Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board



Annual Report
2020 / 21

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 / 21

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TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Convener

T. Metcalfe (Mandatory for Crown Estate Scotland)

Members Elected by Upper Proprietors

R. White (Mandatory for Stanley Fishings)
C. Mercer Nairne
M. Smith (Mandatory for Burnmouth Fishings)
J. Nevin (Mandatory for North Chesthill)

Members Elected by Lower Proprietors

D. Godfrey (Mandatory for Tay Salmon Fishing Company Ltd)
Councillor A. Parrott (Mandatory for Perth and Kinross Council)

Co-opted Members

Representatives of Salmon Anglers

J. Saunders
N. Thompson
I. Wood

Representatives of Tenant Netsmen

C. Innes (Tay Rivers Trust)

Invitees

N. MacIntyre (NatureScot)
C. McGregor (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)

Board Staff

Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board, Summerhill Hatchery, Site 6, Cromwellpark, Almondbank, Perth, PH1 3LW

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CONVENER'S REPORT 2021

As I sit down to write this short introduction to our 2021 Annual Report the Covid threat appears once again to be on the rise. We must hope that this latest variant proves to be milder in its effect than some fear. The pandemic has damaged so many people's lives and affected so many businesses in so many ways however we are resilient and we are getting better and better at operating in this new world.

It is against this background that the current Board were elected in December 2020. The election resulted in a number of new board members so time in the early days were spent learning more about the Tay, Earn and Eden river systems and the challenges the board faced. The result of this process was a decision to address a number of core issues with a particular focus on communication and on governance. Further details of some of the measures taken are set out later in this report. The board is committed to doing more on both counts.

At the heart of the board's attention is the health and wellbeing of the Tay Earn and Eden rivers and in particular the wild Atlantic salmon. We all know that the Atlantic salmon is under pressure facing as it does many threats. Dr David Summers' report on the 2021 season will come as no surprise and its message will sadly be repeated across many if not all of Scotland rivers. We must not lose sight of the fact however that the River Tay is a Category 1 river and we may well find that we have sustained our catch better than the other big four rivers in Scotland. The Eden and the Earn remain Category 3 rivers.

Alongside our new website and the comprehensive governance review we also introduced this year the first ever consultation on the board's draft management plan. Two key points. Please do make a point of reading the detailed piece on the consultation responses and looking forward please note that we will be consulting again in 2022 on our draft three year management plan. Starting with a one year plan followed by a three year plan delivers continuity of work programs spanning the triennial election process which this board believe will be of lasting benefit. It allows work to continue uninterrupted despite elections, giving successor boards time to find their feet and prepare to consult on the next three year plan. The board very much hope that we will achieve an even higher level of engagement with our consultation next year.

The board are acutely aware of frustration up and down the river about piscivorous birds, seals and beavers. These are national issues faced by most Scottish rivers. It is also fair to say that the opportunities through the licensing process to address these issues is increasingly difficult. The board is aware that criticism is often directed at them for not providing solutions to these problems. Sadly this is a failure to understand the nature of the problem. This year the Scottish Government have rejected all fishery board applications to control seals under licence. Fisheries Management Scotland as the representative body for boards across Scotland continues the fight on these crucial issues with the Scottish Government but I have to be blunt there is currently little sympathy at Holyrood.

Many of you will be aware that land use in Scotland has entered a period of sustained and landscape scale change. These changes could be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of rivers but equally

they could be of benefit. Extensive new tree planting of the right species in the right places could be good as could large scale peatland restoration projects. The Scottish government have just closed their latest consultation on the future of agriculture with a clear drive towards sustainable food production which again could be of benefit. Renewable energy development will continue apace raising questions about the future of some of the older hydro technologies seen on the Tay. It is vital that the voice of salmon fishing is heard throughout this period of change. The board will be setting out their role in delivering this as part of our next management plan consultation.

It is only right that I use the Conveners report to extend thanks to a number of people. First and for my part most importantly to all of the boards staff. They have had to operate under very difficult conditions for a prolonged period as have so many other people across the country. The pressures they are operating under are underestimated by some but not by the board so we say a very loud thank you to them all.

Next are all the ghillies up and down the river. They are the rivers greatest ambassadors and we rely on them to promote the river and the area as one of the finest in Scotland encouraging people to come and fish the Tay, stay in the area, eat and drink in our hostelries, visit our houses and gardens and in doing so make a significant contribution to the local economy and to local jobs. I have not yet had a chance to meet very many of the Tay ghillies and look forward to doing so early in the new year.

I should also acknowledge the retirement of three board members, Iain McLaren – past Board Convener, Alastair Riddell and Allister Wallace. All have contributed to the work of the board over a good number of years and their unpaid contribution to the river should be appreciated by everyone. Sitting on the TDSF Board can at times be demanding and sadly often unappreciated. I and the board thank them and wish them all the very best.

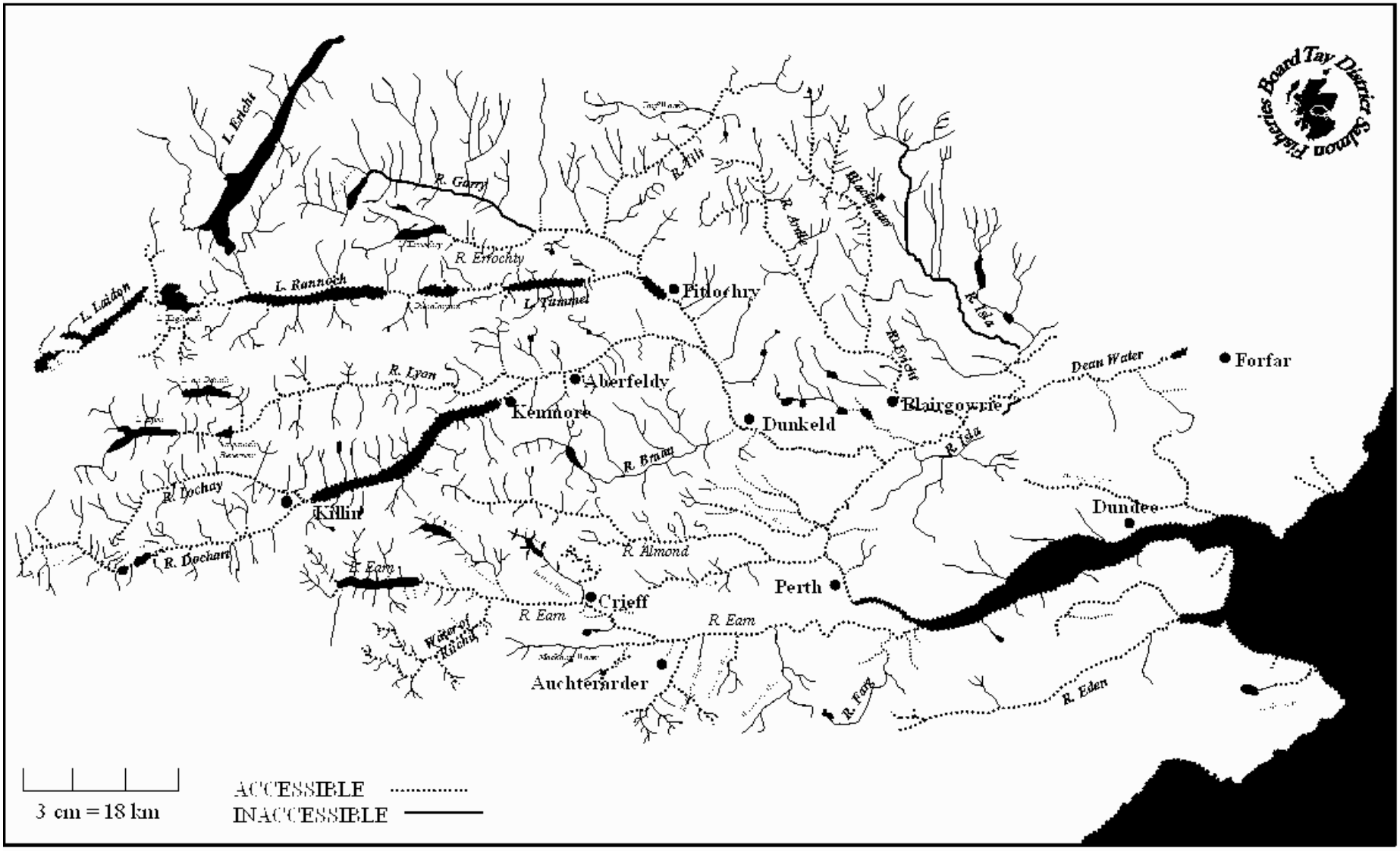
TDSFB cannot operate in isolation. We depend on working with and developing strong relationships with key partners. The Tay Rivers Trust is our closest “cousin”. By working together we create better opportunities for both organisations to deliver our goals and objectives. The final touches are being put to a Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies which captures the spirit of what we seek to achieve together. It would be nice to think that in time we can re-establish the same close working relations that the board used to have with the Tay Ghillies Association.

NatureScot have consistently supported the board through regular attendance at board meetings. I am delighted to report that SEPA have confirmed that they too intend to attend future Board meetings. We are also about to meet senior police officers to underscore the importance of the cooperation between our respective organisations.

Finally my heartfelt thanks to the current Board. It is a pleasure and a privilege to lead them. They have worked tirelessly to move the work of the board on over the last 12 months and their commitment and enthusiasm will I am sure see us through these challenging and changing times.

Toby Metcalfe

Salmon Distribution within the Tay District



2021 REPORT

Season 2021

Much of the early winter of 2020 /21 was mild with highwater, but following New Year, there was a change to more frosty weather which might have improved angling prospects for the new season. However, another Covid-19 semi-lockdown was in force in January. Scottish Government guidance permitted angling with some limitations but travel was restricted to within local authority areas. Consequently, some beats did not fish on Opening Day and those that did had only a few anglers. There were none of the usual opening ceremonies.

No salmon were caught in January which is perhaps without precedent. The weather remained cold and fishing effort was a fraction of normality.

The first half of February continued largely cold. Sub zero temperatures persisted inland and snow accumulated on the hills. While the water had dropped well back by early February there appeared to have been no fish present in some of the classic early beats. Some of the biggest accumulations of inland snow reported in years started to melt when the weather changed abruptly in mid month resulting in some of the biggest floods since December 2015 / January 2016. The second half of February was little better than a write-off, therefore.

The first Tay spring salmon of the season was only caught on 14 February on the Dalmarnock beat and the first from Loch Tay on 17 February once the river ice broke at Killin. Fishing only eventually picked up on 28 February when half a dozen or so springers were reported that day

Improved conditions saw catches continue in early March. The Stanley / Campsie Linn area was an initial focus, but a couple of spates then helped encourage fish upstream. While Islamouth was the top performing beat, spreading fish saw improving catches on some middle Tay beats too. Some were also caught on the River Tummel and Loch Tay.

The total catch for March was probably under 150 spring salmon, well down on expectations, but angling effort still remained low with the Covid-19 restrictions still in force. Some beats still had yet to be open. But while numbers landed were not high, the quality of many of those early fish was excellent.

March ended with a big spate on the 31st, but that proved to be the last serious rain for weeks. The Tay had fallen to about a foot by the end of April and tributaries right down. April was also a cool month, the wind frequently coming from the north or east. Covid restrictions eased, allowing travel around Scotland. That helped, and some main river beats upstream of Stanley did relatively well. Islamouth, for example had its best April since 2017 and the Meikleour House beat its best in over 10 years.

On the middle Tay, however, fortunate were much more mixed, but fish must still have been able to pass through as the River Tummel fished better than it had done for several years too. Some of the anglers who fished Loch Tay did reasonably well too.

The overall catch is likely to be a little under 400, which was perhaps not unreasonable given numbers of people actually fishing for much of the month. Some decent 3SW fish were caught, but the great bulk of April fish were 2SW fish under 10 pounds,

Despite a major easing of lockdown restrictions and more anglers fishing from late April, May did not see catches continue to increase as expected. The weather was generally unseasonably cool and, although the river ran reasonably low at the start, it was a relatively wet month overall culminating in a dirty lift of about five feet on the 25th.

The higher water put something of a damper on most lower river beats' catches but it did allow fish to move at last into tributaries like the Isla and the Ericht. The best of the fishing, however, was on the River Tummel where the cooler weather delayed the fish's ascent of Pitlochry Dam. Pitlochry Angling Club's dam beat its best May since 2013.

June also did not prove as good a month as hoped following the prolific June of 2020. There did not appear to be as many fish, but it was essentially a dry month which did not help either. The lower water helped some lower river beats, Islamouth for example, had a good June, but fish which entered tributaries in May could make no progress. For example, numbers of fish were stuck in the Blairgowrie area of the Ericht and a number succumbed to fungus.

July proved to be a hard month for many fishing beats. The month started with a low river and fine weather. Some localised downpours gave some much needed rises in some of the tributaries, but they were short lived. As the month wore on, the weather got hotter and levels reached rock bottom. A local thundery downpour compounded this by causing a landslide which filled Loch Faskally with highly turbid water. This took several days to flush through and ruined fishing down the Tay for the duration.

