

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED

AUGUST 31ST 2020

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	: David Houldsworth Tomas Christie Frans Jurgens Fred Rhind Charlie Gerrie Crinan Dunbar Mark Laing Bill Fraser	Chairman
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 2020

2019 Season Review

The salmon and sea trout catch in 2019 was nearly 3 times the 5 year average, reflecting the gradual increase in angling effort on the Lossie. These are the best catch figures since 2010, the last year before construction started on the Elgin flood alleviation scheme. The catches bucked the trend across Scotland for 2019 where reported catches were poor. The salmon and sea trout moved upstream through the town waters very quickly during the summer, and a few salmon were caught at Brokentore for the first time in a number of years. Most fish were caught at the upper end of the Elgin AA beat around the Cloddach Bridge. An impressive 20lb salmon was caught in October near Mayne Farm.

Catch Returns	Salmon	Sea Trout
2014	28	63
2015	19	19
2016	43	52
2017	32	70
2018	37	36
5 year average	32	48
2019	94	154

2020 Season Review

Angling on the river did not commence until the end of May when Covid 19 restrictions were eased. We will not be able to assess the impact of the global pandemic on angling on the Lossie until full catch returns are available in the new year, and comparisons made with the impact on neighbouring rivers. Full catch returns for 2020 will be compiled once the Elgin Angling Association returns are received in January 2021.

River Grading

The Lossie DSFB wrote to Marine Scotland to appeal the continued grading of the river as Grade 3, which requires all salmon to be returned. The Board asked that the gradually improving catch figures and good juvenile numbers to be taken into consideration when grading the river. Marine Scotland, noted LDSFB's concerns, and indicate that catch levels are still below a level that would allow moving up to Grade 2.

National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS)

The results of the 2019 NEPS survey were published and in general salmon fry densities were lower in 2019 than in 2018 across much of the country. Abundances were particularly low in north-east and west. Salmon parr abundances were more stable but declined particularly in the north and west. For the FNL area this pattern was also evident with salmon 0+ dropping from grade 2 to grade 3 and salmon parr remaining at grade 2. For juvenile salmon overall the FNL area is Grade 2. The National Electrofishing Survey for 2020 was cancelled due to Covid 19.

Habitat Management

The SEPA Water Framework Directive Initiative to raise status of Linkwood Burn from "Poor" to "Good" is progressing with all distilleries agreeing to upgrade their weirs to allow fish passage. The Benriach Weir fish pass was installed in summer 2018, and the Linkwood weir fish pass completed in 2019. A walk over upstream in late 2019 indicated large spawning redds were present from either sea trout or salmon indicating larger fish were accessing the reaches upstream from the newly installed fish passes.

Cloddach Bridge

There is concern that the Cloddach Bridge abutment is causing a barrier to fish passage, especially during low to medium flows. This is of particular concern when fish are migrating to spawning areas in the Autumn. The LDSFB, Elgin AA and FNLFT have been monitoring fish passage at different water levels during 2019 and 2020 and a letter detailing their concerns written to Moray Council, the owner of the bridge.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2020

Glenlatterach Reservoir

The LDSFB and SEPA are concerned about Scottish Water's management of compensation water to the Leanoch Burn and their option to recharge the reservoir from the River Lossie under drought conditions. The LDSFB/FNLFT is continuing to request a longer-term strategy for managing the reservoir from Scottish Water to reduce impacts on the River Lossie and its tributaries.

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 preferred route for the Hardmuir to Fochabers section has been published and includes river crossings for the Black Burn and River Lossie. The FNLFT has been employed to undertake habitat and juvenile fish surveys for the new river crossings and these have been completed during 2020.
- The FNLFT continues to monitor catchment developments.

INNS

The FNLFT were successful in obtaining a grant from the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, through EB Scotland, to continue the treatment of INNS plants during 2020. Treatment of Giant Hogweed with herbicide and chopping flowering plants was completed from Kellas downstream to the outskirts of Elgin a distance of approx. 9.0km. 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 was then completed on approximately 3.0 hectares of Japanese Knotweed within Kellas, Brokentore and Wester Manbeen, with additional support by the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative and Crown Estate Scotland.

