1982	4040	-	4040	3877	2016	0	818	818	2248
1983	4863	-	4863	4069	2017	116	712	828	1939
1984	6270	-	6270	4178	2018	97	533	630	1551
1985	3851	-	3851	4062	2019	85	659	744	1352

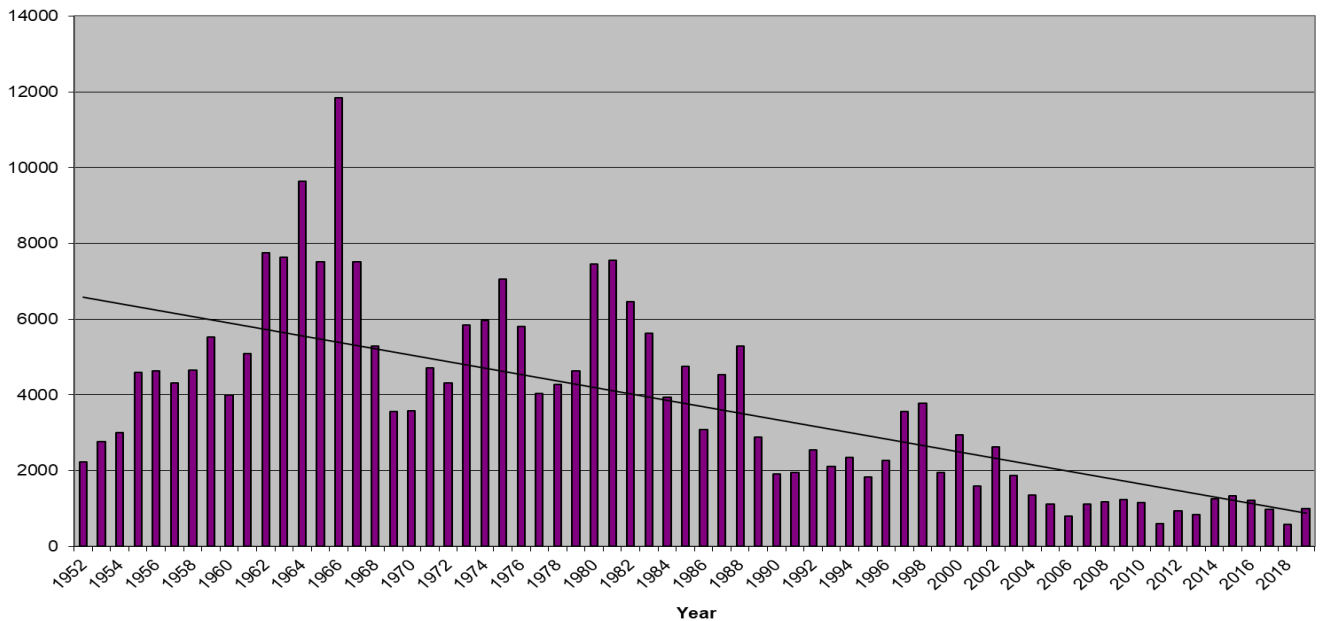
**Total Salmon and Grilse Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2019**