Salmon catches very much reflected the conditions. Some beats showed some promise in the first half of the month, but as the month wore on, things got more and more difficult.

Following the scorching weather, there was a quick rise of about two feet just at the end of July, followed by some more rises in the first half of August. Therefore, the first three weeks of August saw much better fishing conditions with a very welcome surge in salmon catches. The second week of the month was particularly good, with over 400 salmon and grilse likely to have been caught. The fishing was particularly good on some of the very lowest beats and on those beats between Stanley and the Isla confluence. And while it was to be expected many of the fish caught were on the turn as regards colour, many of the fish caught low down the river especially, were fresh run.

Further upstream, catches were again much more variable. There just had not been enough water to really draw fish up from further down in big numbers yet. And then, in the last week of the month there was a return to summer weather. The brief flurry of activity came to an end once again.

The dry weather which settled in late August continued right through almost to the end of September. Many days were bright, sunny and unseasonably warm. A common experience for a number of beats was that their best August in years was followed by hard fishing in September. It was particularly hard for middle river and upper beats.

Fortunately, there was rain in the last few days of the month and September ended with another sudden surge of catches, particularly on some lower beats where a considerably head of fish had accumulated over many weeks.

The late September rain was followed by more bouts in early October, keeping the Tay at three to four feet for most of those last couple of weeks of the season until its close on 15 October. This helped many, but not all beats, end the season on a more respectable note. Cargill, for example, had 99, its best October since 2013. Others in that area did well too. However, as has been the case since 2016, almost all of the fish caught in September and October were again colouring or coloured, although there were some bright fish on some of the lower beats. Many appeared to be salmon in the high teens of pounds in addition to grilse.

Overall, it is expected the Tay district salmon catch for 2021 will prove to be somewhat in excess of 4,000. It will probably end up being similar to 2019. However, had it not been for Covid and poor fishing conditions, 2021 would have been better than 2019, as indeed 2020 would have been better than it was too.

Catch and Release

As reported last year, at the start of the 2020 season, the Board recommended 100% catch-and-release of all salmon and grilse for the entire season, the first time it had made such a request at the beginning of the season. That policy was continued again for the season of 2021.

The overall reported released rate in 2020 was 94.6%, the highest rate ever, up 0.4% on 2019. However, the percentage released varied throughout the season, with a suggestion that some anglers were still keeping the occasional fish in the summer (Figure 1).

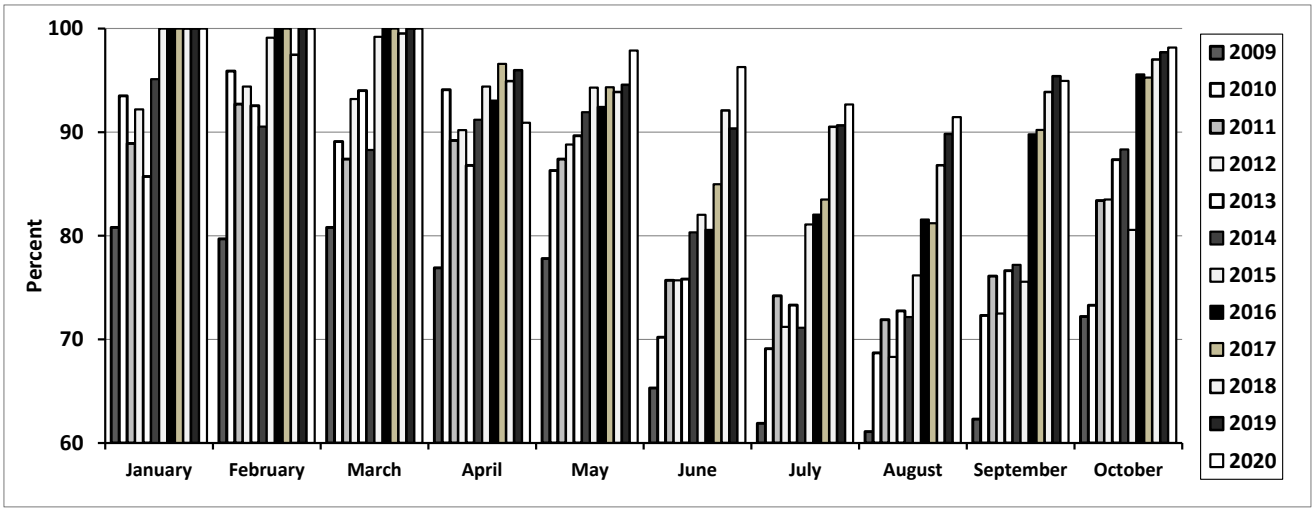


Figure 1. *Percentage of the Tay district salmon and grilse catch released by month in each year from 2009 to 2020. The data used in this graph are Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science. Marine Scotland is not responsible for interpretation of these data by third parties.*

Catch and Release Rates in Different Parts of the District in 2020

Given it is mandatory to release all salmon up to end March and all season on the Earn and Eden, the fish killed in summer 2020 (Figure 1) must have been taken on the Tay itself or its tributaries. Figures 2 & 3 confirm this by breaking down the numbers of fish reported killed by tributary. Almost no salmon were reported killed anywhere by the end of May (Figure 2). Most of the fish reported killed in the summer were on the lower Tay with the Ericht somewhat behind (Figure 3).

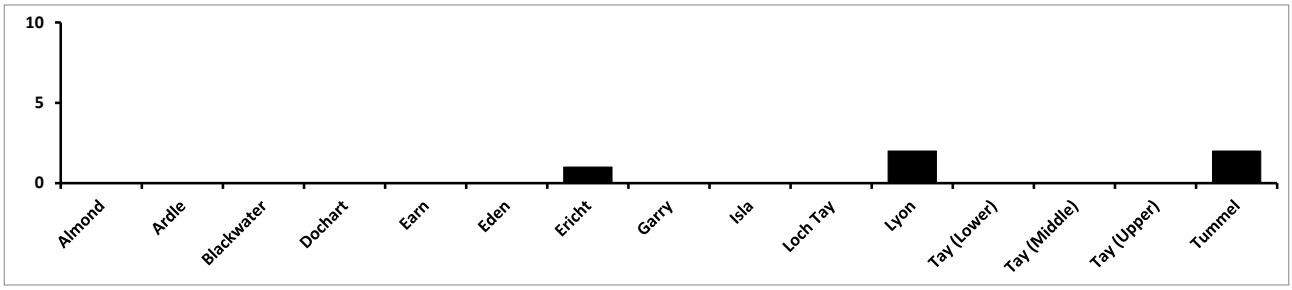


Figure 2. *Numbers of reported retained salmon from different parts of the Tay district, Jan – May 2020. 2021 data not yet available.*

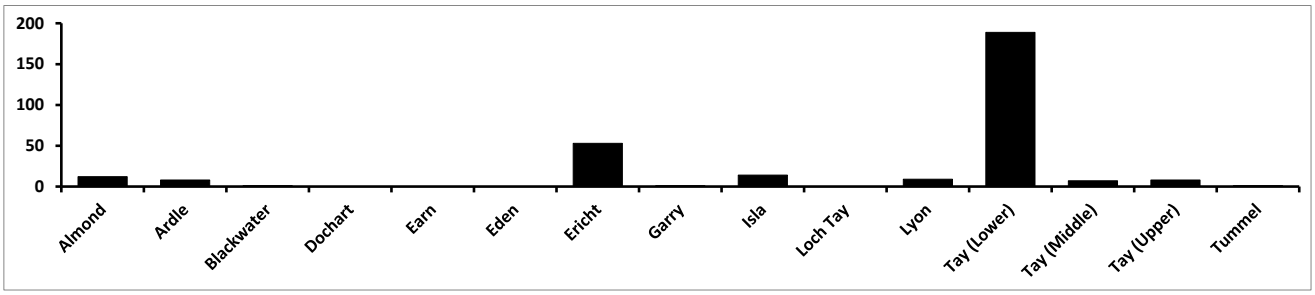


Figure 3. *Numbers of reported retained salmon from different parts of the Tay district, June – October 2020. 2021 data not yet available.*

Sea Trout Conservation

In 2009, the Board recommended that, following a long decline in their numbers, all sea trout should be released without exception. This policy has been maintained thereafter. Since the introduction of the policy, the great majority of the catch has continued to be released (Figure 4). In 2020, sea trout catches were again reasonable with a very high release rate.

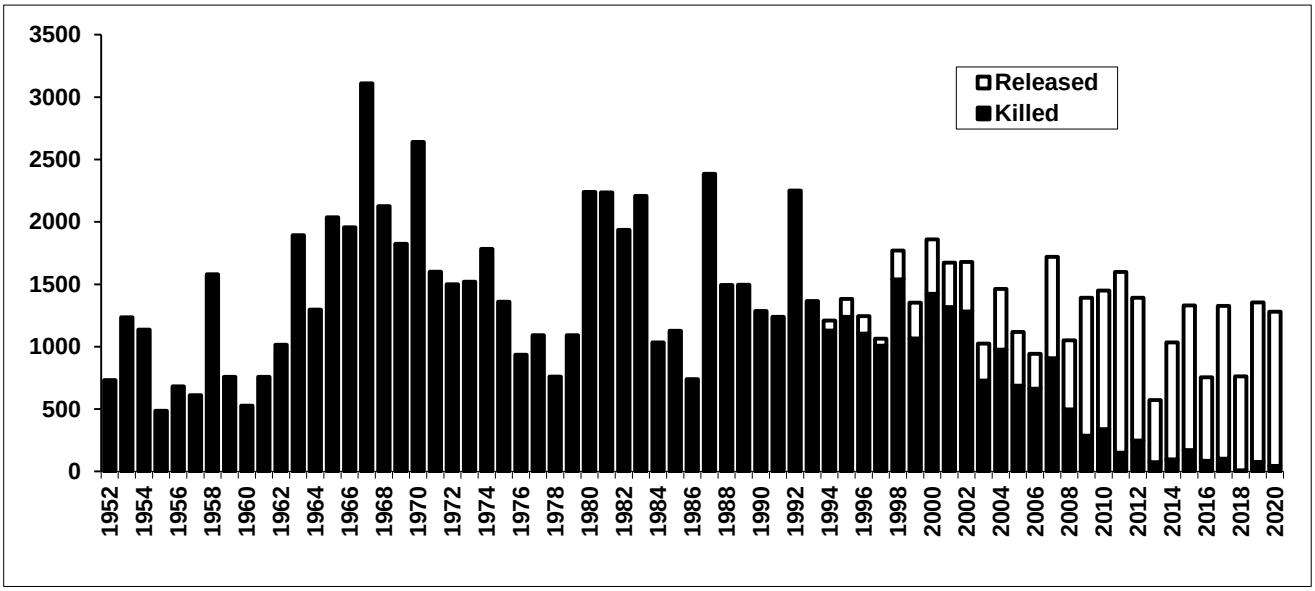


Figure 4. *Tay District rod & line catch of sea trout, 1952 – 2020. 2021 data not yet available. (Data obtained from Marine Scotland's Statistical Bulletins of Scottish Salmon and Sea Trout Catches)*

Impact of Covid-19 Restrictions

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an impact in 2021, although not to the extent it had in 2020. In early January 2021, a lockdown on movement was reimposed, but not quite to the same extent as it had been in early 2020. Angling was allowed from 15 January but people could only travel within their respective local authority areas or from the edge of a neighboring area and people from no more than two households were permitted to meet up outside. Travel anywhere within Scotland was only allowed from 16 April and from the rest of the UK from 26 April. Holiday accommodation

only opened then too. In practice, this severely limited fishing effort during the first three months of the season. Some beats did not open at all initially.

The impact on the Board's work during the lockdown period was less than in 2020. For example, staff were still able to travel within Perth & Kinross to stock out eggs. However, following the retirement of two staff in 2020 and having one staff member remain off work for "shielding" during the lockdown period, meant almost all staffing resources had to be concentrated in keeping the hatchery going during that period.

Given the impact Covid had on letting in both 2020 and early 2021 the Board considered it prudent to continue to seeking to keep the assessment burden as low as possible for proprietors. As it happened assessment notices were sent out later than usual, August instead of April with the levy rate remaining at 46%.

Enforcement

While 2020 proved to be the busiest summer and autumn in enforcement terms for years, 2021 was not as busy overall. This may have been due to the fact there was more of a return to normality in 2021 and perhaps less perception of salmon around. However, the Board's fisheries officers still attended 60 call outs or other enforcement incidents. They also retrieved 14 separate illegal instruments, including nets, sniggers and prawn/shrimp tackles. No incidents were reported to the Procurator Fiscal by the Police, although one incident would have been had it not been for a lack of corroboration.

Of the four cases reported to Police Scotland for reporting to the Procurator Fiscal in 2020, none have yet gone through the full legal process by November 2021. However, in one case the Procurator Fiscal advised the case had been dealt with in a way which did not involve prosecution. That of course was disappointing, but it has been a long-standing complaint and source of frustration to fishery boards that sometimes good cases are not pushed to a conclusion by the Procurator Fiscal service.

