

THE RIVER NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW

1st December 2019 - 30th November 2020



"2020 Opening Day at Drumlanrig"

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AGENDA

for the

ANNUAL QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS MEETING

for year

01.12.19 - 30.11.20

10am on Tuesday 30th March 2021

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. Minutes of Annual Qualified Proprietors Meeting 20.08.20
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 AND ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

HELD AT FRIARS CARSE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

ON 20 AUGUST 2020 AT 10AM

PRESENT

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Raymond Mundle – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
David Kempself – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Peter Hutchison – Douglas Hall Fisheries

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Geoff Walter
Jacob Kaye
Christine Carson
Kevin Corder

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Anna Ferguson
Peter Landale
Thomas Florey

The Chairman opened the meeting. He reported that because of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown it had not been possible to convene the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors in March and so it had been decided to amalgamate the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and the Annual Public Meeting into this one meeting. In addition, members of Nith Catchment Fishery Trust were present.

The Chairman referred to all information (Annual Report and Annual Accounts) that had been circulated and reported that no issues had been raised on them or any other matter in advance of the meetings.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS – 22 MARCH 2019

The Chairman referred to these and asked for comments. There were none. They were duly approved.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING – 7 JUNE 2019

The Chairman asked for comments on these. There were no observations. The Minutes were duly approved.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Chairman referred to the contents of the Annual Report and asked for any comments. None were received and the Annual Report was considered to be duly approved.

4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk addressed the Accounts and referred to the Notes on Accounts. He advised of the brief that had been given to attempt to reduce the expenditure of the Board. The Chairman made comment on the amount of savings that had been made during the course of the Financial Year. The Chairman asked for comments on the Annual Accounts. None were raised and the Accounts were duly approved.

5. MANAGEMENT PLANS

FD advised on the withholding of the production of the new Fishery Management Plan. Scottish Government (SG) through Marine Scotland, had during the course of the year, promoted the creation of a "Pressures Tool". FD and FB had undertaken the work to identify pressures affecting salmon and sea trout fisheries within the whole of the Nith System. The Plan is not all inclusive for all aspects of work. The latest Fishery Management Plan ran its course in 2018. Now with the pressures tool FD believed that a revised draft Plan should be prepared during the Winter for the Spring of 2020. The Chairman reinforced the point that the Board will continue to operate at full capacity notwithstanding the current difficulties caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic and that everything within the Board's powers that could be done for the benefit of the River System and the salmon fisheries would be implemented by the Board.

FD reported that the new Management Plan will update the way in which the Board will operate, for example, we will be conducting smolt trapping in the river. Predator control will be maintained and monitoring of the coal industry and its effects will be continued.

Peter Hutchison asked if guidance had been issued from SG as to what the management plan should include. FD replied that there had been no guidance. Much work had gone into the creation of the pressures tool, but the submissions on behalf of Boards and Trusts were still being analysed. No guidance had been issued.

Discussions took place about the lack of benefit in identifying pressures on the fishery that cannot be ascertained because of legal impediment. The Board will continue to operate and modernise its approach having regard to changing circumstances.

Raymond Mundle asked if there might be a loosening of the approach on avian predators in the event of leaving the European Union. FD reported that it is to be expected that with information arising from the smolt trapping and tagging and the results of attempting to identify whether or not avian predation is having a serious effect on the salmon fishery, then it is to be hoped that this will add weight to the ability of the Board to be able to have more control over avian predators. FD reported that control of avian predators during the course of the year had been restricted as a consequence of Covid-19. FD reported that accurate counts of avian predators took place twice a year and had done so for many years.

Peter Hutchison asked if there was much variation in the annual count of avian predators. FD responded that it remains constant despite control. Removal of goosanders creates a vacuum which is filled very quickly. Salmonids form a large part of the diet of goosanders. Cormorants seemed to be indiscriminate in their eating habits. Numbers fluctuate over the course of the year.

Geoff Walters asked how other local rivers are controlling birds. FD responded that on the River Annan some control is undertaken.

Geoff Walters asked if it might be possible for co-operation amongst the Boards. The Clerk responded that in order to be able to control avian predators, each Board had to apply to SG for Licences based upon bird number counts.

It was observed that it is to be hoped that trapping and tagging might give further information in connection with avian predation.

Jacob Kaye introduced himself and thanked FD and FB for their assistance. He had been looking into the escape of aluminium hydroxide. He had seen slurry going into rivers and had contacted SEPA. The Chairman responded that it was very difficult to have SEPA respond to anything and particularly at the present time because of lockdown restrictions. The Board tended to follow through as much as possible in connection with reporting pollution incidents.

6. A.O.C.B.

The Chairman asked for any other questions and there being none, the meetings concluded.

Chairman's Foreword

2020 was an extraordinary year. When it opened 'social distancing' was an unknown concept, face mask-wearing was confined to hospital operating theatres and Covid-19 was something you might hear in a game of Chinese whispers. One year on and we are in a second, or is it third? Lockdown and our lives – in particular our social and recreational lives – have been thoroughly disrupted. Our government is trying to navigate its way through the uncharted waters of a pandemic that is having a profound and as-yet unquantifiable impact on all of our lives. It has not been easy.



The River Nith, however, has been quite unaffected by the upheaval that has rocked the world of humans. It has continued to make its stately way from the beautiful Lowther Hills in which it rises to the silvery Solway. Flood and drought have followed one another as spring follows winter. Birds and beasts have bred on its banks, fish have swum in its pellucid waters and, occasionally, an angler has been tempted to pursue his (or her) ancient sport. Our river is a soothing constant in troubled times.

The initial impact of lockdown was intense. Your board could not meet and our staff were unable to go about their business. Happily, as the year progressed, ways were found for us to function in the time of Covid. Board and Trust members (myself included) discovered I.T. skills they little suspected they had and Zoom meetings became the new normal. Likewise, as new protocols were formulated, ways were found to re-engage in riverine management and remunerative consultancy work. We kept calm and carried on.

Fishing effort on the Nith was suppressed in lockdown and your board is conscious of the economic impact this has had on fishery interests. Happily, our stakeholders understand the issues we have all faced over the past year and continue to give us very welcome support.

The West Coast Salmon Smolt Tracking Project was set to kick off in spring 2020 but fell victim to Covid. We had developed plans with the Atlantic Salmon Trust and other fishery boards and trusts to trap and tag smolts descending our river, track them to the Solway and on up the West Coast. The project was postponed, not cancelled. I am delighted to be able to report that it will proceed this spring and have high hopes that it will produce some of the hard data we so badly need to manage better the salmonids in our river.

Notwithstanding the inevitable reduction in fishing effort engendered by Covid it is very encouraging to be able to report that 2020 saw the highest recorded catch of salmon on the Nith since 2013. This bodes well for the current season and has already stimulated renewed angling interest.

I must take this opportunity to thank the many diverse organisations that your board and trust work with in its efforts to manage the river and its stocks of fish. Without their continuing support we would be in a poor state indeed. I must also thank our hard-working staff for their unceasing industry in these troubled times.

To conclude on an optimistic note; our government's vaccination programme – now in full swing – seems to be getting the better of Covid, there is light at the end of the lockdown tunnel and spring is in the air.

With best wishes for a thoroughly enjoyable and productive fishing season on the River Nith in 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E.P.K. Weatherall'.

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 3rd July 2018.

The Nith Board for the year comprised: -

Chairman	Percy Weatherall	
Lower Proprietors	Robbie Cowan John Charteris Peter Hutchinson Tom Brown	Caerlaverock Estate Dumfries and Galloway Council Douglas Hall Fishery Drumburn Estate
Upper Proprietors	Peter Landale Nick Wright Anna Fergusson David Kempzell Richard Gladwin	Dalswinton Estate Closeburn Castle Fishing Buccleuch Estates Limited D & G Angling Association Blackwood Estate
Lower Co-optees	Mike Mackin Wally Wright	Netting Representative Netting Representative
Upper Co-optees	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 NatureScot however in recent years SEPA and NatureScot 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 in recent years as a result of integrated catchment management. The Board, as a "Competent Authority" plays a significant role in integrated catchment management of the wider environment of the River Nith. This includes responding to consultation documentation on the subject of forest management plans, Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) via SEPA, planning applications when appropriate and many other aspects of land management with the potential to impact on the water environment.

