

River Ayr DSFB Meeting - Minutes

23/02/2023; 1900

Present: Alan Hill, Charlie McDade, Gordon Millar, Robin Wilson, Struan Candlish, Carolyn Bryce, Stuart Brabbs

Apologies: Max Stobbs, Nick Wright

Absent: Alex Reid, Ian Walker.

SB began the meeting by showing the Board a free mobile phone app that the Trust has developed that would allow the collection of fish catches in real time through the season that would populate an online page. This would streamline the collation of catches and help promote fishing across the river. The app was met with approval from all present however RW, GM and CM cautioned that the ageing anglers may either not have the requisite technology or be unable to use it. SB & SC explained that the data could be inputted to an online webpage.

SB went on to show the Board a map detailing the number of electrofishing sites the Trust has across the Ayr catchment, highlighting the knowledge the Trust has on the fish populations and accessibility of watercourses across the catchment.

Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting.

The Minutes were approved by AH and seconded by GM.

AH has written to Mairi Gougeon and received a reply from Vanessa Brown, the email and reply are included at the end of this document. AH spoke briefly about the potential funding sources the Board could utilise to undertake bailiffing and other related issues.

The reply highlighted the Scottish Governments Wild Salmon Strategy and the Implementation Plan and that there should be funding resulting from this including Nature Restoration Funding (NRF). SB clarified what NRF will fund and the difficulties in obtaining funding, managing funding and cashflow for medium to large scale projects.

GM intimated that the Board could apply for funding on behalf of the Trust to try and remove the administrative burden from the staff. SB explained that the Board may not necessarily have the requisite experience and management skills to manage and report on funding of this scale. SB went on to explain that the Trust has a good reputation amongst these funders based on the previous project work we have delivered and that this counts for a lot when making these types of applications.

AH explained the reason for holding this meeting at ART's offices at Barskimming. This was due to CM and FW receiving parking fines whilst at the Kilmarnock Supporters Club in Mauchline at a previous meeting. CM had stated previously that he would not return to the Supporters Club for meetings even if this meant no longer sitting on the Board. AH stated that he did not want to lose members off the Board due to difficulties such as this.

RW commented that the previous minutes represented what sounded like an aggressive, hostile meeting. RW stated that he thought the production of the FMP had been agreed between the Board and the Trust by the previous Board and that the production had been delayed. SB explained his recollection was that the Board had delayed the production of the report.

CM discussed the issues he had opening the PDF document in which the FMP as sent in. GM also stated that he had trouble opening and printing the document. Both had issues with printing the PDF. SB explained that the Trust sends documents of this type as a policy to avoid issues relating to editing and due to the size of these files.

Updating Upper and Lower Limits.

AH explained FW had been in discussion with Bob Younger of Fish Legal over the upper and lower limits of the River Ayr. Bob has stated that the boundary remains at the tidal limit, which falls at Nethermills Weir. FW stated that the Scottish Executive is not interested in altering the limits but it was something that is worth pursuing prior to the next triennium.

River Management Plan.

AH explained that he and CM had spoken about the FMP and CM stated that he had sent comment through to SB regarding alterations to the content of the report and correcting some typos that were present through the document. SB stated that he didn't think he had any emails from the Board relating to the FMP. CM gave the date of his emails and SB acknowledged he had received emails from CM but had missed them but would look at them as a matter of priority.

AH discussed who the report belongs too and stated that the document was a joint publication between the Trust and Board for the benefit of the river.

CM's email covered 3 main points that included:

1. Views and language relating to hatchery.
2. Target priorities for river and prioritising the action points to allow more immediate actions to take place.
3. Angler Representation within the report.

CM congratulated the Trust on the document and said that whilst it needed a bit more work to finalise the document, he thought it was a great asset for the Board to have.

CM also cautioned that the Board should maybe look at acting sooner rather than later stating "there are many serious wounds that don't get infected by sticking a plaster on them" SB and GM questioned what CM meant. CM and SB stated that he was talking about salmon stocking.

