

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of
The Ythan District Fishery Board
held at 2.00pm on 17th June ,2021
at the fishing hut at Newburgh**

1. **Present:**

C. Wolridge Gordon (Chairman)
J. D. Pirie
A. Paterson
P. Adderton
R. Coutts

2. **Apologies:**

A. Kloppert

3. **In Attendance:**

M.H.T. Andrew	Clerk to the Board
Jamie Urquhart	River Dee / Don

4. The minutes of meeting held on 19th January, 2021 which had been circulated were approved. There were no matters arising.

5. **Update from Clerk**

The programme of work for 2021 had been included in the 2020 report. The Clerk confirmed that work had already commenced on a number of areas including:

a) Spraying of invasive species by Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers and SISI.

- Alex Paterson confirmed that the main stem of the river had been sprayed by the contractor and by SISI on the Tarty burn and Cruden burns.
- There is a problem in regard to funding this control in the future particularly after SISI funding comes to an end.
- Paul Adderton offered ADAA staff / volunteers would assist with spraying in the future.

b) Seal scarer

The Clerk confirmed that the seal scarer from the Ugie, which was hired in 2020, was to be installed at Boatie Tam's once again. It had proved effective in 2020 and no seals had swum passed it.

c) Predator control

The Clerk advised that with the assistance of Jamie Urquhart the application for a licence to control goosanders and cormorants had been granted but that due to Covid restrictions no birds had been shot during the period allowed by the licence.

Jamie Urquhart advised that the numbers granted was relatively low and that these piscivorous birds still needed to be scared off. He added that the Dee Board was working to tip the balance in favour of salmonids against piscivorous birds and that a survey of the crop content from such birds had been carried out but not yet analysed.

d) Restoration work

Jamie Urquhart asked members to report any obstructions that the Bailiff's could remove as part of their activities later in the year.

6. Update on 'The Missing Salmon Project'

The project had recently held a meeting at the Macallan distillery which was made into a You Tube film which can be found on-line.

7. Electro Fishing and other surveys 2021

The Clerk advised that the 4 annual sites on the Ythan had been surveyed in 2020 and that he was waiting to hear from Marine Scotland which sites were to be surveyed in 2021. Arrangements were already in place for the Deveron to carry out the work in 2021.

8. The next meeting would be held at the Haddo Estate office on 27th January 2022.

The Don Board bailiffs had started their surveys for the year which would include:

- a. piscivorous bird surveys (conducted throughout the year)
- b. salmon and sea trout redds (conducted in Oct. – Nov.)
- c. obstructions and future spawning bed site improvements

9. Any other business

- a. The Clerk asked Jamie Urquhart what had happened with the Vattenfall funding for sea trout tracking that had been due to be carried out in 2020 but was cancelled due to Covid. Jamie replied that the tags provided for the project had expired so the money had been used for further research on the previous sampling. It would not have been possible to run the sampling in the Ythan.
- b. John Pirie advised that the river was the most prolific for finnock in Scotland according to Marine Scotland statistics.