



Beauly District Fishery Board

Annual Report 2016



The Board

Board members are elected triennially with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 specifying who may stand for election, how many may be elected and how many may represent the lower and upper rivers. The latest elections took place in June 2015. Board members are all volunteers and are non-remunerated for their time and effort. The elected Board members subsequently elect one of the members to be their Chairman. The current Board members are as follows:

Chair:	Mr Jock Miller
Upper Proprietors:	Mr Michael Spencer-Nairn
	Mr Frank Spencer-Nairn
	Lady Jane Whitbread
	Mr George Purdie
Co-opted Member:	Mr Paul Pacey (Beaully Angling Club)

The Board is elected for a term of three years. The next election will take place at the meeting of Qualified Proprietors in 2018. The Clerk attends Board meetings without voting powers. Other non-voting attendees represent the Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust (NBFT). Representatives of SNH & SEPA are also invited.

Board Staff/Volunteers

The Board engages a number of part time staff and volunteers responsible for the delivery of its core duties and responsibilities:

Clerk to the Board: -

Alastair Campbell
c/o Bidwells
Elm House
Cradlehall Business Park
Inverness IV2 5GH
Tel: 01463 796050
Email: alastair.campbell@bidwells.co.uk

Part Time Water Bailiffs: -

Robert Smart
Alasdair Fraser
Nick Barker
Donald Fraser

Board Website: www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk

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1 Forward

It is my pleasure to present the Board's 2016 Annual Report, including Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015. It has been a mixed bag with the summer improving but with low flows in the autumn providing difficult conditions. The total catch for the year was 861 (569 in 2014). However there has also been an increase in the number of fish going through the Kilmorack dam 4,374 (3,438 in 2014). More on both of these subjects later in the report.

Like last year we have been working closely with the Ness and Beauly Fisheries Trust. Since the inception of the Trust in 2006, the same areas of tributary burns have been electro-fished annually and we are starting to build a comprehensive database of results. A summary of this report and a summary of the Scale Sampling report can be found within this report.

We have continued with the eradication of non-native plant species as part of the wider Inner Moray Firth Invasive Non-Native Plants Project. The Ness and Beauly Fisheries Trust is hopeful a Rivers and Fisheries Trust/SNH's Scottish Invasive Species Initiative will allow this project to proceed for a further four years.

The last year saw the Scottish Government move from a wide ranging review to reform of the industry. I am grateful for the input that has been given by the Ness and Beauly Fisheries Trust but also your clerk, Alastair Campbell. Within this report you will find a section on Statutory Conservation Measures which I see as the highest priority of your Board to ensure that the information being used by the Scottish Government is credible.

Your Board meets twice a year and I am grateful to the time and effort your members give. Also helpful to the running of this Board are the two liaison meetings held each year with SSE and I thank them for their input.

Jock Miller

Chairman

2 Role of the District Salmon Fishery Board

The Beauly District Fishery Board covers the Rivers Beauly, Glass and Farrar. The Catchment extends from Glen Affric in the south-west to the mouth of the River Beauly at the Beauly Firth and includes Glen Cannich, Glen Strathfarrar and Strathglass. There is extensive hydro-electric development on the system, including principal dams at Loch Monar and Loch Mullardoch, Aigas and Kilmorack.

Salmon fishing rights in Scotland are private heritable titles that are registered separately from land. As such these titles can be bought and sold like any other property. In Scotland, the cost of the local administration, protection and improvement of the fisheries is privately financed by the proprietors. The District Boards finance their work by levying a rate on the salmon fishery owners in the district. Elected representatives of those owners provide the core of the membership of the Board. However, since 1986, the Boards are required also to include representatives of salmon anglers and salmon netmen in the District. A further revision to the constitution of the Boards was made in 1999 to allow for even wider representation on the boards by other parties who may have an interest or stake in salmon stocks or fisheries.