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. 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 them 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 NatureScot and SEPA.

Current legislation permits that 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*), stone loach (*neopmacheilus barbatulus*), three spined stickleback (*gasterosteus aculeatus*) and grayling (*thymallus thymallus*).

Three varieties of lamprey are also present sea lamprey (*petromyzon marinus*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and the fresh water resident brook lamprey (*lampetra planeri*). In recent years a number of local lochs have been stocked with rainbow trout (*oncorhynchus mykiss*) that have subsequently found routes into the river system. However, there is no evidence that they have established a breeding population. The trend of stocking rainbow trout into ponds is of concern to NDSFB due to the predatory nature of this species of non-indigenous fish.

10. Fishing Methods

Angling is widespread throughout the River Nith catchment. 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. Net fishing was traditionally practiced within the Nith catchment. Since the Scottish Government's inception of "The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016" net 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. Haaf netting in the inner estuarial waters continues 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.

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.

To improve our knowledge of smolt migrations, NDSFB in partnership with the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, had been invited to participate with other rivers in the West Coast Salmon Smolt Tracking Project. The West Coast Salmon Smolt Tracking Project is a three-year project which aims to establish the ocean migration patterns of salmon smolts in the inshore waters around the north - west coast of Scotland using acoustic telemetry. The results from this project will provide insights into the speed and direction of individual fish migration, test and refine Marine Scotland Science's smolt dispersal model and smolt survival in freshwater. This project was intended to commence in the spring of 2020, however, due to Covid-19 restrictions, was postponed.

13. Angling Availability

There are three angling associations on the River Nith as follows: -

Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Upper Nithsdale Angling Association
New Cumnock 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 safeguarding fish stocks of all kinds within the Nith. The quality and quantity of water in the Nith catchment is monitored by SEPA. NDSFB reports all incidents of pollution and investigates when required or if there is a threat to fish populations.

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
Total	108.5 km	

17. Juvenile Salmon and Trout Populations

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 others 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 mainstream 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 have been surveyed on an annual basis since 2014. In 2020, the average densities of salmon fry across all the sites surveyed are classified as excellent as are salmon parr densities. These salmon fry densities are comparable with those found in the 2019 set of electrofishing surveys but we can see an increase in the densities of salmon parr. The spike in salmon fry populations in 2018 one the chart below can be explained by a severe drought experienced at time of survey. A more stable feature of the trending chart is the sustained elevation of fry populations extending over the two-year period since 2019.

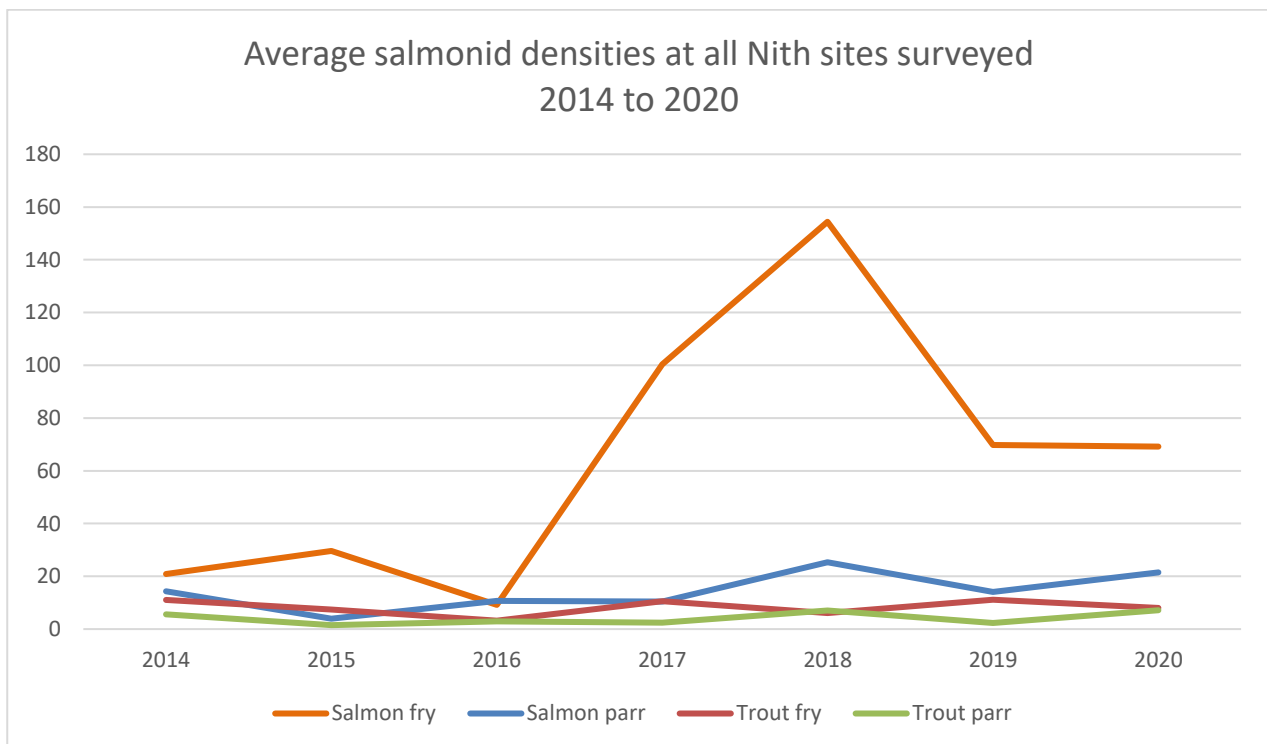
Electrofishing results for the Ten Annual sites in 2020

Watercourse	Site code	Location	Salmon fry (/100m ²)	Salmon parr (/100m ²)	Trout fry (/100m ²)	Trout parr (/100m ²)	Other species
Nith	1	Downstream of Nith Lodge, New Cumnock	14.62	21.05	0.00	5.32	SL
Nith	2	Downstream of Boig Road Bridge, New Cumnock	3.27	13.07	6.54	0.00	SL, M, L, E
Nith	3	Upstream of Guildhall Bridge, Kirkconnel	145.74	8.07	8.07	3.70	SL
Nith	4	At Auldgirth New Bridge	7.94	20.63	0.00	3.17	SL, M, G, E
Afton	5	Upstream of Blackcraig Bridge	63.15	35.36	2.35	16.51	-
Crawick Water	6	Downstream of Spango Bridge	148.00	7.86	4.69	0.00	-
Mennock Water	7	Upstream of confluence with Glenim Burn	47.34	15.77	31.78	19.83	-
Scaur Water	8	Downstream or Bridge at Glenwharren	27.95	10.93	11.01	1.21	-
Cample Water	9	Downstream of bridge at Kirkbog Farm	233.71	77.95	11.11	0.00	SL, M, E
Dalwhat Water	10	Upstream of Bailwood Plantation	0.00	4.36	4.36	21.79	-
Average of all sites:			69.17	21.51	7.99	7.15	

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 100m²

absent	very poor	poor	moderate	good	excellent
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National Electrofishing Programme Scotland (NEPS)

The National Electrofishing Programme Scotland (NEPS) is a national programme of electrofishing organised and funded by Marine Scotland, SEPA and NatureScot 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 during 2018 and 2019 using a strict protocol. Each participating catchment in Scotland was assigned 30 electrofishing sites. These sites were selected randomly throughout the catchment to reduce bias. The River Nith has been assigned 28 sites – 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 and 2019 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://www.gov.scot/publications/national-electrofishing-programme-for-scotland/> and the Shiny App can be found here to explore the results

<https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-national-electrofishing-programme-scotland/>. The 2020 NEPS surveying was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that it will resume in 2021.

The results show that across Scotland there was a 44% decrease in the number of salmon fry compared to 2018. There appear to be two major contributing factors to this. Firstly, the number of returning adult salmon in 2018 was down from 50,988 reported catches in 2017 to 37,586, making 2018 the lowest catch recorded since records began in 1952.

