

RIVER CREE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROPRIETORS AND OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD

Held at the Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart, on Wednesday the 18th November 2015 at 6 pm

Board Members present

Terence Flanagan – Chairman
Duncan Baillie
Murdo Crosbie
Gene Fryatt – mandatory for Peter Jones
John Galloway – NSAA
Jamie Hyslop
Steve Smith – mandatory for Lord Crampton

In attendance

Billy McHarg – Treasurer
Jamie Ribbens – GFT

Five members of the public were also in attendance

Apologies
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk), Dougal Evans, Iain Service

Agenda

The agenda had been publicised on the Board's website

Introduction

The Chairman gave a brief introduction and explained the format of the meetings.

Annual Meeting of Proprietors

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated to all those present. The Chairman mentioned some of the salient points in the report and Jamie Ribbens and Murdo Crosbie went through the respective appendices prepared by GFT and RCHHT.

There was an extensive discussion as to how the conservation limit for the Cree District had been calculated by Marine Scotland Science ("MSS") in connection with the proposed conservation measures promulgated by the Scottish Government. Jamie Ribbens had met MSS and gave an explanation of their methodology. They had calculated an area of 15m square metres for the catchment and assumed 5.5 eggs per square metre as the required deposition. This equated to between 10m and 12m eggs per annum. They assumed each grilse produced 4,000 eggs and each salmon 6,100

eggs. The number of returning salmon was calculated by reference to the rod catch, but was adjusted for various factors, such as over-counting for released fish being caught twice and released fish subsequently dying.

However, a major adjustment was for "grilse error" – an assumption that some fish recorded in catch returns as salmon were in fact grilse. There was some discussion as to why MSS did not instead use the weights of fish (which are included in the returns) instead of second-guessing which fish were salmon and which were grilse. Jamie was to have a further meeting with MSS when this and other factors in the calculation of the conservation limit would be raised.

Applying their methodology, MSS had calculated that the Cree District had met its conservation limit in 2010, 2011 and 2012, but not in the next two seasons.

In relation to proposed GFT works for the coming year, Jamie confirmed that he would hope to complete the four year rolling programme of electro-fishing of the catchment in 2016.

A question was asked as to why the Board did not apply to extend the rod season until the end of October. The Chairman pointed out that this had been raised in 2013 and 2014. In both instances, the Board had decided not to pursue the matter, in part because of the labyrinthine procedure now prescribed by the 2013 Act.

The Accounts were considered.

There were no revisions to the Annual Report or Accounts, which were therefore in their final form for consideration at the next meeting.

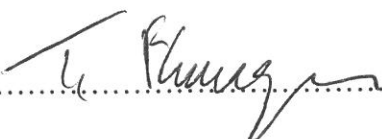
Annual Public Meeting

The Annual Report and the Accounts were considered.

The Board's Conservation Code was considered. It was recognised that possible revisions to the Code would depend on whether compulsory catch and release was to be imposed for the 2016 season. For example, if compulsory catch and release was in place then the Board might well wish to prohibit worm fishing. It was extremely inconvenient for proprietors not to be able to tell potential rods what the situation would be, but it was considered impracticable to draft two alternative codes depending on what the situation would be. It was accordingly decided to leave over consideration of the Code until January, when it was hoped the situation regarding compulsory catch and release would be known.

No matters had been proposed for consideration by members of the public.

The next meeting of the Board was fixed for 5.30 on Wednesday the 27th January 2016 at the Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart.

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Chairman