Powers and duties

The powers and duties of a DSFB are summarised below:

Powers

- to act, undertake works and incur expenses for the protection and improvement of the fisheries within their districts, for the increase of salmon and sea trout and the stocking of the district with these fish.
- to impose financial assessments on each salmon fishery in the district, and to charge interest on arrears.
- to borrow funds, and to incur a wide range of expenditure in furtherance of their powers and duties.
- to appoint bailiffs to enforce the salmon fisheries legislation.
- exempt persons from certain provisions of the law for scientific or other purposes.
- to sue in the name of the clerk.

Duties

- to appoint a clerk
- to maintain a list of proprietors within the DSFBs district
- to produce an annual report and audited accounts and to consider these at an AGM
- to call a triennial electoral meeting

The Board meets twice per annum. Minutes are published on the Board's website www.beauly.dsfb.org.uk

3 Fish Catches 2015

Catch returns are an important indicator of adult run size available for the system. Catch statistics are collected annually by Marine Scotland Science (MSS) for all fishery districts in Scotland. In addition to this District Salmon Fishery Boards are able to collect data directly from proprietors twice per year. The size of the run can be used as a measure of its status by comparing the annual catch against a long-term average catches. The data used in the graphs below are Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science. MSS is not responsible for any interpretation of these data in this report.

Salmon Rod Catches

In the 2015 season, 861 salmon were reported as being caught. Of these, eight were reported as spring fish (caught prior to 30 April). 85% of the fish caught were reported returned. 100% of spring fish were reported released.

March 2015 saw some of the worst flooding on the River Beaully in 25 years; the river was recorded at 10 feet above summer lows. The first runs began early April and were fairly hard providing challenging angling. May saw some exciting fishing on the Beaully. Fish catches for spring 2015 were nearly three times greater than the same period in 2014. The quality of fish also improved, with all catches being in good condition and almost all fish in the double figure weights. The Beaully traditionally sees a good run of spring fish from April through to early June. This year the grilse were relatively late to come in to the river and the first grilse only started to show up on the lower river in later July. The fishing throughout August was very good on the lower river, the catches were steady and of good quality. However, upper beats, particularly on the River Glass, struggled this season and all beats fell away in September and October, largely due to exceptionally low water conditions.

