

RIVER NITH ANNUAL REPORT

COMBINED ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
AND THE NITH CATCHMENT FISHERY TRUST

2022



Nith District **SALMON** Fishery Board



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

The Board financial year runs from 1st December to 30th November in any given year. Tri-annual elections were held on 30th June 2021.

The Nith Board for the year comprised: -

Chairman	Percy Weatherall	
Lower Proprietors	Robbie Cowan Andy Fergusson 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
Upper Co-optees	Thomas Florey Raymond Mundle	Angling Representative Angling Representative

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.

Staff

Mr Roderick Styles – Clerk
Mr Jim Henderson – Fishery Director
Mr David McMichael – Water Bailiff
Miss Ffion Gladwin – Seasonal Fishery Assistant

The Nith Board met on: -

25th January 2022 – Board meeting
8th July 2022 – Annual Qualified Proprietors meeting followed by Board meeting
18th October 2022 – Annual Public Meeting followed by Board meeting

Minutes from these meetings can be found on the Board website - [NDSFB meeting agendas \(river-nith.com\)](http://river-nith.com)

Attendance rate for those meeting are:

Nith Board Meeting Dates	No. Board Members Attended	Attendance Rate (%)	Members of the public
25 th January 2022	10 (max 12)	83%	0
8 th July 2022 (AQPM)	8 (max 12)	67%	0
18 th October 2022 (APM)	8 (max 12)	67%	0

Complaints

There were no complaints received during year 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2022.



Nith Catchment Fishery Trust (NCFT) is a Scottish registered Charity which was formed in late 2009 to conserve and enhance all native freshwater fish and their habitats located within the inland and coastal waters of the River Nith catchment and the jurisdictional area of the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board.

The aims of the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust are:

- To advance environmental protection and improvement by conserving and enhancing all species of freshwater fish and their environs within the River Nith catchment, for public benefit.
- To advance the education of the general public through raising awareness of aquatic ecosystems including their fauna, flora and economic activity within the River Nith catchment.

The Trust financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December in any given year.

Trust Directors

Mr E P K Weatherall – Chairman
Mr J Henderson
Mr P Hutchison
Mrs C Carson
Mr S Cameron
Mr R Mundle
Miss F McCormick
Mr G Kerr
Mr K Corder

Staff

Ms Debbie Parke - Operations Manager/Biologist
Mr Steven Mckillop/Miss Victoria Johnson – Education officer

The Trust Directors met on: -

24th January 2022 – Trustee meeting.

7th July 2022 – Annual General Meeting followed by Trustee meeting.

18th October 2022 – Trustee meeting followed by RiverWoods Film.

The work of the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust is part funded by: -



& Misses Robinson's Charitable Trust

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust is a Registered Scottish Charity. Charity no. SC040908. Company no. SC366067.
Registered Office: 37 George Street, Dumfries, DG1 1EB. Registered in Scotland

Chairman's Foreword

Season 2022 proved to be a challenging one for the river system. The dry weather conditions from late spring through to early autumn prevented fish running into the system for much of the summer. There was concern about the potential for mortality of fish held up in the tidal stretches and those few fish that had managed to ascend further into the river system. Despite this, when rain did arrive, runs of fish were better and the year's catch statistic returns of 414 fish declared were almost double those of the previous year.

The Board and Trust continued to participate in year 2 (of 3) of the West Coast Smolt Tracking Project. Salmon smolts are captured as they migrate downstream and are fitted with acoustic tags. This provides an opportunity for us to collect important data on their migration routes and run timing within the river. Additional acoustic arrays between the Mull of Galloway and Ireland and at various points along the west coast of Scotland provide information on their marine migration routes. The information gathered will form an important component for identifying what additional actions our staff can undertake to manage and enhance the survival rate of the smolts, in the hope that this can contribute to an increase in the return to the river of more adult salmon. Information on the progress of the scheme can be found on the Atlantic Salmon Trust's website.



Through the course of the year the Board and Trust continued to perform their management duties for the benefit of the ecology of the river system, dealing with law enforcement, control of non-native species of plants and animals, habitat enhancement works and educational projects for school students through the Fishing for the Future scheme. The number of engineering works and projects that might impact upon the river system continues to grow and our staff have spent much time in advising on fishery interests, protecting the river system from possible adverse effects of windfarm, hydroelectric and other engineering projects, monitoring of mines, their decommissioning and resulting landscaping works. Thanks go to the staff who have worked very hard during the year.

We in management have gained the impression that because of the drought there was less angling effort went into the river during the season, even when water levels rose to allow fish to run. I am sure that many more fish would have been caught if more angling effort had been put in. Let's hope for better water conditions and more fish to run the river. I encourage all anglers to get onto the river and get fishing!

Good luck to us all!

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

E.P.K. Weatherall
Chairman

Fishery Directors report

The working year of 2022 was one of the busiest years for the Board and Trust staff that I can ever remember. Following the festive holidays, the working year started with us being fully occupied in the office completing the reports for various commercial companies that had been engaged in construction activities in or near to watercourses in the catchment during 2021. We are commissioned to conduct aquatic environmental surveys to enable an accurate assessment of any impacts on the aquatic species in the vicinity of construction projects. The Nith catchment seems to be the subject of many such projects hence we are very busy.



In the field we trapped mink in late winter through to the spring prior to the breeding season. We also exercised our licence to shoot a limited number of avian predatory birds. It should be reiterated that this licence is intended to enable a “shoot to scare” tactic which does work in moving these predatory birds on. The birds are easily scared off by any persons walking the riverbanks following a period of shooting.

During the spring, all staff are engaged in the smolt trapping/tagging project that we have been partners on with the Atlantic Salmon Trust and other west coast rivers. This is a seven day a week commitment for approximately four/five weeks. No sooner is the smolt trap out of the water and packed away and we are engaged in summer fisheries surveys which extends on into late September. Whilst all this is going on we continue to enforce fisheries legislation, attend any pollution incidents reported to the Board and Trust, attend various outreach events such as the Galloway Country Fair and run a successful education project.

This is a brief snapshot of some of the many tasks that our staff were busy with in 2022 and like the anglers on the river we were impacted severely in our work by the extreme drought episode that persisted through the summer months. Conducting fisheries surveys was as challenging for us in management as fishing was for our angling fraternity in pursuit of sport. On the subject of angling, whilst the drought conditions that prevailed during the summer were not conducive to productive fishing, they did enable us to see fish that had accumulated in the Burgh beat of the Nith. Many more fish than I have seen for a long time were held up between the Castledykes and the College Pool waiting for the rain to come and lift the river sufficiently to allow them upstream. We found these fish later in the year on the spawning beds high in the tributaries.

With our busy schedule there is not much time to linger, and the year flies in. The nature of the workload, which is seasonal, provides structure to our working year and I am proud of the volume of work that our staff achieve over the course of a 12-month period. At the time of writing this report the year ahead in 2023 looks equally as busy as 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JH', written in a cursive style.

Jim Henderson
Fishery Director

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The River Nith Catchment

Vital Statistics

The total catchment area is 1596km² which includes the main stem River Nith, its tributaries, coastal burns and connected still waters.

The length of the main stem of the River Nith is 98km from source to estuary.

Fish Species Present

- Atlantic salmon
- Sea trout
- Brown trout
- Grayling
- Pike
- Eel
- Lamprey
- Minnow
- Stone loach
- Stickleback
- Tench
- Perch
- Bream
- Roach

Salmon and Sea Trout Fishery

The salmon and sea trout fisheries are owned by 36 proprietors within the Nith catchment.