Throughout the year Board staff enjoyed excellent cooperation with Police Scotland extending to joint patrols in the Scone area in the autumn. The Board really values this cooperation and thanks Police Scotland for it.

Health and Safety at Work

Health and safety at work is a major consideration for the Board. The Board's staff are frequently required to work in situations where potential hazards are present.

In 2021 the new Board, as part of a wider ranging review of operating policies, reviewed the Board's high level policy on Health & Safety. It reaffirmed a commitment to having the Board's Health & Safety policy professionally reviewed and updated every three years. As the last review was conducted in 2017, the Board agreed to instruct consultants Greens of Haddington to commence a new review.

At the time of writing (December 2021), no incidents have been reported to the HSE under RIDDOR.

Review of Policies and Contracts

During the course of 2021 the new Board thought it appropriate to conduct a review of the Board's governance and operating policies. Some of these had not been reviewed for some years and, indeed, some had never been formalised.

The Board has the following policies under review.

Bullying and harassment policy
Complaints policy
Compassionate leave policy
Computer, internet, and IT usage policy
Data handling policy
Debt management policy
Dignity at work statement
Disciplinary policy
Disclosure statement and children and vulnerable adults protection policy
Equal opportunities statement
Equality and diversity statement
Financial procedures policy
Flexible and home working policy
GDPR statement
Grievance policy
Health and Safety policy
Maternity, adoption, paternity, parental leave policy
Misconduct by Board members statement
Privacy statement
Replacement of committee member mid-term policy
Social media policy
Staff appraisal policy
Time off for dependents policy
Triennial election policy
Volunteering policy
Whistleblowing policy
Young persons and vulnerable adults photography policy
Zero tolerance of third parties policy

Following review and adoption by the Board, policies relevant to the public are published on line at www.tayrivers.org/policies/

A human resources consultant has also been engaged to conduct a full review of all staff contracts to ensure they are all up to date.

TDSFB Annual Public Meeting 2021

The Board held its 2021 Annual Public Meeting on the evening of 23 March. Owing to the Covid-19 restrictions still in place at that time, the meeting was held online, using "Zoom". In addition to 11 members of the Board and staff, 24 members of the public attended. Minutes of the meeting can be found at www.tayrivers.org/reports/ .

Fisheries Management Scotland

Fisheries Management Scotland is the representative body of Scotland's DSFBs and fisheries trusts. The Board's Fisheries Director, David Summers, holds one of the six positions for elected representatives of DSFBs on the FMS Board. Detailed information on the work of Fisheries Management Scotland can be found on its website *www.fms.scot*. The minutes of its regular meetings can be found at www.fms.scot/board/.

Hatchery Report 2020/21

As described in recent Annual Reports, the Board's stocking activities are now centered around the Kelt Reconditioning Project which it has run since taking over the former Marine Scotland Science hatchery at Almondbank in 2011. Kelt reconditioning entails the keeping and feeding of captive salmon kelts following stripping. Such fish can live in captivity for several years on average, producing eggs each year with the great advantage of not impacting on the source population. Every year some new fish do have to be taken from the wild to top up the captive stock, but on their first stripping, the eggs are returned to the native tributary. Thereafter, reconditioned eggs might be stocked elsewhere.

For the autumn of 2020, Marine Scotland granted a licence to take a quota of salmon from the River Tilt, the lower River Garry and the Errochty Water for reconditioning in order to stock the restored River Garry. A licence was also granted for taking salmon from the Fillan Water to produce reconditioned kelts for stocking the River Lochay with salmon parr but not for stocking the Cononish Water, as had been previous practice. Stocking there and the River Lyon was not considered to be "restoration" or "mitigation" stocking. However, a licence was again granted to take broodstock from the Ruchill Water (River Earn) and the River Eden for a similar projects as had been proposed on the Cononish and Lyon, the difference being the Earn and Eden are not part of the River Tay Special Area of Conservation. A licence was again obtained to catch broodstock from the mainstem of the Earn for the purpose of obtaining fecundity data (numbers of eggs contained by females) to help more accurately calibrate Marine Scotland's annual categorization model for the River Earn.

In the event, no fishing took place on the mainstem of the Earn so no broodstock were caught. Only two female salmon were caught in the Eden. Both fish became badly infected with *Saprolegnia* fungus. One died before it could be stripped and the second had to be killed immediately after stripping. The eggs from that fish were considered to be unusually small and had to be fertilized using male Eden parr as no adult males were available. The eggs developed until the eyed stage but curiously all died at that point. It is not known why that occurred. It did not happen to any other batches of eggs in the hatchery. Indeed, it appeared unprecedented.

Partly because of restrictions on the licence and high water which particularly impacted broodstock fishing on the River Tilt, the number of eggs produced from new broodstock in early 2021 was again, as in 2020, lower compared to the 2017 – 2019 period. Unfortunately, the reduction in new eggs in 2020 translated into a lower number of reconditioned eggs in 2021 following 2020's record (Table 1).

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Eggs from new broodstock			300,211	189,021	312,421	436,787	622,458	449,065	273,885	340,632
Eggs from reconditioned broodstock			354,722	421,379	316,204	222,810	425,936	668,899	727,094	410,281
Total	779,000	582,000	654,933	610,400	629,225	659,597	1,048,394	1,117,964	1,000,979	750,913

Table 1. *Numbers of eyed ova produced annually by the kelt reconditioning facility since 2011. Note, no split between "new" and "reconditioned" eggs is available for the first two years.*

The numbers of eyed-ova stocked out are given in Table 2 according to tributary.

Tributary stocked	Eyed ova	Parr
River Tilt	7,700	
River Garry (restored section)	211,222	
River Garry (below Struan)	143,815	
River Garry tributaries (Bruar and Banvie)	24,695	
Allt Glas Choire (lower)	18,022	
Allt Glas Choire (upper)	91,507	
Errochty Water	95,432	
Ruchill Water (upper reaches)	83,440	
Fillan tributaries	30,830	
River Lochay		12,251
Totals	**706,663**	**12,251**

Table 2. *Numbers of salmon eggs stocked in spring 2021 according to tributary.*

Broodstock Collection Application 2021/22

The last two Annual Reports have explained that hatchery broodstock collection requires a licence from Marine Scotland subject to Marine Scotland's stocking policy introduced in 2019. In December 20 / January 21, Marine Scotland did hold some meetings to gather views on the policy which had been introduced without consultation. However, as Marine Scotland have not yet concluded that exercise, the Board's 2021 application was made on the basis of the existing policy.

Based on the experience of the previous two years, an application was made to take broodstock from the rivers Errochty, Fillan, Garry, Tilt within the Tay catchment plus the River Earn and Ruchill Water

tributary and the River Eden. A licence was duly granted to take a quota of broodstock from each of those, although the numbers permitted from the Eden and Errochty were a little less than applied for.

Proposed Conservation Regulations 2022

In August 2021, Marine Scotland published the proposed conservation categories for 2022. As in 2021, the Tay SAC (that is the Tay and all its tributaries above the mouth of the Earn) comfortably remains within Category 1 while the Earn and Eden remained in Category 3. However, while the Eden remains well below the threshold, an increase in the reported catch for 2020 meant the Earn only narrowly missed achieving Category 2.

Representation was again made regarding issues with Marine Scotland's methodology. Marine Scotland replied to the effect that development work continues on the modelling process. However, whatever the outcome of that process, it can have no effect on the proposals for 2022. Thus, again, if the Statutory Instrument enacting these proposals is approved by a committee of the Scottish Parliament in early 2022, the Earn and Eden will again have compulsory catch and release for the full season 2022.

Mill of Ross Weir, River Earn

Last year's Annual Report reported that the Board objected to an application to reinstate Mill of Ross Weir on the River Earn, in order to allow abstraction for a fish farm. As a result of the Board's representation, a consultant had recommended a better fish pass than had existed previously. However, owing to delays caused by a cyberattack which has impacted on SEPA's work since December 2020, progress with the application has been delayed through 2021. The Board has twice made further comment on amended proposals. The Board also objected to a planning application submitted by Dawnfresh to Perth and Kinross Council on the basis that the CAR licence had not been resolved to our satisfaction. At the time of writing, this issue has still to be finally resolved.

National Adult Sampling Project

In June 2021, Marine Scotland, through Fisheries Management Scotland, offered funding for fishery boards / trusts to conduct a pilot trial of sampling rod caught and released adult salmon in the lower reaches of rivers by the end of September. This was to determine the feasibility of obtaining growth and age (from scales) data from salmon in the absence of commercial net fisheries.

The Board agreed to participate and secured the cooperation of the Almondmouth beat to sample fish there. However, the start of sampling was delayed because angling conditions were very poor in July - few fish were caught in the lower river and sampling live fish would have been inappropriate in high water temperatures. Sampling progressed well in August when angling conditions improved but slowed again once with an unexpected return to poor angling conditions in September.

As the sampled fish required to be lightly anaesthetized, they were also tagged before release. While it would be expected that any recaptured fish would have been released anyway, anglers were

specially warned not to eat any such tagged fish they might catch in case the drug had not been sufficiently withdrawn from their tissues. Interestingly, one tagged fish which happened to have an open wound was later recaptured on the same beat, partially healed.





A rod caught grilse with a serious bite wound sampled and tagged at Almondmouth in August was caught a second time on the same beat five weeks later. The wound had healed considerably.

River Tummel Smolt Tagging Project

No PIT tagging of smolts took place on Tummel tributaries in 2021, for the second year in a row. Two retirements in 2020 and a Covid shielding requirement meant all staff were required to keep the hatchery operating in spring 2021. As there was insufficient capacity to provide adequate PIT tagging cover, this work did not go ahead in 2021.

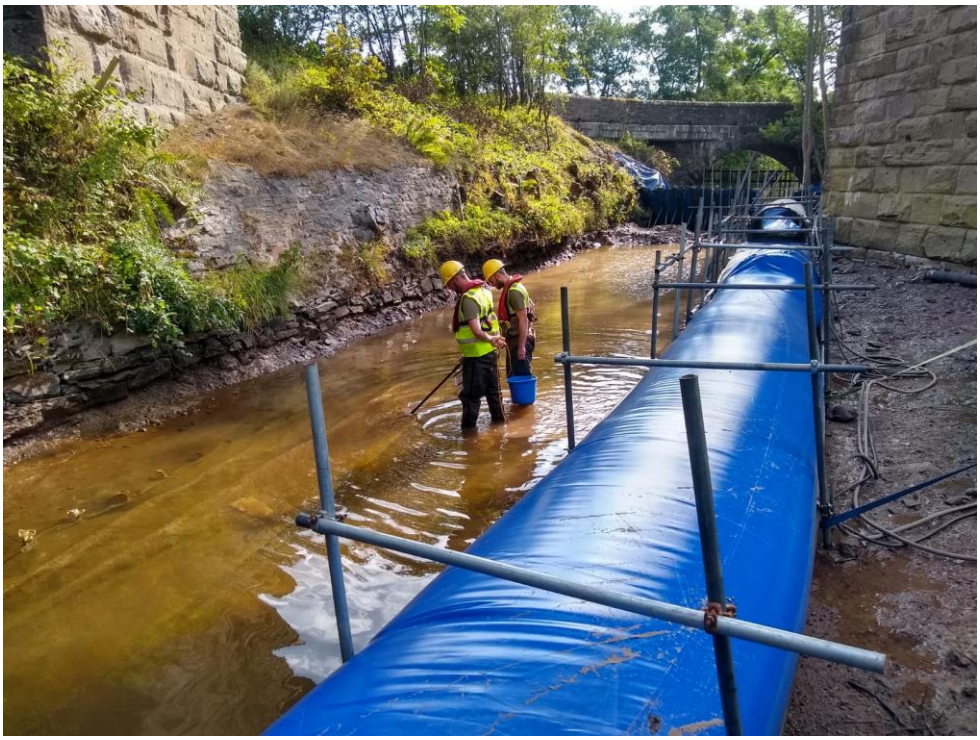
Pink Salmon

Pink salmon were again widely reported in Scotland. This was the third year they have been "abundant", the first being 2017 and the second 2019, following a two year cycle. They were particularly numerous in parts of Norway, the most year. Two were reported caught on the River Eden and two kelts were found dead in the Almondmouth area. However, the Board did not receive any reports of any actually having been caught on the River Tay itself.

Fish rescues

Staff were involved in several contracted fish rescues where fish required moving in advance of some form of development work. These included: a) moving fish from the Brothock Water and tributary ditch in connection with a flood storage berm construction scheme near Arbroath, b) moving fish in the Ordie Burn near Bankfoot in connection with railway viaduct scour protection work and c) moving fish out of a stretch of the River Eden near Strathmiglo in advance of flood prevention desilting work.

The Forth Fisheries Trust also engaged the team's services to use adult electrofishing equipment to move adult salmon and sea trout in the River Leven in connection with works at the Markinch railway viaduct. In practice, because of low flows etc, there was never a requirement to attend.



