

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED

AUGUST 31ST 2021

Prepared by
ANNE A LAING
Chartered Accountants
ELGIN

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

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RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS : Crinan Dunbar Chairman (appointed 4.5.2021)
Tomas Christie
Fred Rhind
Charlie Gerrie
Mark Laing
Bill Fraser
Eddie Gormanley (elected 1/12/2020)
David Houldsworth (retired January 2021)

BANKERS : Royal Bank of Scotland
209 High Street
ELGIN, IV30 1DL

CONTACT ADDRESS : Fisheries Office
Logie Steading
Dunphail
FORRES
IV36 2QN

Independent Examiner : Roy J Laing (partner in the firm of)
Anne A Laing, Chartered Accountants
Lavona, Calcots
ELGIN
IV30 8NB

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021

2020 Season Review

Angling on the river did not commence until the end of May when Covid-19 restrictions were eased. Salmon and Sea Trout catches were down on the impressive 2019 catch but better than the five year average despite the shortened angling season. Water levels were low all year from spring through to late summer, reducing opportunities for angling. From late September levels rose with numerous spates allowing fish to migrate upstream.

Catch Returns	Salmon	Sea Trout
2016	43	52
2017	32	70
2018	37	36
2019	94	154
2020	61	87
5 year average	53	80

2021 Season

Catch data will not be available until January 2022. There was some water in April, which is never a good fishing month on the Lossie, followed by a reasonable spate at the end of May which brought in some fish. From the second week in June till the middle of September there was no rain to refresh the river. What fish may have been in the river at that time just became stale and lay sheltered in the undercut banks of the river. Few fish were seen in the lower river, however, anglers reported seeing reasonable numbers in the town and Cloddach area.

National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS)

The National Electrofishing Survey for 2020 was cancelled due to Covid 19. NEPS went ahead in 2021 and 14 sites on the Lossie were undertaken. Juvenile salmon and trout were found across all the sites in good numbers, and comparable to results from previous years.

Habitat Management

Linkwood Burn -Electrofishing was carried out in 2020 at two sites on the Linkwood above the two new fish passages. No juvenile salmon were recorded but juvenile trout numbers were high indicating sea trout are likely to be accessing the area. Work is continuing to address the next two barriers at Longmorn and Glen Elgin distilleries.

Mayne farm Sediment Removal - Significant build-up of sediment has occurred on the Lossie which has raised the riverbed and blocked the farm drains, leading to drainage and flooding problems. Sediment removal was licenced by SEPA and completed in autumn 2021.

Cloddach Bridge

There is concern that erosion of the Cloddach Bridge abutment is causing a barrier to fish passage, especially during low to medium flows. This is a particular concern when fish are migrating to spawning areas in the Autumn. The LDSFB, Elgin AA and FNLRT have been monitoring fish passage at different water levels between 2019 and 2021 and have received a licence to facilitate fish to access their spawning grounds further upstream. Spawning redds were present at Torcastle, Dallas in December 2020, indicating fish are able to migrate above this barrier. Discussions with Moray Council, the owner of the bridge, are ongoing to resolve this intermittent barrier to fish passage.

Glenlatterach Reservoir

A meeting was arranged with Scottish Water to discuss management of compensation water to the Leanoch Burn and the proposal to recharge the reservoir from the River Lossie under drought conditions. The LDSFB/FNLRT raised their concerns about Scottish Water's proposals and requested to be properly consulted in future. Continuing water scarcity and lack of alternative water supply options mean this will be an ongoing pressure on the catchment.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021

Catchment Developments

Clashgour Wind Farm and Rothes III Windfarm have gone to public enquiry and a report on the outcome is awaited.

A96 Dualling- The FNLRT has reported on the habitat and juvenile fish surveys for the new river crossings completed during 2020. A meeting to discuss the options was convened with FNLRT, Elgin AA & the A96 team.

The FNLFT continues to monitor catchment developments.

INNS

Control of Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed along the Lossie and Longmorn Burn continued with funding from the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI), Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, Crown Estate and MEDCO. GH control completed from Kellas to Wester Manbeen in 2021. GH densities from Kellas to Bogside are dropping considerably and improving from Bogside to Wester Manbeen. However, still several years of treatment required.

Japanese Knotweed control started in winter by clearance of dead stems, which allows easier access for treatment of the knotweed stands in September/August. Stem injection and foliar spraying using back-packs was then completed over larger areas of Japanese Knotweed within Kellas, Brokentore, Bogside and Wester Manbeen.

Some work on skunk cabbage started on Dallas Pond and the Doual Burn in 2020 & 2021.

Mink monitoring continued through the SISI project with 5 captures in 2020.

Schools

School sessions continued to be postponed due to Coronavirus restrictions.

Bailiffing

Bailiffing by the Findhorn DSFB bailiffs continued during the season with no serious incidents reported to Police Scotland.

Lossie DSF Board Activities 2020-21

Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 1/12/20 at 3pm by videoconference

Annual Public Meeting 4/5/2021 at 3pm by videoconference

Salmon Conservation Policy

All Salmon and Grilse caught on the Lossie must be released back to the river under the Conservation of Salmon Regulations, which make retaining salmon a criminal offence.

Sea Trout Conservation Policy

RELEASE

- All fish under 1 lb/14 ins
- All sea trout over 3 lbs/20 ins
- All stale and gravid fish

RELEASE RATE

- Sea Trout 75% ie, 1 sea trout in 4 may be retained

METHODS

- Fly fishing is encouraged.
- Use pinched or barbless hooks. Avoid using triple hooks.
- Shrimp and prawning is banned.
- Bait fishing (worming) may be used with the AA or owner's permission.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021

Season: 25th Feb – 31st Oct. However, many of the fishing estates and Angling Associations vary the season length within this. Elgin and District Angling Association (EDAA) delays the opening on their fishing until the 1st April for salmon and sea trout and closes the season for sea trout on the 30th September. They close the salmon season on the 31st October.