AH discussed the need to maintain good working relationships between the Trust and the Board no matter what the Board decides to do apropos hatchery intervention and stocking salmon. AH went on to say if the Board does decide to stock then it is critical that the Board follows the best practice and that he and CM had visited the Cree Hatchery. AH also recognised the good relationship ART and the Board have and that he does not want a situation to develop like has happened between the Cree Hatchery and Galloway Fisheries Trust where the two organisations work separately from one another.

GM highlighted that catches are going down and with those falling catches that some anglers are walking away from the sport. GM stated that he has had many anglers asking what the Board is doing to combat the falling catches and that previously he had been against a hatchery but recently he had changed his perspective and that he thought a 5 year experimental approach on a significant scale was required.

RW stated that a hatchery would have to be done scientifically as Alex Martin had operated “the most unconventional hatchery you’ll ever have” and for 2/3 years the river was full of fish and then suddenly there was no fish highlighting that the long term sustainability of the hatchery was not good. GM referenced the Artfishal film produced by Patagonia that the Trust had shown and that the film showed perfectly what can happen. AH discussed the Doon’s “indiscriminate stocking” and SB spoke of what happened when the Board stopped stocking and the subsequent crash in catches then.

SB stated the Nethermills Counter was installed in the spring of 2022 and that the Trust has at great expense been working to verify the counter and to establish a count on the salmon running the river by working through the video data. The counter hasn’t been accurately recording fish throughout the season and a new counter was installed in October and that this will have to be verified and we hope that in 2023 we’ll have an accurate count for the Board to work from.

GM stated that the Board needs to work with accurate figures with regard to making decisions about whether to stock or not. SB agreed with and stated the Board should have this data come the end of 2023. SB went onto explain that going forward there should be AI computer verification of the counter data. SB also explained that Scottish Government own the data and that it didn’t belong to the Board or the Trust and that he would speak to Government about releasing the data to the Board to use.

CM proposed that the hatchery/stocking section of the FMP be rewritten to allow the hatchery/stocking be an option to the Board. SB stated that he didn’t think that a hatchery was required on the river at present. AH explained that we could add an addendum to the FMP that states the Boards position and the Trust’s position. SB discussed the Trust’s stance and that the Trust has to follow the weight of scientific evidence and whilst the evidence suggests hatchery work to be damaging to wild stocks that hatchery intervention is not something that the Trust could endorse.

SB suggested that the Board could create a subcommittee to discuss the hatchery option and that the Trust was happy and willing to meet with members of the Board to have a long form discussion about the issues relating to stocking and to hear Board members views etc. on the requirement for a hatchery. CM stated that the Cree Hatchery cost ~£80k to build and that there was a salary cost of ~£20k to run annually. SB stated that no matter what the Board decides to do the Trust wants to be involved to facilitate best practice and because the Trust has experience of hatcheries that could be invaluable to the operation.

CM stated that he didn’t think the report should detail the failures of the previous Board in relation to the hatchery that operated and the fish that had been killed with all the eggs from those fish lost to the river. AH agreed with CM in that looking backwards was not necessary as this is a new Board that would approach the practice very differently. CM stated that he wanted to see the Cree Hatchery as what he had read and heard was all positive.

SB highlighted that these issues act as a cautionary note to anyone looking to establish a hatchery as those operating the previous hatchery were carrying out this work with the best of intentions and that they still encountered problems. SB also stated that the Cree had operated a hatchery for 12 years and that the catch data didn’t support the claims that the hatchery had increased the catches of the river above what the previous averages showed.

ART Biologists Report.

Invasive Weeds Control

Giant hogweed

ART will commence control of GHW as early as practical this year.

We have written to SEPA in an attempt to gain early access to Tarbolton Landfill site but their response indicates the responsibility has reverted to Scottish Ministers. We have asked SEPA to liaise with Government and secure the agreements to allow GHW to be controlled timeously.

