



RIVER DOON DISTRICT **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

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MINUTES

of

Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

of

RIVER DOON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

held at

Western House Hotel, 66 Craigie Road, AYR KA8 0HA

on Thursday 27 March 2025 at 7pm

1. Persons Present

<i>Alan Macdonald (“AM”)</i>	<i>Doonside Estate (Chair)</i>
<i>Iain K Clark (“IKC”)</i>	<i>Gilson Gray LLP (Clerk to the Board)</i>
<i>David Cosh (“DC”)</i>	<i>Doonfoot Fishings, Board Member</i>
<i>Martin Donachy (“MD”)</i>	<i>Woodlands, Board Member</i>
<i>Lawrence Dalgleish (“LD”)</i>	<i>Blackhill, Rozelle, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs (“SB”)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>Struan Candlish (“SC”)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>John Squire</i>	<i>Holms Fishing</i>
<i>Wendy Whiteford</i>	<i>Drumgrange & Keirs Angling Club</i>
<i>Ian Wilson</i>	<i>Drumgrange & Keirs Angling Club</i>
<i>Alan Ferguson</i>	
<i>Steven Lynch</i>	

2. Apologies

<i>Mark Colman (“MC”)</i>	<i>Smithston Fishings Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Dorward (“SD”)</i>	<i>Board Member (Salmon Fishers’ Representative)</i>
<i>Peter Kennerley (“PK”)</i>	<i>Auchendrane House, Board Member</i>
<i>Carlos Van Heddegem (“CVD”)</i>	<i>Holms Fishing, Board Member</i>
<i>Alan Shannon</i>	<i>River Watch Coordinator</i>
<i>Mark Gibson</i>	<i>Craigengillen Estate</i>
<i>Andrea Lake</i>	<i>Yonderton</i>

3. Declaration of Members’ Interests

In accordance with the Board’s good governance obligations, the Board has agreed a Meetings Protocol and Policy on Members Interests. All Board Members have signed a Declaration and the Board maintains a Register of Relevant Interests, pursuant to *Section 46E of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”)*. All Board Members present were invited to declare new/amend existing interests. No such new/amended interests were declared.

Alan Ferguson declared that he works for SEPA. No other interests were declared.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting (DOC 1)

The Minutes were unanimously approved as follows:

Proposed: DC
Seconded: MD

5. Draft Annual Report re The Activities of the Board for the year to 31 December 2024

(a) Report from the Chair – Alan MacDonald, Chair (AM)

The Chair presented his Written Report. There were no questions arising.

(b) Report from the Clerk to the Board – Iain K Clark, Clerk to the Board (IKC)

The Clerk presented his Written Report. There were no questions arising.

(c) Report on Fishery Assessments – IKC

The Clerk presented a Report on Fishery Assessments and provided an update. There was a discussion regarding the ownership and transfer of Salmon Fishery Rights and how this leads to issues with liability for payment of Fishery Assessments.

The Clerk is going to check the historic files from the previous Clerk, for any Beat Maps and records. Also, the Clerk will be liaising with AVJB on updating the records, where possible.

(d) Consultation Responses – IKC

The Clerk updated those present on the steps taken working with ART and FMS to respond to relevant Consultations, including Scottish Government, SEPA and various other matters, including wind farms, pollution incidents etc.

(e) Good Governance – IKC

The Clerk reported as per Draft Annual Report. There were no questions arising.

(f) Code of Practice – IKC

The Clerk presented the updated version of the Code of Practice and it was agreed also to include the hyperlinks to download the NEW Catch Return App and the video of how to register and use the App and QR Code to be issued with Fisheries Information Pack at the Annual Public Meeting.

(g) Scientific Report – Ayrshire Rivers Trust - (ART)

The Report was spoken to by SB and SC. Highlights were:

Of the four Ayrshire Rivers, the River Doon is most stable in terms of fry numbers. The vertical lines show increased fry numbers every 4 years – 2013, 2017 and 2021 and the same is expected in 2025

There seem to be issues with large weed beds, and seems to be as a result of compensation flows. But good cover for fish, not so good for spawning.

