

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of  
The Ythan District Salmon Fishery Board  
Held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
At The Schivas Steading, Newton, Methlick at 2pm**

1. Present:

Paul Adderton	- ADDA Machar Pool
John Pirie	- Ardlogie
Charles Wolrige Gordon	- Esslemont – Chairman
Eric Ritchie	- Ramornie
Charles Buchan	- Auchmacoy
Fred Pell	- Haddo House Angling Club
Andy Crawford	- Angler (Schivas)

2. In Attendance:

Mark Andrew	- Former Clerk to the Board
Jim Kerr	- Don District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent
Edward Arthur	- Clerk to the Board

3. Apologies for absence:

Dominic Fairlie - M. Bruce & Partners – Logie Buchan  
Anouk Kloppert – River Ythan Trust

4. Clerk's Intimation

The Clerk, Edward Arthur, advised that on medical advice he was no longer able to take on the role of Clerk and was resigning with immediate effect. He agreed that he would assist the former Clerk, Mark Andrew, in fulfilling the administrative duties until a replacement Clerk could take over. The Chairman asked if any of those attending wished to be considered or knew of someone who might be interested to contact him. Edward Arthur agreed to be co-opted to the Board as the representative for Schivas. A list of Board members is attached.

5. Consideration of the Reports by the Bailiffs

The Clerk asked if everyone had seen the report which had been published on the Board website and sent to Board members and others by email([www.ythan.co.uk](http://www.ythan.co.uk)).

Jim Kerr provided a summary of the 2024 season which had started with high spring flow but low water throughout the summer and autumn which affected the angling season as low water conditions prevailed throughout the salmon fishing season.

The Board had once again hired a boat mounted seal scarer from Peterhead which had been moored at Boatie Tams' thanks to the kind assistance of George and Wayne Smith. This had worked to deter seals from ascending further upriver and kept the Ellon fishings free of their damaging activities. It has been agreed with Lunar fishings and the Ugie D.S.F.B to hire the boat and seal scarer in 2025.

The gravel loosening carried out by the Bailiffs had met with considerable success and fish were observed spawning within the improved area within days of completion. Other areas of the upper Ythan had been selected for similar treatment in 2025.

Paul Adderton asked for the Service Level Agreement and work of the Bailiffs to be applauded for working well to the benefit of the River Ythan.

6. Programme of Activities for 2025

These were identified within the report. Emphasis would be placed on tree removal where these were causing impassable obstructions, clearing potential spawning gravel areas of ranunculus, easing compacted gravel beds for spawning (at Seggat) and clearing any other impassable obstructions.

Survey work would continue on the 10 identified spawning areas (on tributaries and the main stem of the river over 1km each), Piscivorous bird surveys from Gight to the estuary enabling an application for control to be submitted if and when necessary and follow up work on the two hydro electric systems in the District (on the Kelly burn at Haddo and the Ebrie close to Auchnagatt) to ensure ascending salmonids could pass them.

7. Proposals by those attending:

Everyone agreed with the proposals put forward by Jim Kerr.

Mark Andrew said he would try to contact Mrs. Basford and / or her daughter to see if they would agree to infill the offtake channel for the hydro system on the Ebrie as it was not used and was in breach of the CAR license issued by SEPA.

8. Date for next Meeting

No date was set but it was agreed that there would be a pre-season meeting in late January / early February 2026.

9. Any other Competent Business

Mark Andrew asked for comments about 100% catch and release for sea trout as had been recommended by FMS. He pointed out that The Ythan had a bad record for killing sea trout which was based on the catch return and particularly that from the estuary where the catch and release rate was very low for adult sea trout. All finnock were already returned on the river. Unfortunately, no one from the estuary fishings (Newburgh Angling Club) was in attendance and Mrs. Forbes had died so the 2024 catch returns were unknown. It was known that elsewhere on the river the majority of sea trout were returned. The 2025 Conservation Code would be altered to reflect the position.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. He thanked Edward Arthur for taking on the Clerkship and hoped he would continue to join the Board as a Co-Opted member and Mark Andrew for coming up to assist.