Japanese knotweed

In previous meetings, Board members have raised concerns about the spread of Japanese knotweed. ART have been controlling this plant in middle river reaches (Stairaird to the Lugar Meetings) in the last 2 years. We recognise that to achieve long-term success with control that the strategy should commence at the uppermost reaches that are affected (Glaisnock Water) and progress downstream systematically. The upper Ayr is largely unaffected by this plant. Inevitably this is a slow process however, using stem injection appears to be the only effective method and regrowth is minimal, if any. Any regrowth is treated when checking effectiveness, the following year.

If the Board wishes ART to commence with this approach, they should decide on the level of investment they can allocate. Chemical costs rose from around £40/5L to £104/5L (plus vat) last year due to supply issues affecting the UK. With a single operator delivering around 2000 injections per day, chemical consumption is a significant cost for the initial treatment of stands.

ART's Labour rate for stem injection is £200/man/day. With a further £10/day allocated for vehicle use. As the Ayr is local to ART's office, we would not charge fuel costs.

Therefore, the all-inclusive daily rate for controlling Japanese knotweed is calculated at £334.00

Last year we achieved over 6Km of double bank control on the Stinchar for a £4K investment. The Stinchar is more heavily infested than the Ayr and therefore we expect to cover more river corridor than was achieved on this river. As travelling time in the Ayr is minimal, this only increases value. We suggest an investment of between £2500 - £4000 if the Board feels it wishes to proceed.

We would map the areas covered at the end of the season to illustrate progress.

Stair Dam

We will hopefully work with the operators at Stair dam to install the timber baulks to improve migration. This was agreed last year but failed to happen before water levels rose making installation impossible. The consequence of this was that few salmon were able to progress upstream until spates came later in August.

ART will ensure that the operator does indeed fit the baulks and we will work on site with them to guide their location and effective operation once installed. We consider our involvement essential.

As this work is not enforceable as SEPA failed to stipulate this requirement on the CAR license issued to Stair Hydro, the operator considers it a favour. Therefore, our costs are unlikely to be recoverable.

Sorn Castle Dam

ART expect to assist the owners to complete the necessary work at Sorn Castle Weir this summer. This will include completing the fish pass side walls and easing a small section of the crest of the dam near the left bank to provide improved passage upstream.

Electrofishing and monitoring

ART will deliver the annual rapid assessment of recruitment success and survival by continuing with timed electrofishing assessments as normal continuing long-term assessment of trends over 21 years. (see chart below).