**Total Sea Trout caught 1952 - 2019**

Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10-year average	Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10-year average
1952	2228	-	2228		1986	3081	-	3081	5183
1953	2778	-	2778		1987	4537	-	4537	5232
1954	2999	-	2999		1988	5290	-	5290	5334
1955	4599	-	4599		1989	2887	-	2887	5159
1956	4626	-	4626		1990	1922	-	1922	4606
1957	4317	-	4317		1991	1953	-	1953	4045
1958	4659	-	4659		1992	2541	-	2541	3652
1959	5521	-	5521		1993	2105	-	2105	3301
1960	3999	-	3999		1994	2295	65	2360	3143
1961	5095	-	5095	4082	1995	1787	47	1834	2851
1962	7760	-	7760	4635	1996	2135	138	2273	2770
1963	7642	-	7642	5122	1997	3344	220	3564	2673
1964	9633	-	9633	5785	1998	3494	291	3785	2522
1965	7517	-	7517	6077	1999	1738	207	1945	2428
1966	11846	-	11846	6799	2000	2748	207	2955	2532
1967	7511	-	7511	7118	2001	1400	189	1589	2495
1968	5284	-	5284	7181	2002	2239	384	2623	2503
1969	3559	-	3559	6985	2003	1600	284	1884	2481
1970	3587	-	3587	6943	2004	1138	226	1364	2382
1971	4724	-	4724	6906	2005	708	159	1119	2310
1972	4314	-	4314	6562	2006	579	170	804	2163
1973	5837	-	5837	6381	2007	644	386	1122	1919
1974	5961	-	5961	6014	2008	661	517	1178	1658
1975	7048	-	7048	5967	2009	717	560	1240	1588
1976	5815	-	5815	5364	2010	779	374	1153	1408
1977	4043	-	4043	5017	2011	373	236	609	1310
1978	4275	-	4275	4916	2012	511	434	945	1142
1979	4637	-	4637	5024	2013	409	432	841	1038
1980	7448	-	7448	5410	2014	273	978	1251	1026
1981	7563	-	7563	5694	2015	489	857	1346	1049
1982	6470	-	6470	5910	2016	402	812	1214	1090
1983	5618	-	5618	5888	2017	318	664	982	1076
1984	3945	-	3945	5686	2018	185	405	590	1017
1985	4749	-	4749	5456	2019	253	748	1001	1027

**Total Sea Trout Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2019**



NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD CONSERVATION POLICY

<p><u>Statutory Regulations</u></p> <p>Fishing seasons                  Rod and Line 25th February - 30th November                  Net 25<sup>th</sup> February – 9<sup>th</sup> September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fishing for salmon or sea trout on Sundays by rod and line</li> <li>No fishing for salmon or sea trout from 6pm Friday to 6am Monday by net</li> <li>No salmon to be taken till 1st April</li> </ul> <p>It is illegal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliberately attempt to foul hook fish or to take fish which have been foul hooked i.e. those not hooked in the mouth.</li> <li>Kill kelts, smolts or parr.</li> <li>Take unclean or unseasonable fish being baggots, highly coloured, black or red fish and fish about to or in the process of spawning.</li> <li>Sell salmon or sea trout which have been caught with rod &amp; line.</li> <li>Use natural shrimps or prawns on any part of the river upstream of the Kingholm Gates at the bottom end (tidal area) of the Dumfries Town Fishings.</li> <li>Fish for any fish without written permission (or permit) from the beat's owner or his representative.</li> <li>Fish with any form of salmon roe.</li> <li>Fish with a "fixed line."</li> <li>Use gaffs, tailers or knotted mesh nets.</li> </ul> <p>All fish caught must be recorded with the beat proprietor with the exception of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelts, i.e. fish that have spawned.</li> <li>During spring only, sexually mature fish that have not yet spawned.</li> </ol> <p>Breach of any of the above could lead to criminal prosecution, seizure of fishing equipment and vehicles.</p>	<p><u>Nith Voluntary Regulations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board notes the existing voluntary catch and release policy for salmon from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May.</li> <li>The Board recommends total catch and release of salmon for the whole river system. However, if salmon are to be taken, a maximum of 2 salmon per person per season be taken with a view to achieving in excess of 90% catch and release for the river system.</li> <li>All sea trout under 10" and over 3 lb must be returned.</li> <li>Sea trout retained should be limited to no more than 1 Sea Trout in any day.</li> <li>Barbless hooks be used when the intention is to Catch &amp; Release.</li> <li>Foul hooked fish i.e. those not hooked in the mouth, must be returned to water.</li> <li>Ripe or darkly coloured fish should be returned to the water. If in doubt, RETURN it!</li> <li>Fish being returned to the water should not be handled by the tail or gills and should be released as quickly as possible. Remove the hook with forceps and return the fish facing upstream and gently support it until it swims away.</li> <li>Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible using a priest or appropriate instrument.</li> </ol> <p><u>General Rules</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect boundaries between adjoining beats.</li> <li>Anglers must show permits, tackle and catch to Bailiffs, Police Officers or other anglers if requested.</li> <li>Anglers under 12 years of age should be accompanied by an adult when fishing.</li> </ol> <p><u>Methods &amp; Equipment</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not use sweep nets, ground bait or rod rests.</li> <li>Do not fish from trees, bridges, etc. or use assistance from anyone in such a position.</li> <li>The maximum permitted line breaking strain for all types of fishing should be 15lbs.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Spinning and Bait fishing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bait/spinner must be kept moving through the water at all times.</li> <li>The maximum permitted hook size for bait fishing will be No 4.</li> </ol> <p><u>Fly Fishing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fly hooks or tubes should be properly dressed with a coloured body and a reasonable quantity of hair/fur/feather in proportion to the hook size.</li> <li>Anglers should not use weights or lead-core lines of any kind when fishing with the fly.</li> <li>No retrieve, other than slow hand-lining should be made until the cast has been fished out.</li> </ol> <p><u>General Conduct</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always fish in a sporting manner.</li> <li>Give consideration to anglers on the opposite bank.</li> <li>Fish down through pools in rotation, taking at least one full step between casts.</li> <li>Avoid unnecessary wading or any avoidable disturbance to the water.</li> <li>Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.</li> <li>Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the roadway.</li> <li>Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.</li> <li>Follow the Country Code. Always respect farm animals and crops.</li> <li>Do not light fires or allow dogs to roam free.</li> <li>Always be conscious of and alert to hazards and look after your own safety and the safety of other anglers.</li> </ol> <p>Report strange goings-on immediately to:  <b>River Enforcement Staff - 07785 743663</b>  <b>Police – 101</b></p>
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Catch and Release Guidelines can be found on the River Nith website [www.river-nith.com/conservation-policy](http://www.river-nith.com/conservation-policy)