Rescuing fish from a drained section of the Ordie Burn in connection with railway protection work

River Ericht Abstraction

As described in the last *Annual Report*, in July 2019, SEPA varied the abstraction licence of Westmill Fish Farm, Blairgowrie, to comply with what is known as Moderate Ecological Status with a promise of a further variation to Good Status in future. As there were concerns that smolts sometimes may have difficulty passing the fish farm entrance, underwater footage of smolts was obtained in the spring of 2019 before the variation took effect. Filming was tried again during a period of low flow in early May 2021. However, unlike in 2019, almost no smolts were observed, suggesting there was no issue for smolts there in 2021. Smolts had either gone previously or during a subsequent period of higher flow once milder weather caused inland snow to melt.

The 2019 licence variation requires abstraction to be reduced progressively at low flows. The dry summer of 2021 was the first opportunity when the flow became low enough to test these new

licence conditions. After the middle of July the flow in the Ericht downstream of the lade intake reached such a level that it was felt unlikely that adult salmon would be able to ascend a weir downstream of the intake, although fish were observed in a pool downstream.

The Board had predicted that the new licensed levels were such that adult salmon might be drawn up to Blairgowrie, then become trapped and susceptible to fungus. Thus, the numbers of trapped adult fish below Blairgowrie was regularly monitored in conjunction with the Blairgowrie Angling Club. The Board also commissioned independent hydrologists to gauge the flow in the river and in the lade. When flows were particularly low on 24 July, it was found that the amount of flow being abstracted was almost 50% more than the licensed quantity. The hydrologist's report was submitted to SEPA.

The Board continues to work with all concerned parties to ensure that a) compliance with the existing licence is maintained until SEPA conducts its further review and b) further voluntary measures may be put in place, particularly with regard to screening.

Low Flow Issues

In addition to the Ericht, the hot dry weather experienced in July 2021 resulted in other low flow problems across the district, although not to the extent experienced in 2018.

The Board's fisheries officers also observed that, in July, the flow in the River Lochay became insufficient to fill the Borland fish lift at Lochay Falls but, unlike in 2018, there did not appear to have been a concentration of adult salmon stuck below it. SSE were also aware and reported that the lift had to be shut off until the flow rose again. Perhaps unexpectedly, the same issue arose again in September. In July, Board staff recorded an afternoon water temperature of 28 degrees C in the upper Lochay.

On the restored section of the River Garry, SEPA have reported that the flow fell below the new licensed Q96 "hands-off-flow" level on two occasions. However, good numbers of juvenile salmon were still found in the autumn in both the Garry and Glas Choire (page 27).

SSE were also concerned by early summer regarding their long term reservoir water storage position. In the event, rain in mid August eased matters. However, by October, the water level in Glenturret Reservoir, near Crieff, became so low that SEPA had to allow Scottish Water to reduce the compensation flow in the Turret Burn to Q99 until 31 December. Unless there is sufficient rain over the winter to fully refill the reservoir it seems there are already concerns for what will happen in 2022.

Signal Crayfish Continued Range Expansion

Last year's Annual Report explained that there had been a number of reports of signal crayfish expansion in the Eden and Ericht systems. They had been expanding down the Blackwater for some years and had finally been noticed in the Ericht around Bridge of Cally. This expansion continued in 2021 when, in the summer, there were further reports indicating crayfish are now very numerous in the Bridge of Cally to Craighall area and present downstream of Blairgowrie.

Again as reported last year the Board received requests for advice on controlling signal crayfish. As last year, the Board advised that trapping of signal crayfish is illegal without a licence from NatureScot (formerly SNH) but these are not generally issued for control. This is because there is evidence that a) attempts at control are ultimately ineffective and b) encouraging fishing for crayfish leads to people introducing crayfish into new waters for fishing. In effect, there is no current effective control.

Beaver Issues

Beavers continued to be present issues in 2021, as their numbers continue to rise. Board staff now have to regularly monitor a number of fish passes and other critical damming points within the district to prevent blockages.

In August, NatureScot published a new survey of the beaver population, estimating 251 active territories which might mean as many as 954 beavers, and that is excluding this year's kits. In 2017/18 the corresponding figures were 114 / 433 and, in 2012, 39 / 146.

NatureScot are keen to find solutions to try to defuse some of the conflicts that have arisen between land managers and beavers in certain areas. The Fisheries Director attended meetings of a Scottish Beaver Forum subgroup on beaver burrowing problems. The group is currently collating international experience in dealing with this issue and, in time, advice and practical mitigation trials should be conducted.

In order to try to eliminate conflict in some agricultural catchments prone to flooding, NatureScot have proposed excluding beavers completely with a combination of bar screens in the water and fencing on the banks. In 2021, proposals were suggested for the Balloch Burn bear Crieff and the Baikie Burn near Meigle. In both cases a bar screen with 100mm gaps was proposed.

However, the Board is concerned that a 100mm gap may not allow larger salmon in the teens of pounds to pass through on their spawning run, particularly if screens are not cleaned efficiently. While the Baikie Burn is perhaps not the classic salmon spawning stream the Board performed some electrofishing work to determine whether salmon used it or not. Juvenile salmon were indeed found, but numbers were noticeably lower in impoundments behind beaver dams. There is likely to be an advantage to salmon in keeping beavers from damming such burns, but an adequate compromise must be found to ensure spawning salmon are not excluded themselves.

Relations with the Tay Rivers Trust

The Board has worked closely with the Tay Rivers Trust (formerly Tay Foundation) over many years. This relationship became even closer in 2020 when the Tay Rivers Trust became the Board's landlord, taking over ownership of the hatchery site at Almondbank from Scottish Government. The Board's lease is due to expire and both organisations are in the process of negotiating a new lease to the Board.

The new Board, elected in 2020, has, with TRT, been exploring how the two organizations may be better aligned to improve and increase the delivery of conservation work on the River Tay. For example, the TRT, as a tenant of netting stations, has now a representative on the Board. The first major development has been the creation of a new joint website (www.tayrivers.org/) to showcase the work of both organisations on the River Tay.

Mapping Atlantic Salmon Pressures

Marine Scotland and the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (now part of Fisheries Management Scotland) have developed an online map-based tool to aid the identification and quantification of the pressures that salmon face across Scotland. As reported last year, the Board was paid to populate a first iteration of the tool in 2020. A second iteration was then performed in early 2021. Two workshops hosted by FMS/Marine Scotland discussed initial results and tweaks that might be required to ensure consistency in reporting between different boards and trusts across Scotland. Marine Scotland will in due course publish the national data on an app, showing where the various pressures on salmon occur. These will then become a central part of informing a Wild Salmon Strategy which the Scottish Government is currently working on.

SEPA Consultations

Responses were submitted to SEPA's proposed Water Resources Management Plan and the third River Basin Management Plan. The WRMP owes its origins to the 2018 summer drought and proposed new measures on abstractors during periods of dry weather. However, while the Board welcomed the principle, the actual flow trigger points proposed would not have been sensitive enough to have triggered action in time during the 2018 drought in the Tay catchment. Therefore, the Board wished for these to be tightened.

The RBMP will set a significant part of SEPA's priorities for the period 2021 – 2027 and was an important opportunity to try to ensure issues of concern to the Board, particularly hydro issues, become or remain priorities for SEPA.

Gateside Mill Weir

An old weir at Gateside Mill on the upper River Eden has long been recognized as presenting difficulties for the passage of migratory fish. SEPA have now identified it as a priority for removal under their Water Environment Fund. It had been their intention to complete the work before autumn 2021, but other circumstances mean this will now be delayed until 2022.

Scheduled Refurbishment of Tummel Bridge Power Station

The Board has been informed that SSE propose to refurbish Tummel Bridge Power Station in 2022. This will mean that the aqueduct which supplies the power station will be drained and all the flow will have to be released into the river's natural channel via the flood gates at Dunalastair Dam.

This will pose several challenges for salmon. There is a risk that smolts may be killed passing via the flood gates and ascending adults will be attracted away from the fish pass entrance.

To mitigate these risks SSE propose to pass the flow via the fish pass and a trash chute only as far as possible during smolt time. Then, while most flow will be passed via the flood gates in summer and autumn, this will be switched off periodically in the hope of attracting adults into the fish pass. Should that not be found to work, adults may have to be removed using electrofishing and released upstream as a last resort.

National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland

In the summer of 2021, the Board again participated in Marine Scotland's National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS), for which the Board will receive payment. 2021 was the third year of the programme which commenced in 2018, but skipped 2018 because of Covid. More details including results for 2018 and 2019 can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/national-electrofishing-programme-for-scotland/ .

Meetings Attended

During the course of 2020, Board staff attended numerous meetings in addition to any previously mentioned.

The Board's Fisheries Director attended:

- Three Fisheries Management Scotland Board Meetings.
- The Annual General Meeting of Fisheries Management Scotland.
- Fisheries Management Scotland Regional Members Meeting
- Fisheries Management Annual Conference.
- Meeting of the River Garry Technical Group.
- Two meetings of the Scottish Beaver Forum plus subgroup meetings
- Scottish Invasives Species Initiative Steering Group meeting.
- Meeting of River Directors from other rivers.
- Gave talk to Breadalbane Heritage Society.
- Attended Missing Salmon Alliance workshop
- Met with SSE and Marine Scotland to discuss SSE fish counters.
- Met with Balfour Beatty re proposed new Almond and Tay Bridging.
- Met with Network Rail contractors and regulators regarding work on River Fillan.

FISH COUNTER RESULTS 2021

As reported in other recent *Annual Reports*, SSE's three fish counters in the district have suffered from an accuracy issue following modifications in 2018. Data from this period cannot be relied on, therefore. However, SSE hope to have a solution and this will be tested initially at Pitlochry in 2022.

In view of the inaccuracies and preparatory work to rectification, SSE have been unable to supply the usual net upstream counts for 2021. The only data shared here, therefore, are the upstream counts at Pitlochry Dam as were displayed on the public display at the dam. These counts may not be entirely accurate and have not been corrected for "droppers" unlike all previous years. While no significance should be attached to the absolute value of the count, it is still of interest in terms of the timing of the counts within the year.

Pitlochry Dam

As stated above, the slightly increased count for 2021 relative to the previous two years (Figure 5) may just be an artefact of the 2021 data not being "net" counts. Therefore, the 2021 (inaccurate) count is likely to have been within the same range as the previous three other inaccurate counts.

However, assuming counting accuracy does not vary markedly between months, a notable feature of the 2021 count was that the proportion counted by the end of May was well down on recent years but July and, notably, October were up. This, most likely, reflects the cold spring which led to increased catches in the River Tummel in May, and then the summer and September droughts leading to a final surge of held back fish in October.

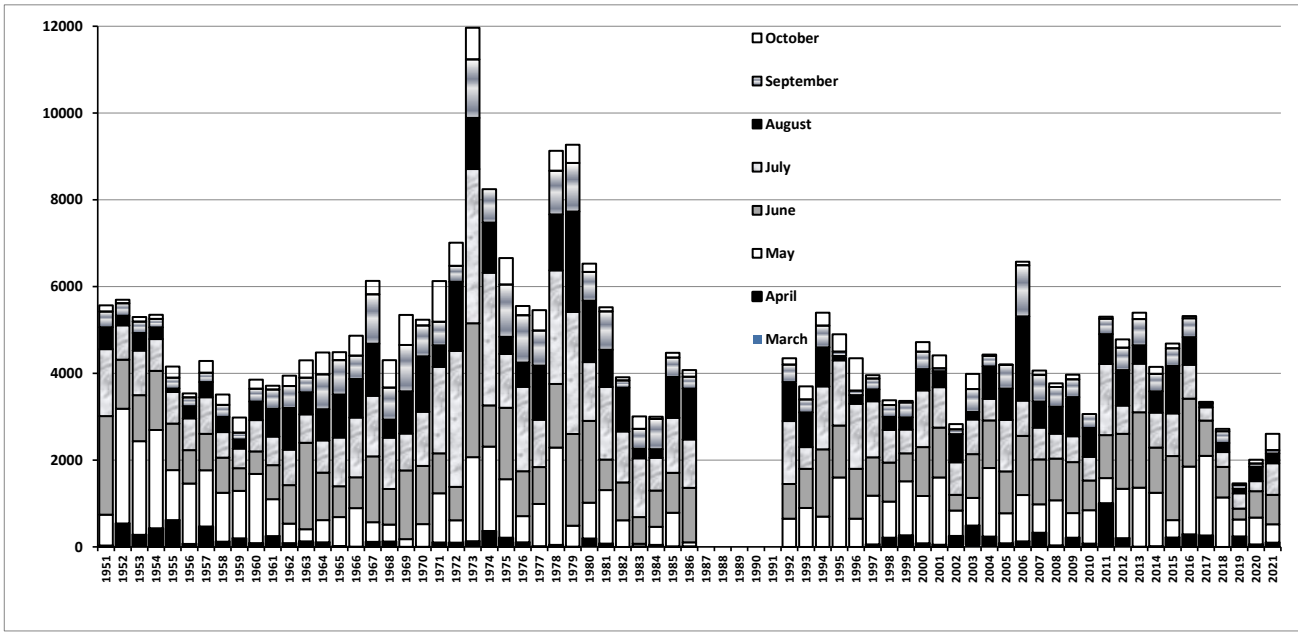


Figure 5. *Monthly net upstream counts, Pitlochry Dam, 1951 to 2020, with 2021 public display data uncorrected for droppers. (Data courtesy of the late Michael Gardner, David Stewart, Ross Gardiner and SSE)*

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

The Board commenced two initiatives in 2021 to raise the profile of its work and the River Tay in general.