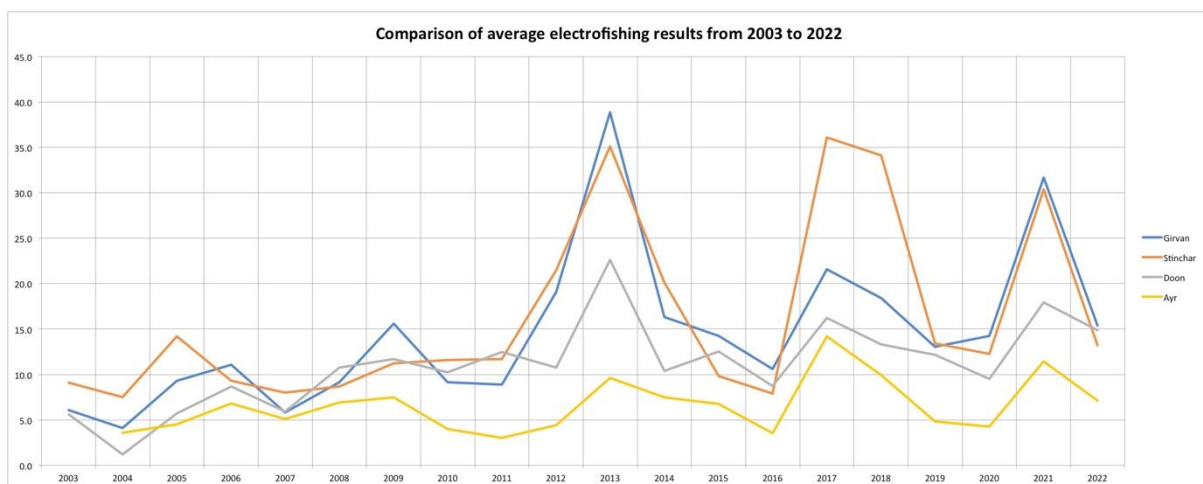


Figure 1: Chart illustrating the trend of juvenile recruitment and survival recorded across the 4 DSFB rivers in Ayrshire since 2003. The trend on each river almost universally follows the same trajectory each year, indicating the main factors responsible for fluctuations within juvenile stocks currently lie in the marine environment.

With the Board considering a return to hatchery stocking, the new MSS Policy literature review and guidance relating to this activity clearly states that adequate assessment of potential impacts will be required of stocking is to meet the Policy requirements. The Board should be able to demonstrate due diligence in this respect. Similarly the review highlights the need to adopt habitat restoration approaches rather than to simply rely on a 'quick fix' that carries so much risk.

Extensive monitoring will be required to determine recruitment and stock baselines from areas of concern. This includes areas where brood stock may be removed or where juveniles will be stocked. Only by undertaking such assessments, can many of the risks associated with hatchery intervention be minimised (as detailed within the new Policy Review document). (ART will circulate links to this document in the next few days).

We also suggest that the counter data at Ayr will be invaluable in determining fluctuations in salmon and trout entering the river each year. There is no better management tool available to the Board for assessing salmon numbers in the river.

ART recommends that the Board may wish to appoint a sub-committee to discuss these issues and determine how the Ayr Board may proceed and secure the necessary investment should they choose. ART would be pleased to assist with this.

Smolt Assessment 2023

ART have been considering how to assess smolt numbers emigrating from the river without incurring the high costs typically associated with this work.

We see potential for using the cameras at the counter to allow some remote assessment to take place. While a total count may not be possible using this technique, we did observe smolts moving through the counter last year.

However, we expect most smolts will be drawn into the turbine bypassing the counter system unless we can install a deflector to guide them to the pass.

We considered a bubble curtain for this purpose but for such an experimental approach, the investment was considerable, particularly the cost of running a diesel compressor every night for 6 weeks.

Should we be able to construct an alternative and effective system to guide smolts to the fish pass and then successfully count or estimate run timing and numbers, then we would suggest that the Board could look to fund a smolt count in Spring of 2024. We considered applying to the Wild Salmonid Fisheries Fund for this in 2023 but felt more work was required to prove the concept before seeking an investment of around £30K. If the concept works, ART would recommend applying with a detailed and costed project for 2024.

If we can find alternative means to guide smolts, then we would expect the costs to reduce by 50% - 65% and that may make this a very attractive opportunity for funders to support.

Can the Board agree to fund ART or help with costs to develop an alternative method? We have ideas but the concept is untested.

Project development

Reliance on hatchery to restore stocks without also improving habitat would be inappropriate and folly. ART has long encouraged the Board to look at habitat improvement as an essential part of their activities. This is recognised by MSS in their stocking Policy, their efforts to develop the pressures tool and more recently an online Fishery Management Plan that will highlight areas most in need of attention. ART produced a local FMP for the Board that allows smaller scale interventions for lower capital investment however, the rewards of ambitious large-scale projects is something that we can and hope to achieve in addition to DSFB improvements at a local level.

ART continue to develop projects that we hope to secure adequate funding to deliver. With a substantial change in the agricultural grant schemes coming and a move towards river restoration and habitat enhancement through appropriate management subsidies and funding increasing, ART have identified 5 potential projects that we hope to progress within the catchment.

