

**RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED**

**AUGUST 31ST 2023**

**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  
Tomas Christie  
Fred Rhind  
Mark Laing  
Bill Fraser  
John Fielding  
Poppy Holdsworth  
Gordon Robertson Until April 2023  
Tim Atkinson 03/07/2023

**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 2023**

**2023 Season Review**

Unfortunately, due to consistently low water throughout the spring and summer, the fishing season can only be described as disastrous. There were very low numbers of fish caught with final numbers still to come in. After the close of the fishing season the river Lossie has been running very high for exceptionally long periods, however, this high water has come too late to affect the angling season. Sea Trout catches were down significantly in 2022, way below the 5 year average. The same can be said for 2022 Salmon catch.

<b>Catch Returns</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Sea Trout</b>
2018	37	36
2019	94	154
2020	61	87
2021	39	105
2022	15	29
<b>5 year average</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>76</b>

**2023 Season**

Catch data will not be available until January 2024. Very low numbers of fish caught, and low water on the Lossie for the entire season. Anglers on the Lossie tend to be reluctant to fish the river at low water and this could be a contributing factor to low catch numbers.

**National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS)**

NEPS went ahead in 2023 and 7 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. Marine Scotland are working on the data and the report will be available shortly. One encouraging result was on the Black Burn, where the upper sites surveyed produced juvenile salmon for the first time since the two gabion weirs were removed approximately ten years ago.

**Habitat Management**

Proposals for sediment removal within the flood alleviation scheme are being reviewed and a monitoring program for the Clashgour windfarm is in development. Rechanneling works to protect the foundations of the Dallas Dhu Substation from erosion by the Snaosean Stripe, a small tributary near Dallas, progressed in October 2023 and a fish rescue and transfer was conducted prior to the works to ensure fish stocks were protected. A fish survey was carried out on the Lhanbryde Burn in September 2022 as part of an impact assessment for proposed repairs to the Kirkhill Drive Bridge.

**Cloddach Bridge**

Cloddach Bridge was closed to traffic during late 2021, however, concern remains that the erosion of the abutment is still causing a partial barrier to fish passage, especially during low to medium flows. This is particular concern when fish are migrating to spawning areas in the Autumn. The LDSFB, Elgin AA and FNLRT continue to monitor fish passage. Discussions with Moray Council, the owner of the bridge, are ongoing to resolve this intermittent barrier to fish passage.

**RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**  
**ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2023**

**Catchment Developments**

Clashgour Wind Farm and Rothes III Windfarm have both received planning permission.

Lhanbryde burn – river works were completed to protect housing within Lhanbryde, fish survey completed regarding proposed Kirkhill Bridge replacement in Lhanbryde.

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), Moray Council, Crown Estate and MEDCO. GH control completed from Kellas to Palmer's Cross Bridge, some additional treatment of GH within Elgin was also carried out in 2023. GH densities from Kellas to Bogside are dropping considerably and improving from Bogside to Palmer's Cross Bridge. However, still several years of treatment required.

Control of Japanese Knotweed was undertaken using stem injection and foliar spraying using back-packs and a pressurised spray tank (400ltrs) allowing much more effective treatment of the large JK infestations to be carried out. Substantial areas were treated within Kellas, Brokentore, Bogside and Wester Manbeen, and new infestations at Palmer's Cross and Mayne Farm were also tackled. Mink monitoring continued through the SISI project, several sightings were reported near Elgin, Fogwatt leading to 3 captures at Fogwatt and 4 at Wester Manbeen.

**Bailiffing**

Bailiffing by the Findhorn DSFB bailiffs continued during the season with a number of incidents dealt with.

**Lossie DSF Board Activities 2022-23**

Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 29/11/22 at Pitgaveny

Annual General Meeting 28/03/2023 at 3pm at Pitgaveny

**Salmon Conservation Policy**

The River Lossie is Grade 3 so 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 2023**

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 1<sup>st</sup> April for salmon and sea trout and closes the season for sea trout on the 30th September. They close the salmon season on the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 may also have some effects and we maintain a watching brief. Further windfarm developments are planned which may affect water courses. Elgin and Dallas AA's remain active but report that angling effort on the river continues to decline.

**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 2023 to 2024**

The Service level Agreement between the FNLRT and the LDSFB will be reviewed. 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.

The project to eradicate GH and JK will continue in 2024 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.

A full juvenile survey of the Lossie will be conducted in 2023. Other fish monitoring approaches such as counters and smolt traps will be reviewed.

The school visits to Kellas Trout fishery will be undertaken in 2024.

Monitoring of wind farm and infrastructure developments will continue.

**Dates of Future Meetings:**

Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 21st November 2023 at 3pm at Pitgaveny.

Annual Public Meeting date t.b.c. March 2024 at 3 pm.

The Lossie DSFB 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 DSFB will continue to support the FNLRT in collecting fisheries data and undertaking surveys to identify opportunities for riparian improvements. 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 (CONTINUED)**  
**YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2023**

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

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

Crinan Dunbar	Chairman
Tomas Christie	
Fred Rhind	
Mark Laing	
Bill Fraser	
John Fielding	
Poppy Holdsworth	
Gordon Robertson	Until April 2023
Tim Atkinson	03/07/2023

Approved by the Members and signed on their behalf on ~~12 February 24~~ <sup>13 February 24</sup>

Crinan Dunbar



Chairman

**RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**  
**BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT AND STATEMENT**  
**OF BOARD MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31ST 2023**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Board have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended August 31st 2023.

**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.



*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 2023.*

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.

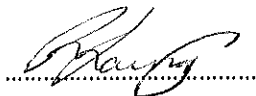
You have acknowledged on the balance sheet for the year ended August 31st 2023 and your responsibility for the accounts.

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 12.02.24

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 2023**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS <u>2023</u> £	RESTRICTED FUNDS <u>2023</u> £	TOTAL FUNDS <u>2023</u> £	TOTAL FUNDS <u>2022</u> £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Other income	0	0	0	125
Assessments	9,623	0	9,623	9,602
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>9,623</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,623</b>	<b>9,727</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Insurance	542	0	542	487
Bailiff	1,514	0	1,514	1,419
Assessment refunds	0	0	0	0
Professional Fees	450	0	450	420
Meeting Costs	0	0	0	0
Subscriptions	536	0	536	485
Contribution to FNLFT	6,900	0	6,900	6,900
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>9,942</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,942</b>	<b>9,711</b>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(319)	0	(319)	16
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>				
Fund balances as at September 1st 2022	11,168	0	11,168	11,152
Fund balances as at August 31st 2023	10,849	0	10,849	11,168

**RIVER LOSSIE AND DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT AUGUST 31ST 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	2,011	3,128
Cash at bank and in hand	9,318	8,490
	<u>11,329</u>	<u>11,618</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and accruals	480	450
	<u>480</u>	<u>450</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>10,849</u>	<u>11,168</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>10,849</u>	<u>11,168</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>10,849</u>	<u>11,168</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the Board on *12 February 24* and signed on their behalf by :



Crinan Dunbar

Chairman