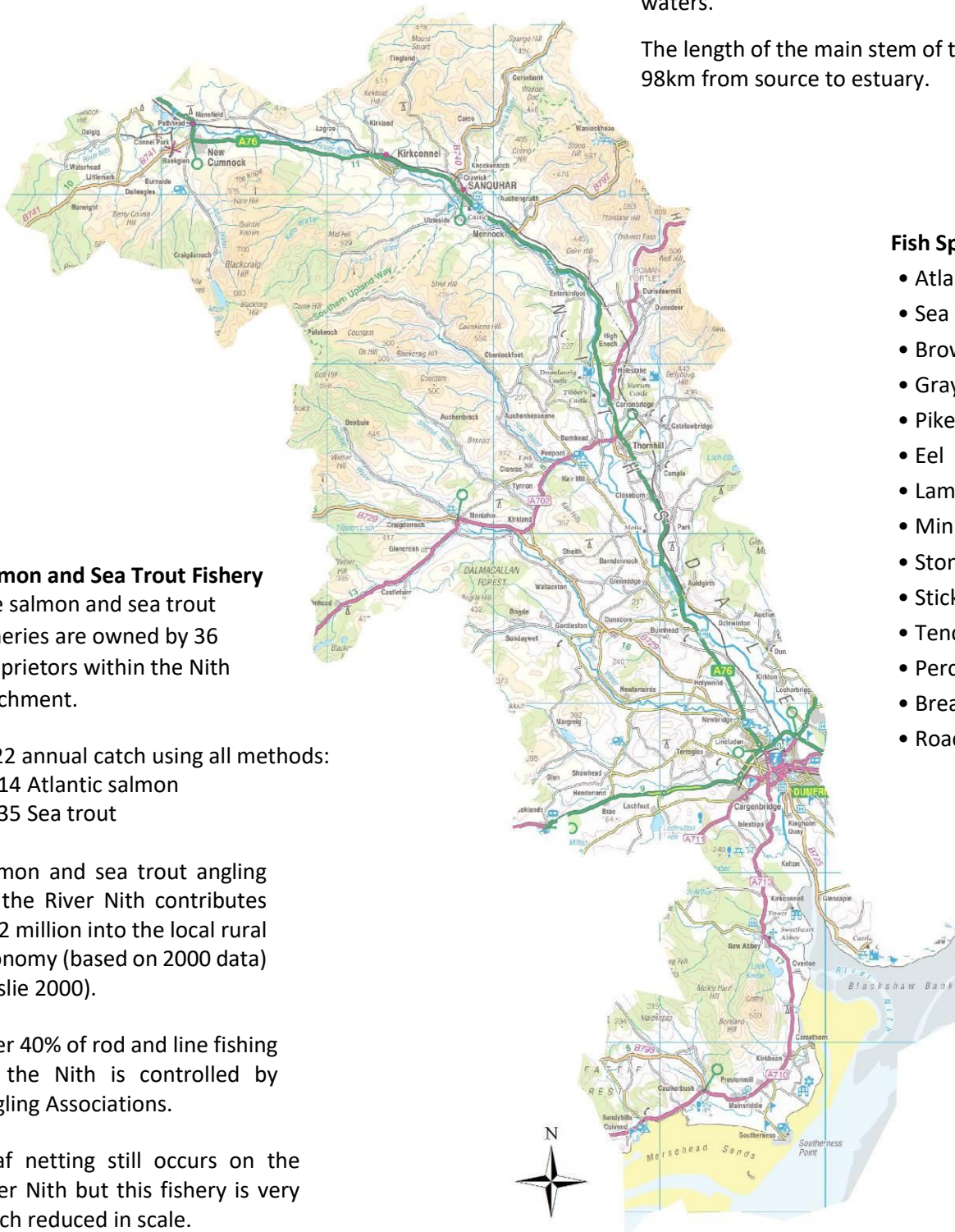
2022 annual catch using all methods:

- 414 Atlantic salmon
- 635 Sea trout

Salmon and sea trout angling on the River Nith contributes £2.2 million into the local rural economy (based on 2000 data) (Leslie 2000).

Over 40% of rod and line fishing on the Nith is controlled by Angling Associations.

Haaf netting still occurs on the River Nith but this fishery is very much reduced in scale.



Other Fisheries

The Nith also has healthy brown trout and grayling fisheries which are owned by landowners throughout the catchment. There are also a number of still water trout and coarse fisheries within the catchment. Sea fishing is popular at the quay at Glencaple and off the coast.

Overview of Fisheries Management work carried out during 2022

<p style="text-align: center;">Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bailiff team comprised 3 employed warranted bailiffs and 2 volunteer warranted water bailiffs. ● 4 incidents dealt with by enforcement staff. ● Overt and covert patrols of fishing beats. ● Managed all fishing enquires. ● Night patrols of spawning tributaries. ● Catchment wide permission checks. ● Coastal patrols of vulnerable fish in estuary during the drought episode which persisted. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Exploitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collated 2022 Catch return data from proprietors and published on website. ● Distributed the Nith Fish Conservation grading categorisation and published Conservation code for 2022. ● Continued to police Salmon conservation regulations.
<p style="text-align: center;">Engineering and Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attended Technical Working Group meetings regarding restoration of the open cast coal site for House of Water and Greenburn. ● Performed daily fish rescues over a 6-week period in relation to New Cumnock Flood Alleviation scheme. ● Performed 4 fish rescues in relation to other construction work. ● Aquatic surveys, including electrofishing and invertebrate surveys, carried out in connection with 7 engineering projects. ● Attended meetings with Scottish Water to discuss future works at Kettleton Reservoir. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attended the following courses, workshops and conferences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FMS 2022 conference. ○ SFCC members meeting. ○ AST smolt tracking conference. ○ IFM Telemetry conference. ○ Otter surveying course. ○ CSCS training. ○ Electrofishing Team member course. ○ SFCC habitat course. ○ Accreditation in aquatic invertebrate ID. ○ River Invertebrate Classification Tool. ● Completed year end accounts for Nith Catchment Fishery Trust and Board. ● Completed all funder reporting requirements. ● Applied and gained funding for Fishing for the Future project 2023. ● Attended all Board and Trust meetings. ● PAT testing of all electrical equipment and electrofishing equipment. ● Insurance review.
<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning lists checked on a weekly basis and responses made where appropriate to Dumfries and Galloway Council and East Ayrshire Council ● Responded to 4 forestry plans. ● Consulted on 5 construction plans. ● Responded to 2 wind farm planning applications and 1 pumped hydro planning application. ● Met with Marine Scotland to discuss fisheries planning issues in Nith catchment. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reported 1 pollution incident to SEPA. ● Planted trees at House of Water former surface coal mine to create a willow bed in response to rebound water. ● 57 aquatic invertebrate surveys completed to assess water quality. ● Met with Michelle Bloor from University of Glasgow re water quality project. ● Met with Buccleuch Estates and Councillor Tony Berretti regarding Wanlockhead mining issues.

Overview of Fisheries Management work carried out during 2022 – continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended on site meeting with Jackie Rennie (SEPA) at Laggan Burn. • Liaised with SEPA on potential barrier removal on the Laggan Burn and Pennyland Burn. • Engaged consultants to assess Laggan and Pennyland barrier for removal. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Hatchery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35,000 fry stocked to licenced sites. • Post stocking electrofishing surveys carried out. • Brood stock captured for fry production for 2023. • Hatchery maintained including repair to sump and valve in hatchery.
<p style="text-align: center;">Renewables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full aquatic surveys (electrofishing, invertebrate and Freshwater Pearl Mussel surveys) carried out in connection with 7 renewables projects. • Met with consultants regarding Glenmuckloch Pumped Storage Hydro. • Responded to 2 wind farm consultations. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Biosecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to highlight biosecurity issues on all planning responses. • Conducted invasive weed control JK at a number of locations on a commercial basis. • Treated all Giant hogweed along River Nith, Cairn and Scaur Water. • Monitored crayfish in Cargen Water and the River Nith at Dumfries – crayfish present.
<p style="text-align: center;">Marine survival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received and disseminated WCST data for 2021. • Completed Home Office licence refresher training to enable tagging of smolts and applied for licences to trap smolts. • Tagged 75 smolts as part of Nith Smolt Tracking Project and 100 salmon smolts as part of the West Coast Salmon Smolt Tracking project. • Removed acoustic receivers from river and returned data to AST for analysis. • Met with AST staff to discuss 2023 smolt trapping programme. • Secured funding for and ordered 50 additional acoustic tags for 2023 smolt run. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted repairs on Crawick and Wanlock Habitat schemes. • Checked all habitat schemes for winter damage. • Attended Riverwoods course with Tweed Forum. • Planted 5000 trees on tributaries of the River Nith. • Provided consultation to New Cumnock Flood Scheme on tree planting. • Applied for and granted development phase funding from NatureScot's Nature Restoration fund. • Engaged consultants to conduct options appraisal on Laggan Burn, Pennyland Burn and Crawick Water.
<p style="text-align: center;">Predation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted annual spring and autumn piscivorous bird counts. Licenses applied for and gained to prevent serious damage to wild stocks of salmon/sea trout by cormorants and goosanders. • Undertook scaring of piscivorous birds in accordance with license conditions. • License returns completed. • 21 mink trapped. • Applied for a seal licence under new scheme – licence approved. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Fish stocks and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 catch data collected and reported on website. • NCFT/NDSFB conducted electrofishing at approximately 150 sites throughout the catchment. • 10 annual electrofishing sites surveyed. • All electrofishing data inputted to SFCC database. • Salmon smolts trapping and tracking conducted on Scaur Water and mainstem River Nith.