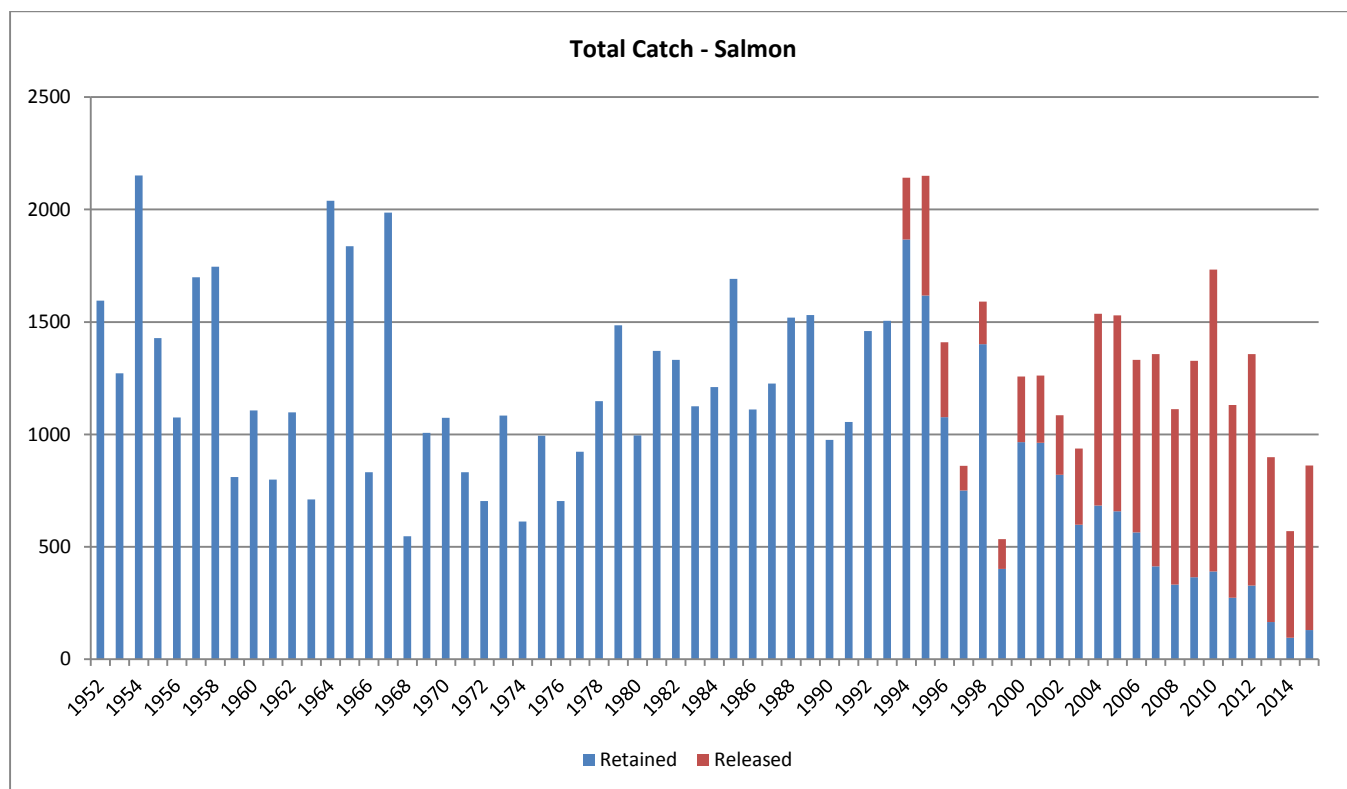


Figure 1 – Total Salmon Catch, Beaully District 1952-2015 (Source Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science)

