



RIVER AYR DISTRICT **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

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FISHERY ASSESSMENTS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

For those of you unfamiliar with the Work of the River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board and how Fishery Assessments operate, here are some Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Role of the River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board (“River Ayr DSFB”)?

The River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board is a statutory body empowered under Part 3 of the *Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003* (“**the 2003 Act**”), which has subsequently been amended by the *Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Acts 2007 and 2013*, to manage the protection, enhancement and conservation of the Atlantic salmon and sea trout stocks in the River Ayr. It also has a duty to ensure the general protection and improvement of the fisheries within their district.

What are the Aims of the River Ayr DSFB?

- Protecting and improving the fisheries within its district
- Increasing salmon
- Running a restocking programme in selected areas where low numbers of parr and salmon are identified.
- Encouraging responsible angling

The River Ayr DSFB works to raise the profile of the economic, cultural and environmental importance of the River Ayr to the local area, both among residents and visiting anglers.

The Board also represents the interests of the River Ayr at regional and national forums.

What are Fishery Assessments?

District Salmon Fishery Boards (“**DSFBs**”) are funded through the Fishery Assessment, which is a form of non-domestic rate. The Local Authority District Assessor values the Salmon and Sea Trout fisheries within that district every three years. The valuation is largely based on the catches of Salmon and Sea Trout within each fishery. The DSFB then sets a rate in the pound which is applied at a uniform rate to all fisheries in the district.

What does the money from Fishery Assessments fund?

The income generated from Fishery Assessments allows the River Ayr DSFB to fulfil its statutory role. The Board undertakes work on the river to protect and improve the fisheries within the catchment. It will do so taking account of the priorities set within the Board’s Fishery Management Plan, which will allow the Board’s efforts and limited resources to be channeled towards making improvements where they are most needed and achievable.

What type of Project Work does the River Ayr DSB carry out?

Projects which may be considered and implemented, working with the Board's Scientific Advisers and partners, Ayrshire Rivers Trust, include:

- Fencing projects to protect burns where the habitat has been affected by silt arising from livestock driven erosion, to offer spawning potential for both trout and salmon.
- Planting trees within fenced areas to help cool and shade fish habitat, particularly important as average temperatures rise through global warming.
- Dealing with invasive weeds, which can not only be dangerous to humans (e.g. Giant Hogweed), but which can cause significant issues for landowners (e.g. Japanese Knotweed), and cause erosion (e.g. Himalayan Balsam)
- Addressing issues of piscivorous birds and other predators
- Electrofishing and monitoring of impacts
- Collating and reporting on Annual Catch Returns
- Pollution Control
- Making responses to Statutory Consultations
- And many other areas of work

Why have I received this Fishery Assessment Notice?

The River Ayr DSFB has the power to issue Fishery Assessments on each Salmon Fishery within its District under *section 44 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 Act* as noted on the Valuation Roll maintained by Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board ("AVJB").

Who is the person responsible for Payment of Fishery Assessments?

The ultimate responsibility for payment of Fishery Assessments lies with the Qualified Proprietors (sometimes call 'Riparian Owners') of Salmon Fishing Rights. However, depending on the circumstances, frequently the Fishery Assessment Notices are issued direct to their tenants e.g. clubs, associations, fishing syndicates, or sometimes individuals, for payment on behalf of the Qualified Proprietor.

On what basis are Salmon Fisheries valued?

The Valuation Roll of fishing rights is updated every three years by the District Assessor of AVJB carrying out a revaluation of the Rateable Values of each Salmon Fishery (often called a 'beat') in the District. Each salmon 'fishings' or 'beat' has a unique name and reference.

Re-Valuation, Making Proposals/Appeal

The latest re-valuation exercise was carried out with effect from 1 April 2023. The previous re-valuation was in effect from 1 April 2017 and updated on 1 April 2020. The next re-valuation exercise is due to be carried out in 2026.

The Assessor at AVJB issued a Revaluation Notice to the Proprietor, Tenant and Occupier named in the Valuation Roll showing the Rateable Value with effect from 1 April 2023.

If a Proprietor believes that the Rateable Value is incorrect, they can make a Proposal to AVJB to alter it (previously called an Appeal). The deadline for making a proposal against a Revaluation Notice for 1 April 2023 was 31 July 2023. The River Ayr DSFB is not involved in any such Proposal/Appeal Process, which is administered by AVJB.

What do I do if the records are incorrect or need to be updated?