Additionally, Scotland experienced one of the hottest, driest summers on record in 2018, whereas 2019 was the second wettest summer ever recorded. Both factors will have impacted on the number of fish captured during the surveys however, it is believed that the reduced number of spawning adults was the main contributing factor.

In the Nith catchment, salmon fry densities were found to be reduced on those in 2018, moving the juvenile grading from a Grade 2 in 2018 to a Grade 3 in 2019. Combined with the Grade 3 for parr densities the Nith has an overall Grade 3 in 2019. Both Salmon fry and parr densities were below the benchmark which are the densities that would be expected for a “healthy” river.

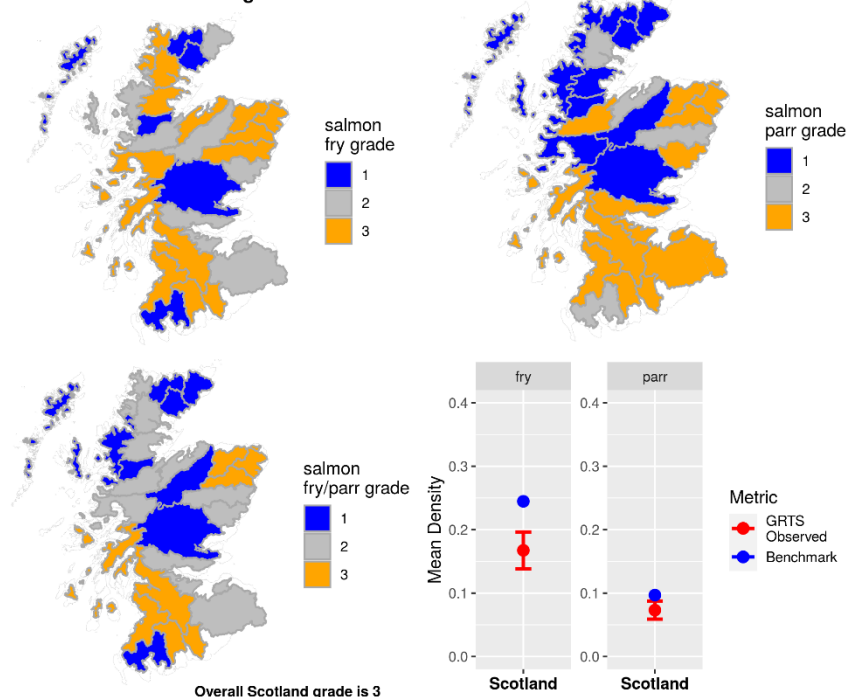
The illustrations on the right show the 2019 gradings nationally for juvenile salmon.

The full report from Marine Scotland detailing the results from the 2019 survey season can be found here - <https://data.marine.gov.scot/sites/default/files//SMFS%201109.pdf>.

marine scotland

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

National salmon all life stages 2019



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Grade

By comparing regional or national estimates of mean salmon density obtained from GRTS sampling with benchmark estimates, each region is given a grading (1 - 3) for fry and parr separately. A region with a grading of 1 is coloured blue, a grading of 2 as grey and 3 as orange.

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

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 2020 at the following locations:

Species	Number	Location
Salmon	48,000	Greenburn Nith
Sea trout	23,000	Greenburn Dalgig
Salmon	24,000	Crawick Water

Total fry stocked out
95,000

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 2020, 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. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the Nith and other participating rivers in this project were unable to shoot avian predators under this licence. This also will have an impact on the research analysis component of this project being conducted by Dr David Carss, from the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology.

Counts of goosander and cormorants are conducted on the mainstem and a number of tributaries annually. 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 mink were captured during the period December 2019 to November 2020 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 2020 salmon fishing season was 100% in accordance with the Scottish Governments conservation categorisation for the 2020 fishing season (see section 22 below).

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 2020, the River Nith was categorised as a Category 3 river, which meant that no salmon were permitted to be taken in an attempt to sustain stocks.

23. Salmonid Stocks

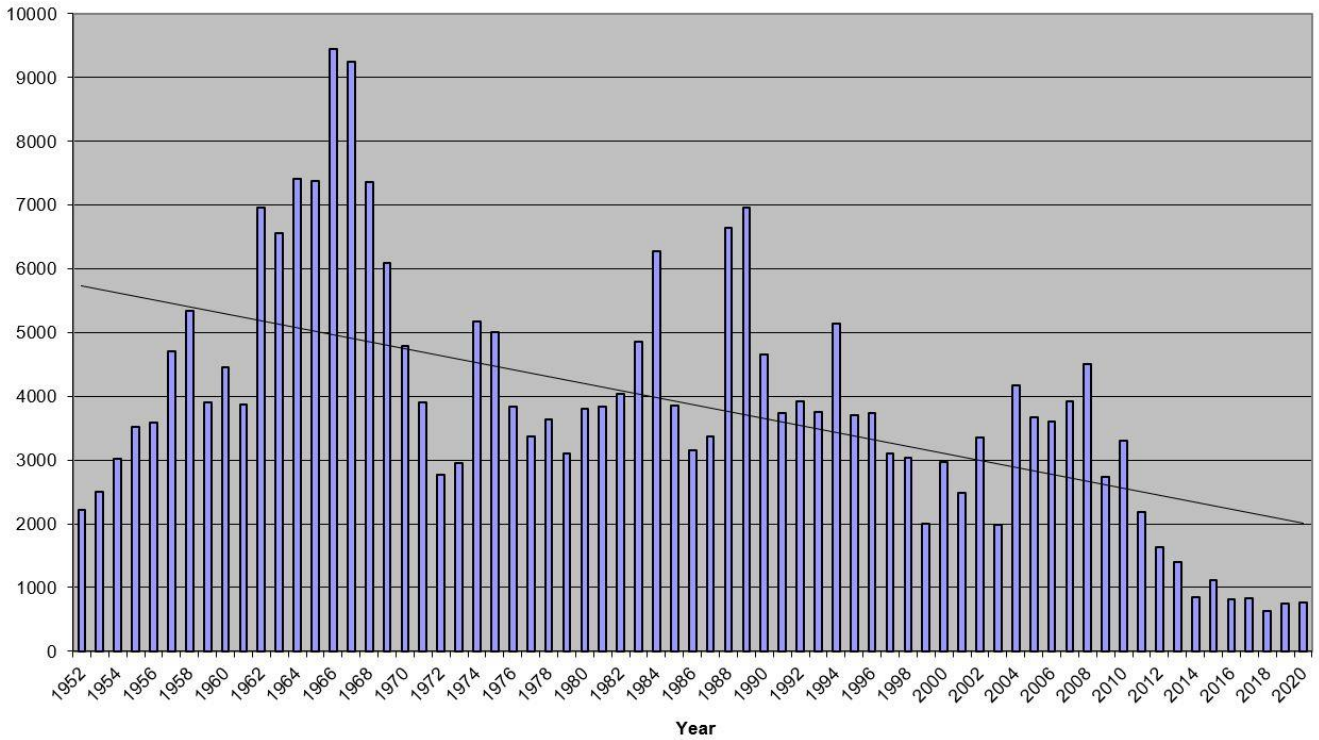
Juvenile Stocks Our surveys show that in general stocks of juvenile salmonids are at a satisfactory level in the majority of the catchment. There are, however, some tributaries in which numbers are well below optimum levels. Monitoring will help to determine which of these tributaries require Habitat 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 1st each year. Even in years when the Scottish Government's conservation categorisation allows for the taking of salmon, the Nith Board recommends that no salmon should be killed prior to the 1st of June in any year.