Overview of Fisheries Management work carried out during 2022 – continued

Outreach and Public Relations

- Ran Salmon Fishing Opening Day at Friars Carse Hotel.
- Delivered 42 education sessions to 185 individual young people, aged between 6 and 18.
- Delivered 3 angling taster days to 34 young people and their families.
- Ran 9 Nith Young Anglers sessions to 20 members.
- Ran Fisheries tent at Galloway Country Fair.
- Organised Nith sea trout fishing event over four Fridays in June. 46 anglers signed up for the event.
- Organised salmon fishing event in August. 44 anglers signed up for the day.
- Continue to advise anglers on fishing availability and provided beat contact information to multiple requests.
- Delivered demonstration for NithLife on the Cample Water to demonstrate habitat works.
- Electrofishing demonstration to Savills land agents.



Galloway Country Fair – a busy tent!

Conservation Regulations 2022

All Scottish salmon rivers are now assigned a Conservation Categorisation grading from 1 to 3. The definition of these Categorisations is provided in the box below. The River Nith was assigned a category 3 status for 2022 which means that all salmon must be released.

Category (Grade) 1	At least an 80% mean probability of conservation limits (CL) being met in the last 5 years. Exploitation is sustainable and therefore no additional management action is currently required.
Category (Grade) 2	60-80% mean probability of CL being met in the last 5 years. Management action is necessary to reduce exploitation; mandatory catch and release will not be required in the first instance, but this will be reviewed annually. Where a Board does not exist, assistance in plan formulation will be offered to those responsible for local management.
Category (Grade) 3	Less than 60% mean probability of CL being met in the last 5 years. Exploitation is unsustainable and mandatory catch and release (all methods) for 1 year will be required. Management action is necessary to reduce exploitation.

Opening of the River Nith 2022 Salmon Fishing Season

The opening of the 2022 salmon fishing season on the River Nith was marked by a ceremony at Friars Carse. This event is very popular and well attended by all factions of the river community. A bright sunny day set the scene for the official proceedings that took place at the front of the hotel. The audience were welcomed by Mr Jim Henderson, River Director for Nith District Salmon Fishery Board who outlined the proceedings for the day. Mr Ben Rush, representing the management of Friars Carse Hotel, invited the attendees to enjoy the hotel and its grounds. Mr Percy Weatherall, Chairman of the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board, gave the keynote speech of the event and described some of the current fishery management initiatives currently being worked on by the Board.

Piper Sandy Dunlop then led the attendees along the banks of the Nith spurred on by the skirl of his bag pipes. At the tail of the house pool the assembled group were given a speech by Mr Findlay Carson MSP who extolled the importance of the river and salmon to the rural economy of Scotland. Findlay then invited the audience to join him in toasting the salmon as he poured a nip of whisky from the Nith quaich into the river, wishing all anglers tight lines for the season. The audience were then invited back up to the hotel marquee where they were served refreshments courtesy of Friars Carse Hotel.



Clockwise from top left: Chairman, Percy Weatherall addressing the attendees; Piper Sandy Dunlop leading the procession down to the river; the angling community enjoying a bacon roll and coffee courtesy of Friars Carse Hotel; Percy Weatherall, Mr Findlay Carson MSP and Jim Henderson (Fishery Director) toasting the salmon.

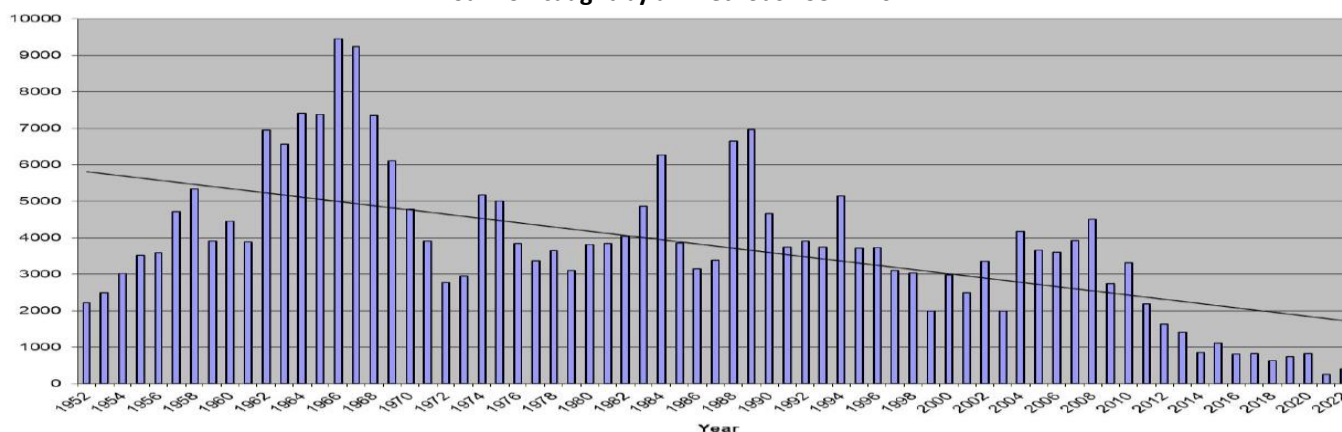
STOCK ASSESSMENT

Salmon and Sea trout catch data for 2022

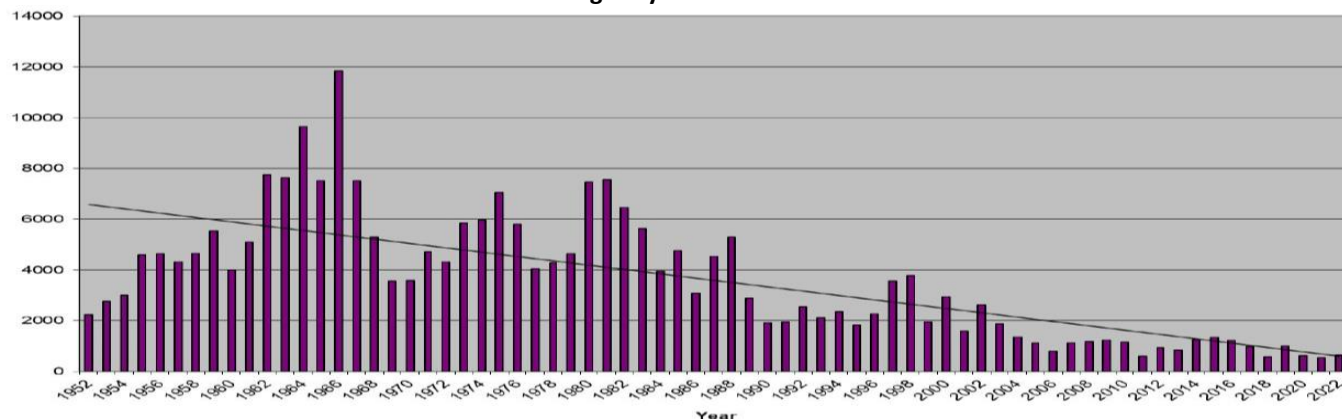
The 2022 fishing season was blighted by the drought episode which persisted over a prolonged period during late spring/summer. Low flows and an algal growth of weed carpeting the bed of the river made fishing challenging. However, significant numbers of salmon did ascend over the caul in Dumfries and built up in the section of river between the College Pool and down to the caul. Fish continued to ebb and flow with the tide and were prevented from ascending further up the river until the rains came and lifted levels sufficient to allow them to run the river. The salmon ran the river quickly, resulting in limited opportunities for anglers to catch them. Sea trout built up in the mid-section of the river, particularly in the Castle beats on Drumlanrig Estate water. Overall, rod catches for salmon and grilse and sea trout were improved with 365 salmon and grilse caught and 523 sea trout caught. This represents an increase on catches recorded in 2021.

