

THE LAGGAN & SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT AND REVIEW 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018



Sea Pool, River Laggan

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LAGGAN & SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

ANNUAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST, 2018

AT 10.00AM

GAELIC COLLEGE, BOWMORE, ISLE OF ISLAY

AGENDA

1. Introduction by the Convenor.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Declaration of Financial Interests
4. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th August 2017.
5. Matters arising:-
 - (i) Wild Fisheries Review
 - (ii) Fishery Management Plan
6. Annual Report
7. Accounts:-
 - (i) Approval of Accounts to 31st March 2017.
 - (ii) Review of Draft Accounts to 31st March 2018.
 - (iii) Determination of Fishery Assessment.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Date and Time of next Meeting(s).

LAGGAN & SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST, 2018

FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS (WHICH COMMENCES AT 10AM)

GAELIC COLLEGE, BOWMORE, ISLE OF ISLAY

AGENDA

1. Annual Report and Accounts for y/e 31st March 2018.
2. Any Other Business.

LAGGAN & SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS**

28 AUGUST 2017

AT 10AM

GAELIC COLLEGE, BOWMORE, ISLE OF ISLAY

1 PRESENT

Mr Malcolm Younger (Convenor) - Ardtalla
Mr Shamus Jennings - Laggan
Lord Margadale - Islay
Mr David Gillies - Dunlossit
Mr Niall Colthart

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Roderick Styles (Clerk to the Board)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3 APOLOGIES

Mr Bruno Schroder – Dunlossit
Sir John McTaggart

4. TRI-ANNUAL ELECTIONS

All existing Board Members intimated that they were prepared to stand for re-election. In the absence of any counter proposal it was confirmed that:-

- (i) Malcolm Younger was re-elected as representative for Ardtalla.
- (ii) Shamus Jennings was elected as representative for Laggan Properties Limited.
- (iii) Lord Margadale was elected as representative of Islay Estates Limited.
- (iv) Bruno Schroder was elected as representative of Dunlossit Estates Limited.
- (v) Niall Colthart was elected as angling representative.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that Malcolm Young would fill the post of Convenor.

5. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS

It was established that there were no conflicts of interest in respect of financial interests of Board Members and the Board's activities.

6. MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2016

These were approved without further amendment or comment.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES & RELEVANT TO THIS YEAR

Wild Fisheries Review – the Clerk advised that Scottish Government had deserted Wild Fisheries Review in all of its parts except for the requirement to produce a Fisheries Management Plan and steps taken to preserve Pike. In all probability the vote for Brexit combined with implementation of a nationwide fisheries policy and establishment on the part of Scottish Government's own advisors that effective Wild Fisheries Management would cost the Government between £3 – 6 million per annum and had contributed to their decision to take the matter no further with them sheltering behind the reasoning of having listened to representations made anglers who advised that they could not afford the costs of rod licensing or other methods of funding.

Scottish Government had established the basis of a template for a Fishery Management Plan for all DSFBs to implement but the template had been created before the sudden decision of Scottish Government to abandon the full programme of Wild Fisheries Review in March 2017. The template envisaged the management of all fresh water fish species and was now the subject of revision to take into account the fact that DSFBs are only created by Statute to deal with the management of salmon and sea trout. The template would ultimately be produced, at which point it would be inevitable that Laggan & Sorn DSFB would have to produce, implement and review its own Fishery Management Policy. Part of that Policy would be the establishment of best conservation practices as regards angling and methodology used.

There was much discussion upon what might be done to update the existing Angling Code, but it was pointed out that with the salmon fisheries having been categorised from Category 1 to Category 3, the chances are that much of the control would be exercised by reason of compulsory or advisory catch and release depending upon the categorisation of the fisheries from season to season. Best information suggested that the major factor for review of the categorisation of the river's season by season was on the basis of a rolling previous five year average of Catch Statistic Returns. On that basis, it was possible that Laggan & Sorn would return to Category 3 in season 2018. Board Members decided to keep under review the requirement to produce a Fishery Management Plan once the template was finalised by Scottish Government, with a view to adopting an Angling Code fit for purpose under the circumstances and with reference to River Categorisation from season to season.

8. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN – SEE ABOVE

9. ANNUAL REPORT

This was considered and approved.

10. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

These were considered and approved. After consideration of the Budget and cash in hand at bank, it was agreed that the rate for the forthcoming year would be fixed at £0.21.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Gillies raised the matter of IFM Bailiff Courses which could now be done by postal release. The matter of whether or not qualified Bailiffs could act on the river system was discussed with the Clerk tendering advice to the effect that they could not be employed by or taken on as honorary representative by the DSFB, rather that they continued to be employed by the Estates and bailiff duties incorporated into their existing contracts of employment with their current employer.

The matter of requiring bailiff training has arisen as a consequence of suspicion of illegal fishing and a lack of knowledge as to what to do in the event that those fishing without permission were discovered. Both Lord Margadale and Shamus Jennings thought that this would be a good idea and would speak to their respective staff with a view to investigation whether or not the course would be undertaken.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday, 27 August 2018 at 10am.

There being no other business the Convenor terminated the meeting.

LAGGAN & SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING****28 AUGUST 2017****AT 10AM****Gaelic Colledge, Bowmore, Isle of Islay**

1 PRESENT

Mr Malcolm Younger (Convenor) - Ardtalla
Mr Shamus Jennings - Laggan
Lord Margadale - Islay
Mr David Gillies - Dunlossit
Mr Niall Colthart

3 IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Roderick Styles (Clerk to the Board)

- (i) There being no members of the public in attendance the meeting opened up, it was observed that the Annual Report and Accounts had been considered at the Annual Meeting of the Qualified Proprietors with a recommendation for acceptance. In the absence of any contrary motion the Annual Report and Accounts were referred to, approved and accepted
- (ii) Any Other Business – there being no other business, the meeting closed.
- (iii) Any Other Business – there being no other business, the meeting closed.

Annual Report

Introduction

1. Constitution and Area

The Board for the year comprised:-

Convener	Malcolm Younger (Ardtalla Estate)
Lower Proprietors	Shamus Jennings (Laggan Properties Ltd) Lord Margadale (The Islay Estates Company)
Upper Proprietors	Bruno Schroder (Dunlossit Estates)
Upper Co-optees	Niall Colthard
Lower Coopteers	There are no tenant netsmen

Its main areas of jurisdiction comprise the rivers, burns, watercourses and tidal areas of the Island of Islay.

2. Research and Improvement

In 2001 the Board, instructed that research reports be prepared by Argyll Fisheries Trust on the Juvenile fish populations of the Rivers Laggan and Sorn. As a result of the preparation of that Report the Board agreed to organise with fishery proprietors a scheme of habitat enhancement operations.

3. Staff

The Board employs a Clerk to deal with the administration of the Board's affairs.

4. Objectives

The Board is constituted under the Salmon Fisheries Legislation commencing in the 1860s as subsequently amended and presently stated in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 as amended. The Board is empowered under fisheries legislation to do such Acts as is considers expedient for the protection, enhancement and conservation of stocks of salmon and sea trout and the general protection and enhancement of the island fishery itself.

The Board's principal objectives are therefore to preserve, protect and enhance stocks of migratory salmonids in the Islay catchment and to preserve, protect and enhance the fishery.

The Board's principal objectives as set out above have been significantly widened as a result of the Water Framework Directive, also as a consequence of initiatives and consultations organised by the Scottish Government and in respect of initiatives relating to integrated Catchment management.

5. How the Board Works

The Board is constituted by voluntary non-remunerated members and meets once a year at the what was the Annual General Meeting and which is now the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Annual Public Meeting, at which meetings, the proprietors meet for the purposes of considering the business of the previous year, plans for the forthcoming year and the audited Accounts.

The Board is in the course of undertaking its duty to deal with good governance requirements of the new legislation, but is limited in its ability to do so because of the very small size of its jurisdiction combined with the very limited availability of an economic salmon and sea trout fishery and its limited fund raising capabilities.

6. Funding

The Board under its legislative powers derives its income each year from all proprietors of Salmon fishings on the Island. All assessments are based on rateable value as originally calculated by the Local Authority Assessors for the respective beats and a sum determined by the Board is levied against all salmon fishing proprietors to meet the assessment needed to fund the Board.