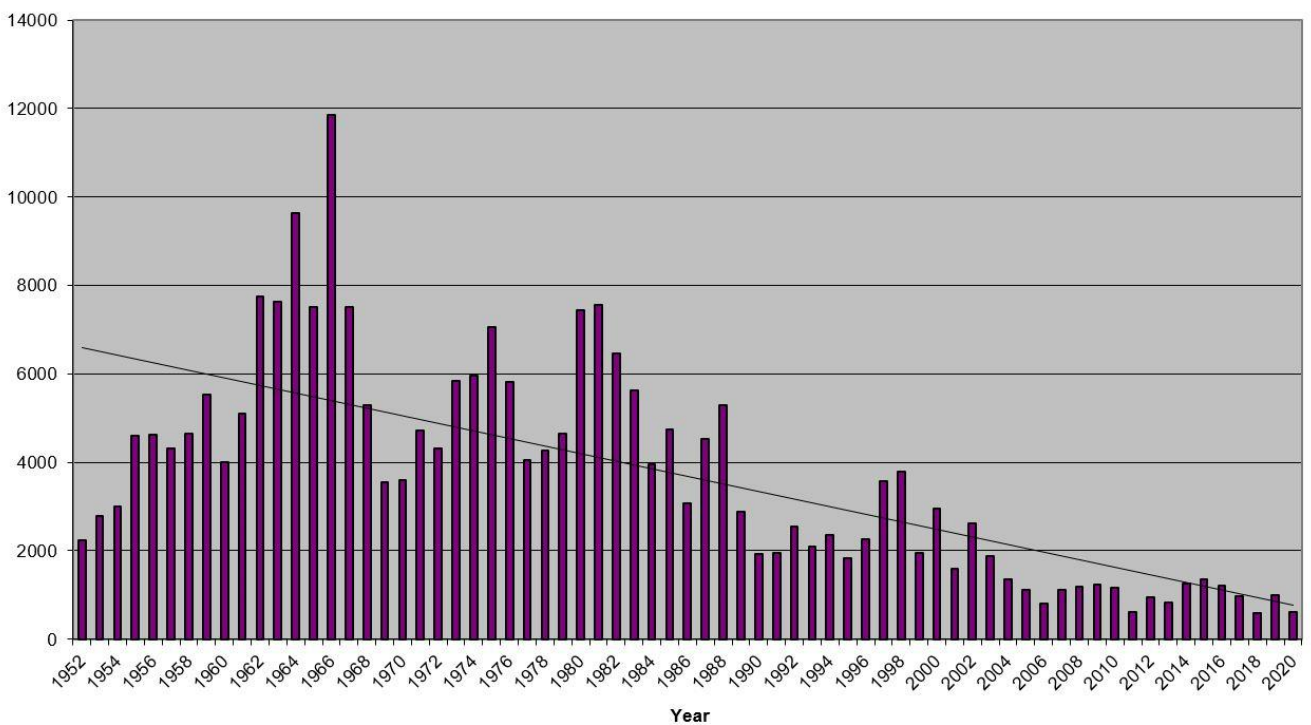
Grilse and Autumn Fish The availability of grilse and summer salmon plays an important part in providing fishing for local rods before many visitors come to the Nith for the autumn fishing. The grilse run on the River Nith system is not as consistent now as it once was. Catch data has showed a distinct alteration in run timing of salmon throughout the Nith catchment. The peak months for salmon catches is now late summer/early autumn.

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 - 2020



Total Sea Trout Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2020



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, have both ceased to produce coal and are now in a restoration phase of completion. 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 have higher survival rates 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. 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 01.12.19 - 30.11.20

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: -

14th January 2020

20th August 2020 (Annual General Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Annual Public Meeting)

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 netsmen 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.

30. Biologist's Report 2020

Our Trust had an ambitious year ahead planned as we went into Christmas holidays at the end of 2019. We had burnt the midnight oil and prepared for the coming of 2020 and as we returned to work in the New Year, getting caught up on the previous year's report writing, I remember news reports becoming more concerning about the potential for a virus that we hadn't heard much about, maybe coming our way. Come springtime and Covid-19 was a household talking point and its influence completely altered the work of our Trust and our ability to do our job. The Trust's plans to trap smolts on the Nith were postponed, our Fishing for the Future project with associated school trips all cancelled along with the Nith Young Anglers Club outings. A significant part of the Trust's work over recent years has been the National Electrofishing Project (NEPS). This project allows us to compare the performance of the Nith with all other Scottish salmon rivers and it is important to keep that project maintained in order that trends can be established and management advised. Sadly, this government funded project was also cancelled.

We had put so much work into co-ordinating an interesting program of events for the year and the opportunities to engage with the river community were all cancelled. Our Sea Trout Experience event which has become very popular with locals and visitors alike and provides the river the opportunity to show case its potential had to be cancelled. Our Salmon Open Day, when anglers can fish for the day for free, was cancelled as was the Drumlanrig Country Fair. These are important events for the Trust as they offer the opportunity to engage with the public and convey information about the Trust and the management of the River Nith and the aquatic environment.

Thankfully, during late spring/early summer we were able to get back out on the ground to take on the important work of conducting fisheries surveys. Coupled to that work, we undertook fish rescues in relation to the maintenance of the Carlisle to Kilmarnock railway line. Whilst we were able to work, the strictest Covid-19 policies were put in place for the safety of ourselves and those who we may encounter as we conducted our work. Much of that work takes place in remote locations, but still had to be performed according to guidelines and national policies. We spent time during the year preparing for the future events and projects that will assist us when this virus has been managed to a degree that permits us to fully engage with the public.

Our funders have fully understood the predicament that Covid-19 has placed us in and have continued their support for the Trust and its work. We have continued to keep them informed of future plans and the direction of the Trust. Without their support momentum would be lost and recovery from the Covid-19 impacts would be very difficult. On behalf of the Trust, I would like to express thanks to all who support us.

We are very optimistic looking forward, not least of all due to the significantly increased numbers of salmon that were recorded during 2020 in the Nith catchment. Despite anglers being unable to come to our region and fish, we recorded the highest number of salmon caught by rod and line since 2013. Those fish were in pristine condition and ran the river earlier. We hope this trend continues and lifts the spirits of all our anglers.

Farewell to the rath of 2020 and we welcome in the vaccinated 2021.

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 works to a Fishery Management Plan which outlines the Boards intentions for the foreseeable future. The Board have delayed in writing it latest Fishery Management Plan in anticipation of the publication of Marine Scotland's Salmon Pressure Mapping Tool. It is important that the Board's plan incorporates and integrates local management objectives with national policies. It is anticipated that the new Fishery Management Plan will be drafted in 2021.

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 Nature Scot.

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 where licenced to do so.

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/NatureScot/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, NatureScot, 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 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 3 for the 2021 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 2021 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, NatureScot, 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.

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 and U.K parliaments.

Liaison Organisations

Organisations and groups with which Nith District Fishery Board liaise closely and regularly regarding local, national and international management of salmon and sea trout stocks.

Local Organisations and Groups	Proprietors and Agents Nith Haaf Net Fishers Association Anglers and Angling Clubs Local Authorities and Councils Other Fishery Boards
National Organisations (Fisheries)	Scottish Government (Marine Scotland) Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) Police Scotland North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Other Fishery Boards
National Organisations (Conservation/Protection)	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) NatureScot Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) Environment Agency (EA)
Industrial Companies	Kier Mining, TranServe Scotland, Windfarm Operators, Network Rail, Hargreaves Surface Mining, Gas Infrastructure, Iberdrola, AMEC, Scottish Woodlands, Scottish Power Renewables.

Current Nith Fishery Management Plan 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 Salmon Pressures Papping Tool.

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.

See **Appendix 7** for work conducted in accordance with the current Fishery Management Plan during 2020.

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Appendix 1: Attendances at Nith Board Meetings

Nith Board Meeting Dates	No. Board Members Attended	Attendance Rate (%)
14 th January 2020	12 (max 15)	80%
20 th August 2020 (AQPM & APM)	4 (max 15)	27%

Board Meeting Dates	Attendees (apologies/absent)	
<p>14th January 2020 Board meeting</p>	<p>Board members 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>Members of the Public</p>
<p>20th August 2020 Annual General Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Annual Public Meeting</p>	<p>Board members 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>Members of the Public Christine Carson Kevin Corder Geoff Walter Jakob Kaye</p>

Appendix 2: Statement of Good Governance Compliance

The ability of the Board to be able to comply with good governance protocols was severely hampered by the Covid 19 pandemic during the course of the year.

Meetings

The annual meeting of qualified proprietors and the Annual Public meeting were both held at Friars Carse Country House Hotel on 20 August 2020 in the Hotel's function marquee because it had not been possible to hold meetings earlier in the year due to a combination of lockdown restrictions and social distancing rules in the earlier part of the year.