If any of the Proprietor, Tenant or Occupier names shown on the Revaluation Notice are incorrect (or for any change of Proprietorship or Tenancy), you should inform AVJB and the Clerk to the River Ayr DSFB, notifying full contact details, i.e. name, postal address, email and telephone contact numbers, date of change of ownership or tenancy.

The Annual Process of Fishery Assessments

Each year, the River Ayr DSFB fixes the uniform rate (called the '**Fishery Assessment Rate**') which is to be uniformly applied to all the Rateable Valuations of each fishery entered in the Valuation Roll maintained by AVJB.

The Clerk to the Board then issues the Fishery Assessment Notices to Qualified Proprietors (or their tenants, as appropriate) for payment for each of the beats of the river.

How does the River Ayr DSFB determine the Fishery Assessment Rate?

The Board takes account of historic Fishery Assessment Rates and the requirement to secure sufficient funds from Fishery Assessments to cover necessary expenditure to meet the Board's statutory obligations for the purpose of the protection or improvement of the fisheries within the River Ayr Catchment Area; and monies to help fund projects on the river, whilst also providing for some degree of contingency.

Why has the Fishery Assessment Rate gone up?

Historically, the Board was aware that COVID-19 caused problems for everyone, including the fishing community. As a consequence of lockdown, falling catch numbers, lack of fishing effort and the fact that some clubs had been struggling, the Board has kept the Fishery Assessment Rates as low as it can, whilst noting the requirement to generate income in order to carry out its statutory functions.

The Board also considered that, after review of the new Valuation Roll from Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board ("**AVJB**") following revaluation with effect from 1 April 2023, there was a reduction of £22,395 (i.e. 43%) in the Rateable Values of the River to £29,520.

Therefore, taking account of all of the above, at its meeting on 11 June 2024, the Board fixed the Fishery Assessment Rate for the Year 2024/2025 at 85 pence per £.

Do I have to pay a Fishery Assessment, even if the beat is not fished?

Yes, the Fishery Assessment is based on the Rateable Value x Fishery Assessment Rate and is due to be paid, even if there is no fishing in the beat.

Do I have to pay a Fishery Assessment, even if no Salmon are caught during the year?

Yes, the Fishery Assessment is due to be paid, even if no Salmon are caught in the beat. The Revaluation of Rateable Values of each beat by AVJB takes account of a number of factors, including historic catch returns and information provided by the Qualified Proprietors during the Revaluation process.

How can I pay for my Fishery Assessment(s)?

Payment can be made by one of three methods:

- (1) Payment by LEGL Secure Payment System
- (2) Payment by Direct Bank Transfer
- (3) Payment by Cheque

Payment by Debit or Credit Card through LEGL Secure Payment System

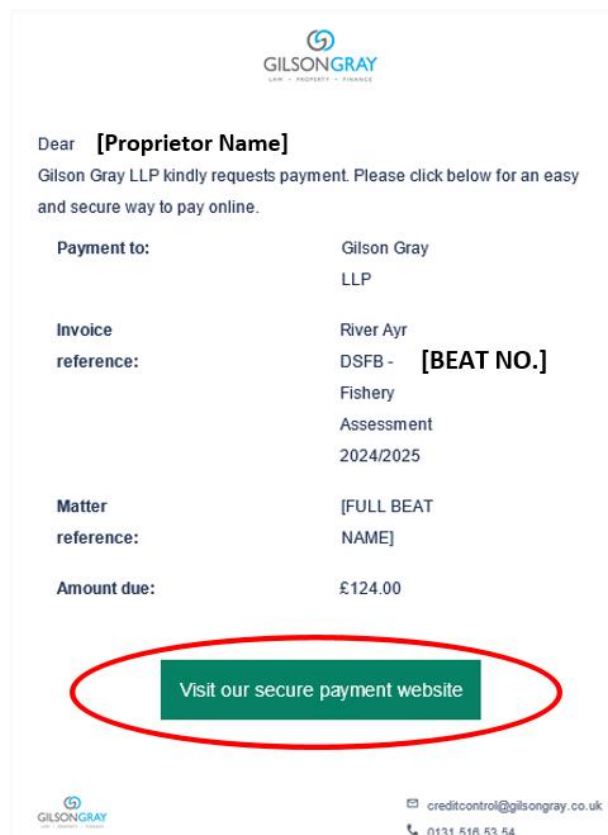
For Season 2024/2025, we are trialling a new method of issuing Fishery Assessment Notices via the LEGL secure payment platform to allow payers (depending on the circumstances for each beat, either the Qualified Proprietor or Tenant) for whom we have an email address to pay by Debit or Credit Card. The whole process is quick, easy and secure:

1. Click the button in the email to “*Visit our Secure Payment Website*”
2. Click “*View Invoice*” to view and download the Fishery Assessment Notice
3. Fill in your Card Details and click the “*Pay*” button to make the Payment

It would help us considerably in the administration of the Fishery Assessments going forwards, if you would please provide us with your email address and contact details.