7. Constitutional Evolution

The Board has, for many years, comprised a Convener and representatives of lower and upper proprietors.

As a consequence of the new legislation, the public have access to Board meetings.

8. Fishing Methods

One method of salmon and sea trout fishing is operated in the Islay Catchment, being rod and line in the rivers and sea. The current season for salmon and sea trout extends from 25th February to 31st October.

Most of the angling is concentrated on the River Laggan and to a lesser extent on the River Sorn, both being of a spate river nature. However, salmon and sea trout are taken in other smaller burns. Sea trout fishing is also exercised in Gruiniart Bay, Lochindaal and on the east coast of the island.

9. Salmon and Sea Trout Populations

Both salmon and sea trout are anadromous fish - that is to say they spawn and undergo their early lives in freshwater but experience most of their growth at sea. In Scotland, a period of sea growth is prerequisite for the attainment of sexual maturity in hen salmon, but not for cocks, a proportion of which first contribute to the spawning act as mature parr. The dynamics of sea trout populations are more complex in that both sexes may attain sexual maturity while in fresh water. However, this tendency to early maturation is much more strongly developed in cock trout.

Rod and line fisheries for salmon are based upon the interception of sea run adults returning to spawn. The interception usually takes place in rivers of origin but a few fish, especially those entering fresh water many months before spawning, may be caught during the course of temporary excursions into non-native rivers. Exploratory behaviour of this sort is seen to a greater extent in sea trout that may also use non-native fresh and estuarine waters for feeding and over wintering purposes. However, as with salmon, the abundance and timing of spawning migration are the primary factors that determine the availability of sea trout to the fisheries.

The seasonal characteristics of the fisheries vary but the first sea trout and salmon running the rivers can be expected in early June with runs building up through July and August, with later running fish

showing in September and October. There is increasing genetic evidence that the homing behaviour leads to a degree of reproductive isolation among various main groups of fish that may therefore be regarded, for management purposes, as separate self-sustaining populations. Within each population, it is generally found that the higher the sea age the earlier the seasonal date of river entry by Salmon.

10. Marine Pressures/International Impact

It has been known for many years that long-term changes take place in the numbers and seasonal availability of salmon. When such changes take place, their effects tend to be widely felt and there is increasing evidence that alterations in marine climate may lie behind them. The slower fish grow, the more vulnerable they remain. Similarly, the faster fish grow, especially in the spring, the earlier they are likely to mature and return. Because different populations of salmon appear to migrate to different parts of the North Atlantic, the effects of changes in marine climate may differ among the various groups of fish. The result for the fisherman may be a radical alteration, lasting for much of his fishing lifetime, in the numbers and seasonal distribution of the resource available to him. Growth and survival opportunities for salmon are currently poor for much of the North Atlantic. This conclusion is especially true in the North West Atlantic where many of the older sea springers complete their growth cycles.

Current insights into the likely causes of both short and long term changes in the abundance and structure of Atlantic salmon resources are largely based on the work of British, Norwegian and North American scientists as discussed at the regular meetings of the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) Working Group on Atlantic Salmon.

In addition to changes in marine climate, the Working Group has recently drawn attention to other factors such as predation by seals and the side effects of marine fisheries for other species. So far as Islay is concerned, the key requirements during the current lean period are to ensure that smolt production is not limited by lack of spawning adults. The risk of such limitation is greatest for the populations of early running salmon that currently spawn mainly in the upper catchment of the river.

11. Angling Availability

The public can also easily gain access to most beats of the River Laggan at a reasonable price.

12. Water Quality and Riparian Habitat

Clean and well-oxygenated water is obviously of paramount importance in safe guarding fish stocks of all kinds. There is little by way of arable agriculture undertaken on the Island and no industry other than Forestry the Whisky distillery business and renewable energy schemes that would have an adverse impact upon fisheries on the Island. The quality and quantity of water in the rivers and burns sustaining Salmonid populations on the island is believed to be very good.