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. Members of the public who were also members of Nith Fisheries Trust chose to attend. A meeting of the Nith Board was held on 14 January 2020 and one was scheduled to take place after the combined AMQP and APM on 20 August 2020, but was cancelled due to being inquorate because of underlying concerns over the Covid 19 Pandemic. 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 2020.

Salmon and grilse caught over the last 10 years

Year	Rods (%C&R)	Nets (%C&R)	Total	5-year average
2011	1637 (40%)	545 (0%)	2182	3331
2012	1283 (40%)	352 (0%)	1635	2873
2013	940 (59%)	465 (0%)	1405	2253
2014	520 (64%)	331 (1%)	851	1876
2015	702 (63%)	417 (0.5%)	1119	1438
2016	655 (100%)	163 (100%)	818	1166
2017	695 (89%)	133 (70%)	828	1004
2018	520 (91%)	110 (54%)	630	849
2019	586 (93%)	158 (73%)	744	828
2020	764 (100%)	63 (100%)	827	769

Sea trout caught over the last 10 years

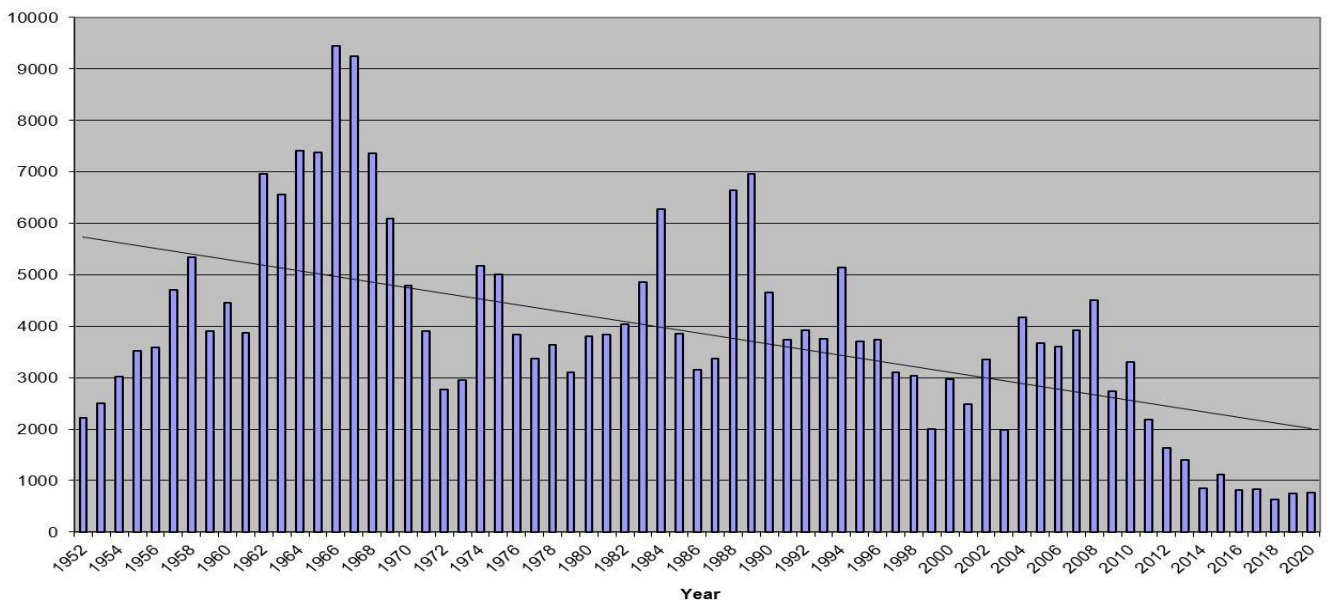
Year	Rods (%C&R)	Nets (%C&R)	Total	5-year average
2011	515 (46%)	94 (0%)	609	1060
2012	782 (55%)	163 (1%)	945	1025
2013	671 (62%)	170 (8%)	841	958
2014	1119 (87%)	132 (8%)	1251	960
2015	1063 (80%)	283 (4%)	1346	998
2016	866 (78%)	348 (40%)	1214	1119
2017	768 (83%)	214 (12%)	982	1127
2018	479 (78%)	111 (26%)	590	1077
2019	845 (83%)	157 (31%)	1002	1027
2020	557 (81%)	68 (40%)	625	883

Appendix 5: Nith Salmon and Sea Trout Catches - Catch Statistics Returns 1952-2020

Total Salmon and grilse caught all Methods 1952 - 2020

Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10-year average	Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10-year average
1952	2220	-	2220		1987	3377	-	3377	3994
1953	2497	-	2497		1988	6643	-	6643	4294
1954	3018	-	3018		1989	6962	-	6962	4680
1955	3518	-	3518		1990	4663	-	4663	4765
1956	3585	-	3585		1991	3737	-	3737	4755
1957	4711	-	4711		1992	3917	-	3917	4743
1958	5336	-	5336		1993	3748	-	3748	4632
1959	3912	-	3912		1994	5012	133	5145	4519
1960	4447	-	4447		1995	3576	135	3711	4505
1961	3877	-	3877		1996	3435	300	3735	4564
1962	6960	-	6960	4186	1997	2899	201	3100	4536
1963	6562	-	6562	4593	1998	2727	307	3034	4175
1964	7407	-	7407	5032	1999	1792	203	1995	3679
1965	7379	-	7379	5418	2000	2658	319	2977	3510
1966	9452	-	9452	6004	2001	2021	468	2489	3385
1967	9243	-	9243	6458	2002	2480	873	3353	3329
1968	7353	-	7353	6659	2003	1501	490	1991	3153
1969	6100	-	6100	6878	2004	3067	1110	4177	3056
1970	4781	-	4781	6911	2005	2896	764	3663	3051
1971	3909	-	3909	6915	2006	2917	686	3603	3038
1972	2768	-	2768	6495	2007	2623	1131	3925	3121
1973	2946	-	2946	6134	2008	3178	1326	4504	3268
1974	5174	-	5174	5911	2009	1988	751	2739	3342
1975	5013	-	5013	5674	2010	2307	999	3306	3375
1976	3839	-	3839	5113	2011	1543	648	2182	3344
1977	3370	-	3370	4525	2012	1120	515	1635	3173
1978	3640	-	3640	4154	2013	853	552	1405	3114
1979	3100	-	3100	3854	2014	517	334	851	2781
1980	3811	-	3811	3757	2015	672	447	1119	2527
1981	3837	-	3837	3750	2016	0	818	818	2248
1982	4040	-	4040	3877	2017	116	712	828	1939
1983	4863	-	4863	4069	2018	97	533	630	1551
1984	6270	-	6270	4178	2019	85	659	744	1352
1985	3851	-	3851	4062	2020	0	827	827	1098
1986	3147	-	3147	3993					