Year	Salmon and Grilse				Sea trout and Herling			
	Rods (C&R%)	Nets (C&R%)	Total	5 year average	Rods (C&R%)	Nets (C&R%)	Total	5 year average
2013	940 (59%)	465 (0%)	1405	2253	671 (62%)	170 (8%)	841	958
2014	520 (64%)	331 (1%)	851	1876	1119 (87%)	132 (8%)	1251	960
2015	702 (63%)	417 (0.5%)	1119	1438	1063 (80%)	283 (4%)	1346	998
2016	655 (100%)	163 (100%)	818	1166	866 (78%)	348 (40%)	1214	1119
2017	695 (89%)	133 (70%)	828	1004	768 (83%)	214 (12%)	982	1127
2018	520 (91%)	110 (54%)	630	849	479 (78%)	111 (26%)	590	1077
2019	586 (93%)	158 (73%)	744	828	845 (83%)	157 (31%)	1002	1027
2020	764 (100%)	63 (100%)	827	769	557 (81%)	68 (40%)	625	883
2021	181 (100%)	71 (100%)	252	656	418 (89%)	125 (36%)	543	748
2022	365 (100%)	49 (100%)	414	573	523 (92%)	112 (27%)	635	679

Salmon caught by all methods 1952 - 2022



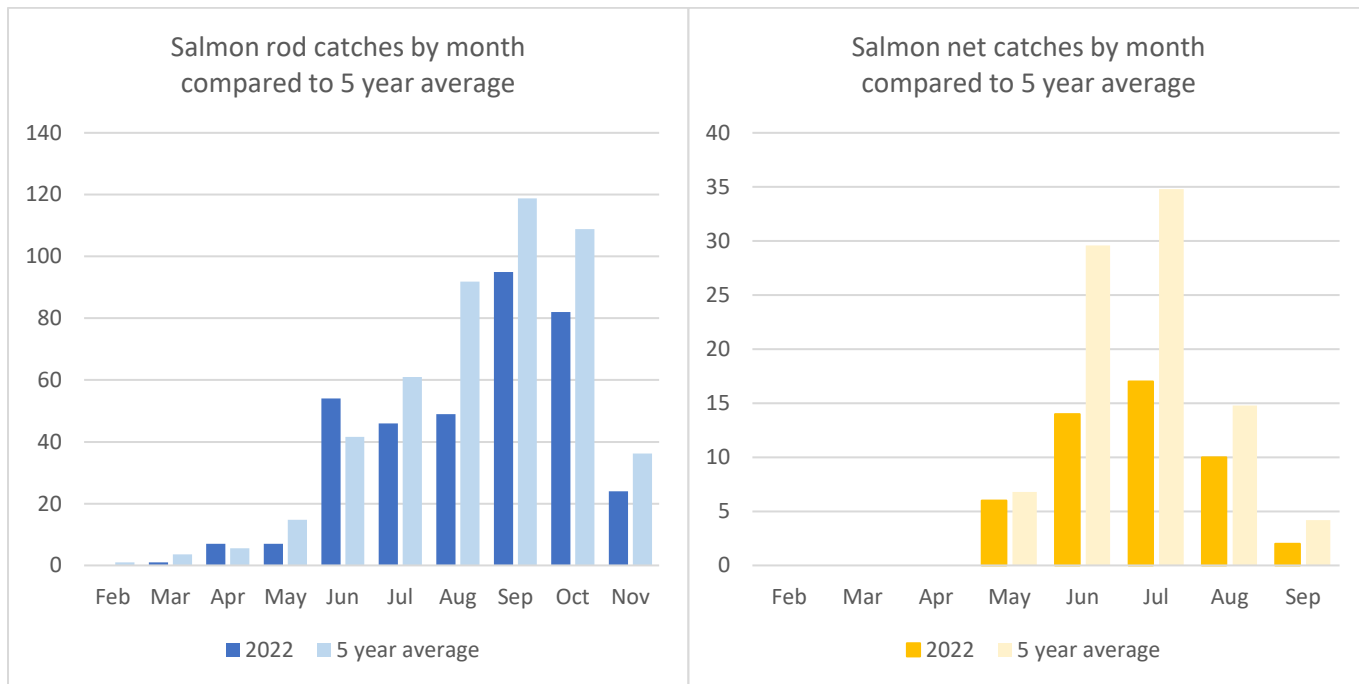
Sea trout caught by all methods 1952 - 2022



STOCK ASSESSMENT

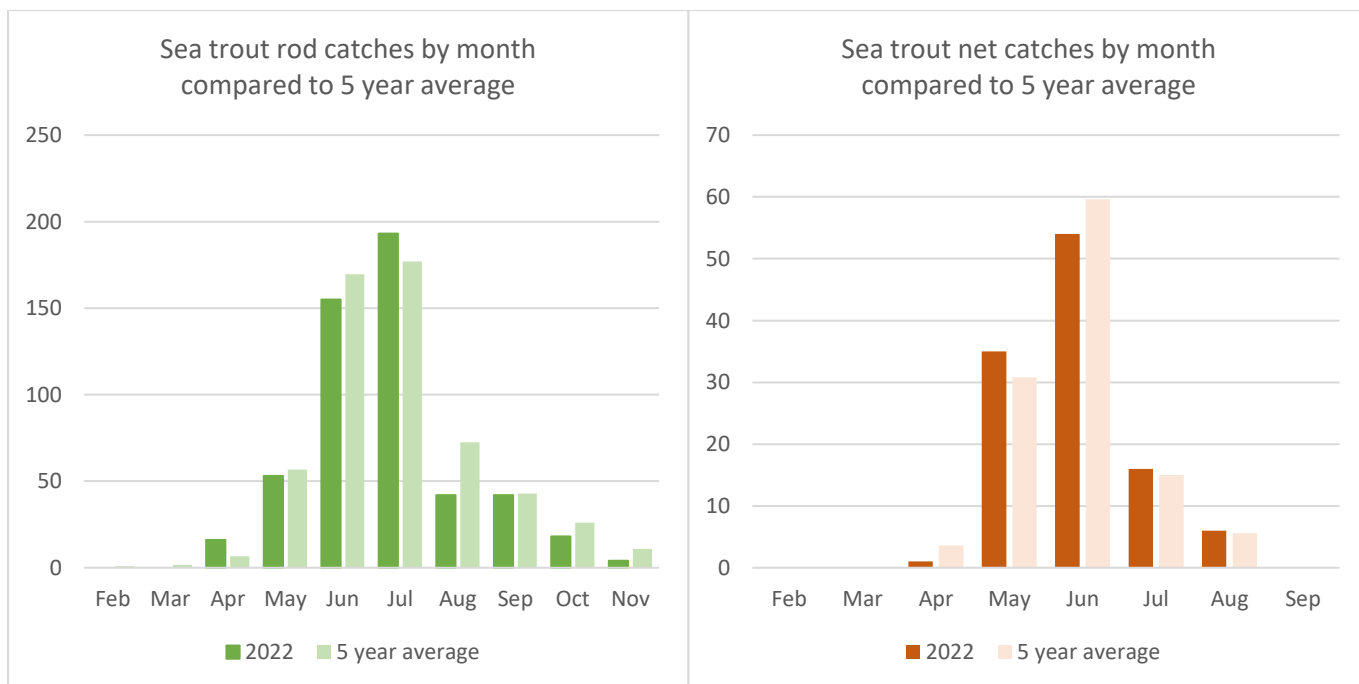
Salmon and grilse catches in 2022

The River Nith was a category 3 river in 2022 which meant that it was 100% catch and release for salmon and grilse. Low water conditions limited the number of salmon caught by rod and line between July and August with the highest numbers of salmon being caught in September and October when water levels rose. However, this was still well below the five year average for catches in those months. The peak months for catching salmon in the nets were in June and July. Net fishermen, like anglers, prefer a run in the river rather than a persistent drought. Whilst drought conditions dictate that fish ebb and flow with the tide, weed which blooms during low flow conditions makes net fishing difficult. In total, 414 salmon and grilse were caught by rods and nets in 2022.