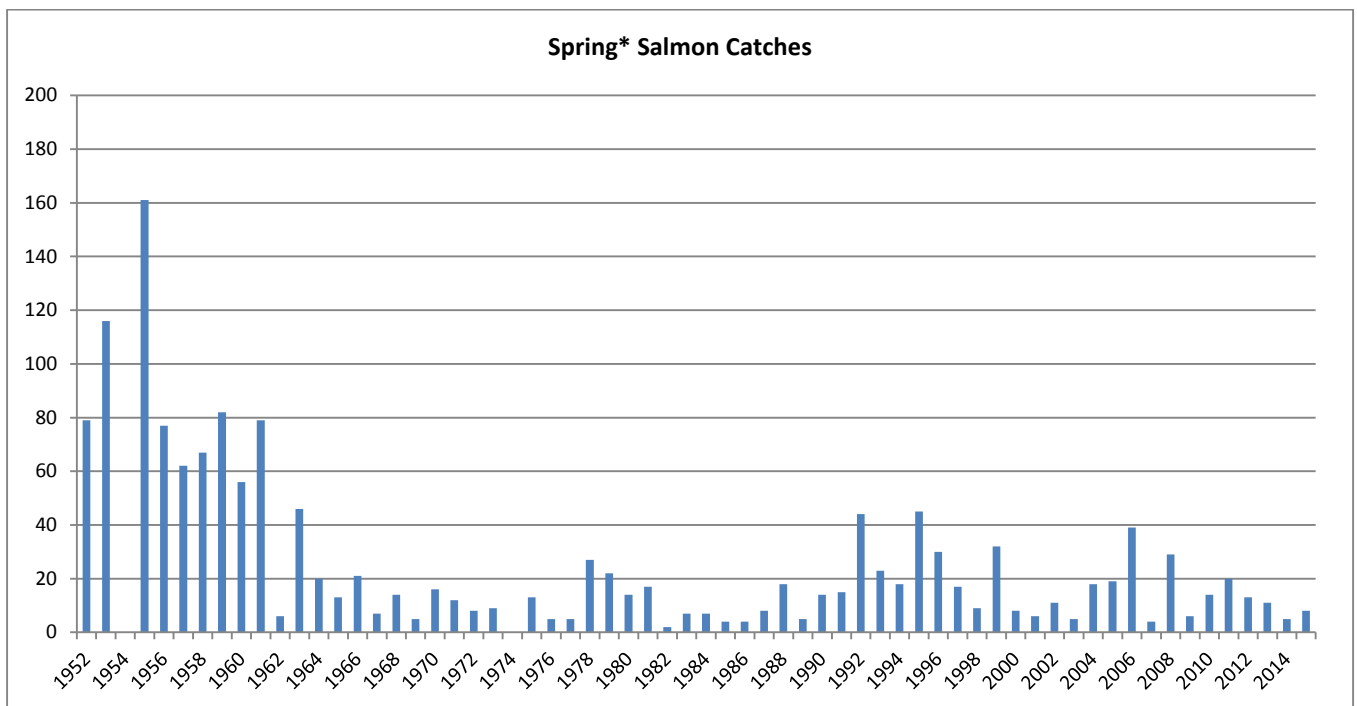


Figure 2 – Spring Salmon Catches Beaulieu District 1952-2015 *Marine Scotland 'Spring' definition – up to end April (Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science)

Sea Trout Catches

In the 2015 season, 349 sea trout and finnock were reported to MSS as being caught. Four were recorded as retained. The Board currently recommends 100% catch and release of sea trout.