New Website

It was recognized that the Board's existing website www.tdsfb.org was now slightly dated. As the Tay Rivers Trust were of the same opinion regarding their website, both organisations decided that a joint website under the umbrella title of Tay Rivers would be most effective in promoting their work in the Tay catchment.

Following a tendering process, Castabroad Media of Stirling were commissioned to produce the website, which was funded by both the Board and the Trust.

The new website went live in November 2021. It can be found at www.tayrivers.org/.



Marketing and Publicity Contractor Engaged

In order to further raise the profile of the Board and the Trust, a marketing / publicity specialist was engaged in August. Anne Woodcock who also works for Fishpal, was contracted to work one day a week and has been particularly active in developing the new www.tayrivers.org/ website and social media presence. Once these media are fully functional Anne intends to further develop the Board and Trust's messages and messaging and then promotional and fundraising events.

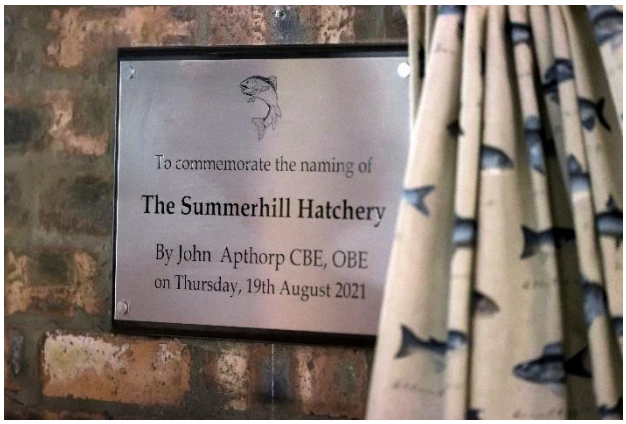


SUMMERHILL HATCHERY NAMED IN HONOUR OF JOHN APTHORP CBE OBE

Members of the Board and the Tay Rivers Trusts welcomed honorary Board member, Mr John Apthorp CBE, OBE, and guests to the hatchery for a very special event on 19 August.

In recognition of the generous financial support from Mr Apthorp over many years the hatchery has now been named The Summerhill Hatchery in his honour. Without Mr Apthorp's generosity over many years, contributing to building work, equipment and operational costs, the Board would not be operating this unique facility today. The Board owes Mr Apthorp a tremendous debt of gratitude, so it was really fitting he was able to name the Summerhill Hatchery after his house in Perthshire.







Photos by Graeme Hart, Perthshire Picture Agency.

TAY DISTRICT RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021

The new Board's top priority on being elected was to formulate a river management plan and seek its approval from proprietors and other interested stakeholders. Given the background of Covid-19 and its severe effect on fishing lettings, the initial focus was to produce a plan to get through this first challenging year. The longer term proposal is to produce a more ambitious three year plan which will straddle the first year following the next triennial Board election.

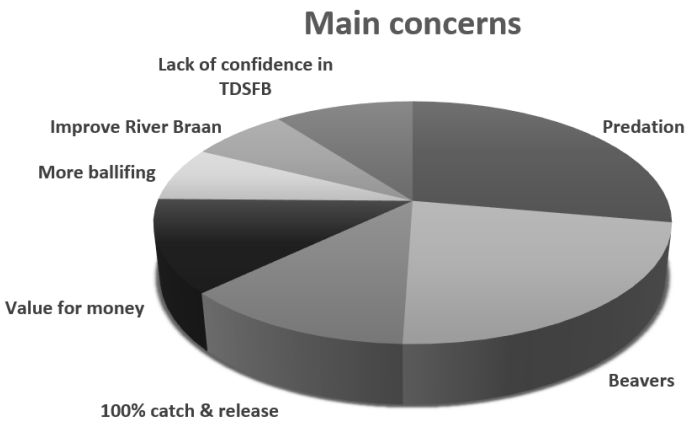
To start the process, new members were provided with background on issues and the Board's previous priorities from, the Board's Director, the Operations Manager and the SISI project officer over a series of online evening seminars during the Covid lockdown. This unexpected aspect of the covid pandemic allowed new Board members to gain background information never practically possible before.

The initial 2021 plan was agreed by June. As stated, recognizing the severe financial impact of Covid, the Board sought to strike a balance in this first year between aspiration and cost, keeping the assessment as low as possible. Delivery of the Plan also involves the Tay Rivers Trust, our closest partner.

The plan detailed the Board's proposed work for 2021 on the Tay, Earn and Eden. Two types of actions were identified; "direct" actions where the Board can take the initiative and lead a project and "indirect" actions where the Board's role is to influence other organisations with whom decision making power lies, usually other statutory bodies such as SEPA.

The plan was circulated among proprietors and online to the wider public who were invited to comment on the specific issues proposed.

Of 218 proprietors consulted, 33 responses (15%) were received from proprietors or their agents. Another 8 responses were received from anglers. Of those proprietors who did respond, 90% agreed with the plan, 6% disagreed and 4% were undecided. Some areas of specific concern were raised. These are shown below.



The plan can be accessed at www.tayrivers.org/current-projects/

HOW IS YOUR ASSESSMENT CALCULATED?

Roy Christie
Tayside Valuation Joint Board

General Background

District Salmon Fishery Board assessments are based on valuations of fishings as assessed by the local Assessor. Although salmon fishings are excluded from non-domestic rates by Section 151 of the local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and have been since 1 April 1995, the same provision enables district salmon fishery boards to require the Assessor to value and enter any rights of salmon fishing in the valuation roll for the purposes of fishery assessments only.

Net Annual Value

The Assessor is required to produce a net annual value for each fishing, essentially an estimate of the amount of rent achievable for each fishing right. This estimate of rent is determined as follows.

Information Requested to assist with Analysis

The Assessor writes to each riparian owner at each revaluation and asks for rents paid and associated information together with details of catch figures for a five year period. For the 2017 revaluation, catch figures are those for the years 2010-2014. Rents around the tone date of 1 April 2015 for the 2017 revaluation are those that are sought as prime evidence. However, any rental information within a reasonable time before the tone date may be used by the Assessor in the analysis.

The Assessor asks for the five-year annual catch of salmon and grilse and sea trout to work out the average catch in the five years immediately preceding the tone date. The five years immediately before this date are used on the assumption that the tenant will base the bid for rent in the knowledge of the potential to catch fish in the period closest to the date on which the rent is agreed.

For the next revaluation, which will come into effect from 1 April 2023, the tone date is 1 April 2022.

Analysis Process

The Assessor carries out an analysis by determining, arithmetically for each rent, the rate per fish. This is achieved by dividing each fishings' rent by the relevant five year average number of fish caught on the let subject. Salmon and Grilse are taken at unity; sea trout at one-quarter. The rate per fish derived in the analysis will indicate a general rate per fish to be applied in the valuation, either to the river, river system or certain parts of a river system.

Summary

It can be seen therefore that available rental and catch information is utilised at each revaluation to generate a rateable value for each salmon fishing right, which is then entered in the Valuation Roll. Separately, the Board subsequently agrees a rate of so many pence in the pound to apply to each entry in the Valuation Roll. It does this by setting a budget and applying the necessary rate to the total rateable value of the district to achieve that budgeted figure. Currently the total rateable value for the Tay District is £996,470 and the assessment rate is 46%.

RIVER GARRY FLOW RESTORATION MONITORING

As described in previous *Annual Reports*, flow was restored to the formerly dry part of the River Garry in 2017. An adaptive management plan for the restoration of salmon has been put in place between the SEPA, SSE and the Board. A central part of the plan is to pump-prime the salmon population by stocking eggs from the Board's hatchery. A parallel monitoring plan has also been agreed to determine the effect of stocking and establish how fast natural colonization occurs.

In 2021, electrofishing was again conducted at 11 sites on the main river and the Allt Glas Choire tributary. The four uppermost sites on the main river and the three Glas Choire sites are all stocked (Figures 6 & 7).

In 2021, salmon fry densities were again high at all of the stocked Garry sites with the exception of just downstream of Garry Intake. It is thought that a fine sediment scouring operation which SSE had to undertake at the intake may have contributed to that outlying result. Fry were found to be present at their maximum level at the uppermost Glas Choire site, might reflect reduced competition because no stocking was undertaken there in 2020 when deep snow precluded access.

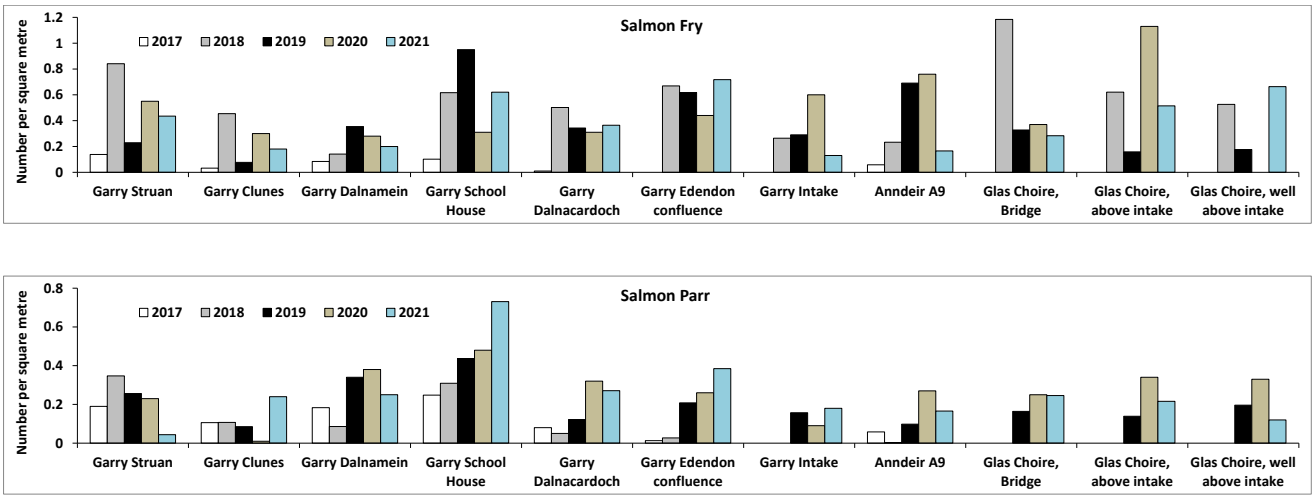
Fry densities were average at the three unstocked mainstem sites but more noticeably lower at the unstocked Anndeir tributary site (Figure 6).

In 2021, peak or near peak densities of parr were observed at all of the stocked main stem sites and one of the stocked Glas Choire sites (Figure 7). The reduced parr density at the upper Glas Choire site was a result of no eggs having been stocked there in 2020. Parr densities were also good at all the unstocked sites, with the exception of Struan, the site furthest from the stocked areas.

This picture of broadly increasing salmon densities has been complicated by a change in growth rates, shown very clearly by length frequency distributions of fish caught at the Schoolhouse site (Figure 8). In 2018, the first year of full stocking, there were clearly two year classes present. Over time, they have separated out into three year classes and the median length of each age group has reduced.

Thus, after four years of stocking, the population in the four km below Garry Intake and in the Glas Choire would seem to have settled into an equilibrium with a dense population of juveniles, many now smolting after three years. This is, of course, a common scenario in Scottish highland rivers.

A second aspect of the project is to differentiate between stocked and wild juveniles and assess the rate of natural recolonization. Researchers at the University of the Highlands and Islands extract DNA from each of the broodstock. This means that DNA from juveniles caught in the river will reveal whether they are stocked or wild. In autumn 2021, for the fourth year in a row, approximately 800 juveniles were sampled. To date, UHI have produced preliminary results for the first two years of sampling (2018 and 2019), with 2020 results expected in early 2022.