We are submitting expressions of interest for potential projects in March and if invited, will then develop these to costed projects for submission in May. We may require match funding for these projects and will hope that the Board can contribute at some level. As stakeholders, we seek support for these approaches as they are potentially very beneficial to the continuation of salmon within the catchment.

The five projects in development are:

Pennyfadzeoch - Reconnecting the Pennyfadzeoch meander on the Lugar near Dumfries House. This project seeks to restore the river to its pre 1958 course along the obvious channel, increasing the length by some 650m.

The aim is to reduce unnatural and accelerated erosion, reduce fine sediment inputs, deliver water quality improvements, improve flood retention water, install approximately 700m of new fencing on the left bank, plant approximately 4 hectares of broadleaved riparian and floodplain trees, and increase native biodiversity through new habitat and better connectivity. With the increased length and restored instream habitat, function and diversity will be improved. This project will take 2+ years to deliver and may cost in the region of £0.75m - £1.25m

Glenmuir Water tree planting and habitat improvements

The Glenmuirshaw area of the Glenmuir Water lacks trees over a 7+ mile long stretch of river. This situation has developed as a result of historic land use that changed both the river habitat and the surrounding land. Similar to many other areas of Scotland, deforestation occurred as sheep were introduced for agriculture. To complicate matters, this land use led to a mosaic of habitat developing that is considered of value to science and the area has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Our intervention to restore function in this area is reliant on establishing trees to shade the river and cool the water. This is particularly important as it is a prime spawning area for the Lugar Water side of the catchment and water temperatures each summer are already reaching dangerously high levels for salmon survival. With predicted increases projected due to climate change, then it is essential we find ways to protect the fish returning to this area to spawn.

Working with Dumfries estate, we hope to be allowed to plant blocks of native upland broadleaved trees in fenced compartments where no other grants are applicable and where Nature Scot will allow. As these trees develop they will help shade the river and hopefully kick start natural tree regeneration in this area of the catchment. They should also add detritus and in time woody debris to the watercourse that will assist with salmon habitat creation and diversity. Planting will take place along sections of riverbank and on the slopes that are currently grazed by sheep.

Additionally, we hope to introduce large woody debris to the river across the Dalblair to the Devil's Back Door Waterfall (the upper limit of migration), something that is severely lacking that can sort sediments creating spawning opportunities and helps offer protection from piscivorous bird predators.

Garpel Water habitat enhancement - Again a tree planting project that will help improve instream resilience to predicted global climate change by creating shade to cool waters. Trees may also improve bank stability in some areas where erosion is occurring and will restore native trees in an area impacted by livestock grazing. Fencing will be required in places but again this may be in compartments that exclude sheep. Biodiversity and connectivity of plant and animal species will be improved.

Lower down the Garpel, we would also like to ease a barrier that makes migration difficult although the structure is of value to local mining heritage. The former bath house weir for the Kames mine is derelict but some structure remains and causes problems for migratory species. The intention is not to remove the structure but to improve migration through this. The works will not substantially change the structure and therefore their heritage value will remain.

The costs for this project are currently being developed. The timescale will be within 2 years if successful.

Greenock Water restoration - The Greenock Water is one of only a handful of watercourses where morphological alterations have been avoided. This is rare in Ayrshire.

However, we can see that there are impacts arising from land use within the catchment that we hope to address. Again the main focus will be on tree planting and bank stabilisation achieved through fencing and green engineering approaches.

If we can secure agreements with landowners, we hope to submit a funding application to the Nature Restoration Fund for consideration, but again lambing may prevent us achieving this for submission this spring.

Upper Ayr Restoration

Our large upper Ayr restoration project covering the Greenock to confluence to Glenbuck has been delayed as we were unable to meet with landowners and all stakeholder prior to the onset of lambing. We have already identified support for this project in some landowners and will further develop this project prior to the next round of funding coming available if possible.