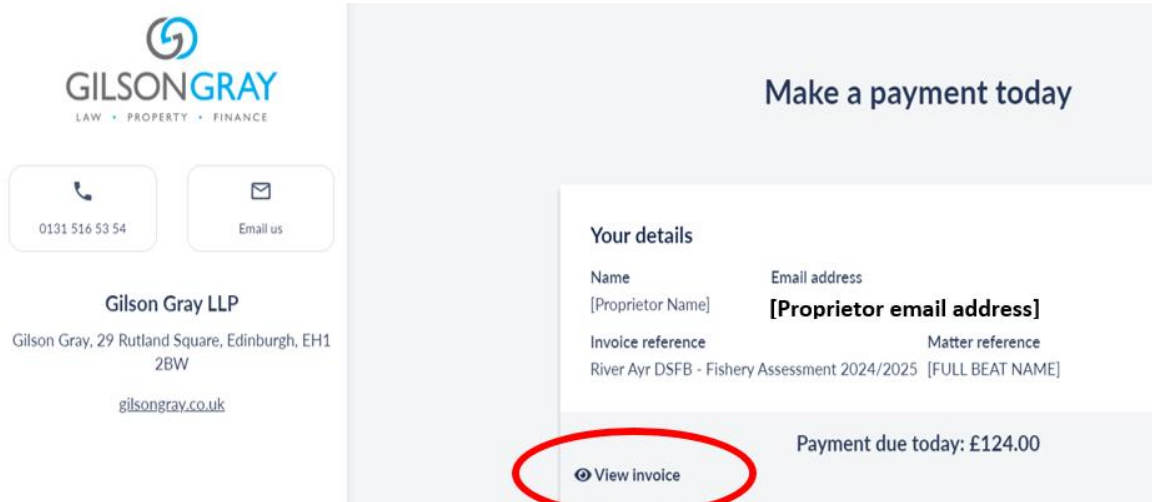
How does the process work?

1. You will receive an email from “**Gilson Gray LLP via Legl**” noreply@legl.com like this:

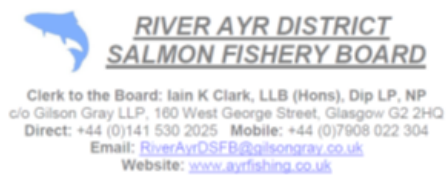


2. Click the button in the email “*Visit our Secure Payment Website*” (**circled in red** above)

- You will be taken to a Payment Screen, which looks like this:



- To view your Fishery Assessment Notice (Invoice) Click “View Invoice” (again, **circled in red** above).
- The Fishery Assessment Notice (Invoice) will look something like this:



FISHERY ASSESSMENT NOTICE 2024/2025

Date: 17 October 2024

The River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board has assessed your fishings for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 as follows:

VALUATION REF NO: [BEAT NO.]

PROPRIETOR/TENANT: [Proprietor Name]
[Proprietor Address]

FISHINGS: [FULL BEAT NAME]

GROSS ANNUAL VALUE ON VALUATION ROLL: £160.00

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (AT RATE OF 85 PENCE PER £): £128.00

TOTAL ASSESSMENT PAYABLE: £128.00

The Assessment is payable **NOW**. Payment should be made as follows:

BY BANK TRANSFER:

Account name: Gilson Gray LLP
Sort Code: 40-20-54
Account number: 73000419
IBAN: GB21HBUK40205473000419
BIC: HBUKGB4B

IMPORTANT: PLEASE QUOTE THE FOLLOWING REF: IKC/RIV/4/1- [BEAT NO.]

BY CHEQUE:

Payable to “Gilson Gray LLP” and sent to:

Iain K Clark, Clerk to the Board, River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board, c/o Gilson Gray LLP, 160 West George Street, GLASGOW G2 2HQ

N.B. Interest at 8% will be charged on Assessment Arrears in terms of the Salmon Act 1986

6. You can also download and save the Fishery Assessment Notice (Invoice) for your records.
7. Once you have downloaded your Fishery Assessment Notice (Invoice), you will see you have your own individual reference for your beat. When making payment through LEGL, the amount to be paid and your Beat Reference will be automatically applied.