13. Fish Access

Access to spawning areas is of paramount importance for salmon and sea trout to complete their life cycle successfully. There are few obstructions to fish passage on the rivers Laggan and Sorn. The Board has initiated management operations including removal of difficult obstructions such as log jams over the course of the year to try to improve smolt output. During the course of 2013 the Board supported an initiative by the proprietor of the Lower Laggan to stabilise and reinstate bankside revetment so as to preserve the spawning potential of the affected section of the River

14. Riparian Habitat Assessment and Management

Management of the riparian zone is an area of interest that has developed rapidly during the last decade. Pioneering work on the Tweed has illustrated the advantage of reinstating bankside vegetation and improving in-stream cover for fish. In addition there is clear evidence that a well vegetated and maintained riparian zone offers considerable advantages in terms of shading, a source of food production and habitat for salmonids. There are also additional benefits to the watercourse such as improved bank stability and more varied habitat for other wildlife.

To this end habitat enhancement work is conducted throughout the Laggan catchment. The habitat enhancement work is of long term benefit and the river is unlikely to see the benefit of this initiative in the short term.

15. Juvenile Salmon and Trout Populations

In 2001 the Board commissioned Argyll Fisheries Trust to produce reports on juvenile populations of salmon and brown trout on each of Rivers Laggan and Sorn. The aims of this initiative were to determine the distribution and density of juvenile salmon and trout within these rivers, and use this data to estimate smolt output, monitor changes in fish populations and identify weak areas of the catchment in terms of low juvenile densities. The report showed that in general juvenile salmon and trout are well distributed throughout the catchment and often present in high densities.

16. Stocking

Stocking of juvenile salmon into the River Laggan took place many years ago. The practice is no longer undertaken, in line with modern scientific and biological opinion on the lack of effectiveness of and possible damage to the indigenous salmon stocks.

17. Exploitation

Early work by Shearer (1988) suggested that in summer between 5% and 8% of the returning adult salmon are captured by anglers. However, because early running spring salmon remain in the river for longer they may be subjected to higher levels of exploitation. There is some limited evidence from radio tracking (Laughton, 1991b) and mark recapture studies (Davidson, Cove, Milner and Purvis, 1996) to support this suggestion.

There is increasing interest in Catch and Release as a conservation policy for salmon stocks. Although concerns have been raised that this is damaging to the fish and may compromise survival, a number of studies have proved that if fish are handled carefully they have a high rate of survival.

The Board keeps under regular review and actively supports and encourages an evolving policy on catch and release.

18. Salmonid Stocks

Juvenile Stocks Past surveys show that in general stocks of juvenile salmonids are at a satisfactory level in a majority of the Laggan system. There are, however, some tributaries in which numbers are well below optimum levels. Monitoring will help to determine which of these tributaries require habitat enhancement measures before their potential can be realised.

Spring Fish The Island fisheries do not have a run of spring fish (those fish available to be caught from the opening of the season to 31st May).

Grilse and Autumn Fish The availability of grilse and summer salmon plays an important part in providing fishing for anglers who fish the Laggan and Sorn. The rivers hold the most adult fish during the months of August, September and October.

Sea Trout The Island has no fish farms close to its coasts, although concern has been expressed about applications by the Fish Farming Industry to attempt to locate salmon rearing farms in east island coastal waters. The last application met with substantial opposition from the islanders.

In the recent past planning consent was applied for in respect of the development of a fish farm in Colonsay coastal waters. The Board objected to the application, given the relatively close proximity of the proposed site to Islay and the concerns about an explosion of sea louse populations associated with such developments, which are recognised to have a severely adverse impact upon sea trout populations. The Board continues to be vigilant in respect of such applications.

Decreasing numbers of Sea trout has been experienced throughout Britain and Southern Ireland. Whilst this doesn't seem to have been as big a problem on Islay, the Board has sought to encourage a policy amongst proprietors, anglers and nets men of return of sea trout and limiting the numbers taken to two per rod per day.

The Board will continue to monitor the position.

19. Renewable Energy Schemes

Renewable energy projects are becoming more prevalent on the Island. Small watercourses are the subject of micro-hydro proposals. In wind and tidal energy proposals are forwarded from the planning authority for comment from the Board. Whilst these renewable energy proposals are branded as "green" the Board is aware of the potential for associated large scale construction works to create adverse impacts in the aquatic environment and continues to monitor any proposals.

