TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Role of the Board Member

What is the Board?

The Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board is an organisation established under statute; the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2003. While the Board is described in the Act as a committee of an association of proprietors of salmon fisheries, it is actually more than that. The board has public law functions and statutory duties and is open to public scrutiny. It has a legal duty to be open and transparent. The conduct of the Board and its members must fit this status.

Number of board members

The Board consists of two types of members; salmon fishing proprietors (or "mandatories" they may appoint in their place) and co-opted members which are either "representatives of salmon anglers" or "tenant netsmen".

At the recent election of qualified proprietors, 7 proprietor representatives were elected. These 7 elected members will consider applications from potential co-opted members and those selected will be invited to join the board.

Once the full board is in place, board members then elect a Convener from the proprietorial group.

The Board's term is three years.

Board meetings

The Board traditionally meets for five full board meetings per year, plus an Annual Meeting of Proprietors and a short preceding meeting in December. Meetings have traditionally been held on the mornings of the second Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December (October later to avoid the fishing season), although in 2023 the summer meetings were held in the evening to allow ghillies to attend after work. Board meetings tend to last for about two to three hours in general.

The Board's role is to determine policy and oversee the work of the staff and perform other functions as the board sees fit. A Board member's role is not limited to attending meetings but can include involvement in a range of other activities should the Board member wish.

Therefore, the role of a Board Member may be varied and can be time consuming on occasion. However, Board members cannot be paid, except for legitimate expenses if on Board business.

The minutes of board meetings are published on our website (Reports | Tay Rivers) and provide an insight into the type of topics covered.

Responsibilities

The main areas of responsibility as a Board member are as follows:

On election or co-option, you will be expected to sign the Board's adopted "Code of Conduct" which sets out criteria for how you are expected to conduct yourself as a Board member. This, and other policies adopted by the previous board can be found at Policies | Tay Rivers.

We hope to have a Board Member Manual up and running by December which will outline the workings of the Board, which you will be expected to familiarise yourself with.

As a Board member, you would be expected to attend all Board meetings per annum. There are a variety of topics and papers to be discussed at each meeting and you would be expected to familiarize yourself with any papers prior to the meeting and participate in an informed discussion.

You may also be called upon from time to time to take part in sub committee work for the Board.

Further information

If you require further information on becoming a co-opted board member and what is involved, please call Fisheries Director, Dr David Summers on 07974 360787 for an informal chat.