



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (APM)

held by videoconference.

Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 3pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair), Bill Fraser, Fred Rhind, Poppy Houldsworth

In attendance Valerie Wardlaw, LDSFB (Minutes), Robert Laughton

	Item	Action
1	Apologies: John Fielding, Mark Houldsworth, Eddie Gormanley, Tomas Christie.	
2.	Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors held on the 30th November 2021 Approved	
3.	Matters arising not on the Agenda Cloddach Bridge- this has now been closed to traffic by Moray Council as deemed structurally unsafe. RL has tried to contact Daniel Preston at Moray Council to find out what they are planning and to see if the channel in the bridge apron could be opened up to allow fish passage in all flows. A licence was granted to allow Elgin AA members to move fish above the bridge during the spawning run, but water levels were high enough to allow fish passage without help. RL has seen spawning redds above the bridge at the end of last season.	RL
4	Financial Budget Update- Assessment letters for the first half yearly payment have been sent out and payment received from Elgin AA, Dallas AA, Dallas Trust, Pitgaveny and Kellas. However, payments are overdue for the last two year's assessment for Brokentore and one year for Innes Estate. VW is waiting to hear from Innes Estate about payment having contacted Faye Gonzalez. CD agreed to discuss the assessment for Innes beat with Edward Tennant. VW has sent numerous reminders by mail and email to Tomas Christie at Brokentore without result. The Board agreed to charge 8% interest on the late payments of the assessment if the outstanding assessments for Brokentore were not paid by the end of March 2022. The interest rate of 8% is set by the Scottish Government. Accounts to August 2021 have been signed, sent to the Scottish Government and are available on the website Lossie DSFB Bank account signatories. Currently the Treasurers account with RBS has only one signatory. The Board approved adding Crinan Dunbar as a full signatory to the mandate for the Lossie District Salmon Fishery Board bank account.	CD VW/TC VW/CD
5	Year 2021 Report & Proposals for 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VW circulated the catch data for 2021, which were all caught on Elgin AA beats from 58% returns of permits issued. VW received returns from the Dallas and Kellas beats, but no fish were reported caught on those beats. All salmon were returned to comply with the Grade 3 restrictions; however RL felt the sea trout return rate of 53% was poor and anglers should be aiming for 75%. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BF said Elgin AA would be interested in taking on the tenancy of Pitgaveny beat as they had in the past. However, they felt the rental quoted when they contacted the Pitgaveny Estate office was too high. CD with ask Ewan Harris to get in touch with Elgin AA to discuss this further. • RL presentation RL reiterated that the Conservation model categorising rivers and assigning the Lossie to Grade 3 is still based on catch data, so it is important to try and report accurate catch data to the Scottish Government. The NEPS Juvenile fish surveys show good populations in the Lossie, but the data is still not incorporated into the grading model. RL felt that the Scottish Government should be helping DSFBs to compile more accurate data and hopes the Scottish Wild Salmon Strategy will result in more support. The results from the 2021 NEPS surveys undertaken by RL and team are still to be published, but RL found good distributions of juvenile salmon and trout. • INNS control continued in 2021 using funding from EB Scotland and SISI and the riverbanks from Kellas down to Wester Manbeen are now under regular treatment. However, there are still dense stands of JK around Bogside to tackle in 2022. RL hopes that the intensive treatment will soon reduce the density of GH and JK upstream of Elgin to levels landowners will be able to control themselves. RL is developing landowner agreements to continue the INNS control, and MEDCO and Crown Estate Scotland have signed up for another year of treatment at Bogside and Wester Manbeen. The SISI project has funding for contractor treatment of INNS during 2022. The SISI Project Manager is working on an extension to the project with NatureScot and RL hopes further funding will be awarded. • Skunk Cabbage at Dallas in the Doual Burn needs further treatment- RL will contact PH. • Mink- the dispersal period is just ending, and mink will be having their young. Please send any sightings immediately to James Symonds (07493 272898) to help with their capture. • Bailiffing- Alister Taylor is taking the lead on bailiffing the Lossie so please contact him with any information or suspected poaching incidents (07387 302649). <p>2022 Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPS juvenile fish surveys- RL is hoping these will continue to be funded by the Scottish Government, but funding has not yet been confirmed. • INNS control will continue to just south of Elgin. Spray training will be being organised BF to give RL names and contact details of Elgin AA members who wish to be trained. • Smolt Traps- more rotary screw traps should be available in 2023 and RL hopes to be able to borrow a 4' trap to replicate the smolt survey undertaken at Kellas in 2013. • Fish Counter- RL has proposed the Lossie to Marine Scotland as an ideal river to site a fish counter. He has not heard anything further. • Habitat restoration- RL is still looking into the possibility of in-river restoration to improve Lossie habitats. 	<p>CD/BF</p> <p>RL/PH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>BF/RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Catchment Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rothes III and Clashgour are awaiting outcome from public enquiry. 	