20. Forestry

The Board has been consulted by the Forestry Commission and private Forestry interests regarding forest plans that might impact upon rivers and burns on the island. Forest design plans indicate the management actions such as harvesting, replanting and the time scales when these operations are likely to occur. The Board responds when appropriate on issues that could potentially influence fish or the habitat in which they reside.

21. Illegal Fishing

The Board employs no Bailiffs but enjoys the support of Estate proprietors and their gamekeepers and ghillies throughout the island. Poaching is rare.

22. Conservation Policies

Catch and Release The Board has prepared an Angling Code and has recommended to all proprietors and anglers that they adopt catch and release of fish. The Board recognises the contribution that catch and release can make to conserving salmon and sea trout stocks and encourages this practice. The Board has also requested that all proprietors seek to impose a restriction upon the taking of, the numbers and size of sea trout caught and retained during any one day by anyone fishing for them suggesting that a maximum of two (2) sea trout may be caught and retained per day.

Habitat The Board attaches much emphasis to Habitat Enhancement. Naturally produced fish have been shown to be much hardier than those produced in a hatchery.

23. Legislation and Its Development

The Board responds through ASFB to all consultations in relation to fisheries management and is attempting to comply with the recently enacted Freshwater Fisheries & Aquaculture Act. However the Board is of the view that little cognisance was taken by Government of the ability and resources of small Boards to be able to comply with the new legislation.

In October 2014 The Wild Fisheries Review (WFR) Report was published. Scottish Government (SG) thereafter published its response to WFR and developed from it their proposed policy on Wild Fisheries Reform. After much consideration, combined with the outcome of the European Referendum and having become appraised of the likely cost to SG of implementing completely its WFR proposals SG decided to drop large parts of its proposed reforms, leaving District Salmon Fishery Boards to continue to manage salmon fisheries within their jurisdictions. Certain parts of WFR will be applied, including the requirement of each DSFB to implement a Fishery Management Plan based upon a nationwide SG approved template, which has yet to be finalised.

During the winter of 2015/16 SG imposed regulation on all salmon fisheries throughout Scotland by applying a three tier categorisation to each Scottish watercourse known to contain populations of salmon. As of the commencement of season 2017, the Island of Islay has been classified as a category 3 fishery, meaning that a total season long catch and release policy for salmon has been imposed for the foreseeable future. The classification has been based largely on catch statistic returns over recent years and its basis has been much criticised because of the unscientific, largely arbitrary way in which it has been applied. It does however allow SG to demonstrate to EU Government that SG, which was in breach of treaty obligations because of the lack of a Wild Fisheries Policy is now in a position to impose Wild Fisheries Policy control in Scotland. The basis of categorisation remains under review

The Board will keep itself informed and seek to make representations through Fishery Management Services, the successor to ASFB.

24. Fishery Management Plan

The Board in response to the demands of modern fishery management had requested Messrs C.K.D Galbraith, Land Agents to produce a scoping report in connection with the formation of a Fishery Management Plan. It is now apparent that SG wish to impose a nationwide template based Fishery Management Plan for all salmon fisheries under Fishery Board management. The Board will address itself to the implications of what will be involved when the format of the template is settled.

Laggan & Sorn District Salmon Fishery Board Policy Statement

Introduction

The numbers of salmon and sea trout available for exploitation on the Island of Islay is, broadly speaking, a product of the numbers of smolts produced by the rivers and burns and the number of adult salmon and sea trout that return to them. An upper limit on smolt production is set by the availability of spawning and nursery habitat. Whether or not that limit is attained depends upon the adequacy of egg deposition for each of the main populations of salmon that use the rivers and burns on Islay.

The broad objectives are to ensure that smolt production is maximised by focusing exploitation on the most robust populations, for Islay summer and autumn running salmon and grilse, and by taking all practicable steps to improve adult access and the quality of juvenile habitats.

In this section the Board outlines its current policy on a number of key areas and issues. The Board also works to a flexible Fishery Management Plan which outlines the Boards intentions for the foreseeable future.