Sea trout catches in 2022

The peak months for sea trout catches by rod and line were June and July. When looking at the data, it is possible to plot sea trout runs accurately. For example, sea trout are caught by nets in the bottom of the river in May and June and as they ascend the river, they are then caught by anglers in June and July up to 20 miles upstream. This species is less impacted by the low flow conditions which often prevail in the summer.



STOCK ASSESSMENT

Juvenile salmonid surveys 2022

Every summer, between May and September, fishery staff conduct electrofishing surveys throughout the entire Nith catchment to assess the status of juvenile salmonid populations. This is an important aspect of the work of the Board and the Trust as 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 the number of salmonids. In 2022, 169 sites were surveyed by electrofishing. 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. Overall, this provides us with a temporal and spatial overview of the health of the catchment.

To compare year to year performance, 10 sites throughout the catchment were selected in 2014 to be surveyed annually using full-quantitative, three run survey techniques. These sites are located on the mainstem River Nith and its main tributaries. The ten sites are sampled annually to allow long term trends to be observed. The intention here is to detect any issues specific to individual areas of the catchment and enable managers to address those issues timeously.

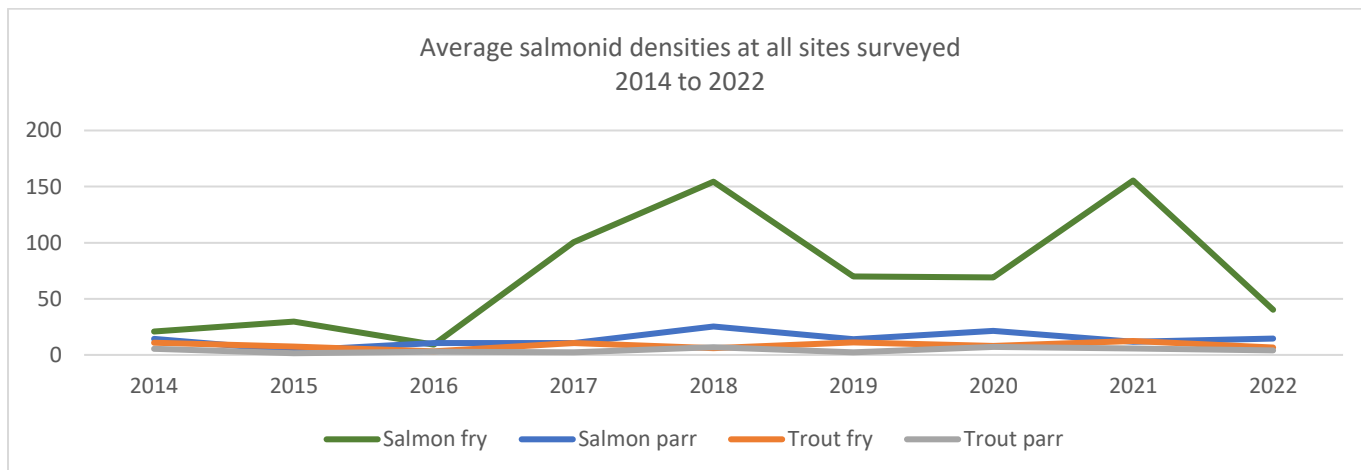
In 2022, the average densities of salmon fry across the ten sites decreased. It is likely that this is due to the elevated water temperatures and low flows experienced in many tributaries across the catchment. Some of these tributaries are marginal as salmonid spawning/nursery habitats. The drought conditions experienced in 2021 extended on into the year and encroached into the start of the spawning season and will have inhibited adult fish penetrating high into spawning tributaries. In addition, the extreme flood episodes that were experienced in late autumn/early winter 2021, when salmonid eggs were incubating in the gravel, may have had a detrimental impact on this vulnerable age class of fish. Conversely, the salmon parr populations have fared better. This older age class of fish are more capable of withstanding the extremes of river conditions.

Electrofishing results for the Annual sites in 2022

Watercourse	Site code	Location	Salmon fry (/100m ²)	Salmon parr (/100m ²)	Trout fry (/100m ²)	Trout parr (/100m ²)	Other species
River Nith	Nith001	Downstream of Nith Lodge, New Cumnock	24.15*	30.94*	10.82	10.82	M, SL
River Nith	Nith008	Upstream of Boig Road Bridge, New Cumnock	10.74*	12.24*	1.53	1.53	M, SL, E
River Nith	Nith027	Upstream of Guildhall Bridge, Kirkconnel	50.48*	10.36*	2.53	0.00	M, SL
River Nith	Nith010	At Auldgirth New Bridge	1.36	8.16*	0.00	1.36*	M, SL, E
Afton Water	Aftn001	Upstream of Blackcraig Bridge	33.04*	38.04*	7.50*	8.84*	-
Crawick Water	Craw001	Downstream of Spango Bridge	36.87*	1.93*	1.93*	1.93*	-
Mennoch Water	Menn001	Upstream of confluence with Glenim Burn	112.17*	17.30*	38.17*	10.73*	-
Scaur Water	Scar001	Downstream or Bridge at Glenwhargen	3.34*	12.38*	4.13*	0.00	-
Cample Water	Camp001	Downstream of bridge at Kirkbog Farm	130.30	7.35	0.00	0.00	-
Dalwhat Water	Dlwt001	Upstream of Bailwood Plantation	0.00	7.62*	0.00	3.98*	-
Average of all sites:			40.245	14.632	6.661	3.919	

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



STOCK ASSESSMENT

Tracking Salmon Smolts in the Nith and out to sea

During the spring of 2022 the Board and Trust staff conducted smolt tagging again. This year's tagging was in fulfilment of the Nith's component of the Atlantic Salmon Trust's West Coast smolt tracking project. This project seeks to tag salmon smolts from a number of Scottish west coast salmon rivers and track their progress in the marine environment as they migrate through coastal waters heading for their feeding grounds in the Norwegian Sea. The Atlantic Salmon Trust funded the costs of 100 tags to be used in smolts tagged in the Nith at Auldgirth. In addition, the Nith attracted private funding to purchase an additional 75 tags which enabled us to tag smolts from the River Scaur and monitor their migration down the Nith and into the estuary. Operating these two research projects together was beneficial because we were able to detect the Scaur smolts on all the receivers already in place to track the Nith smolts. The Scaur smolts were also detected in the marine environment up the west coast of Scotland thanks to the receivers which were in place for the Atlantic Salmon Trust project.



Fyke net and smolt processing station, River Scaur.