The image shows a 'Pay by card' form with the following fields and elements:

- Pay by card** header with a card icon.
- Card number** field containing '1234 5678 9012 3456'.
- Logos for **VISA**, **MasterCard**, **Amex**, and **Discover**.
- Expiry date** field with 'MM/YY' placeholder.
- Security code** field with '3 digits' placeholder.
- Name on card** field.
- Billing address** section including:
 - Country** dropdown menu with 'Select country' text.
 - Street** and **House number** input fields.
 - Postal code** and **City** input fields.
- A green **Pay £128.00** button with a lock icon, which is circled in red.

8. Simply fill in your Card Details, Name on Card, and Billing Address, noted above and click the "Pay" button (again **circled in red** above) to make the Payment.
9. Once this payment has been completed, you will automatically receive a confirmation of payment sent via email for your records.

Payment by Direct Bank Transfer

1. You can also make a direct bank transfer through your bank's online banking platform or mobile app.
2. You can download the Fishery Assessment Notice (Invoice) as noted in steps 4 and 5 of the instructions for LEGL above.
3. You will need to input the bank details provided on the Fishery Assessment Notice, namely:

Account name: Gilson Gray LLP
Sort Code: 40-20-54
Account number: 73000419
IBAN: GB21HBUK40205473000419
BIC: HBUKGB4B

4. You will need to manually input the amount due, which will be shown on the Fishery Assessment Notice(s) as "**Total Amount Payable**".
5. If you are paying multiple Fishery Assessments for multiple beats, you will need to manually calculate the total due, if you are not using LEGL to make payment.
6. You MUST include the Fishing Beat Reference(s), which will be shown in the Fishery Assessment Notice(s) as:

IMPORTANT: PLEASE QUOTE THE FOLLOWING REF: IKC/RIV/4/1-[Beat No]

7. Make sure to double-check all the information, before confirming the transfer to ensure the transaction goes smoothly.
8. When we are notified of receipt of the funds into the Bank, we will arrange to prepare a Receipted copy of the Fishery Assessment Notice(s) and send that to you. If you have provided an email address to us, we will email that Receipted copy to you. Alternatively, we will send the copy in hard copy by post.
9. You will appreciate that we prefer conducting as much of the Board's business electronically, as it is more time and cost efficient.

Payment by Cheque

1. Alternatively, any cheques should be made payable to “**Gilson Gray LLP**”, who act on behalf of the Board, and sent to:

**Iain K Clark
Clerk to the Board
River Ayr District
Salmon Fishery Board
c/o Gilson Gray LLP
160 West George Street
GLASGOW G2 2HQ**

2. You can download the Fishery Assessment Notice (Invoice) as noted in steps 4 and 5 of the instructions for LEGL above.
3. If you are paying multiple Fishery Assessments for multiple beats, you will need to manually calculate the total due, if you are not using LEGL to make payment.
4. PLEASE write the Fishing Beat Reference(s) on the back of the cheque, which will be shown in the Fishery Assessment Notice(s) as:

IMPORTANT: PLEASE QUOTE THE FOLLOWING REF: IKC/RIV/4/1-[Beat No]

5. Please make sure to double-check all the information and that you have signed and dated your cheque(s), before sending to the address noted above.
6. When we have banked the cheque(s) and we are notified of receipt of the cleared funds into the Bank, we will arrange to prepare a Receipted copy of the Fishery Assessment Notice and send that to you. If you have provided an email address to us, we will email that Receipted copy to you. Alternatively, we will send the copy in hard copy by post.

Keeping the Board's Records up to date

We prefer conducting as much of the Board's business electronically as possible, as it is more time and cost efficient.

We would request cooperation and assistance from all Qualified Proprietors, Tenants, Syndicates, Clubs and Associations to maintain accurate records; and to notify the River Ayr DSFB and AVJB timeously of any change of ownership or tenancy, together with the date of transfer and any payment arrangements e.g. to apportion payment of Fishery Assessments.

If you have not already done so, please email us with your email address and telephone contact numbers, which will aid efficient communication (and help keep costs down) for the Board.

Thank you for your assistance in the Board's endeavours.

Yours sincerely



Iain K Clark

Clerk to the Board

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Email: RiverAyrDSFB@gilsongray.co.uk