General Policy and Future Management

The Board will: -

- Continue to protect, conserve and enhance all stocks of salmon and sea trout on Islay,
- Continue to monitor and encourage stock components,
- Remain accountable to Proprietors and ensure that resources are properly applied such that the most efficient and economically beneficial application of the funds, raised by Proprietors through assessments, is achieved, and
- Continue to liaise with and inform Proprietors, their agents and anglers on the work of the Board and operate in an open and transparent manner in accordance with the law.

Enforcement

The Board will: -

- Continue to liaise with proprietors, their game keepers, ghillies and the police to curtail unlawful fishing methods and activities,
- Maintain vigilance in respect of both rivers and coast,
- Promote the prosecution of those breaching salmon fisheries legislation.

Monitoring

The Board will, in liaison with other relevant bodies, continue to monitor and influence:-

- The riverine and related environment,
- Water volume and quality,
- Juvenile stocks,
- Smolt production, and
- Numbers of returning adult fish

and utilise information arising from all of the above towards the better management of the salmon and sea trout stocks.

Research

The Board will continue and increase where possible its commitment to obtaining research data to improve the management of the river and its salmon and sea trout stocks. Key areas include:-

- Improving data on spawning escapement through catch data,

- Maintaining and improving data on juvenile salmonid distribution and density,
- Further developing instream and bankside habitat surveys and establishing where improvements, if any, can be made,
- Monitoring the benefits, or otherwise, of habitat enhancement for salmonid stocks,
- Examining current data with respect to any available historical information and catchment land use data using latest available techniques.
- Continuing to promote the work of the Board,
- Providing when required contributions to and liaison with other fisheries research bodies including, but not limited to, Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre, the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory and the Marine Laboratory Aberdeen, Environment Agency, SEPA and SNH.

Stock Enhancement

The Board will: -

- Encourage natural spawning where possible but keep under review the circumstances in which stock enhancement might be required in areas where stocks of fish are seriously depleted.

Sea trout and Salmon

The Board will: -

- Encourage proprietors to act responsibly over fishing methods and effort, and
- Encourage fishers to return fish to the river where possible and appropriate.
- Encourage fishers to return sea trout of appropriate classification

Predators

The Board will: -

- Encourage the disturbance of all avian sawbill predators by all legal means.
- Encourage the trapping of mink and other riverside predators where lawfully possible and demonstrated to be damaging salmonid stocks, and
- Resist the re-introduction of the beaver (although it is not a direct predator on salmon) due to its potential harmful effects on riparian habitat.

Transfers of fish and fish disease

The Board will: -

- Maintain vigilance in the unlawful transfer of fish and/or fish diseases both to salmon and sea trout and continue to monitor and operate surveillance in this regard paying particular attention to keeping Proprietors advised of the information passed to it on best practice for the prevention of outbreak of *Gyrodactylus Salaris*.

Habitat Management

The Board will: -

- Encourage appropriate instream and bankside management,
- Encourage the adoption of beneficial land management practices, and
- Encourage liaison with and among relevant proprietors and other bodies such as, but not limited to, SNH, FWAG, SEPA, Forestry Commission and Planning Authorities.

River Engineering Works

The Board will: -

- provide guidance and assistance to those wishing to undertake such works enabling repairs to take place, and seek to restrict improvement works without prior consultation and assessment, and
- Provide an Advisory Service to Proprietors.

Abstraction

The Board will: -

- Continue to monitor the amount of abstraction from rivers and burns, and
- Monitor the use of water for agricultural irrigation purposes.

Catchment Land Use

The Board will: -

- Liaise with the all relevant bodies over land within the catchment and encourage moves towards integrated catchment management,
- Provide an advisory service preventing irresponsible land use developments which may adversely affect salmonid populations, and/or their habitats, and
- Seek to inform proprietors, where salmon or sea trout angling may not be a priority, of the importance of maintaining upper tributaries and spawning areas in good condition.

Level of Angling Exploitation

The Board will: -

- Monitor levels of fish returning to the river systems and encourage proprietors to utilise common sense and sensitivity in the levels of exploitation exercised by fishers at any time and from time to time,
- Encourage proprietors to ensure that the level of fishing effort is reasonable, and take other appropriate steps to protect, conserve and enhance the stocks of fish and to give publicity thereto through the publication and review of its Angling Code and by other appropriate methods.

