

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of
The Ythan District Fishery Board
held at 2.00pm on 21st June 2023
at The Newburgh Inn**

1. **Present:**

C. Wolridge Gordon (Chairman)
J. D. Pirie
V. Leeming
P Adderton
E. Arthur
A. Kloppert
E. Richie

2. **Apologies:**

R. Coutts (Newburgh AC)
F. Pell (HHAC)

3. **In Attendance:**

M.H.T. Andrew Clerk to the Board
J. Kerr River Don Superintendent.

4. The minutes of meeting held on 26th January 2023 which had been circulated were approved. There were no matters arising.

5. **Update from Clerk**

The programme of work for 2023 had been included in the 2022 report. The Clerk confirmed that work had already commenced on a number of areas including:

- a) Spraying of invasive species by SISA (Mirella Toft) had been carried out over the catchment. It was noted that SISA had been funded to continue this work for at least 2 more years.

- b) Seal scarer

The Clerk confirmed that the seal scarer from the Ugie, which had been hired for several years was to be installed at Boatie Tam's once again. It had proved effective each year it had been set up (since 2020) and no seals had swum passed it.

- c) Restoration work

Jim Kerr asked members to report any obstructions that the Bailiff's could remove as part of their activities later in the year.

6. **Electro Fishing and other surveys 2023**

The Clerk advised that the national surveys were to recommence in 2023. The Ythan and Ugie had 15 sites each and he had asked the team (from the Deveron) to add 2 of the 4 sites that had been the annual sites that had been surveyed for several years. As before the Deveron team were carrying out the surveys for the Ythan and Ugie.

7. **Retirement of the Clerk**

The Chairman announced that this would be the Clerk, Mark Andrew's, last meeting as he was retiring from the factorship of Haddo Estate at the end of June and his successor there was not interested in taking on the role. The Chairman asked if anyone at the meeting was interested in taking over from Mr Andrew. Edward Arthur who had taken on the role of manager and Factor at Schivas Estates said that he would be interested but could not take on the role until later in the year and would need the approval of his Principal. Mr Andrew said he would be delighted to hand over the role to Mr Arthur and would speak with the Catto family to obtain their approval.

9. Any other business

- a. The absence of Mr Patterson had been noted. The Clerk said that he would be seeing him shortly but that he knew he was physically rather frail and reluctant to leave home and that his eyesight and balance had not recovered from recent illnesses. The Chairman asked the Clerk to thank him for all that he had done for the Board for many years and to wish him well.
- b. John Pirie advised that there were now 109 Fishery Districts in Scotland (as defined by Marine Scotland) and that of these the Ythan was 43rd in Salmon and Grilse, 7th for Sea Trout and 4th for finnock.
- c. At the close of the Meeting the Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the whole Board and Proprietors of the Ythan to the Clerk who had served them for 32 years and presented him with a card signed by many proprietors and a painting of Benacchie on behalf of the Board.
The Clerk gave thanks to the Chairman, Board, proprietors, anglers and those with an interest in the wellbeing of the river and said that he was very sorry to be leaving but had greatly enjoyed being Clerk which was one of the few roles where one could achieve tangible difference and genuine accomplishment for the benefit of fish and the aquatic ecosystem.