Crown Estate Scotland funded the continuing treatment of GH and JK at Wester Manbeen in 2020. Five mink were captured on the Lossie this year just upstream of Elgin, with additional sightings at Lossiemouth but no captures yet.

Schools

Three schools were participating in the Schools Go To Fish program in 2019-20, Dallas, Mosstowie and Alves. All three completed the classroom presentations but again due to COVID-19 the fishing trips to Kellas had to be postponed.

Bailiffing

Bailiffing by the Findhorn DSFB bailiffs continued during the season and two poaching incidents were reported to the Wildlife Crime Officer during the year.

Lossie DSF Board Activities 2019-20

- Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 3.12.19 at 3pm at Kellas Trout Fishery
- Annual Public Meeting 10.3.20 at 3pm at Kellas Trout Fishery
- Board Meeting July 2020 cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.

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

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2020

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.

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 FNLFT for biologist's projects and office costs.

Activities for 2020 to 2021

A Fishery Management Plan and Service level Agreement will be agreed with the FNLFT.

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

The project to eradicate GH and JK will continue in 2021 through the SISI Project, and with additional funding from the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. The aim is for treatment to reach downstream to the southern edge of Elgin. Mink control will also continue under the SISI project.

Remaining barriers to fish passage on the Linkwood Burn are being assessed by SEPA and the distilleries concerned, which may result in the installation of further fish passes on distillery weirs.

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

A96 Preferred route- the FNLFT will continue to be consulted on the development of river crossings.

The LDSFB will meet with Scottish Water to discuss the management of Glen Latterach Reservoir.

It is hoped that the school visits to Kellas Trout fishery funded by Heldon CC from the Rothes Wind Farm can be undertaken in 2021. (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 and Triennial Elections 1st December 2020 will be held virtually at 3pm.

Annual Public Meeting date t.b.c. March 2021 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 FNLFT 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 FNLFT.

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT AND STATEMENT
OF BOARD MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended August 31st 2020.

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.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Board agreed that there would be an increase in Bailiffing activity.

A conservation code has been finalised and is in place for the future.

The Board agreed to continue with the responsibility for leasing the Net Fishings at the mouth of the River Lossie, as a conservation measure.

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 2020

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

David Houldsworth	Chairman
Tomas Christie	
Frans Jurgens	
Fred Rhind	
Charlie Gerrie	
Crinan Dunbar	
Mark Laing	
Bill Fraser	

Approved by the Members and signed on their behalf on 1.12.20 by



David Houldsworth Chairman

*CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT TO THE PARTNERS ON THE UNAUDITED
ACCOUNTS OF RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD FOR THE
YEAR END AUGUST 31ST 2020.*

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 supplies 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 2020 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 27-1-21.....

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 2020

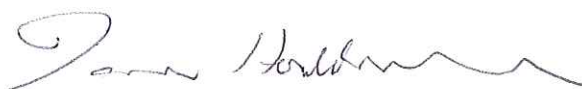
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS <u>2020</u> £	RESTRICTED FUNDS <u>2020</u> £	TOTAL FUNDS <u>2020</u> £	TOTAL FUNDS <u>2019</u> £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Other income	0	0	0	0
Assessments	9,602	0	9,602	9,607
Total incoming resources	9,602	0	9,602	9,607
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Insurance	394	0	394	384
Bailiff	1,386	0	1,386	1,650
Assessment refunds	1,640	0	1,640	0
Professional Fees	400	0	400	400
Meeting Costs	0	0	0	20
Subscriptions	510	0	510	434
Contribution to FNLFT	6,900	0	6,900	6,900
Total resources expended	11,230	0	11,230	9,788
Net outgoing resources	(1,628)	0	(1,628)	(181)
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
Fund balances as at September 1st 2019	12,527	0	12,527	12,708
Fund balances as at August 31st 2020	10,899	0	10,899	12,527

RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT AUGUST 31ST 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtor	776	0
Cash at bank and in hand	10,923	13,675
	<u>11,699</u>	<u>13,675</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and accruals	800	1,148
	<u>800</u>	<u>1,148</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>10,899</u>	<u>12,527</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>10,899</u>	<u>12,527</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>10,899</u>	<u>12,527</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the Board on*6.12.20*.....
and signed on their behalf by :



David Houldsworth Chairman