Catch and Release

The Board will: -

- In addition to the general policy of restraint and already advocated encourage, where fish are cleanly caught, the return of salmon and hen fish in the autumn and sea trout through the publication and review of its Angling Code and by other appropriate methods.

Netting

The Board will: -

- Continue to take an interest in the level of high seas exploitation to support bodies such as, but not limited to:-
 - Fishery Management Services
 - North Atlantic Salmon Fund (UK)
 - Atlantic Salmon Trust
 - North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

in their endeavours to restrict and where possible remove interceptory high seas fishing.

Nature Conservation

The Board will: -

- Liaise with proprietors and bodies such as, but not limited to, SNH, RSPB and SEPA in maintaining the high quality of the natural environment and safeguard the outstanding natural heritage features within the Island.

Liaison with neighbouring Boards

The Board will: -

- When necessary liaise and encourage the promotion of good relations with other neighbouring Boards.
- Continue surveillance and enforcement activities in liaison with neighbouring Boards.

European Directives

The Board will: -

- Consult with SNH and other bodies and will liaise closely with proprietors in promotion of the salmon and sea trout interests covered by the Habitat and Species Directive, and
- Review its potential responsibilities and the advantages to be gained from the Water Framework Directive.

U.K. and Scottish Legislation

The Board Will: -

- Continue to monitor the promotion and development of draft legislation which is likely to have an effect, whether direct or indirect, upon the promotion of the interests of salmon and sea trout, the fisheries related thereto and the sustainable exploitation of the fishing resource within the Catchment.
- Continue to consult with the proprietors in connection with the drafting of responses germane to the interests of proprietors in relation to the promotion of relevant draft legislation by the Scottish, U.K. and European Parliaments.

APPENDIX 1

LAGGAN & SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**2017 CATCH RETURNS****(1) SALMON**

ESTATE	KILLED	RETURNED	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE RETURNED
LAGGAN	0	81	81	100
DUNLOSSIT	0	41	41	100
ISLAY ESTATES	0	23	23	100
ARDTALLA	0	0	0	-
TOTALS	0	145	145	100

(2) SEA TROUT

ESTATE	KILLED	RETURNED	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE RETURNED
LAGGAN	3	141	144	97.92
DUNLOSSIT	6	0	6	0
ISLAY ESTATES	0	14	14	100
ARDTALLA	0	0	0	-
TOTALS	4	155	155	97.98

LAGGAN AND SORN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Consolidated Catch Returns for All Fisheries (2008 - 2017 Seasons)

SALMON / GRILSE												
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL	10 YEAR AVERAGE
Laggan	132	67	93	137	100	96	29	24	71	81	831	83.1
Dunlossit	54	9	49	38	23	20	2	9	27	41	282	28.2
Islay Estates	11	11	24	45	40	43	12	6	19	23	234	23.4
Ardtalla	1	0	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	8	0.8
Total	198	87	166	222	166	160	32	40	117	145	1355	

SEA TROUT												
ESTATE NAME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL	10 YEAR AVERAGE
Laggan	86	101	53	129	106	71	81	183	161	144	1115	11.5
Dunlossit	7	10	0	10	3	3	4	6	9	6	58	5.8
Islay Estates	11	19	7	17	21	41	4	4	11	14	149	14.9
Ardtalla	43	30	11	18	28	12	14	14	10	0	180	18.0
Total	147	160	71	174	158	127	103	207	191	164	1502	

APPENDIX 2**ATTENDEES AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board held the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and The Annual Public Meeting on Monday 28th August 2017

Convenor:- Malcolm Younger (Ardtalla Estate)

Upper Proprietors:- David Gillies (mandated for Dunlossit Estate)

Lower Proprietors:- Lord Margadale (Islay Estates Ltd.)
Shamus Jennings (Laggan Properties Ltd.)

In attendance:-
Roderick Styles (Clerk to the Board)

APPENDIX 3**Register of Complaints**

The Board keeps a Register of Complaints in accordance with the requirements of recent legislation.

There were no complaints lodged with the Board for the period 1.4.17 to 31.03.18.