Figures 6 & 7. *Densities of age 0+ salmon fry (top) and age 1+ salmon parr (bottom) found by quantitative electrofishing at standard sites in the River Garry, 2017 – 2021.*

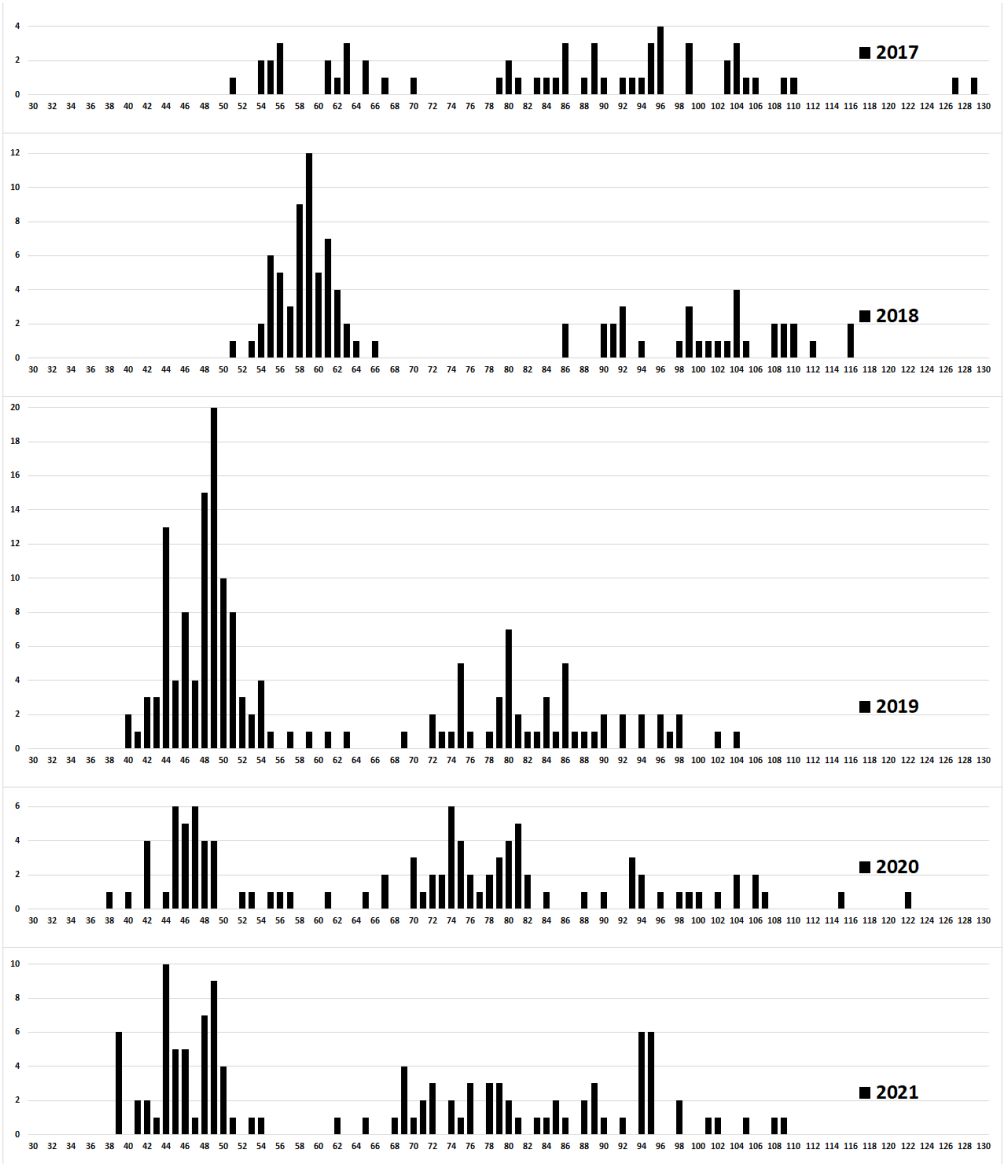
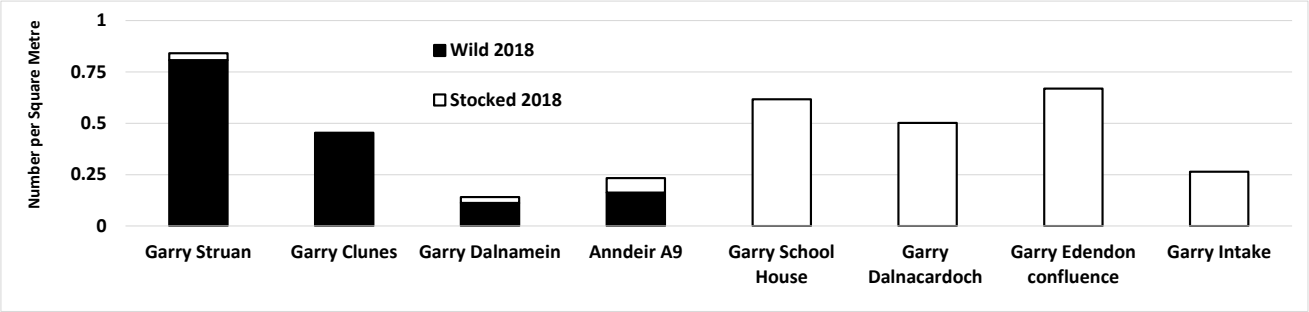
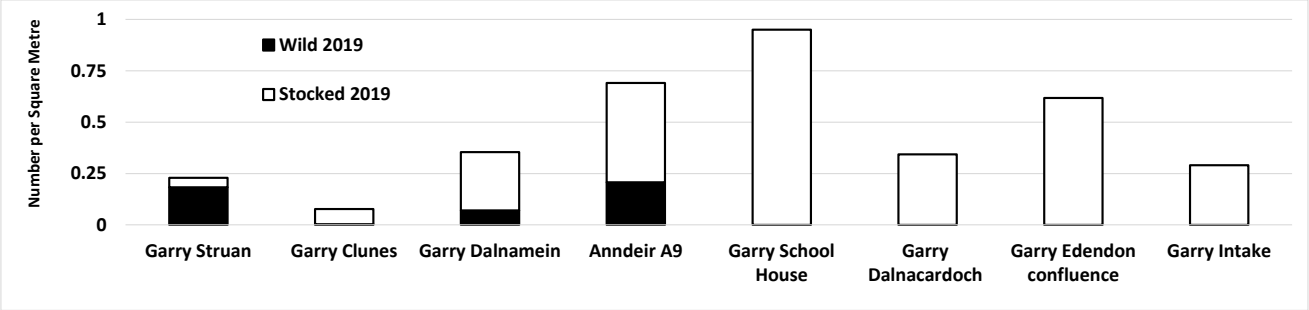


Figure 8. *Length frequencies of juvenile salmon caught in each year, 2017 – 2021, at the School House site, River Garry.*

Adjusting the electrofishing densities from 2018 and 2019 with the genetics results, reveals that all of the fry in the stocked reaches of the Garry were from the hatchery (Figure 9). In 2018, almost all fish in unstocked areas were wild. In 2019, there were considerably less wild fry following the 2018 drought and, while there appeared to have been more dispersal of stocked fry into the unstocked areas, their numbers did not make up for the reduced wild numbers. In 2019 and 2020, more wild adults were seen spawning in the river, so this pattern may change, particularly from 2023 on when much larger numbers of spawners should return.





Figures 9 & 10. *Densities of age 0+ salmon fry found by quantitative electrofishing at standard sites in the River Garry, 2018 (top) and 2019 (bottom) assigned to "wild" and "stocked" on basis of UHI genetics analyses.*

The early results from this work are clearly encouraging. It shows that:

- The Garry and Glas Choire with their restored flows, even after a dry hot summer, when levels got really low, are capable of holding a dense population of juvenile salmon.
- Stocking with eyed ova, progeny of reconditioned kelts, has been successful in generating a dense juvenile population.
- A saturated population has been achieved by stocking up to 250,000 eggs over four km of main river, equivalent to less than 5 eggs per square metre. This is not that many eggs and would suggest approximately only 150 wild spawning females salmon might be enough to adequately populate the main stem of the river.
- In due course, once more wild adults spawn, stocking can be tapered off and the genetic analyses will reveal whether the 150 females prediction is correct or whether the eggs of wild spawners suffer more losses than those fertilised and protected in the hatchery.

This work is funded by SSE plc.

MARINE SCOTLAND'S RIVER GRADING METHODOLOGY

The Board is asked how rivers are graded annually by Marine Scotland. For information, the basic steps are outlined below.

The central concept is that the number of salmon eggs deposited in each river is compared against a target number of eggs that should be exceeded.

The main steps in this process are:

1) Marine Scotland Science use a mathematical model to estimate the numbers of fish which enter those rivers which do not have fish counters on them from the reported catches of salmon. The model is based on a comparison between catches and counts in those few rivers which do have counters, taking account of issues such as flow.

2) The number of returning salmon is converted to numbers of females of each sea-age. This is based mainly on national information on the sea age and sex of fish, mainly historic.

3) Numbers of females are then converted into numbers of eggs laid every year, again mainly from historic fecundity studies.

There is clearly a lot of possibility for error in the steps above, but improvements could be made with local data on sea age and fecundity.

4) The egg requirement for each river is estimated by a mathematical extrapolation from those few rivers with fish counters where a relationship between spawner numbers and the next generation has been estimated.

5) The number of eggs laid is then compared with the egg requirement. This is done for a five year period, resulting in the following grades:

- *Grade 1.* At least an average (mean) chance of 80% that the egg requirement has been met over the past 5 years.
- *Grade 2.* An average chance of 60-80% that the egg requirement has been met over the past 5 years.
- *Grade 3.* An average chance of less than 60% that the egg requirement has been met over the past 5 years. **Grade 3 requires Scottish Government implement mandatory catch and release.**

In this district Marine Scotland performs this exercise separately for the Tay (including its tributaries), the Earn and the Eden. In 2021, the Tay was estimated to be at 88.28% (Grade 1), the Earn 55.62% (Grade 3 (just)) and the Eden 24.44% (Grade 3). Compared to Scotland's other big rivers the Tay compares favourably (Dee 89.04%, Spey 84.68%, Tweed 94.9%).

Further information can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/salmon-fishing-proposed-river-gradings-for-2022-season/ .

SCOTTISH INVASIVES SPECIES INTIATIVE

Mark Purrman Charles
Esk and Tay SISI Project Officer

As laid out in the report from last season, SISI's target for 2021 was to consolidate/continue control of invasive non-native species (INNS) from Loch Rannoch and Loch Tay upstream, to Kinclaven downstream. That included the entirety of the Tummel and a significant part of the main stem of the Tay.

Tummel: Three target control species – Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed and American skunk cabbage. The main areas of concern on the Tummel continue to be the Japanese/Himalayan knotweed at Kinloch Rannoch and the Japanese knotweed/American skunk cabbage on the Moulin Burn running through Pitlochry. Control at both locations has gone well, with significant reductions in infestation (>90%). These sites are no longer upstream sources of spread. Other control sites include the Killiecrankie, Tomdachoille and Ballinluig areas, with numerous areas of smaller clean-up work. Overall, the situation on the Tummel is in hand, however, given the very difficult terrain in certain areas, it is hard to confirm INNS presence/lack of presence, so monitoring will continue along the whole section.

Upper Tay: Two target control species – Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed. For Japanese knotweed, primary areas of focus are Kenmore, Aberfeldy area, Grantully and Haugh of Ballechin. Japanese knotweed is the more established problem and there are numerous other small and medium sized outbreaks under ongoing management too. For Giant hogweed, the main focus has been to bring the upstream source at Camserney/Farleyer under control and then treat large outbreak areas at Killiechassie, Edradynate and Haugh of Ballechin. These sites have now had two years of management and are no longer sources for further spread, so a wider outbreak of hogweed on the Upper and Middle Tay has been prevented. Despite this significant improvement in the situation, the hogweed sites will need to be monitored and controlled for a least 5 more years, otherwise the seed bank will undo all our hard work. While the knotweed sites have improved much quicker and more permanently due to lack of seeding, the situation is still not entirely under control and there are a few sites we have not been able to begin work on yet. There is still a significant amount of work to be done on the Upper Tay to make sure we change things permanently, however, over the last few years we've taken a major step in the right direction, with sites like Aberfeldy Golf Course going from needing 21.5 hours of control and 2L of chemical in 2020 to needing 2.7 hours and 0.25L in 2021, for example. We now need to make sure we follow through and finish the job of sorting out the Upper Tay.

Middle Tay: Two target control species – Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed. As we move further downstream the severity of the problem with Japanese and Himalayan knotweed gets worse, however, this is also where we have seen the most significant gains. At all our major control sites for both species – Kinnaird, Dalguise, Dalmarnock, Dunkeld, Newtyle, Murthly, Caputh and Gellyburn – we have seen absolutely huge improvements. For example, at Dalmarnock, we've managed to get from 81 hours of control and 17.2L of chemical in 2020, to 9 hours of control and 0.625L this year. At Dunkeld we've gone from 60 hours and 12.1L in 2019, to 4 hours and 0.4L in 2021. There are similar

figures for many of these sites and the turnaround has been stunning. It has taken a monumental effort from a combination of people to achieve this. There are also sites such as Kinnaird where the scale of the problem was so huge, we have still not got to all the affected areas with treatment having to be split over multiple years to get complete initial control. Despite this, the Middle Tay section between Logierait and Kinclaven is shaping up very well and results have been so good it has allowed us to begin new control in new areas like on the Ericht at Blairgowrie. Work will continue next year on all these sites, and I expect things to continue to improve at a rapid pace.

Overall, our strategy to bring the Tummel, Upper Tay and Middle Tay under control has gone better than we could have hoped. Across all target species and control locations we have seen phenomenal improvement and it is clear our strategy is working and working well. It is vital that these three sections be brought under permanent control (with eventual complete eradication of target species), as that unlocks everything else downstream in the Tay catchment, from the Ericht, to the Almond, to the Earn and Eden. There have been countless attempts at invasive plant control that have resulted in failure in Scotland and the wider UK, and I am determined that we break the trend get it right here on the Tay. I would like to thank everyone who has worked with me over the last few years to get us to this point, this only works if we all work together. I look forward to working with you all again in the coming season and hopefully working with more of you as we start to take on new areas.