Total Salmon and Grilse Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2020

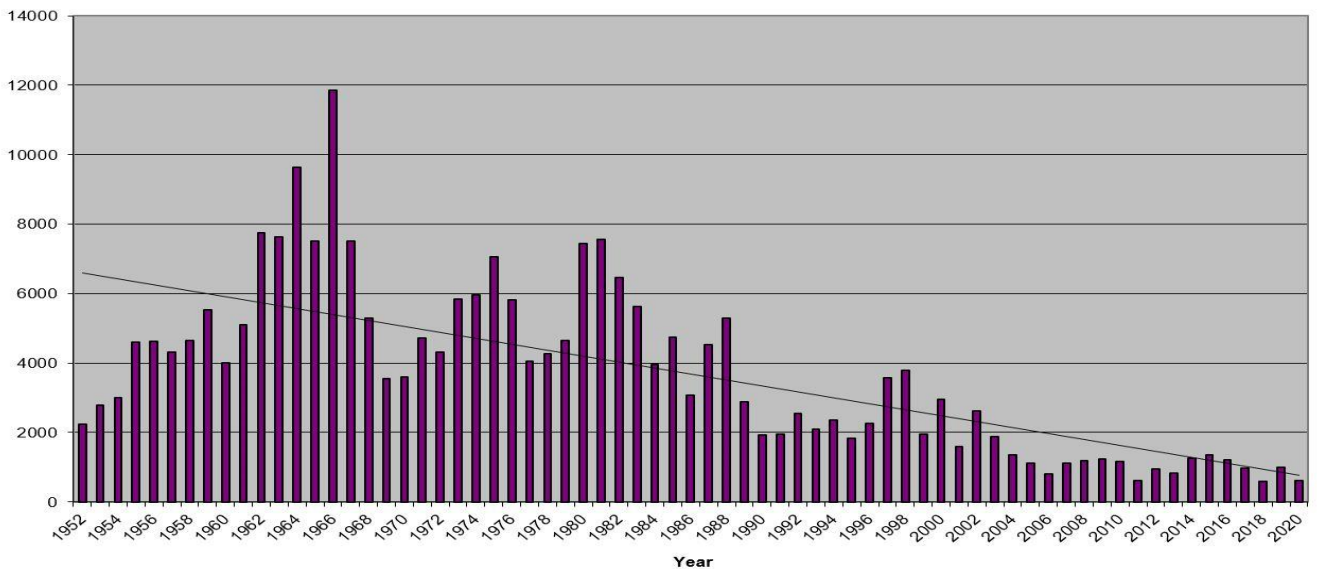


Total Sea Trout caught 1952 - 2020

Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10-year average
1952	2228	-	2228	
1953	2778	-	2778	
1954	2999	-	2999	
1955	4599	-	4599	
1956	4626	-	4626	
1957	4317	-	4317	
1958	4659	-	4659	
1959	5521	-	5521	
1960	3999	-	3999	
1961	5095	-	5095	4082
1962	7760	-	7760	4635
1963	7642	-	7642	5122
1964	9633	-	9633	5785
1965	7517	-	7517	6077
1966	11846	-	11846	6799
1967	7511	-	7511	7118
1968	5284	-	5284	7181
1969	3559	-	3559	6985
1970	3587	-	3587	6943
1971	4724	-	4724	6906
1972	4314	-	4314	6562
1973	5837	-	5837	6381
1974	5961	-	5961	6014
1975	7048	-	7048	5967
1976	5815	-	5815	5364
1977	4043	-	4043	5017
1978	4275	-	4275	4916
1979	4637	-	4637	5024
1980	7448	-	7448	5410
1981	7563	-	7563	5694
1982	6470	-	6470	5910
1983	5618	-	5618	5888
1984	3945	-	3945	5686
1985	4749	-	4749	5456
1986	3081	-	3081	5183

Year	Retained	Returned	Total	10-year average
1987	4537	-	4537	5232
1988	5290	-	5290	5334
1989	2887	-	2887	5159
1990	1922	-	1922	4606
1991	1953	-	1953	4045
1992	2541	-	2541	3652
1993	2105	-	2105	3301
1994	2295	65	2360	3143
1995	1787	47	1834	2851
1996	2135	138	2273	2770
1997	3344	220	3564	2673
1998	3494	291	3785	2522
1999	1738	207	1945	2428
2000	2748	207	2955	2532
2001	1400	189	1589	2495
2002	2239	384	2623	2503
2003	1600	284	1884	2481
2004	1138	226	1364	2382
2005	708	159	867	2310
2006	579	170	749	2163
2007	644	386	1030	1919
2008	661	517	1178	1658
2009	717	560	1277	1588
2010	779	374	1153	1408
2011	373	236	609	1310
2012	511	434	945	1142
2013	409	432	841	1038
2014	273	978	1251	1026
2015	489	857	1346	1049
2016	402	812	1214	1090
2017	318	664	982	1076
2018	185	405	590	1017
2019	253	748	1001	993
2020	131	464	625	940

Total Sea Trout Caught by all Methods 1952 - 2020



Appendix 6: Angling Code 2021

NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD CONSERVATION POLICY 2021 SEASON - Conservation category 3. no salmon to be killed

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

Appendix 7
Nith Fishery Management Plan Quarterly Progress 2020

No.	Prescription	Quarter 01 - 13th December 2019 to 24th April 2020	Quarter 02 - 25th April - 19th August 2020	Quarter 03 - 20th August to 5th October 2020	Quarter 04 - 6th October - 19th January 2021
1	Enforcement	Group of youths questioned at Carnsalloch	One foreign national removed from Burgh Water		Conducted night patrols on spawning beds
		Restricted patrols of beats compliant with Coronavirus policy	One angler removed from Blackwood Beat	Managed all fishing inquiries	Managed all fishing enquires
		Regular patrols of the upper beats and spawning beds	One angler reported to Upper Nithsdale AA	Dealt with incident of anglers fishing on Carse Mains without Permit	
		Meeting attended at Carsphairn to discuss enforcement with Police Scotland	Theft of carp incident investigated at Buccleuch		
		Advised Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, Aberdeen regarding instruments to prevent illegal netting	Catchment wide permission checks		
2	Exploitation	Collated Catch return data for 2019 and published on website	Dealt with incidents regarding releasing deep hooked fish	Distributed the Nith Fish Conservation grading categorisation on behalf of the Board and responded to Scottish Government	
		Met with DG Council regarding permit regulations			
		Published Nith Conservation Code for 2020 season (Cat 3)			
3	Engineering (Including Forestry)	Kier Mining - attended Technical Working Group meeting regarding restoration of the open cast coal site.	Kier Mining - attended Technical Working Group meeting regarding restoration of the open cast coal site.	Performed fish rescue in advance of railway construction works at Meikle Garlaugh	Attended Greenburn Technical Support Group meeting
		Met with Network Rail, Glasgow to discuss Land Slip at Auldgirth	Consulted on repairs to Dalgig Burn channel restoration	Attended House of Water Technical Working Group meeting	Performed fish rescue prior to culverting works at Polneul Burn Sandy Knowe Wind Farm
		Negotiated follow up aquatic surveys regarding land slip repair work	Performed fish rescues (x2) on Capenoch Bridge	Met with Director of Kier Mining re future monitoring work at Greenburn	Responded to consultation on SEPA Fish Protection Guidance
		Fish rescue at Polveoch Burn, Kirkconnel (AMCO Rail)	Performed final fisheries surveys in relation to Scottish Water works at Kirkconnel	Onsite meeting with James Thomson re proposed engineering works at Ingleston Mains	
		Fish rescue on River Nith at Kirkconnel (Scottish Water)	Performed annual fisheries surveys for Greenburn Mine	Performed fish rescue in advance of railway construction works at Muirfoot Burn	
		Met with SEPA senior management in Stirling	Performed annual fisheries surveys for HOW Mine	Performed fish rescue in advance of forestry infrastructure at Polseoch	
		Conducted fish stocking at Greenburn OCCS	Performed annual fisheries surveys for Barburgh Mill Quarry	Considered and inputted to AMCO rails summer projects for the Kilmarnock to Carlisle railway line through Nith catchment	
		Consulted on repairs to Dalgig Burn on Greenburn OSSC	Performed fisheries surveys in relation to Network Rail Land Slip at Auldgirth	Conducted annual surveys at House of Water Surface Coal Mine	
		Consulted on Braehead waterbody outflow to Nith at Greenburn OCCS	Performed fisheries surveys in relation to A76 Road Improvement Scheme on behalf of TranServe	Conducted annual surveys at Greenburn Surface Coal Mine	
		Portrack Garden works fisheries advice	Performed fisheries surveys in relation to Isle Tower Gardens	Reviewed all plans for phase 2 of New Cumnock flood defence project for East Ayrshire Council	
		Consultation with Balfour Beatty on road repairs A76	Performed annual fisheries surveys for New Cumnock Flood Defence Scheme		
			Continued work with AMCO Rail on network repairs		
			Performed fisheries surveys in relation to Maneight Forestry culvert		
		4	Renewables	Negotiated repeat surveys at Pencloe Wind Farm	Won contract and conducted survey for Enoch 2 Wind Farm
Onsite meeting with Community Wind at Sanquhar 1 Wind Farm regarding culverting issues	Conducted fisheries survey in relation to Pencloe Wind Farm			Met consultants to discuss the installation of Penpont hydro plant	Conducted aquatic surveys in relation to South Kyle Windfarm
Attended public meeting re Eucharhead Wind Farm	Conducted fisheries survey in relation to Sanquhar 1 Wind Farm culvert			Conducted aquatic surveys in relation to Whiteneuk Wind Farm	Conducted aquatic surveys in relation to SWS overhead pylon line Scottish Power
	Conducted Pearl Mussel and Fish habitat surveys in relation to Eucharhead Wind Farm				
5	Planning & Consultation	East Ayrshire Council - weekly planning lists considered	Objected to Greenburn Wind Farm	Considered all relevant planning applications from East Ayrshire Council	Considered all relevant planning applications from East Ayrshire Council
		D&G Council - Planning issues considered	Responded to consultation Whiteneuk Wind Farm	Considered all relevant planning applications from D&G Council	Considered all relevant planning applications from D&G Council
		Responded to consultation on Greenburn Wind Park	Responded to the revised Sandy Knowe Wind Farm	Responded to Scottish Government Electricity consents unit for North Kyle Wind Farm	Following full investigation and interviews with all parties concerned with Greenburn Renewable Park all objections to the Scottish Governments ECU were removed
		Responded to consultation on Pencloe Wind Farm	Responded to North Kyle Forestry Plan		Responded to Lanehead Farm forestry application