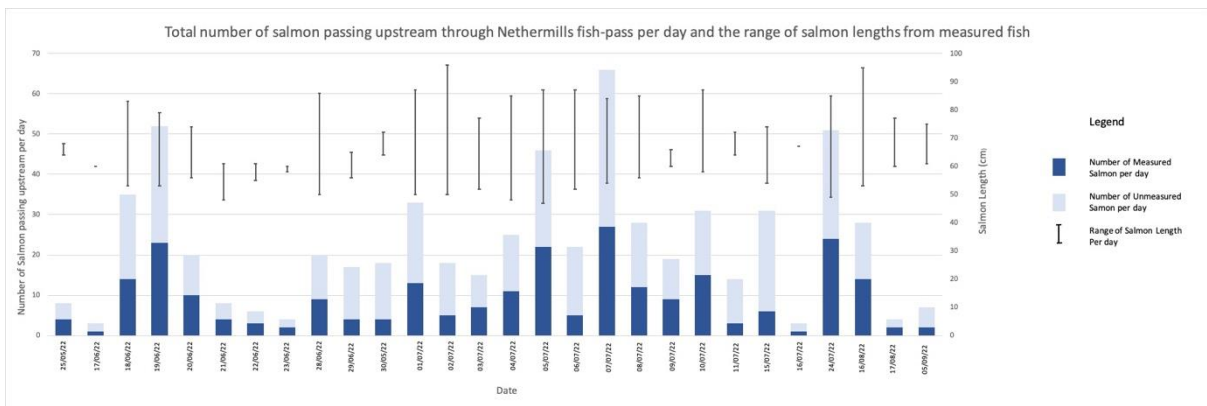
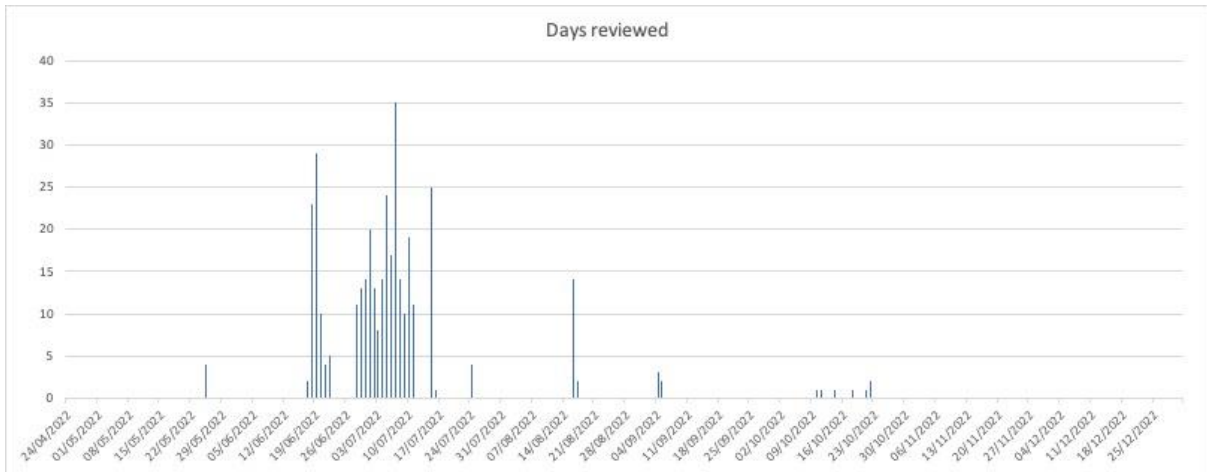
Fish Counters

Nethermills Counter

We continue to manually assess salmon and trout migrating into the catchment last year. The counter was replaced in October and has still to be properly verified. This has not been possible to prolonged high water levels since its installation and before the overhead camera was lost in a January spate. This will be replaced in March and the counter should continue to operate all summer until it is removed at the end of October.