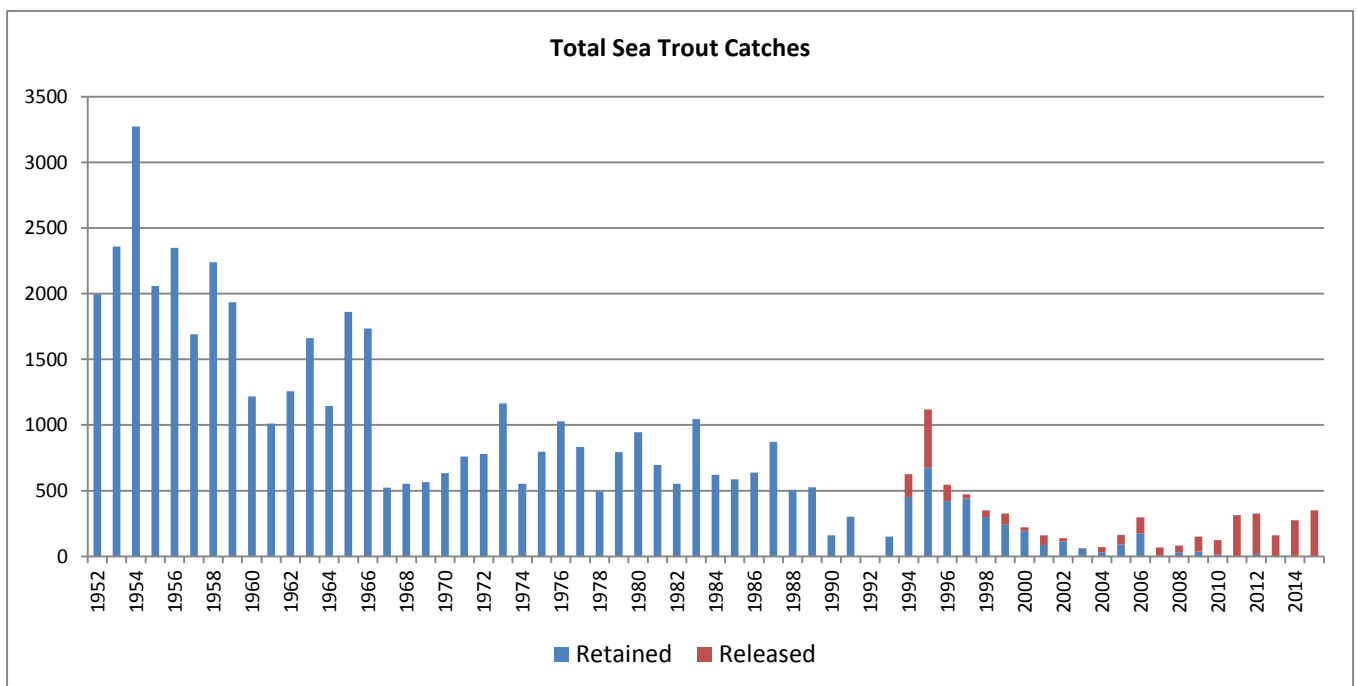


Figure 3 – Total Sea Trout Catches, Beaulieu District 1952-2014 (Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science)

4 Fish Counter Data - 2015

Figures received from SSE plc for Kilmorack Dam indicate a total run through the dam of approximately 4,374 fish.

The figures for Aigas Dam indicate a total run through the dam to the upper beats of approximately 3,905 fish.

The figures for Beannachran Dam (River Farrar) indicate a total run through the dam of approximately 251 fish.

The figures for Kilmorack and Aigas are a significant increase on the 2014 figures, although the count for Beannachran is similar. The 5-year averages are 3,775; 3,462 and 326 respectively.