No.	Prescription	Quarter 01 - 13th December 2019 to 24th April 2020	Quarter 02 - 25th April - 19th August 2020	Quarter 03 - 20th August to 5th October 2020	Quarter 04 - 6th October - 19th January 2021
		Responded to consultation on Twentysilling Hill Wind Farm			Responded to amendments to Pencloe Wind Farm application
		Responded to consultation on Troston Wind Farm			Responded to Overhill Wind Farm application Responded to Pinzarrie Long Term Forestry Plan
6	Biosecurity	Continue to highlight biosecurity issues on all planning responses	Negotiated contract work for the control of Invasives		Conducted invasive weed control JK at a number of locations on a commercial basis
		Discussed crayfish issues with Euchanhead Wind Farm			
7	Habitat	Secured habitat restoration as part of mitigation for Scottish Water's works at Kirkconnel			Planted willow whips at Greenburn
		Checked habitat schemes for winter damage			Planted willow whips in Crawick habitat scheme Planted willow whips at Kelloholm
8	Access	Discussed culverting issues with Community Wind re Sanquhar 1 Wind Farm	Drawn up plans and designed a fish pass in a culvert for Sanquhar 1 Wind Farm	Eased fish migration at culvert on Sanquhar 1 Wind Farm	
		Checked status of old dam on Balloch Burn on behalf of SEPA - no access issues	Inspected fish passage easement on Connel Burn, New Cumnock	Continued engagement with FLS, SEPA, SLR Consulting on the issue of culvert re-seating at Euchanhead	
		Attended SEPA workshop to identify downgraded watercourse with regards fish barriers		Negotiating fish passage on all forestry culverts within Euchanhead Wind Farm site boundary	
9	Water Quality	Raised the issue of pollution incidents at SEPA Dumfries meeting	Attended MS Teams meeting with FMS and River Directors on continued liaison with SEPA	Continued to monitor the upper Nith SEPA project and kept NDSFB Clerk informed	Continued to monitor the upper Nith SEPA project and kept NDSFB Clerk informed
		Raised the issue of pollution incidents at SEPA Stirling meeting		Reported incident of pollution to SEPA on Glenesslin Burn	Reported and attended pollution incident on River Scour Penpont
		Worked with SEPA to identify downgrading of Lower Nith due to agricultural diffuse pollution		Reported pollution incident on Carcow Burn to SEPA	
		Organised River Nith Litter Pick (cancelled due to Coronavirus)			
		Provided water quality data to SEPA for Greenburn Coal Mine			
		Met with representative of Barjarg Fishing regarding agricultural input to River Nith			
10	Marine Survival	Applied for and obtained a seal control licence		Attended Atlantic Salmon Trust meeting re West Coast Smolt Tracking project	Attended Atlantic Salmon Trust meeting re West Coast Smolt Tracking project
		Attended national round table meeting at Scottish Parliament and evening reception		Completed Home Office licence training to enable tagging of smolts	
11	Governance	Financial year end governance compliance met Board and Trust annual reports prepared	Trust AGM conducted electronically Advised all proprietors regarding Covid-19 best practice and legal position	Staff training for SFCC team leader electrofishing Met with Insurance rep re quote for business	Recruited new member of staff for Trust Attended FMS AGM
		H&S Policies reviewed and updated to include Coronavirus Policy	Continued to reviewed and update Coronavirus Policy	Met with landlord of Dalswinton hatchery	Furloughed member of staff
		Advised proprietors regarding Coronavirus measures	Conducted fire safety equipment servicing	Maintained the Board and Trusts COVID-19 policies and advised proprietors appropriately	Maintained the Board and Trusts COVID-19 policies and advised proprietors appropriately
		Electrofishing licences applied for	All operations adapted to take account of COVID-19 policies		Distributed fishing catch return forms to all fishing proprietors
		Stocking licence for Blackwood pond obtained			
		Annual survey return to Fisheries Management Scotland for Board and Trust		Collated all completed fishing catch return data	
		Attended SFCC Biologist's conference		Assisted Clerk with NDSFB financial year end admin	
		Attended River Directors meeting		Completed year end accounts for Nith Catchment Fishery Trust	
		Applied for grants to assist with operating costs through Coronavirus pandemic		Completed Quarterly report for Holywood Trust "Fishing for the Future" project	
		Applied for grants from Coastal Benefit Fund and Gregs Grants.		Upgraded computer systems and back up protocols for NDSFB and NCFE data	
		Met with Holywood Trust representative to discuss Fishing for the Future project grant application			
		Applied and gained funding for Fishing for the Future project 2020/21			
		Pursued unpaid invoices			
		Conducted a review of business insurance for both Trust and Board			

No.	Prescription	Quarter 01 - 13th December 2019 to 24th April 2020	Quarter 02 - 25th April - 19th August 2020	Quarter 03 - 20th August to 5th October 2020	Quarter 04 - 6th October - 19th January 2021
		Review of IT and backup systems and upgraded accordingly			
		Provided information to Fishery Trusts regarding Fishing for the Future project			
		Met with Buccleuch Estates to discuss river staffing			
		Furloughed one member of staff due to Coronavirus pandemic			
		PAT testing of all electrical equipment			
12	Predation	Granted licence to control piscivorous birds	All necessary returns to MS Scotland re seal licence		Conducted Mink trapping
		Continued to participate in Scottish Piscivorous birds research project	Returns submitted for piscivorous bird licence		Reviewed first draft of Scottish Piscivorous Bird report
		Mink trapping ongoing	Mink trapping extended		
		Seal Licence return completed			
13	Fish Stock/Monitoring	Obtained necessary licences to conduct trapping and tagging of smolts in preparation of West Coast Smolt Trapping project	Completed 10 annual electrofishing sites		Attended Marine Scotland Science stocking meeting
		Met with representatives of Glasgow University to identify sites for traps and listening stations.	Smolt trapping and tagging project postponed till 2021		Procured smolt trapping fyke nets
		Attended meeting at Stirling University regarding West Coast Smolt Trapping project spring 2020	Extension to planned Smolt trapping project to include in river smolt trapping (Regionwide Community Fund grant funding)		Provided fisheries data to SEPA for their classification of water bodies on a number of watercourses
		Analysed electrofishing data from 2019	All electrofishing data inputted to SFCC database		All 2020 electrofishing data inputted to SFCC database
14	Hatchery	Maintained stock within the hatchery	Hatchery maintained and office painted		Upgraded hatchery electrical infrastructure
		Planted out hatchery stock to designated sites	Hatchery grounds maintained		Captured all broodstock required for hatchery production stripped ova and managed on daily basis
15	Outreach/ Public Relations	Organised and ran 2020 Nith Opening Event at Drumlanrig Estate	Many requests for angling information and availability dealt with on weekly basis		Engaged a television cameraman to record footage to enable us to digitise our Salmon in the Classroom sessions
		Fishing for the Future Schools Programme sessions 2 & 3 delivered to 6 schools. River survey delivered to Dumfries High School. Further school			Provided social media article re Scaur Water pollution incident
		Facilitated Advance Higher projects with two schools			Upgraded washroom facilities for future outreach sessions
		Organised sessions for 2020 Young Anglers Club and angling taster days but forced to cancel until further notice due to Coronavirus			Built new storage room for angling equipment
		Attended Opening of the River Cree fishing season			

Appendix 8: Clerk's notes on the Accounts

Clerks Notes on the Accounts 01.12.19 – 30.11.20

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 have reduced as the Board has as part of its cost analysis and cutting exercise reappraised the insurance cover carried and obtained alternative insurance quotes.