I would also like to thank our network of mink volunteers who have caught 35 mink this year. These captures make a real difference in protecting native biodiversity and play a significant role in blocking mink travelling up further to the north east.



Successful control of Japanese knotweed at Dunkeld. As it was in 2019 (left) and 2021 (right).



American skunk cabbage by the Moulin Burn, Pitlochry, in 2018 (left) and 2021 (right).



Giant hogweed at Killiechassie in 2020 (left) and 2021 (right)

AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2013

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013, placed a number of new duties on DSFBs relating to openness and accountability. It requires that the *Annual Report* should include:

1) A summary of what the board has done in carrying out its statutory functions during the year to which the report relates.
2) A summary of what the board propose to do in carrying out those functions in the following year.
3) Information about complaints made to the Board during the year, including: the number of complaints; and a statement of the nature of each complaint and how it was disposed of.
4) A statement as to how the Board have complied during the year with the good governance requirements and propose to comply with those requirements in the following year.

Point 1) has been covered by the main body of this report. 2) The same areas of work described in this report will continue into 2022 as described in the current Tay River Plan (see www.tayrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-River-Plan.pdf). A new three year plan for the period 2022 – 2024 will be developed in early 2022. In addition to continuing to cover the same areas, the new plan is likely to expand work into new environmental areas.

Regarding point 3), at the time of writing (December 2021), one complaint was received in 2021. As the complaint was against the Clerk, indirectly involving the Convener, it was considered by a subcommittee of the Board under Stage 2 of the Board's complaints procedure. As the subcommittee did not uphold the complaint and the complainer wished to pursue the complaint further, it was considered at Stage 3 by the full Board, chaired by a separate Board member who had not previously been involved in the process. The complainer was given opportunity to present its case to the Board. However, the Board did not uphold the complaint.

Details of the complaint and the Board's handling of it were supplied to Marine Scotland which confirmed it considered the Board had followed best practice.

New governance requirements

The Act placed a number of governance requirements on DSFBs, as indicated in point 4) above.

Meetings

Because of the ongoing Covid-19 situation, all Board meetings in 2021 were held online using Zoom. Members of the public were able to attend all Board meetings by arrangement with the Clerk, although some items of business which considered staffing issues or confidential information about stakeholders were taken in private. The Annual Public Meeting was also held along the same lines.

The Annual Meeting of Proprietors will also be held using Zoom and will also be open to the public over Zoom by prior arrangement with the Clerk.

This arrangement for meetings will continue until such time as in-person meetings resume when members of the public will be able to attend as observers as before.

The dates and details of forthcoming meetings can also be found at www.tayrivers.org/reports/ .

Once approved at the next meeting, the minutes of Board meetings are published at www.tayrivers.org/reports/ where they will continue to be published. Hard copies can also be obtained from the Clerk on request.

Annual Report and Accounts

The *Annual Report* with accounts for 2019/20 was published at www.tayrivers.org/reports/ and hard copies were sent to all qualified proprietors in the district and a copy sent to Scottish Ministers. This report and subsequent *Annual Reports* will also be published on the same basis and a copy will be sent to Scottish Ministers.

Complaints procedure

The Board has set up and maintains a complaints procedure which can be viewed at www.tayrivers.org/policies/ .

Board members' interests

The Board has set up a register of members interests. This can be viewed on request at the Board's office. We have included a standing item at each Board meeting inviting Board members to declare new/amend existing interests and all such instances are recorded in the minutes of these meetings.

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

DRAFT

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Proprietors within the Tay District held in terms of Section 44(1) of the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 held virtually on Zoom on Tuesday, 8th December 2020.

Present:
Iain McLaren (Convener)
Simon Furniss
David Godfrey
Bob Mason
Claire Mercer Nairne
Jim Perrett
Alastair Riddell
Wattie Barbour
Edward Eadie
David Farmer
Francis Jennings
Lorna Lyle
Toby Metcalfe
Gordon Nichol
Joe O'Donnell
James Osbourne
Mark Parkes
Mike A W Smith
Patrick Steuart Fothringham
Thomas Steuart Fothringham
Duncan Twigg
Bobby White

In Attendance:
Dr. David Summers, Fisheries Director
Inga MacGillivray, Clerk to the Board
Craig Duncan, Hatchery Manager/Fisheries Officer
Steve Mannion
Dennis Poole
Alex Stewart
Allister Wallace
Iain Wood

Apologies:
Tom Monaghan
Andrew Parrott

IMacG welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained some Zoom housekeeping rules and introduced item one on the Agenda.

1. Welcome from the Convener

The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating the Board had experienced a difficult year with some painful staffing decisions due to COVID pandemic. He thanked the Board staff for their diligence and hoped the following year would improve.

2. Consideration of AGM Minutes held 10th December 2019

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Proprietors were previously circulated in the Annual Report and were taken as read. There were no matters arising, and on a proposal by Allister Wallace, and seconded by Bobby White, were approved.

3. Consideration of 2019 Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019, which were incorporated into the Annual Report, had been circulated and were taken as read.
The Clerk gave a brief overview of the accounts and the main variances year on year.
There were no questions, and on a proposal from Steve Mannion, and seconded by Alex Stewart, the Accounts were approved.

4. Consideration of Annual Report 2019/20

The Annual Report 2019/20 had been previously circulated and was taken as read and on a proposal by Allister Wallace and seconded by Claire Mercer Nairne was approved.

5. Presentation on work of the Board during 2020 and beyond

Dr. David Summers gave an overview of the events during 2020 highlighting the following areas:

COVID-19

Dr. Summers explained the effects of the pandemic on angling activities and Board staffing.

Enforcement

He then went on to explain that the pandemic situation had given rise to an increased number of enforcement cases for the Board.

Hatchery/Kelt Reconditioning Project

Dr Summers thanked John Apthorp for his very generous donation during the year and explained that the hatchery had produced and stocked just over a million eggs in the year.

Restoration Stocking

He went on to explain the concept of restoration stocking, with particular reference to the River Garry. He explained the relationship between the Board, SSE and UHI in carrying out the project, and the ongoing analysis of the Garry, and stated there would be a full report in the following weeks.

Smolt Trapping Project

Dr. Summers explained that the project had been abandoned for 2020 due to COVID restrictions and furloughing of staff and that this was the case for other rivers.

He explained the project was a collaboration with the Board, the Tay Rivers Trust and Marine Scotland.

Fish Passage

He went on to state that the Mill of Ross Weir above Comrie had been used to divert water to a fish farm, although the fish farm had not operated for several years. There was a narrow fish pass on the weir which was not sufficient to accommodate all of the flow much of the time. During high water in early 2020, the River Earn had breached a new channel around the side of the weir. Dawn Fresh had applied to SEPA to reinstate the weir keeping the existing fish pass. Dr Summers objected to the proposal on the basis that no justification was provided for the fish pass dimensions, which he considered might not fit with established design criteria. Some fish pass consultants had been engaged by the developers as a result, and they had proposed a new pass which would be twice as wide. Dr. Summers emphasized that in the past, the Board had powers over fish passes, but that this had ceased many years ago, and now SEPA held the necessary powers in this area.

Wild Salmon Strategy

Dr. Summers gave thanks to Simon Dryden, a previous Scottish Government official, for instigating awareness in Government of the wild salmon emergency. In January 2020, Fisheries Management Scotland held a Wild Salmon Summit at Holyrood which was well attended by Boards, salmon experts and MSPs. A Wild Salmon Strategy group has now been formed by Scottish Government with a view to producing a national Wild Salmon Strategy, which the new Tay board will need to feed into.

Key Messages from the Tay

Dr. Summers explained that the Board has little power on its own. The Board often cannot force people to change their actions but needs to influence other bodies to effect change. He stressed this can only be achieved if the Board is a credible entity. He stated he was aware of disgruntled proprietors and anglers in the Tay catchment but reinforced the fact the Board had limited power and had to remain credible in order to influence external agencies such as SEPA, SSE, NatureScot and Scottish Government.

6. Any Other Business

Stocking policy and important Tay projects

Toby Metcalfe thanked Dr. Summers for his presentation and asked whether he could give more information on the Scottish Government's stocking policy and the possibility of bringing important Tay projects further up the agenda.

Dr. Summers replied there was to be a stocking consultation meeting on Monday 14th December 2020 with Marine Scotland and that he would feed into this the following day.

As to projects, Dr. Summers stated he had been encouraged to outline potential projects with significant impact by a former Marine Scotland official in 2019. One idea was that of trapping and trucking salmon over the falls on the River Braan. The project would require some support if it was ever to be authorized.

The other issue Dr. Summers was keen to pursue was the lack of productivity on the Lyon compared to other places, which was heavily regulated by hydro dams. He stated that Marine Scotland Science was showing interest in nutrient restoration and that this could prove a useful project.
Another project to be looked at was trapping and trucking smolts past dams on the River Tummel, but practical solutions would have to be found.

Pheromones and Russian Salmon

Duncan Twigg asked whether pheromones played a part in a salmon's homing instinct, to which Dr. Summers replied it could do as salmon did appear to be able to detect pheromones.
Mr. Twigg also asked what impact the Russian salmon were having on Scottish stock, to which Dr. Summers replied that pink salmon had a two year cycle but he hadn't heard of them being an issue this year.

Tay Rivers Trust

Dennis Poole congratulated the Board on what it had achieved in what must have been a difficult year. He then asked who the TRT were.
Dr. Summers explained that the Tay Rivers Trust was formerly known as the Tay Foundation and had close links to the Board but this relationship required further clarification. The intended work on this had been somewhat hampered by COVID-19. He went on to explain that the Trust had purchased the Almondbank site in February 2020, aided by a generous donation from John Apthorp.
Mr. Poole then asked what was happening regarding the road repairs, to which Dr. Summers replied there had been a residents meeting about 18 months ago and due to COVID things had not progressed very quickly. He stated that the Board and Trust were keen to work with the residents.

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

DRAFT

Triennial Election of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board held under the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 held virtually on Zoom on Tuesday, 8th December 2020.

Attendees

As per AGM attendee List 8th December 2020

Note on Triennial Election Procedure 2020

Due to the COVID pandemic in 2020, the election process was altered to include electronic voting via email. This was in line with Fisheries Management Scotland guidance.

Under normal circumstances, voting papers may be returned at the triennial election meeting, and indeed, candidates may put themselves forward for election at the meeting. This was not possible in 2020 as the meeting was held via Zoom. Therefore, the outgoing Board decided to include emailed voting slips prior to the meeting and candidate nominations were also agreed ahead of time by asking for nominations by a prescribed date.

The Clerk emailed details of meeting, voting slips and instructions to most of the Tay proprietors, posting those without email addresses. A list of all candidates and a resume for each was posted on the website. All votes were gathered ahead of the meeting, with none being cast during.

Triennial Election Minutes

The Clerk thanked the outgoing Board for their contribution over the last three years. The Board then stood down from their positions.

The Clerk explained to the attendees that the outgoing Board had prescribed two lower proprietors and five upper proprietors to make up the Board. She asked if everyone was in agreement to the proposal. There were no dissenters and the proposal was therefore adopted.

The Clerk then conducted the election for the two Lower proprietor places. Two nominations had been received: David Godfrey (Mandate for the Tay Salmon Fisheries Co.) and Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council Representative). David Godfrey and Andrew Parrott were appointed with no votes from the floor.

The Clerk asked for votes for the five upper proprietor places. Ten candidates had been nominated: Simon Furniss (Mandate for Dunkeld House), Bob Mason (Mandate for PDAA Logierait), Iain McLaren (Mandate for Kinnaird), Claire Mercer Nairne (Meikleour), Toby Metcalfe (Mandate for Crown Estate Scotland), Joe O'Donnell (Mandate for Taymount), Jim Perrett (Mandate for Drummond Foundation), Alastair Riddell (North Chesthill), Michael Smith (Mandate for Burnmouth) and Bobby White

(Mandate for Stanley Fishings). There were no votes from the floor, so she announced the successful candidates from the pre-sent mandated votes. The successful candidates were Iain McLaren, Alastair Riddell, Michael Smith, Bobby White and Toby Metcalfe.

The new Board was asked to remain on Zoom for a quick meeting, and the meeting was then closed to the public and other proprietors.

Votes cast

The full list of results was delayed due to legal clarification being sought on a GDPR issue. Once the issue was clarified, the results were announced in the 2021 Newsletter and on the website. The results were as follows:

<u>Lower Proprietors:</u>

David Godfrey (Mandate for the Tay Salmon Fisheries Co.)	16 votes
Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council Representative	8 votes

<u>Upper Proprietors:</u>

Alastair Riddell (North Chesthill)	47 votes
Toby Metcalfe (Mandate for Crown Estates)	44 votes
Iain McLaren (Mandate for Kinnaird)	39 votes
Bobby White (Mandate for Stanley Fishings)	30 votes
Michael Smith (Mandate for Burnmouth)	30 votes
Claire Mercer Nairne (Meikleour)	16 votes
Jim Perrett (Mandate for Drummond Foundation)	15 votes
Simon Furniss (Mandate for Dunkeld House)	12 votes
Bob Mason (Mandate for PDAA Logierait)	9 votes
Joe O'Donnell (Mandate for Taymount)	4 votes

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PROPRIETORS OF SALMON FISHERIES IN THE TAY DISTRICT

In accordance with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003, section 44, we have audited the financial statements of Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (the 'Board') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the proprietors of Salmon Fisheries in the Tay District as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Board's proprietors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the proprietors, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of duly elected and duly co-opted board members

Section 44 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003 require the Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Board and of the income and expenditure of the Board for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Board's proprietors are required to:

i select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
ii make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
iii prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Board will continue in business.

