Minutes of the Public Meeting of The Ythan District Salmon Fishery Board held on 25th June 2019 at the Haddo Estate Office at 2.30 pm

1. Present:

Robert Dey (Chairman)	ADAA President representing Machar Pool
Val Leeming	M Bruce & Partners
Eric Ritchie	Ramornie
John Pirie	representing Ardlogie
Mike Stewart	HHAC – Angler, River Ythan Trust
Alec Paterson	ADAA, Ardlethen, River Ythan Trust
Wayne Smith	Boat of Fechil

2. In Attendance:

M H T Andrew

Clerk to the Board

3. Apologies for Absence:

Charles Wolrige Gordon

4. Minutes of General Meeting held on 29th January 2019

The Minutes were accepted as a proper record of the meeting.

5. Update from Clerk – Programme of work for 2019

The Clerk advised that the bailiffs' workload had been changed to include more habitat and survey work this season which would include surveys of piscivorous birds, seals, salmon and sea trout redds and identifying and, if possible, removal of obstructions. Those attending were asked for other suggestions for work the bailiffs could undertake.

Scottish Marine Science was to provide a further thirty sites on the Ugie / Ythan District for electro fishing which would be carried out by staff from the Deveron.

Mr Smith advised that there were a large number of cormorants working around Boatie Tam's.

Mr Pirie asked if the Deveron staff could accommodate him at some of the surveys so he could see what was being done. The Clerk agreed to ensure this could happen.

6. Update on the Year of the Missing Salmon Project

The Atlantic Salmon Trust project was still ongoing and collecting data from a number of rivers including those in the North East. It would be some time before the analysis would be completed.

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7. Electro Fishing Surveys 2019

As detailed at 5. Above, around sixteen surveys were to take place in the river during the period from the end of August to mid-October. This would include some sites that had been surveyed before and others for the first time.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Alec Paterson outlined the work that had been undertaken, or was about to be undertaken, by the River Ythan Trust. The Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers contractors had completed giant hogweed control on the River Ythan to Fyvie and the Tarty burn.

SISI volunteers had done or were doing the work from Tifty to Gight, the Rapla and Fordoun burns and Auchnacant Woodland (Tarty burn).

Japanese knotweed had been largely eliminated but SISI was monitoring and were to spray any outcrops in September.

Trust members (notably Jim Adie and Michael Stewart) had constructed the fish ladder into the Keithfield burn which was in full working order.

SEPA were looking at other obstructions to the passage of salmonids between 2021 and 2027 and had authorised a final document to go out to tender to contractors for the obstruction in the Bronie burn at Scottisley Wood.

Scottish Water have advised that they will be removing their pipework and re-grading the burn but the date for the work has not been confirmed.

The Chairman thanked all those attending the meeting and closed the formal meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The suggested date is 28th January 2020