## Appendix 7: Clerk's notes on the Accounts

### Clerks Notes on the Accounts

01.12.18 – 30.11.19

#### DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

##### Turnover

###### Assessments Receivable

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

###### Consultancy Income

This arises from the Board's activities in connection with supplying environmental audit reports to contractors involved in wind farm, micro hydro and civil engineering projects that might have an impact on the Fishery, derived from electro fishing and other monitoring data collected by the Board. Consultancy Income rose substantially during the course of the year.

###### Refund of dues

The proportion of refund arising during this accounting year agreed to be paid by the Board to the Proprietors in the last fiscal year (round figures - £105,000).

##### Other operating income

###### Bank Interest

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

##### Overheads

###### Wages & Salaries

The Board at the close of the financial year employed a Fishery Director and a Head Bailiff.

###### Grant to NCFT

The Board at the inception of the formation of the Trust agreed to support the formation and running costs of NCFT.

###### Staff Pensions Costs

These are linked to salaries paid by the Board paying a percentage of salary paid to the employees The Board contributes pension contribution of 7.5% of salary paid to employees who have pension plans. The Board complies with Government requirements to put in place a retirement pension scheme for its employees. Both employees have declined to take up the statutory pension scheme, but the Board will continue to provide access to the scheme for existing employees and new future employees.

###### 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, water gate construction on Crawick Water, shotgun safety inspection and maintenance etc.

###### Motor Expenses

Increases this year because of trailer repairs, repairs to the Land Rover Defender Twin Cab and purchase of accessories for new Toyota Twin Cab

###### Accommodation and Subsistence

For attendances at meetings, courses and attendance of the Board at Drumlanrig Country Fair and for hire of Board meeting room and lunches.

###### Promotional and Public Relations

Nith Season Opening Ceremony. Web hosting promotion of the Board's web site.