Main Pressures on the Catchment

There is a high concentration of Distilleries in the catchment which extract water for production and cooling, creating issues of raised water temperatures and ineffective screens at offtake weirs damaging fish populations. The urbanisation, industrialisation and expansion of Elgin impinges on riparian habitats and increases pollution risks. Agricultural activities can result in overgrazing by stock and pollution through fertiliser run off. Further windfarm developments are planned which may affect water courses. It is taking a number of seasons for the Elgin AA, and angling on the river, to recover from the decline in fishing interest, which was linked to the disruption caused by the Flood Alleviation works.

Funding of Fisheries Trust

The Lossie DSFB continues to contribute financially to the work of the FNLRT for biologist's projects and office costs.

Activities for 2021 to 2022

A Service level Agreement between the FNLRT and the LDSFB will be approved. The priority areas detailed in the FNLRT Management Plan will continue to guide all activities: Climate Crisis, River Habitat and Land Use, Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species, Fish and Fisheries, Marine and Inshore Environment, Education and Publicity.

Funding has been awarded for habitat improvements in the Lossie catchment and a scoping exercise on the Black Burn will be undertaken by the FNLRT.

The project to eradicate GH and JK will continue in 2022 through the SISI Project, with the aim for treatment to reach downstream to the southern edge of Elgin. Mink control will also continue under the SISI project.

The installation of further fish passes on distillery weirs on the Linkwood Burn will be supported.

The FNLRT will continue to investigate improvements to fish assess under the Cloddach Bridge.

A96 river crossings- the FNLRT will continue to be consulted on the development of river crossings.

Glenlatterach Reservoir- LDSFB & FNLRT will continue to engage with Scottish Water in the management of compensation water and taking supply from the Lossie in emergency conditions.

It is hoped that the school visits to Kellas Trout fishery funded by Heldon CC from the Rothes Wind Farm can be undertaken in 2022. (Postponed from 2020 due to Covid 19).

Monitoring of wind farm and infrastructure developments will continue.

Dates of Future Meetings:

Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 30th November 2021 will be held virtually at 3pm.

Annual Public Meeting date t.b.c. March 2022 at 3 pm.

The Lossie DSF Board continues to implement procedures to comply with the Aquaculture and Fisheries Act in maintaining a complaints procedure, register of members' interests, and the publicising of meetings, minutes and accounts. No complaints were received.

The Lossie DSF Board will continue to support the FNLRT in collecting fisheries data and undertaking surveys to identify opportunities for riparian improvements. The initial targets will focus on barrier and obstruction removal and taking remedial action against ineffective screening. The Board will continue to make a financial contribution to the FNLRT.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT AND STATEMENT
OF BOARD MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended August 31st 2021.

BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Board are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position.

The Board are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In preparing these financial statements the officials are required to:

- a. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- b. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- c. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so on the grounds that the charity is unlikely to continue in existence.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Protect, preserve and manage salmon and sea trout fisheries on the River Lossie.

RISKS REVIEW

The members have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Board, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The surplus at the year end enables the Board to carry on with their objectives.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT AND STATEMENT
OF BOARD MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The members who served on the Board during the year were as follows :

Crinan Dunbar	Chairman (appointed 4.5.2021)
Tomas Christie	
Fred Rhind	
Charlie Gerrie	
Mark Laing	
Bill Fraser	
Eddie Gormanley	(elected 1/12/2020)
David Houldsworth	(retired January 2021)

Approved by the Members and signed on their behalf on 30/1/21 by Crinan Dunbar

Crinan Dunbar Chairman

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT TO THE PARTNERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021.

In accordance with the engagement letter we have prepared the accounts of River Lossie and District Salmon Fisheries Board on pages 8 to 9 from accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

The report is made to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken to enable us to prepare the accounts on your behalf and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Board Members of the River Lossie and District Salmon Fisheries Board for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with best practice guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and have complied with ethical guidance laid down by the Institute relating to members undertaking the preparation of accounts.

You have acknowledged on the balance sheet for the year ended August 31st 2021 and your responsibility for the accounts.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the accounts. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements ;
- to keep accounting records and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met, or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....

Roy J Laing, partner

Date 7/12/21

Anne A. Laing
Chartered Accountants
Lavona
Calcots
ELGIN
Moray, IV30 8NB.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS <u>2021</u> £	RESTRICTED FUNDS <u>2021</u> £	TOTAL FUNDS <u>2021</u> £	TOTAL FUNDS <u>2020</u> £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Other income	0	0	0	0
Assessments	9,602	0	9,602	9,602
Total incoming resources	9,602	0	9,602	9,602
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Insurance	438	0	438	394
Bailiff	1,138	0	1,138	1,386
Assessment refunds	0	0	0	1,640
Professional Fees	490	0	490	400
Meeting Costs	0	0	0	0
Subscriptions	383	0	383	510
Contribution to FNLRT	6,900	0	6,900	6,900
Total resources expended	9,349	0	9,349	11,230
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	253	0	253	(1,628)
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
Fund balances as at September 1st 2020	10,899	0	10,899	12,527
Fund balances as at August 31st 2021	11,152	0	11,152	10,899

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT AUGUST 31ST 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	5,490	776
Cash at bank and in hand	6,112	10,923
	<u>11,602</u>	<u>11,699</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and accruals	450	800
	<u>450</u>	<u>800</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>11,152</u>	<u>10,899</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>11,152</u>	<u>10,899</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>11,152</u>	<u>10,899</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the Board on 30/11/21.....
and signed on their behalf by :



Crinan Dunbar

Chairman