This was the second year of the Atlantic Salmon Trust "West Coast Salmon Smolt Tracking" project, and it is anticipated that it run for a third year in 2023. To enable our staff to comply with the conditions of their licence to tag the salmon smolts they had to undergo refresher training courses at the Rowardennan Field Station, which is a campus of Glasgow University. Our staff are becoming proficient in the art of tagging smolts and this is providing valuable information on the smolt migrations from those tributaries where we have installed smolt traps. The equipment, skills and the enhanced understanding of smolt migrations that we have acquired during the past years' smolt tagging will be valuable for our future management of smolts and their protection. Whilst the information gained on smolt populations in our rivers is good, a greater geographic spread of information would provide a more holistic understanding of this age class of salmon and sea trout.

Over the course of the year, we conduct many fisheries surveys throughout the Nith catchment. These surveys are intended to capture fry and parr aged fish and as a generalisation we are of the opinion that populations of these age classes of fish are in healthy numbers. Our smolt trapping on both the Nith in 2021 and 2022, the Crawick in 2021 and the Scaur in 2022 all indicate that the production of smolts is very good in terms of numbers and quality. These results reiterate the theory that the potential reduction in the number of adult salmon in our river is due to influences in their marine environment.



Fyke net operating on the River Scaur.

Thanks to our funders and those organisations that have supplied information to enable this project to take place.



STOCKING

Stocking fry

Dalgig Burn was stocked with salmon and sea trout fry again this year. Thirty-five thousand fish were stocked into this watercourse over approximately 3.5 kilometers from the point where the burn flows into the Nith upstream to the forestry block which joins the former surface coal mine owned by Kier. It is worth rehearsing the reasons why this watercourse is stocked. Many years ago, when the Greenburn surface coal mine was in full production, Kier consulted NDSFB regarding their proposals to mine coal in the Dalgig area of their land holding at Greenburn. The decision to support the planning application, which included taking the Dalgig Burn out of salmonid production for several years, was discussed at a Board meeting. NDSFB supported the planning application because the mining works would remove a redundant hydroelectric dam which was totally impassable to migratory salmonids and long term, the Board considered this a positive benefit to the catchment.



Spring 2022: Fry stocked into the Dalgig Burn

Part of the mitigation negotiated by the Board included that Kier would have to cover the costs for the Board to restock the reinstated Dalgig Burn with salmon and sea trout once the land was restored. Consequently, NDSFB has been stocking the burn annually and this management action is due to cease in 2025. This stocking exercise is licensed by Marine Scotland and is conducted using best industry standard practice. Each year the success of the stocking is assessed by means of electrofishing. To date, the Dalgig Burn is maturing and settling into its new course and the results of the fish surveys have proved that the restocked fish are surviving.

The Dalgig Burn is a classic example of a situation where it is entirely justified to intervene and assist nature due to the fact that it was an anthropocentric action i.e. the removal of the original watercourse, that resulted in a total loss of salmonid production, coupled with the creation of the new channel which did require a helping hand to kick



Summer 2022: The maturing habitat of the reinstated Dalgig

start natural colonization by migratory salmonid species. As always, nature does it better than man and it is the Board's intention to stand back after 2025 and let migrating salmon and sea trout continue to populate the Dalgig Burn. All annual survey work relating to the restoration of the former coal mining site will continue and we will be able to monitor the success of the Dalgig Burn as a functioning salmonid spawning/nursery tributary of the River Nith catchment.

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

New Cumnock Flood Alleviation Scheme

During 2022, the New Cumnock Flood Alleviation Scheme continued to be developed with the section upstream of the A76 in New Cumnock being completed. Work proceeded at pace on the section downstream of the A76 bridge down to the confluence of the Afton Water with the River Nith. East Ayrshire Council's contractors, Wills Bros, discussed construction options for the lower section of the flood alleviation scheme with Nith DSFB. Constraints associated with high voltage electricity infrastructure dictated that it was not possible to conduct engineering procedure from the southern bank of the Afton Water. All options were considered and the best solution was to conduct the engineering works from the water environment, within the watercourse itself.

Whilst this was a challenging solution in environmental terms, it seemed the only option and was adopted with strict environmental conditions attached. These included, ensuring all construction machinery entering the watercourse was using biodegradable oils, that stone required for grey bank engineering was pressure washed prior to placement and that all fish were removed from the working area prior to engineering works, daily.

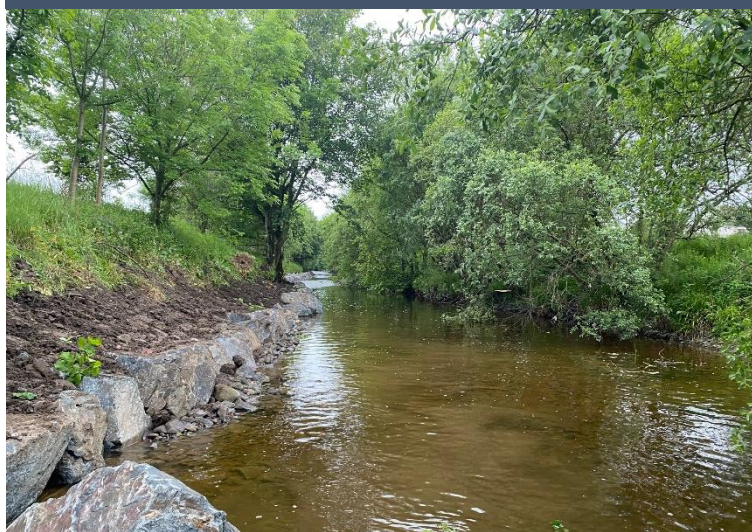
In order that there was a measure of any impacts, a full suite of aquatic surveys was conducted upstream of the flood alleviation scheme, within the works area and downstream of the works site. Thus, a comparison of environmental data was made possible. These surveys were conducted before any construction work started, repeated during the construction works and again, following completion of all construction activity. Overall, the results of these surveys has shown that impacts on aquatic species have minimal. Riparian planting has been incorporated into the engineering project which NDSFB/NCFT consider to be positive and will derive positive ecological benefits as it matures.



Stone placement in the Afton Water



Stone cleaning prior to entering the Afton Water



Completed grey bank engineering

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

Greensands Retaining Wall Repair

During the winter of 2021/22, the Nith retaining wall at the Greensands near the Burns Centre in Dumfries, collapsed into the river. The wall consisted of sandstone facing blocks backfilled with rubble. Plans to repair the retaining wall were discussed with NDSFB and a fish rescue was planned in advance of temporary containing works to prevent any further loss of the retaining wall. Our fisheries staff attended very early one morning and effected the fish rescue by means of electrofishing. Species rescued included salmon fry, parr and smolts, trout, eels, lamprey, stickleback, flounder, minnow, stone loach and grayling. This was a very worthwhile exercise and demonstrates the importance of removing fish from the working area prior to engineering works taking place. Our fisheries staff repeated the fish rescue operation later in the year, prior to the commencement of the permanent repair works at the site.



Fish rescue at the Greensands, Dumfries

Political Support

The River Nith is managed by two organisations, one is the Nith District Salmon Fishery Board (NDSFB), which is a statutory body and the other is the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust which is a Scottish registered charity. Both organisations work in harmony and have to adhere to the various laws which regulate the management of our rivers and the species which reside within them. As a consequence, the Scottish Government has influence over the policies that are pursued and the direction that management of our rivers takes. We are very fortunate on the Nith that we have good relationships with our local MSPs, they attend local events and are very aware of our work and the importance of the river to our community. Whilst these people are busy in their political lives, they always make time to consider the management of the Nith.



MSP's Finlay Carson and Oliver Mundell with Jim Henderson at the 2022 Opening Ceremony

WATER QUALITY

Surveying for aquatic invertebrates

Over the course of recent years, the Fisheries Trust staff have enhanced their skills and gained qualifications to enable them to conduct aquatic invertebrate surveys. These surveys have proven a valuable addition to the fish surveys that our staff have traditionally taken routinely to measure impacts of construction activity in or near to watercourses. Fish give a long-term measure of environmental impacts. Aquatic invertebrate communities can indicate a more immediate measure of water quality and predict a future potential impact on the fish community. During 2022, our fisheries staff took 57 aquatic invertebrate samples from various locations throughout the Nith catchment. Harvesting aquatic samples is a relatively quick process. A three-minute kick sample is followed by decanting the sample from a survey net and fixing it in 90% denatured ethanol. The sample is then transported back to our laboratory for future analysis. It is the analysis that takes the time to identify all aquatic species in the sample using a low powered microscope. All results are recorded on a spread sheet then a classification score is calculated using the River Invertebrate Classification Tool. This enables the watercourse to be classified in line with Water Framework Directive classifications. The analysis can take hours and is laborious. The biologists require to take regular breaks from this work as it can be eye straining looking at samples down a microscope for hours at a time.