#### Clerk's Fees

Additional Fee rendered for work done on behalf of the Board with the Upper Nith Restoration Project, but paid for by SEPA.

#### Clothing Allowance

Payments for staff work and health and safety clothing.

#### Hire of Equipment

Hire of quad bike required for various projects in respect of which Consultancy Income is engathered. C&K Harvie for hire of digger to repair water gate on Crawick.

#### Accommodation & Subsistence

Attendance of staff at Bailiffs and other Fishery related Conferences and meetings.

#### Promotional and Public Relations Expenses

For website design update and hosting

#### General Expenses

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

#### Subscriptions

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

Bad Debts Write off of assessments due by a proprietor because of back dated zero rating of his fishery due to ban on stake netting

### **Balance Sheet**

#### **Fixed Assets**

##### Plant & Machinery

As detailed in the Fixed Assets Schedule.

##### Motor Vehicles

As detailed in the Motor Vehicles Schedule-

#### **Current Assets**

**Debtors** this year relates to outstanding consultancy income invoices at close of books and some assessments remaining outstanding, one of which relates to withdrawal of the right to continue with netting and killing of salmon as a consequence of the Scottish Government's decision to ban the netting of salmon during the course of the year.

#### **Current Liabilities**

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

**Registration number**

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**  
**Board members' report and financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

## **The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

### **Board Information**

Board of Members	Mr Percy Weatherall (Chairman) Mr Robbie Cowan Mr Peter Landale Mr Nick Wright Mr Nick Brown Ms Anna Fergusson Mr David Kempell Mr Wally Wright Mr Peter Hutchison Mr John Charteris Mr Raymond Mundle Mr Mike Mackin Mr Thomas Florey Mr Tom Brown
Clerk to the Board	Mr Roderick R Styles
Registered office	37 George Street Dumfries DG1 1EB
Auditors	Carson & Trotter Chartered Accountants 123 Irish Street Dumfries DG1 2PE

# **The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

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Balance sheet	<b>5</b>
Notes to the financial statements	<b>6 - 9</b>



## **The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

### **Board members' report** **for the year ended 30th November 2019**

The board members present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30th November 2019.

#### **Principal activity**

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

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

#### **Board of Members**

The members who served during the period were as follows:

Mr Percy Weatherall (Chairman)  
Mr Robbie Cowan  
Mr Peter Landale  
Mr Nick Wright  
Mr Nick Brown  
Ms Anna Fergusson  
Mr David Kempself  
Mr Wally Wright  
Mr Peter Hutchison  
Mr John Charteris  
Mr Raymond Mundle  
Mr Mike Mackin  
Mr Thomas Florey  
Mr Tom Brown

#### **Responsibilities of the board**

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

Section 44 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 requires the Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year. We have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Board members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the surplus or deficit of the organisation for that period. In preparing these financial statements, we are required to:

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

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Board members' report**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

..... continued

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

The board members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the organisational and financial information included on the organisations's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Auditors**

Each of the persons who is a board member at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the organisation's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a board member to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the organisation's auditor is aware of that information.

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

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

**P Weatherall**  
**Chairman**

## **The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

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

In accordance with Section 44 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 and Section 24 of the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013, we have audited the financial statements of The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board for the year ended 30th November 2019 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the balance sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of board members and auditors**

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

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

#### **Scope of the audit**

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

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs as at 30th November 2018 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003.