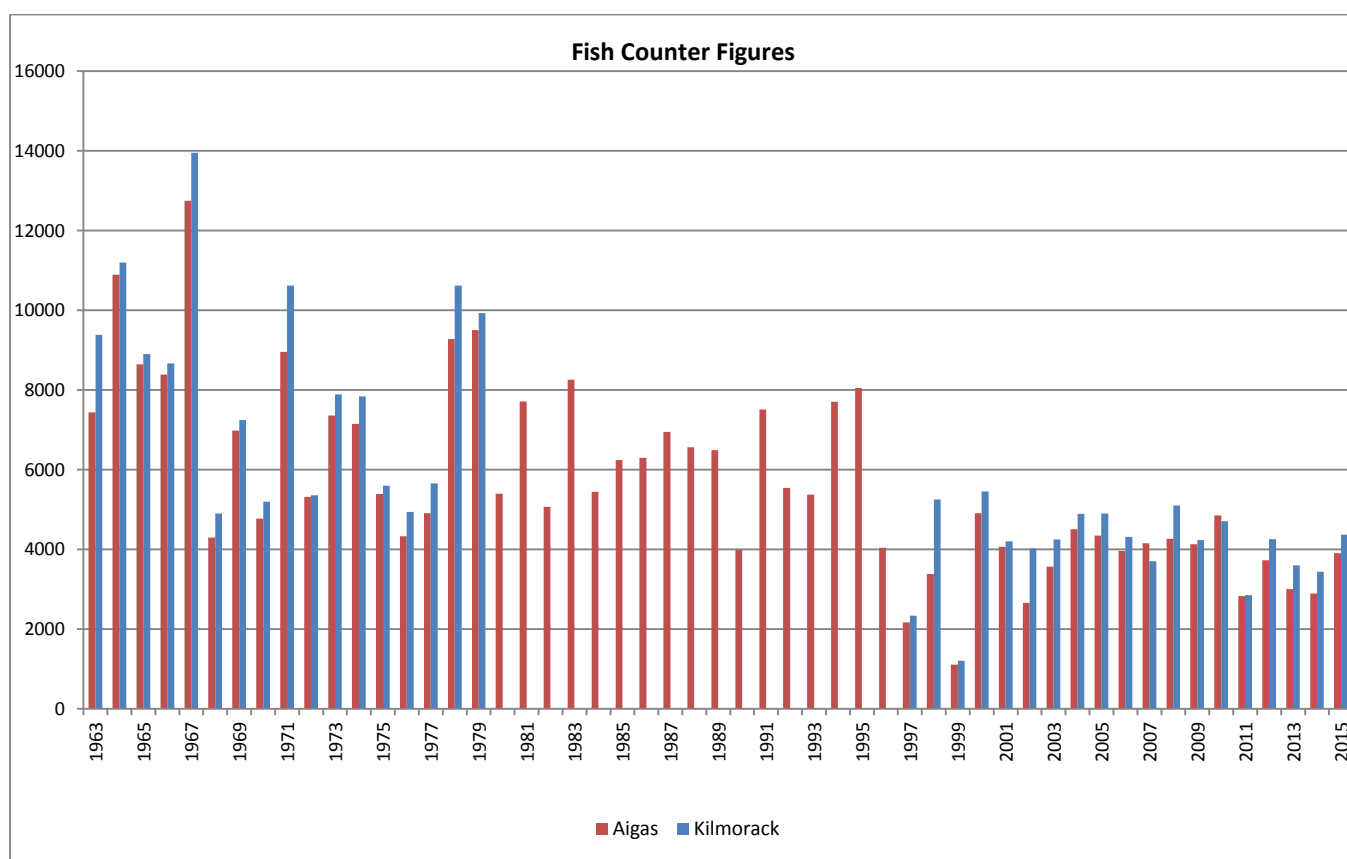


Figure 4 – Fish Pass Counter Figures, Aigas & Kilmorack Dams (source – SSE plc)

5 Statutory Conservation Measures

- 5.1 The Scottish Government has announced new conservation regulations meaning that mandatory catch and release of salmon (all methods) will be in force across the Beaully District throughout the 2016 salmon fishing season. Any salmon caught, including any dead or bleeding fish, must be returned to the water with the least possible harm.
- 5.2 The new regulations, which run on from the existing spring conservation regulations concluding on 31st March 2016, took effect from 1st April 2016.
- 5.3 The Board responded to an initial consultation on the measures when they were proposed in October 2015. Whilst accepting and endorsing the broad principle of setting conservation limits for the taking of wild salmon, the Board was concerned that there is currently insufficient information and data to ensure meaningful assessment of conservation limits. Accordingly, it is the Board's view that the measures introduced are premature and the assessment of the Beaully District's spawning capacity and returning fish runs may be inaccurate.
- 5.4 Following a request for a meeting with Marine Scotland in December 2015, a meeting was recently held on 13 June 2016. Marine Scotland confirmed they would aim to re-examine the potential area for spawning on the Beaully system, paying particular attention to areas of 'dead' water behind dams. They also confirmed they are working on incorporating river flow data into the assessment, to take account of the impact this can have on fish catches and exploitation rates.
- 5.5 Marine Scotland is aiming to finalise any changes by the end of July 2016, with a draft conservation scheme for 2017 to be published thereafter. The Board will continue to liaise with Marine Scotland to refine and improve the Beaully assessment.

6 Conservation Policy

- 6.1 The Beaully District Fishery Board has a statutory duty to act for the protection and improvement of the fisheries and for the increase of salmon and sea trout within its District. Following the introduction of the salmon conservation measures outlined above, the Board has not formally reviewed the policy set in 2015. The following measures which fall outwith the scope of the conservation measures are therefore still recommended.