Clockwise from top left: Conducting a kick sample; stonefly larvae under a microscope, caseless caddisfly larvae; looking at specimens under the microscope.

HABITAT

Planting willows to improve water quality

During the autumn of 2022, Hargreaves, the owners of the House of Water surface coal mine site at New Cumnock contacted Nith DSFB. They reported the occurrence of “rebound water” emerging out of the ground at a number of locations within the former mining site. The site has ceased extracting coal and is in an advanced stage of restoration. The water table in the area is finding its levels and is leaching out of the ground at locations where the landform is slightly lower. Naturally, this water finds its way to the nearest watercourse, which is the mainstem River Nith which traverses the House of Water site. Our annual monitoring of fish and aquatic invertebrates on the site is not detecting any issues with the addition of the rebound water to the surface water in the Nith. There is always the risk with rebound water from a former mining site, that a chemical imbalance in that water can occur as the water picks up chemical elements as it percolates to the surface. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is taking water samples for detailed analysis. Our fish surveys are acting as an additional environmental measure of any impacts.

Hargreaves have reacted to the rebound water on their site by channeling it into areas where NDSFB has planted willow as riparian habitat previously. Willow is a useful plant known to strip contamination from water and can assist in contributing to the purification process. In addition, Hargreaves have commissioned NDSFB to plant more willow, of Nith provenance, to further enhance the riparian fringes of the River Nith as it meanders through the House of Water site. This is a long-term environmental solution to assist in the amelioration of any potential adverse impacts.



Willow harvested from the Nith catchment



Planting willow whips

Removing obstructions to fish passage

Our fisheries staff keep a vigilant eye on all spawning tributaries during the late autumn/early winter to make sure that salmon and sea trout can access their spawning grounds. Access to some tributaries can be denied to ascending adult fish by woody debris which falls into the watercourse upstream and can build up in areas where it cannot pass natural rock obstructions or tree stumps, etc.

One tree across a fast-flowing stream quickly accumulates into a significant woody tangle of flotsam, sometimes meters in height. One such obstruction to fish occurred at the confluence of the Balloch Burn with the River Nith at Auldgirth. The solution to this issue was for our fisheries staff to use chainsaws to cut out the offending woody debris. Failure to conduct this work timeously could have resulted in the Balloch Burn failing to produce any salmonid recruits to the Nith catchment population during 2022.



Clearing woody obstruction in the Balloch Burn

If the doors to the salmonid maternity hospital are closed then no babies are the only result!

Biosecurity

Invasive Non-Native Species

Like the rest of Britain, the Nith catchment is, unfortunately, home to a number of aquatic and riparian Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). These are animals and plants that have been introduced into Britain at some point in the past and become established to the point that they have taken over, outcompeting other native species of fauna and flora and reducing our native biodiversity. These include Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Giant hogweed, American skunk cabbage, American mink and American signal crayfish. In some cases, such as Giant hogweed, they can pose a public health risk.

INNS can be extremely difficult to get rid of and can require many years of persistent treatment to prevent them from re-colonising again. In 2010, the Nith DSFB was a partner in the D&G Riparian INNS project which was funded by SEPA, Landfill and Leader. This project ran for 4 years and employed full-time and seasonal members of staff to conduct INNS control throughout the catchment. However, the funding finished in 2014 and since then, the Nith Board and Trust have been carrying out the control of Giant hogweed and mink and continue to monitor the movements of signal crayfish within the catchment. Some Japanese knotweed treatment is conducted on a commercial basis.

Due to the nature of INNS, it is important that any control is long lasting to be effective. One of the reasons that the Board decided to continue with the treatment of Giant hogweed was because it can take over 20 years to effectively control it. Once a single plant is allowed to go to seed, it can produce 20,000 seeds. These seeds are then able to lie dormant in the soil for up to 20 years. This means that any break in the control of this species can see the infestation take hold again extremely quickly.

The Nith Trust and Board are working to put together a funded INNS control package and are investigating the use of eDNA to monitor for American signal crayfish in other parts of the catchment. eDNA sampling involves taking water samples in various parts of the catchment, running them through a specialist filter and sending the sample away to a lab to be analysed. This will identify if signal crayfish are present within that watercourse without months of trapping to find them.



Spraying Giant hogweed



American signal crayfish

EVENTS

Sea Trout Experience

In June 2022, the Board and Trust ran the very successful Sea Trout Fishing Experience. This primary aim of this event is to encourage sea trout anglers to fish the Nith, whether they are visitors who would like to try fishing on the Nith or locals who would like to try out different beats on the river. Participants sign up to fish four Fridays between June and July and are assigned beats on the river. This fishing is very kindly provided free of charge by salmon fishing proprietors along the length of the river.

The Nith Sea Trout Experience ran over four Friday nights in June 2022. The weather was, mostly, reasonable with conditions conducive to sea trout fishing, resulting in sea trout being captured every night. Over the four Friday nights that fishing took place, by far the best night was June 17th with a total of 9 sea trout being caught, and others being hooked and lost.

Sea trout were captured from the lower river right through to Drumlanrig but the most productive beats for our event this year were DGAA, Blackwood and Drumlanrig Lower, each catching 5 sea trout. The largest sea trout caught was 6lb on Blackwood. Over the entire event 23 sea trout, 8 brown trout, 1 salmon and 1 grayling were recorded.

Many thanks to the dedicated anglers that took part in the event, often fishing until the early hours of the morning and braving torrential rain and winds on the last week. It is encouraging to see these fish being caught and allows the Trust to gain an insight into the effort required to catch a sea trout during the peak sea trout fishing season on the Nith. This helps us to normalise the catch data provided by fishing proprietors at the end of every season.

Salmon Angling Experience

On Saturday 31st August, the Board and Trust organised a Salmon Angling Experience for visiting and local anglers to enable them to fish on different beats of the river. This is the second time that this event has been run. The first time was in 2019, prior to the Covid pandemic. Over forty anglers signed up to take part in the event, with anglers being assigned beats along the length of the river and offered casting instruction by Jonathan Morris, an Association of Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructor (AAPGAI).

However, the weather had different plans and after weeks of drought the water levels were at an all-time low and fishing was challenging to say the least. The majority of anglers made the decision not to fish that day but we still invited anglers that had booked accommodation and casting lessons to come and explore the river and gain an insight into the river whilst conditions were so low. Needless to say, no salmon were caught during the event and we will be keeping our fingers crossed that the weather is kinder to us in 2023.



EDUCATION

Fishing for the Future project

The NCFT has been running the Fishing for the Future project since 2014 and during 2022, 42 education sessions were delivered to 185 individual young people, aged between 6 and 18.

Six secondary and primary schools took part in the project including St. Joseph's College Rural Skills group, Wallace Hall Academy's S2 class to prepare them for their biology classes as they moved into S3, Sanquhar Academy's S3 class, St. Michael's Primary 4 class, Dunscore Primary school (entire school for some sessions) and Sanquhar Primary 5 class.

The first two sessions were classroom based and introduced the pupils to the aquatic environment by following the lifecycle of the Atlantic salmon. These first sessions prepared the pupils for the final outdoor sessions where they had the opportunity to conduct surveys on a local watercourse by carrying out invertebrate and fisheries surveys in the field, finding out about some of these animals in more detail. The pupils were then asked to decide how healthy the river was based on what they had seen. They then spent a full day fishing at a local still water fishery, learning how to fish. The last session took them down to Rockcliffe beach to explore the shore.