Electrofishing Report – Culroy and Brocklock Burn – showing strong signs of recovery in terms of Salmon numbers

Pollution incidents – issues with Muck Water. Incident on Purclewan Water. Unlicensed activity – building of a bridge. New people taking up Environment Protection role at SEPA.

The before and after photos of work done were presented with a total of £30,000 and the Board Contribution to this of £1,500.

Keeping livestock out of watercourses is essential. Board agreed to 50% expenditure of fencing.

ART have finished the Brocklock Project. There is a link to a video with Wild Fisheries Fund.

ART explained and demonstrated the NEW Catch Return App that had been developed. The Board and those present all commented that this was an excellent idea and it is hoped that syndicates, clubs and associations will embrace this to help in the preparation of Annual Catch Returns for Scottish Government Marine Inspectorate and the Board.

Chapelton Burn Restoration – ART has applied for £13k which would allow ART to obtain a CBEC Report, albeit there is some resistance from landowners.

Working on Wild Fisheries Fund Application for erosion scars for Drumgrange & Keirs Angling Club beats, including tree planting. Enquiries are being made re ownership re Waterside area to allow a Biosphere Application for next year.

The Clerk commented that the work being undertaken by ART is very positive and appreciated.

There are a couple of big erosion scars with Drumgrange Farm and ART have a good relationships with them. ART are also looking at doing fencing. Ian Wilson will send details of Solicitors to ART to assist in discussions with proprietors etc.

(h) River Doon DSFB River Watch Scheme – IKC

Ian Wilson reported that there were incidents he knew of 8 people poaching – two fishing from Adrossan in the Ness Glen on Sunday. Two from Glasgow in Waterside and 4 from Ayr yesterday.

IKC emphasized the need to update Alan Shannon, the River Watch Coordinator, so that he can in return report to Police Scotland.

(i) Annual Catch Returns – IKC

The Clerk presented the Written Report and there was a general discussion.

6. Draft Statement of Accounts to 31 December 2024

The Annual Audited Statement of Accounts prepared by Azets were presented and approved unanimously as follows:

Proposed: DC
Seconded: MD

7. Proposed activities of the Board for the next year – ART

ART presented the Proposed Works previously discussed with the Board:

Japanese Knotweed – ART did a bit last year and they recommend that the Board allocate around £2,000 for this year. The Board proposed and the Meeting agreed to allocate £2,000 for this year.

Waterside Green Engineering and Wild Fisheries Fund - ART proposed an allocation of £3,000 of match funding from the Board this year, compared to around £30,000 total costs, which will protect two spawning redds. The Board agreed to this allocation. The Grant Application goes in on Monday and we will know in 2 weeks.

Fencing on Drumgrange Burn in the Patna area – ART recommended £2,500 each year for the next 2 years (a total £5,000) be allocated, towards a total cost of £10,000. It was also proposed that £2,500 be provisionally allocated for 2027 (a total allocation of £7,500). The Board proposed and the Meeting agreed.

The Board had previously made a donation to Wildfish of £1,000 last year to support their wider work in and to have their voice heard in supporting Atlantic Salmon. Considering the Budget presented by the Clerk, the Board recommended a further donation this year of £1,000. The Meeting agreed. The Clerk is to arrange the payment.

8. Any Other Business

The Clerk explained that he had received notifications of Appeals by the aquaculture industry against CAR Amendments by SEPA. FMS had already prepared briefing notes, which demonstrate the complexity of the Appeals.

There was discussion that the Board should make Representations, supported by ART and FMS. Representations are due by 9 April 2025. MD and MC agreed to deal with these, liaising with FMS and then send the finalised Draft for submission by IKC on behalf of the Board.

9. Next Meeting: Annual Public Meeting: Thursday 17 April 2025 at 6:00pm

MD proffered his apologies in advance for the meeting.

AM thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting concluded at 20:45