TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION BOARD MEETING
KENMORE 31 MARCH 2026

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1. **Welcome & Introduction** The convenor opened the meeting by welcoming Board members and the general public, stating that this was a "first" for the Board and it would continue to move meetings round the catchment to ensure improved communication.

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2. **Present:** Lorraine Henderson, Convenor (LH), John Nevin (JN), Nick Bossell (NB), Bobby White (BW), Ben Thomson (BT), Bob Mason (BM)

   In addition:

   - key staff attendance: Martin Howarth (MH) Clerk
   - 8 members of public

3. **Apologies:** Iain Wood (IW), Grant Kellie (GK), Andrew Parrot (AP), Iain Law (IL)

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4. **Declarations of Interest / Code of Conduct:** No Change

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5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 February 2026:** There was no comment on the minutes – proposed by Bob Mason and seconded by John Nevin.

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6. **Progress on Action Log:**

   a. Health and Safety: An external agency has done an audit and will report findings shortly (on which the Board will act).
   b. Staff issues: The Board is ensuring that the staff are being kept informed of changes and have the necessary paperwork to ensure they understand their roles an obligations.
   c. WhatsApp group: Any Board member who wishes to be on the WhatsApp Group (Ghillies and Bailiffs) to tell BW.
   d. One Number Telephone: Not covered – M Brown to update **Action: M Brown**
   e. Cooptees:Ben Thompson was introduced as the new Cooptee (Earn). David Rudge has been asked and accepted (Glen Shee)

f. Hatchery Improvement: We intend to audit the hatchery to ensure best practice and that we are employing latest techniques. Bob Kindness (Carron) and Frandy Hatchery have been asked if they would participate by hosting a TDSFB visit to their facilities and then they visit TDSFB. **Action: New Director**

g. Board Members email addresses: Still ongoing **Action: New Office Manager**

h. Annual Public Meeting: We will look at late May, Early June for the meeting, probably in Birnam Institute, where we understand broadband and Teams issues to allow online participants. **Action: BM**

i. Stakeholder Engagement: This meeting is our first step in engaging with stakeholders away from the Hatchery and Perth. This approach will continue with formal board meetings being held in various places in the Catchment and Board Members and Bailiffs tasked with engaging as many stakeholders on the rivers as possible.

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7. **Convenor General Update:** The Convenor then gave an update on:

1. New Board activities, mentioning the lack of formal processes causing difficulties and meaning much Board Member time being consumed with admin tasks.
2. Interfacing and working with TRT. Relationships have been strained due to lack of communication. However the Convenor and NB had met with TRT before the Board meeting and a tentative way forward had been agreed.
3. New staff. Work was ongoing, and well advanced, to bring in a Director replacement and Office Manager. This was a priority to ensure a stable TDSFB structure and good working environment to allow the Board to concentrate on strategic issues.

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7. Operations Manager's Report – Feb/March 2026

a. Salmon in the Classroom

All hatchery visits have now been finished. We've had seven schools visit us this year and the feedback we've had has been very positive. Marek attended at Alyth On Monday 30 March to release alevins with them as they were getting photos taken for a local paper who will be running a small article about the project.

b. Smolt Project

We have the majority of permissions to deploy receivers in place except for SSE's for Pitlochry fish pass - we may not get this due to time constraints.

Colin Adams and Jessica Rodger from University of Glasgow are attending 31 March 10am with the Almond rotary screw trap and receivers. We will deploy as many as we can then.

Both the Errochty and Garry traps are now in place, they are not fishing yet as we are waiting for all receivers to be deployed first.

c. **Baillif Report** – (any reports of Poaching, Court Appearances, number of reports of incidents etc)

A cast net was found on the bank of the Eden at the end of February, the club handed it in to us.

A call out for Ross Pirie on 2nd March from Stewart Godfrey who's a member of the Stormont AC. Four guys spinning their water, by the time Ross got there they moved on.

Davy found a gill net in Blairgowrie opposite Cargill's Leap on 11th March

Weekend of 21st /22nd March - Davy and Ross put three guys off at Almondmouth. They unfortunately missed two poachers in Killin despite being there earlier the same day - a local phoned Davy and filmed them. Both are well known to us, and Ross and Davy are following this up with the Police.

d. Number of Fish Rescues

We've had two contracts in the last few weeks, one for Bear Scotland the other for Scottish Water.

The one for Bear Scotland was a simple assessment of site, with no further action required by TDSFB due to there being no fish present where the works are to take place. It was basically a couple of meters of a concrete ditch next to the A9. We have advised them to install silt traps downstream.

For Scottish Water again this was an initial assessment. There will likely be multiple fish rescues required as the works on the river Isla near Loch Lintrathen are a) quite major and b) take place within the river channel of the Isla.

e. Any other important info

i. New fry tanks in the hatchery - mesh and pipe for filters have arrived.
ii. SSE are in the process of clearing Pitlochry fish pass.

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8. **Health & Safety Report:** See Action Log

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9. **Any Other Business (AOB):**

1. The Convenor stated that the Catchment had numerous organisations that have knowledge and experience of Catchment restoration, These include TDSFB, TRT, TCSA, Bioregioning Tayside etc etc etc. Our aim must be to work in partnership which will not only give the partnership a bigger voice but will also allow us to support projects led by the “best athlete” with regard to contacts and funding.

2. BM covered the SSE meeting regarding smolt screens at Stronuich and also the Stronuich counter which disappeared a few years ago. Also covered was the reporting of fish counts from the Lochay and the lack of a counter on Clunie.

Close of Meeting – Next Meeting 23 June 2026 Venue TBC

With the meeting closed, LH asked for questions from the floor. These included:

1. Rainbow trout in Loch Tay – SEPA has denied any escape happened but has also refused to provide an alternative explanation.
2. Sewage discharge into the Western end of Loch – Killin Club had submitted an FOI for the number of discharges over the year- This had been refused but it was then explained that the EIR process should be used.
3. Stocking. The Killin Club complained about the lack of fish in the Fillan and was stocking an option? The Marine Directorate policy wrt the SAC was explained to them. It was agreed that TDSFB would prioritise electrofishing in the Dochart/Fillan when the electrofishing schedule was being discussed. **Board to note**
4. Killin Club mentioned the difficulty of calling bailiffs to incidents (travel time etc). BM explained the Volunteer Bailiff proposal and would get back them with progress on this. There were issues with boats from Loch Tay Highland Lodges letting boats to visitors and telling them they could fish for what they like. LH took action to write to them reminding them of the legalities involved.

   Action: Convenor

5. Robin Menzies of the Loch Tay Association informed the meeting of their intention to analyse fish, bird and insect populations in 13 positions around the Loch. He would like to extend this to a full analysis of the loch with particular focus on the Fish Farm which had been in position for some 40 years. LH stated she would discuss this with the rest of the Board and contact Robin once that discussion was complete.

   Action: Convenor