**Messrs. Carson & Trotter, Chartered Accountants**

**Statutory Auditor**

**123 Irish Street**

**Dumfries**

**DG1 2PE**

**Date:**

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Income and expenditure account**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>2</b>	303,693	326,780
Cost of sales		(104,997)	(64,995)
<b>Gross profit</b>		198,696	261,785
Administrative expenses		(211,879)	(207,107)
Other operating income		-	7,443
<b>Operating (loss)/profit</b>	<b>3</b>	(13,183)	62,121
Other interest receivable and similar income		1,744	1,168
<b>Surplus(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		(11,439)	63,289
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	<b>5</b>	(331)	(222)
<b>(Loss)/profit for the financial year</b>	<b>9</b>	(11,770)	63,067

**The notes on pages 6 to 9 form an integral part of these financial statements.**

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 30th November 2019**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	<b>6</b>		32,534		38,907
<b>Current assets</b>					
Work in progress		19,005		-	
Debtors	<b>7</b>	63,682		86,270	
Cash at bank and in hand		209,123		217,827	
		<u>291,810</u>		<u>304,097</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>8</b>	<u>(7,583)</u>		<u>(14,473)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>284,227</u>		<u>289,624</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			316,761		328,531
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>316,761</u>		<u>328,531</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Income and expenditure account	<b>9</b>		<u>316,761</u>		<u>328,531</u>
<b>Members' funds</b>			<u>316,761</u>		<u>328,531</u>

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

**P Weatherall**  
**Chairman**

**The notes on pages 6 to 9 form an integral part of these financial statements.**

## **The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

### **Notes to the financial statements** **for the year ended 30th November 2019**

#### **1. General Information**

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board is an unincorporated organisation, constituted under the Salmon Fisheries legislation.

##### **1.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. The significant accounting policies applied in preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

##### **1.2. Turnover**

Turnover is the assessment levy received by the organisation during the year, the amount charged each year is a factor of the rateable value of the proprietors of Salmon Fisheries in the Nith District.

Turnover also consists of income generated from consultancy on developments surrounding the Nith District as well as grants received from the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust.

##### **1.3. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

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

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

##### **1.4. Stock and work in progress**

Work in progress is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

##### **1.5. Pensions**

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

#### **2. Turnover**

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

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

..... continued

<b>3. Operating surplus</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating surplus is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned assets	10,348	12,396
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	2,317	-
Auditors' remuneration	2,200	2,266
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
and after crediting:		
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	7,443

**4. Pension costs**

The organisation operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the organisation in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the organisation to the fund and amounted to £5,870 (2018 - £5,130).

**5. Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities**

<b>Analysis of charge in period</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current tax</b>		
UK corporation tax	331	222
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Factors that may affect future tax charges**

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

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

..... continued

<b>6. Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>Nightsights</b>	<b>Tenant's</b>	<b>Plant and</b>	<b>Motor</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Improvements</b>	<b>machinery</b>	<b>vehicles</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1st December 2018	11,257	5,326	50,202	53,811	120,596
Additions	-	-	6,292	-	6,292
Disposals	-	-	2,317	-	(2,317)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th November 2019	11,257	5,326	54,177	53,811	124,571
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1st December 2018	8,164	3,870	43,876	25,779	81,689
Charge for the year	618	146	2,576	7,008	10,348
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th November 2019	8,782	4,016	46,452	32,787	92,037
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 30th November 2019	2,475	1,310	7,725	21,024	32,534
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 30th November 2018	3,093	1,456	6,326	28,032	38,907
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

<b>7. Debtors</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	60,592	82,812
Prepayments and accrued income	3,090	3,458
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63,682	86,270
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

<b>8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other creditors	2,852	12,051
Corporation tax	331	222
Accruals and deferred income	4,400	2,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,583	14,473
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>



**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

..... continued

<b>9. Reserves</b>	<b>Profit and loss account £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
At 1st December 2018	328,531	328,531
Loss for the year	(11,770)	(11,770)
At 30th November 2019	<u>316,761</u>	<u>316,761</u>

**10. Related party transactions**

Board members pay an annual fee to the organisation based on the rateable value of their land. Board members are taken from the pool of entities that are required to pay a fee. There are no special considerations given to Board Members. During the year, the organisation has paid £11,456 (2018 - £9,900) to Walker & Sharpe, a firm in which Mr Roderick Styles is a partner, for carrying out the Clerk function.