See the charts below that illustrates the number of salmon entering the river on days assessed to date. Clearly the run of salmon into the river in late spring/early summer was encouraging. As the season progressed, numbers appeared to reduce however, most days have yet to be assessed. High water levels from September prevented ART for assessing video and therefore with the counter's known accuracy issues, a manual count became impossible. However, as the counter was replaced in October, and a new camera will be installed in March, another verification process will begin and hopefully the counter will be found to be accurate. ART continue to work with MSS and the Consultants to this aim.

It is not possible to continue with the 2022 assessment. The focus should soon move to evaluating the new counter's function in 2023. Once verified and accurate, then the counter can produce the total counts without manual assessments.



To make this a more efficient process, ART are working with MSS to develop AI (computer aided learning) to identify fish automatically. Video from the overhead camera will be used to train a computer to recognise fish moving through the fish pass. If effective, this could be adopted at suitable locations elsewhere for a fraction of the cost of installing counters.

Wellwood Riverbank Stabilisation projects – Update

Both Upper and Mid Wellwood worked areas are holding up well after prolonged periods of spate from September until January. We are intending to return to perform more work shortly and Board members are welcome to come along and see these works in person and to help with further small-scale works.

The Nether Wellwood stabilisation has also fared well and held together over winter despite not being completed long before the first spates came. We may need to make one small repair but nothing that concerns us.

We hopefully will also perform a small intervention on the opposite bank at the cottages to ensure they don't lose land and resort to rock armouring. We feel this would be an inappropriate solution to the developing situation and we are working with the owners to achieve a good result.

Budget for JK Control 2023.

The Board agreed to award a sum of £4000 to ART for the control of INNPS on the catchment, namely giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed.

Financial Report and Admin Update

Monies in – Since 24th October 2022

Assessments £15,682.55

Monies Out – Since 24th October 2022

£2,865.80

Bank Balance as of 23rd February 2023

£42,073.89

Monies Due Out

Forbes Watson Clerk Fee - £1,000.00

Monies Due In

2020, 2021 and 2022 Assessments due £876.70

2023 Assessments due £11,844.00

Total £12,720.70

Ending Balance after all outstanding monies gathered

£53,794.59

Outstanding Assessments that will not be received.

In 2020 Auchinleck Angling Club sent in a cheque incorrectly made out, this was returned to them for correction and return. A cheque was never received and Auchinleck have since ceased, with their water being taken over by Mauchline and Ballochmyle. The amount outstanding is £877.20. Do the Board agree that this is to be written off from the accounts?

It was agreed that the £877.20 be written off as bad debt.

Catch Returns.

It was agreed that the Board would send letters reminding those who have yet to submit a catch return for the 2022 season.

AOCB

AH explained that he would attend the FMS conference in Aviemore and requested that the Board cover his expenses for travel and for an overnight stay.

Date for the proprietors meeting to be set for the beginning of April.

AH explained that he had been to a SPARC meeting; Scottish Police Association for the Prevention of Rural Crime. AH had been to a meeting to investigate how bailiffing might fit into their remit. The organisation is essentially teaching people how to be witnesses to crime and how they can report on crime without becoming physically involved. Those trained could be used to gather evidence on poaching crimes without becoming directly involved with perpetrators. AH suggested that this could be away to train river watchers for the River Ayr. This would get around the concerns of liability for the Board and employment laws etc. AH had two volunteers get in touch with regards to Bailiffing and suggested that these people could be used as river watchers who gather evidence without becoming directly involved with any altercations.

SB stated that we could still train people as Bailiffs that could operate without warrants but have the legal understanding.

CM asked about the use of remote cameras for policing specific areas that are known hotspots. SB stated that cameras had been used and lost when people had found them. SB spoke about a remote access camera he uses and explained how it functions to the Board and that the cost would be around £170 with a SIM card subscription over and above required for the system to operate. AH stated that this would be an option worth researching for the Board as this could be used as direct evidence. CM thought the threat of a series of cameras monitoring would be a good deterrent across the river.