The secondary school sessions were more advanced and included learning more practical skills such as how to make fishing platforms and how to build a walkway over boggy ground at a local fishery. They were shown how to dissect a fish and conducted scientific surveys in the freshwater and at the coast.

As part of the Fishing for the Future project, three taster days are offered to young people, and their families, that want to try out fishing. In 2022, three angling taster days were delivered to 34 young people. Most of the participants had no previous fishing experience so the day started by introducing them to the different methods of fishing, the theory behind the methods and the different equipment used. They were then taught about the fish themselves including how to handle them properly and how to release them safely or, if taking them, how to dispatch them humanely. After a few casting lessons and a bit of practice they spent a successful afternoon fishing for rainbow trout.

The NCFT ran nine Nith Young Anglers Club fishing days for some of the more experienced young anglers who wanted to learn more techniques. These fishing trips including fishing for trout, salmon, pike, flounder, carp, tench and roach. The days are very successful and provide the young people with the chance to learn about different methods of fishing in a safe environment, under expert instruction.



St. Joseph's Rural Skills undertaking fishery maintenance



Advanced Higher Biology students dissecting rainbow trout



River survey with Dunscore Primary 4-7

Appendix 1: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS

HELD AT FRIARS CARSE COUNTRY HOTEL

ON
8 JULY 2022 AT 10AM

PRESENT

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Raymond Mundle – Angling Representative
Peter Hutchison – Netting Representative
Richard Gladwin – Blackwood
David Kempself – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Tom Brown – Drumburn
Thomas Florey- Angler
Freya Grant – BEL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Peter Landale – Dalswinton Estate
Andy Ferguson – Dumfries & Galloway Council

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS & ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING 30 MARCH 2021 (AMPQ) & 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Annual Public Meeting from 2021 were approved.

2. ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report.

It was pointed out that this was a new format following on from a request by Peter Landale to have the Annual Report updated. The Chairman asked for approval of the new format, which was unanimously given.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk referred to the Accounts and his Notes on the Accounts.

Richard Gladwin asked if the charges arising out of Consultancy Income would increase due to inflation and it was confirmed by FD that he intended to initially follow the budgetary recommendation of 3% but given the manner in which inflation had increased in recent months he had increased the rate at which he charged accordingly.

There as unanimous approval of the Annual Accounts.

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN

FD reported that as yet no Scottish Government (SG) approved template for a Fishery Management Plan had been issued. FD and FB continued to implement best practice on the River as regards ongoing management.

5. A.O.C.B.

The Chairman asked for comments and there were none.

The meeting thereafter closed.

Appendix 2: Clerk's notes on the Accounts

CLERKS NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS 01.12.21 – 30.11.22

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 during the course of the year. The Consultancy Income generated to 30.11.22 amounts to £291,134, which is an exceptional amount. The increase arises to a large extent as a result of a "one off" payment of £110,000 by Keir Minerals to bring to a conclusion payment for annual monitoring a program of ongoing electrofishing and habitat monitoring of the Greenburn OCC Site

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.

Other operating income

Bank Interest

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

Government Grants

Income arising from the furlough scheme.

Overheads

Wages & Salaries

The Board at the close of the financial year employed a Fishery Director and a Head Bailiff. No seasonal Bailiff was employed during the fiscal year.

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.

Staff Training

The staff have recommenced attendance on the appropriate training courses in connection with the various aspects of their jobs, including detailed training in the operations on smolts to insert acoustic tracking tags for the west coast smolt tracking project.

Insurance

The Board re-appraised its insurance cover two years ago, bringing about reductions in the cost of premia at that time. The increase in costs is relatively small.

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 repairs to fencing forming part of the Upper Wanlock Habitat Enhancement Scheme etc.

Clothing Allowance and Safety Equipment

Payments for staff work and health and safety clothing.

Web Site and Advertising

Payable to Creatomatic and to Finlay Design for update of the Board's signage and banners used for the promotion of the Board through its stationery and signage for public events.

Hire of Equipment

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

Motor Expenses

Increased as a result of work related issues.

Accommodation and Subsistence

For attendances at meetings and courses, most of which have been conducted online. The Fishery Director has resumed attending necessary courses required to keep abreast of the requirements for fishery management. One of these was of particular importance, the subject being the salmon smolt tracking project update for Europe, held in Dublin.

Legal and Professional

The Board has taken action to recover unpaid assessment.

Clerk's Fees

In line with previous years fees.

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 a combination of outstanding assessments (£6,454.54) and outstanding consultancy income invoices £75,345.17 at close of books.

Current Liabilities

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

Appendix 3: Accounts for Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Balance Sheet
as at 30th November 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tenant's Improvements		955		1,061
Nightsights		1,269		1,585
Plant & Machinery		10,778		13,800
Motor Vehicles		14,001		18,668
		<u>27,003</u>		<u>35,114</u>
Current Assets				
Work-in-progress	45,265		36,152	
Debtors	73,132		82,492	
Prepayments	1,605		1,414	
Clydesdale Cashflow Account	78,003		16,989	
Clydesdale Cash Management Account	25		25	
Scottish Building Society Scotplus Account	316,104		205,435	
Scottish Building Society - SEPA funds	1,174		1,172	
Scottish Building Society Project Account	16,708		16,681	
Scottish Building Society Vehicle Account	6,829		6,818	
	<u>538,845</u>		<u>367,178</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Trade creditors	5,503		5,434	
Corporation Tax	139		143	
Accruals	2,472		2,472	
	<u>8,114</u>		<u>8,049</u>	
Net Current assets		530,731		359,129
Net assets		<u>557,734</u>		<u>394,243</u>
Income and expenditure account		557,734		394,243
Members' funds		<u>557,734</u>		<u>394,243</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover		
Assessments receivable	182,921	183,106
Consultancy income	291,134	172,475
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	474,055	355,581
Less: Refund of dues	(104,265)	(104,265)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	369,790	251,316
Other operating income		
Bank interest	731	752
Government grants	-	3,292
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	370,521	255,360

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 30th November 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
brought forward	370,521	255,360
Overheads		
Wages and salaries	106,580	101,964
Grant to NCF Trust	35,925	37,634
Staff pension costs	6,579	6,309
Staff training	2,453	1,188
Insurance	3,781	4,088
Repairs and maintenance	4,893	5,189
Clothing and safety equipment	2,115	600
Printing, postage and stationery	300	389
Telephone and internet	2,961	2,814
Website and advertising	1,349	-
Hire of equipment	1,620	3,700
Motor expenses	11,163	10,190
Accommodation and subsistence	2,553	247
Legal and professional	315	-
Clerk's fee to Walker & Sharpe	9,900	9,900
Audit fees	2,520	2,672
Bank charges	114	187
General expenses	1,145	1,861
Subscriptions	1,940	1,917
Depreciation	8,685	10,890
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(206,891)	(201,739)
Surplus before tax	163,630	53,621
Taxation	(139)	(143)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for the year	163,491	53,478
Retained profit brought forward	394,243	340,765
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained profit carried forward	557,734	394,243
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2022

£ £

Tenant's Improvements

Opening Balance	1,061
Less: Depreciation for year @ 10%	106
Closing Balance	<u>955</u>

Nightsights

Opening Balance	1,585
Less: Depreciation for year @ 20%	316
Closing Balance	<u>1,269</u>

Plant & Machinery

Opening Balance	13,801
Additions	
Water monitoring equipment	453
Fridge & Tumble Dryer	120
	<u>573</u>
	14,374
Less: Depreciation for year @ 25%	3,596
Closing Balance	<u>10,778</u>

The Nith District Salmon Fishery Board

Fixed Asset Schedule
for the year ended 30th November 2022

	£	£
<u>Motor Vehicles</u>		
Landrover ST64 CVH - balance b/f	2,406	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	601	
	<hr/>	1,805
Toyota Hilux SM69 TNU - balance b/f	16,261	
Depreciation for year @ 25%	4,065	
	<hr/>	12,196
Closing book value		<hr/> <hr/>