**11. Controlling interest**

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

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 30th November 2019**

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tenant's Improvements		1,310		1,456
Nightsights		2,475		3,093
Plant & Machinery		9,463		6,326
Motor Vehicles		21,024		28,032
		<u>34,272</u>		<u>38,907</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Stocks and work-in-progress	19,005		-	
Debtors	60,592		82,812	
Prepayments	3,090		3,458	
Clydesdale Cashflow Account	6,351		5,677	
Clydesdale Cash Management Account	25		25	
Scottish Building Society Scotplus Account	183,276		188,371	
Scottish Building Society - SEPA funds	1,171		11,505	
Scottish Building Society Vehicle Account	18,300		12,249	
	<u>291,810</u>		<u>304,097</u>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Trade creditors	2,852		12,051	
Corporation Tax	331		222	
Accruals	4,400		2,200	
	<u>7,583</u>		<u>14,473</u>	
<b>Net Current assets</b>		284,227		289,624
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>318,499</u>		<u>328,531</u>
Income and expenditure account		318,499		328,531
<b>Members' funds</b>		<u>318,499</u>		<u>328,531</u>

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Detailed Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Turnover</b>		
Assessments receivable	<b>184,200</b>	183,653
Consultancy income	<b>119,493</b>	143,127
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>303,693</b>	326,780
Less: Refund of dues	<b>(104,997)</b>	(64,995)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>198,696</b>	261,785
<b>Other operating income</b>		
Bank interest	<b>1,744</b>	1,168
Gain on sale of fixed assets	<b>-</b>	7,443
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>200,440</b>	270,396

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Detailed Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>brought forward</b>	<b>200,440</b>	270,396
<b>Overheads</b>		
Wages and salaries	102,070	105,521
Grant to NCF Trust	41,702	37,139
Staff pension costs	5,870	5,130
Staff training	18	125
Insurance	5,433	5,381
Repairs and maintenance	4,122	2,683
Clothing allowance	1,609	1,528
Printing, postage and stationery	383	499
Telephone and internet	2,597	2,475
Hire of equipment	3,220	2,800
Motor expenses	12,935	10,151
Accommodation and subsistence	1,526	993
Promotional & public relations expenses	623	384
Clerk's fee to Walker & Sharpe	11,456	9,900
Audit fees	2,200	2,266
Bank charges	282	291
Bad debts	-	3,218
General expenses	1,149	2,152
Subscriptions	2,019	2,075
Depreciation	10,927	12,396
	<u>(210,141)</u>	<u>(207,107)</u>
<b>Surplus before tax</b>	<b>(9,701)</b>	63,289
Taxation	(331)	(222)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>(10,032)</b>	63,067
<b>Retained profit brought forward</b>	<b>328,531</b>	265,464
<b>Retained profit carried forward</b>	<b>318,499</b>	328,531

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Fixed Asset Schedule**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

£                      £

**Tenant's Improvements**

<b>Opening Balance</b>		1,456
Less: Depreciation for year @ 10%		146
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<u>1,310</u>

**Nightsights**

<b>Opening Balance</b>		3,093
Less: Depreciation for year @ 20%		618
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<u>2,475</u>

**Plant & Machinery**

<b>Opening Balance</b>		6,326
<b>Additions</b>		
Camera	292	
Smolt Trap	6,000	
		<u>6,292</u>
		12,618
Less: Depreciation for year @ 25%		3,155
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<u>9,463</u>

**The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board**

**Fixed Asset Schedule**  
**for the year ended 30th November 2019**

	£	£
<b><u>Motor Vehicles</u></b>		
Landrover ST64 CVH - balance b/f	5,704	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	1,425	
	<hr/>	4,279
Toyota Hilux BT67 XXU - balance b/f	22,327	
Depreciation for year @25%	5,582	
	<hr/>	16,745
<b>Closing book value</b>		<hr/> <hr/>
		21,024