Enquiry.

From: Alan Hill (alan.hill62@yahoo.co.uk)

To: salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot

Date: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 16:11 GMT

SCOT. GOV.
17/1/23

FAO Mairi Gougeon, MSP,

I am writing to your department in my capacity as Chair of the River Ayr D.S.F.B. for some advice and to raise our concerns regarding the following.

There is no doubt that illegal fishing practises take place on our river system and having trained Bailiffs or River Watchers does help enormously. Our issue is one of cost and liability. As a board we are having difficulty in securing Voluntary Bailiffs and due to current stock levels of our Salmon we are finding a decline in the number of Anglers within our clubs which in turn restricts us greatly in the Levy we can ask going forward to employ Bailiffs. We have already had clubs on the system amalgamate due to falling member numbers.

I know this is a problem throughout Scotland and we are not the only Board facing this issue and personally I have become a participant in the group, Ayrshire Partners Against Rural Crime, in an attempt to gain some assistance.

If there are any other avenues you can suggest or any funding streams open to provide financial assistance in dealing with this issue our Board would be most grateful.

Kind regards,
Alan Hill

Also see attached re funding!



Alan Hill
alan.hill62@yahoo.co.uk

Our Reference: 202300338548
Your Reference: Enquiry

13 February 2023

Dear Mr Hill,

Thank you for your email regarding your concerns on funding of district salmon fishery board (DSFB) activities specifically relating to water bailiffs, addressed to Mairi Gouegon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands. I have been asked to respond on her behalf, as enforcement and DSFB issues are within my team's remit.

The Scottish Government takes the issue of declining salmon populations seriously and you may be aware that the Scottish wild salmon strategy (the strategy), which was published last year, set out the vision, objectives and priority themes to ensure the protection and recovery of Scottish Atlantic wild salmon populations. We have now published the accompanying wild salmon strategy Implementation Plan (the plan), which will guide collective action for wild Atlantic salmon across government, business and charitable sectors. Within the plan there is a focus on funding opportunities to help catalyse action at scale to aid implementation of the many actions we have set out.

Furthermore, one of the five priority themes identified within the strategy and plan relates to developing a modernised and fit for purpose policy framework. This has been outlined in the plan under action 5.1. which relates to "establishing a task and finish group of stakeholders to undertake a broad review of the current policy framework. The aims of this group will be:

- To make recommendations aimed at improving the protection of salmon, and enhancing the environmental, economic, and social benefits arising from the improved protection.
- To examine new ways in which we can better support and resource local management.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



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- To explore new means of making investments in Scotland's rivers, including investigating private sector contributions in line with Scottish Governments commitment to develop a high integrity, values-led market for responsible investment in natural capital."

As you will note, part of our commitments made in the plan are to consider issues that DSFBs face in funding and resource management such as those that you have raised. This review is due to begin in 2023 with the resulting recommendations to be considered in the following years.

The Scottish Government recognises that poaching is one of the most common and significant wildlife crimes which can have significant impacts on the natural environment. We are aware that many areas have reported increased poaching incidents since the Covid lockdown(s). Ministers have committed to undertaking a review of the current enforcement powers, the offences and penalty regime for salmon poaching and other offences, aiming to increase penalties if necessary. This commitment to review the enforcement of powers and offences was reiterated both within the Wild Salmon Strategy and earlier this month in the Implementation Plan under action 2.4.

Local management of rivers and fishing by DSFBs and Rivers Trusts, such as the River Ayr DSFB, remains a key component of Scottish salmon fishing. We recognise that water bailiffs are often the 'eyes and ears' on our riverbanks who can, amongst other activities to improve habitats and protect our freshwater environment, report illegal activities.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Brown
ARF : Salmon and Recreational Fisheries

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