The Board's proprietors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Board and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003. It has general responsibility for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Board and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Board's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Board members; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Board's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Alan Taylor (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Statutory Auditors
5 Whitefriars Crescent
Perth
Perthshire
PH2 0PA

14th December 2021

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTES	£	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME				
Fishery Assessments	2		356,839	485,247
Revaluation Appeals			(52,912)	(10,000)
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Income			52,825	-
			356,752	475,247
NEPS/Garry Project/Flume			21,957	60,785
Compensation Received (SSE)			7,868	7,444
Tay Rivers Trust – Hatchery Donation			43,698	-
Consultancy			360	360
SISI Project			1,358	582
			431,993	544,418
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & National Insurance		237,982		218,794
Pension & Death in Service- Board's Contribution		32,597		27,515
Recruitment & Training		-		984
Employee/Board Expenses		365		219
Road Maintenance		3,680		21,500
Bank Charges		104		200
Motor Cars & Boats Running Costs, incl Insurance		20,529		27,366
Rent, Rates & General Insurance		60,625		46,987
Heat & Light		11,669		19,902
Consultancy Fees		-		900
Repairs & Maintenance - General		3,078		9,166
Telephone & Communications		6,394		7,366
Printing, Stationery, Postage & Advertising		3,385		4,274
Annual Report Costs		590		706
Meetings & Other Statutory Costs		576		2,609
Ghillies Lunch & Meeting		488		709
Legal Fees		385		1,995
Audit & Accounts Fees		3,392		2,180
Depreciation		15,228		19,651
Subscriptions & Levies		14,178		17,125
IT Costs		1,055		1,942
Health & Safety Implementation incl Clothing		6,001		6,438
Hatchery Running Costs		45,202		75,702
Project Work		-		131
Websites		9,517		8,909
Opening Day		450		654
Garry Project		4,725		34,000
Bad Debts, Changes to Provision for Doubtful Debts etc		-		2,503
			482,195	560,427
			(50,202)	(16,009)
Gain on Sale of Fixed Assets			-	-
			(50,202)	(16,009)
Interest Received	3		-	677
			(50,202)	(15,332)
Surplus (Loss) for the year			(50,202)	(15,332)

The notes on pages 45 and 46 form part of these accounts.

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTES	£	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets	4		71,832	85,218
			71,832	85,218
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors & Prepayments		221,191		240,583
Cash at Bank & In Hand		245,304		399,065
Stock		5,018		-
		471,513		639,648
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Other Creditors & Accruals		130,025		261,344
Net Current Assets			341,488	378,304
NET ASSETS			413,320	463,522
Representing:				
Reserves	5		83,434	83,434
General Fund	6		329,886	380,088
			413,320	463,522

These accounts were approved on 14th December 2021

TOBY METCALFE
..... BOARD MEMBER

CLAIRE MERCER NAIRNE
..... BOARD MEMBER

The notes on pages 45 and 46 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The following accounting policies have been applied:

Fixed assets and depreciation

The cost of fixed assets is stated at the net amount after deducting grants available. Donations relating to expenditure on fixed assets are credited to the Profit and Loss Account in the year of receipt, where there are no conditions attaching to the donation.
Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned as follows:

Hatchery	Over term of the lease
Motor vehicles	25% per annum straight line
Boats	25% per annum reducing balance
Plant and Equipment	25% per annum reducing balance
Computer equipment	33.3 % straight line

Taxation

No taxation is provided due to the fact that HM Revenue and Customs has agreed that the Board is not liable for corporation tax.

Death in service scheme

Contributions to the Board's scheme are charged to the Income and Expenditure account in the year in which they become payable.

2 FISHERY ASSESSMENTS

		2020		2019
	Rateable Value	Assessment	Rateable Value	Assessment
	£	£	£	£
Upper Proprietors	1,032,232	356,120	1,051,485	483,683
Lower Proprietors	13,800	4,761	15,117	6,954
	1,046,032	360,881	1,066,602	490,637
Less River Shee		86		115
Estuarial Netting Stations		3,956		5,275
		356,839		485,247

The Assessments are based on 75% of budgeted 46% of Rateable Value (2019 – 46%)

3 INTEREST RECEIVED	2020	2019
	£	£
Bank Interest	-	677
	-	677

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

4 FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Property	Motor Vehicles	Boats	Plant & Equipment	Office and Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost:						
At 1 January 2020	191,468	96,460	42,671	204,970	27,221	562,789
Additions	-	-	-	1,142	700	1,842
At 31 December 2020	191,468	96,460	42,671	206,112	27,921	564,631
Depreciation:						
At 1 January 2020	127,583	90,085	42,617	193,051	24,235	477,571
Charge for Year	6,389	3,188	14	3,007	2,631	15,229
Eliminated for Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	133,972	93,273	42,631	196,058	26,866	492,800
Net Book Amounts:						
At 31 December 2020	57,496	3,187	40	10,054	1,055	71,832
At 31 December 2019	63,884	6,375	54	11,919	2,986	85,218

5 RESERVES

	GENERAL	NASF(UK)	TOTAL
	£	£	£
At 1 January 2020	83,434	-	83,434
Provision in Year	-	-	-
	83,434	-	83,434
Expenditure in Year	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	83,434	-	83,434

6 GENERAL FUND

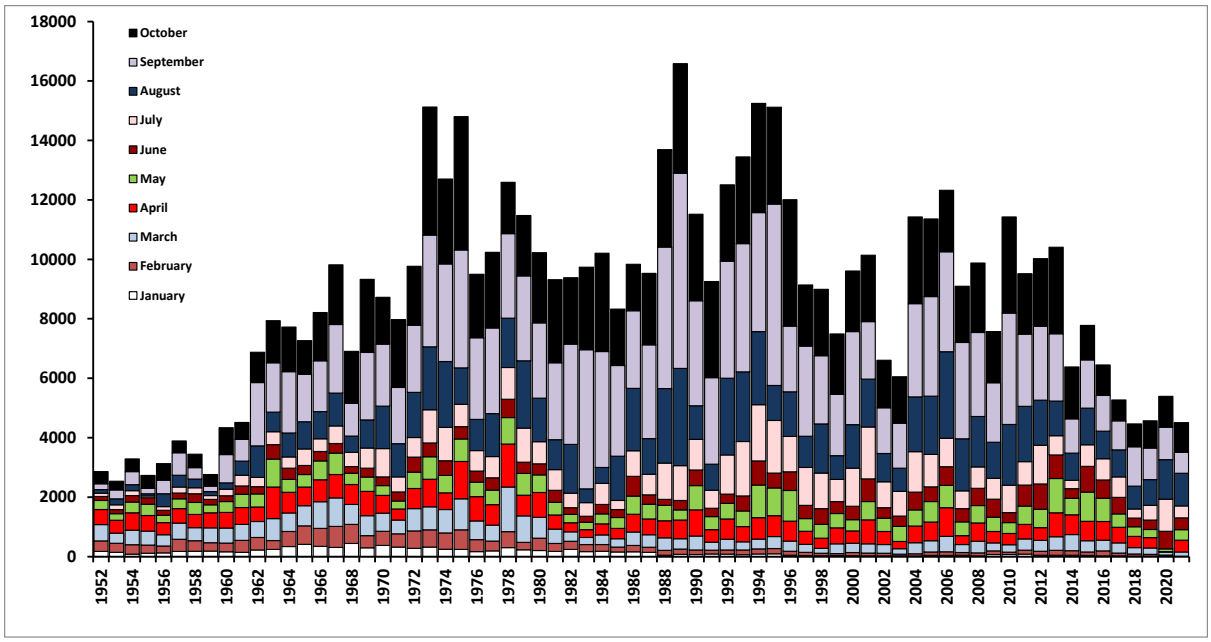
	2020	2019
	£	£
At 1 January 2020	380,088	395,420
Deficit for year	(50,202)	(15,332)
At 31 December 2020	329,886	380,088

7 CAPITAL COMMITMENT

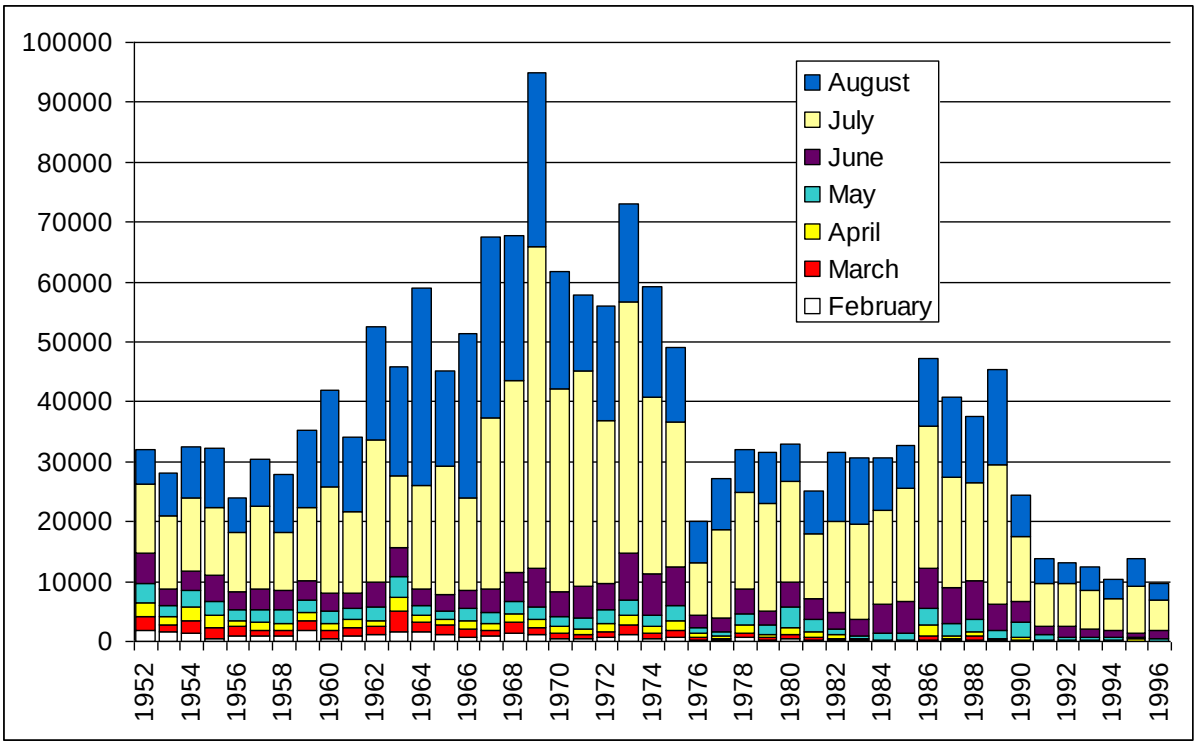
There were no capital commitments as at 31st December 2020.

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, proprietorial members of the Board were invoiced for fishery assessments. These transactions were all at arm's length under normal market conditions.



Monthly angling catch for the Tay District 1952 – 2021 (including released fish). The 1952 – 2010 data used in this graph are Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science, Aberdeen. Marine Scotland is not responsible for interpretation of these data by third parties. 2011 to 2020 data were collected by the Board and 2021 is based on a preliminary analysis of www.fishtay.co.uk catches.



Monthly net and coble catch, Tay District 1952 – 1996 (netting largely ceased in 1996). The data used in this graph are Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science, Aberdeen. Marine Scotland is not responsible for interpretation of these data by third parties.

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE FOR 2020

	9 January	11 February	13 August	23 September	27 October	8 December
I. McLaren	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A. Stewart	-	✓	-			✓
D. Godfrey	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
C. Mercer Nairne	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
S. Mannion	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓
D. Brown	✓	✓	-			-
J. Perrett	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Alastair Riddell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
T. Monaghan	-	✓	-	-	-	-
A Parrott	-	-	✓	-	-	-
C.O'Dea/B Mason	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A. Wallace	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
S. Furniss	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Present - Apologised for non-attendance

Meetings from February to August 2020 were conducted by a reduced COVID team.
Bob Mason took over from Cohn O'Dea as TGA rep from August meeting onwards.

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All Proprietors within the Tay District
John Apthorp CBE, OBE
All Ghillies and Boatmen
All Tay Board Staff
The Tay Rivers Trust
The River Earn Improvement Association
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
The staff of Marine Scotland at:
- Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
- Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory, Pitlochry
- Montrose Research Station

Fisheries Management Scotland
Rivers and Lochs Institute, UHI
Fishlegal
NatureScot
SSE plc
Police Scotland