Repairs & Maintenance

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

Clothing Expenses

Reduced as a consequence of the Bailiff having been furloughed for a large part of the year.

Motor Expenses

Reduced

Accommodation and Subsistence

For attendances at meetings and courses, most of which have been conducted online. The Drumlanrig Country Fair was cancelled because of the pandemic so the Board incurred no outlays in relation to the event. There were only two Board Meetings held at Friars Carse during the year, one in January and one in August.

Promotional and Public Relations

For the Annual Season Opening event at Drumlanrig and web hosting promotion of the Board's web site.

Clerk's Fees

In line with previous years fees. Last year an additional Fee was 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.

Accommodation & Subsistence

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

General Expenses

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

Subscriptions

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

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Plant & Machinery

As detailed in the Fixed Assets Schedule.

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 Due to the disruptive nature of business last year, some assessments remained unpaid at close of books. These have been picked up and added to Assessments for season 2021. To date (07.03.21) £12,506.93 of arrears of assessments have been recovered.

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 2020

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 Kempsell 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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The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Board members' report **for the year ended 30th November 2020**

The board members present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30th November 2020.

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 2020

..... 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 2020 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 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	£	£
Turnover	2	310,775	303,693
Cost of sales		(104,997)	(104,997)
Gross profit		205,778	198,696
Administrative expenses		(188,908)	(211,879)
Other operating income		5,662	-
Operating profit/(loss)	3	22,532	(13,183)
Other interest receivable and similar income		1,817	1,744
Surplus/Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation		24,349	(11,439)
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	5	(345)	(331)
Profit/(loss) for the financial year	9	24,004	(11,770)

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 2020

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		37,043		32,534
Current assets					
Work in progress		6,985		19,005	
Debtors and prepayments	7	50,010		63,682	
Cash at bank and in hand		252,063		209,123	
		<u>309,058</u>		<u>291,810</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(5,336)</u>		<u>(7,583)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>303,722</u>		<u>284,227</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			340,765		316,761
Net assets			<u>340,765</u>		<u>316,761</u>
Capital and reserves					
Income and expenditure account	9		340,765		316,761
Members' funds			<u>340,765</u>		<u>316,761</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 2020**

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 2020

..... continued

3. Operating surplus	2020	2019
	£	£
Operating surplus is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned assets	11,921	10,348
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	2,317
Auditors' remuneration	2,390	2,200
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
and after crediting:		
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	1,793	-
Government grants	3,731	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 £6,085 (2019 - £5,870).

5. Tax on ordinary activities

Analysis of charge in period	2020	2019
	£	£
Current tax		
UK corporation tax	345	331
	<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 2020

..... continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Nightsights £	Tenant's Improvements £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1st December 2019	11,257	5,326	54,177	53,811	124,571
Additions	-	-	4,887	28,908	33,795
Disposals	-	-	620	(29,770)	(30,390)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th November 2020	11,257	5,326	58,444	52,949	127,976
Depreciation					
At 1st December 2019	8,782	4,016	46,452	32,787	92,037
On disposals	-	-		(13,025)	(13,025)
Charge for the year	494	131	2,999	8,297	11,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30th November 2020	9,276	4,147	49,451	28,059	90,933
Net book values					
At 30th November 2020	<hr/> <hr/> 1,981	<hr/> <hr/> 1,179	<hr/> <hr/> 8,993	<hr/> <hr/> 24,890	<hr/> <hr/> 37,043
At 30th November 2019	<hr/> <hr/> 2,475	<hr/> <hr/> 1,310	<hr/> <hr/> 7,725	<hr/> <hr/> 21,024	<hr/> <hr/> 32,534

7. Debtors and prepayments	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	48,367	60,592
Prepayments and accrued income	1,643	3,090
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	50,010	63,682
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020 £	2019 £
Other creditors	2,791	2,852
Corporation tax	345	331
Accruals and deferred income	2,200	4,400
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,336	7,583
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 30th November 2020

..... continued

9. Reserves	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1st December 2019	316,761	316,761
Profit for the year	24,004	24,004
At 30th November 2020	<u>340,765</u>	<u>340,765</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 on entities that are required to pay a fee. There are no special considerations given to Board Members. During the year, the organisation has paid £9,900 (2019 - £11,456) 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 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tenant's Improvements		1,179		1,310
Nightsights		1,981		2,475
Plant & Machinery		8,993		7,725
Motor Vehicles		24,890		21,024
		<u>37,043</u>		<u>32,534</u>
Current Assets				
Work-in-progress	6,985		19,005	
Debtors	48,367		60,592	
Prepayments	1,643		3,090	
Clydesdale Cashflow Account	22,685		6,351	
Clydesdale Cash Management Account	25		25	
Scottish Building Society Scotplus Account	204,685		183,276	
Scottish Building Society - SEPA funds	1,172		1,171	
Scottish Building Society Project Account	16,679		-	
Scottish Building Society Vehicle Account	6,817		18,300	
	<u>309,058</u>		<u>291,810</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Trade creditors	2,791		2,852	
Corporation Tax	345		331	
Accruals	2,200		4,400	
	<u>5,336</u>		<u>7,583</u>	
Net Current assets		303,722		284,227
Net assets		<u>340,765</u>		<u>316,761</u>
Income and expenditure account		<u>340,765</u>		<u>316,761</u>
Members' funds		<u>340,765</u>		<u>316,761</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Turnover		
Assessments receivable	182,551	184,200
Consultancy income	128,224	119,493
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	310,775	303,693
Less: Refund of dues	(104,997)	(104,997)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	205,778	198,696
 Other operating income		
Bank interest	1,817	1,744
Gain on sale of fixed assets	1,931	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	209,526	200,440

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
brought forward	209,526	200,440
Overheads		
Wages and salaries	97,579	102,070
Grant to NCF Trust	34,238	41,702
Staff pension costs	6,085	5,870
Staff training	-	18
Insurance	3,926	5,433
Repairs and maintenance	1,767	4,122
Clothing allowance	900	1,609
Printing, postage and stationery	432	383
Telephone and internet	2,541	2,597
Hire of equipment	3,476	3,220
Motor expenses	8,189	12,935
Accommodation and subsistence	771	1,526
Promotional & public relations expenses	658	623
Clerk's fee to Walker & Sharpe	9,900	11,456
Audit fees	2,390	2,200
Bank charges	258	282
General expenses	1,600	1,149
Subscriptions	2,140	2,019
Depreciation	11,921	10,348
Losses on disposal of tangible assets	137	2,317
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(188,908)	(211,879)
Surplus before tax	20,618	(11,439)
Taxation	(345)	(331)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for the year	20,273	(11,770)
Retained profit brought forward	316,761	328,531
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained profit carried forward	337,034	316,761
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2020

£ £

Tenant's Improvements

Opening Balance		1,310
Less: Depreciation for year @ 10%		131
Closing Balance		<u>1,179</u>

Nightsights

Opening Balance		2,475
Less: Depreciation for year @ 20%		494
Closing Balance		<u>1,981</u>

Plant & Machinery

Opening Balance		7,725
Additions		
PC	1,387	
Trailer	3,500	
		<u>4,887</u>
		12,612
Disposals		
Old equip	120	
Trailer	500	
		<u>620</u>
		11,992
Less: Depreciation for year @ 25%		2,999
Closing Balance		<u>8,993</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2020

	£	£
<u>Motor Vehicles</u>		
Landrover ST64 CVH - balance b/f	4,278	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	1,069	
	<hr/>	3,209
Toyota Hilux SM69 TNU - purchased in year	28,908	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	7,227	
	<hr/>	21,681
Toyota Hilux BT67 XXU - balance b/f	16,745	
Sold during year	16,745	
	<hr/>	-
Closing book value		<hr/> <hr/> 24,890