- **All Sea Trout should be returned to the River (100% catch & release)**

GENERAL NOTES

- Fishing should be by Fly only
- To facilitate the release of fish barbless hooks should be used. Treble hooks should not be used.
- Under the provisions of the The Conservation of Salmon (Prohibition of Sale) (Scotland) Regulations 2002 the sale of rod caught salmon or sea trout is illegal.
- When releasing fish, try to keep them in water at all times and under no circumstances should fish be lifted clear of the water by their tails.
- Guidance on catch & release best practice can be found on the Board's website <http://beaully.dsfb.org.uk/>

7 Juvenile Fish Surveys

During 2015, Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust (NBFT) continued with their programme of electro-fishing surveys in tributaries of the Beaully system. A total of 20 sites were the subject of fully quantitative surveys, with a further 15 timed survey sites. The results indicate quite a lot of change as a consequence of winter spates, particularly in the upper Farrar catchment.

The Board fully supports the collection of this important long-term data. Juvenile production, particularly parr, is a key indicator of the health of the fishery. An summary from the NBFT report is repeated below. A full copy of the NBFT report can be found at www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk.

"The 2015 salmon fry density from CUL1 (Culligran Burn) is the lowest ever recorded. Given the changes to the site recorded in 2015; it is entirely possible that there was a degree of 'redd washout' caused by extreme winter spates. Density of 1++ parr was in line with previous results and above the mean density (61/100m²) for the site. The lack of 2+ parr may suggest that most salmon of Culligran Burn origin will smolt at two years old.

Site UM5 (Uisge Misgeach) also appears to have been negatively impacted by winter spates with some of the river bed now being classed as 'unstable'. This may have impacted on numbers of salmon fry as the result was the lowest recorded since 2005. Conversely, UM6 had its highest density of salmon fry since 2006 showing that the limited spawning media was well utilised in the winter of 2014. Unlike UM5, there were no major changes to the habitat at UM6. 2+ salmon parr were seen to be missing from UM5 whilst numbers of 2+ parr from UM6 were very low.

Results from site ACM2 (Allt Choire a' Mhuillidh) were disappointing in 2015, with salmon fry shown to be absent and the lowest density of 1++ salmon parr since 2006. There were no changes to the habitat in 2015 and the exact reasons behind the apparent downturn in numbers of juvenile salmon remain unclear.

In 2014, Site AIM2 showed good numbers of salmon fry for the first time since it was 're-watered' in the early 2000's. However, in 2015, fry were seen to be absent from the site indicating that spawning success in the vicinity of AIM2 is intermittent. Conversely, density of salmon parr (1++) was extremely encouraging with the second highest parr density ever recorded on the burn. Both 1+ and 2+ parr were present with 1+ being the strongest cohort.

Salmon fry density from Site NEA1 (Neaty Burn) was the third lowest result recorded for the site. 1+ salmon parr were seen to be missing from the 2015 survey whilst densities of 2+ parr were very low. This may be an indication of parr leaving the burn for the relative sanctuary of the mainstem.

Site DEA1 (Deanie Burn) once again showed salmon fry to be absent. A single salmon parr aged 2+ was captured indicating a severe underutilisation of the habitat at DEA1. The most probable cause behind this is the lack of discernible flow to attract salmon to the burn once they have ascended Beannacharan Dam.

It was heartening to note the increase in salmon fry density from Site BRU2 (Bruiach Burn) in 2015. It should be mentioned that there was evidence of severe gravel movements at the site in 2015. It is unclear if this has negatively impacted salmon fry densities. Salmon parr density (1++) was the highest since 2013. Both 1+ and 2+ were present with 1+ being the most dominant year class of salmon parr.

At Site BEL3 (Belladrum Burn), density of salmon fry was towards the lower end of the historical range (0/100m² – 119/100m²) and below the mean density of 56/100m². Like the Bruiach Burn site, there was evidence that the site had changed over the winter period with an influx of fine substrate and a departure of some of the larger cobbles and boulder. It is entirely possible that the site may have suffered from 'redd washout'. A 'good' density of salmon parr (1++) was recorded although the density is towards the lower end of the historical range of 0/100m² – 56/100m² and below the mean density of 29/100m². Two year classes of salmon parr were recorded: 1+ and 2+ with the majority being aged 1+. The upper site (BEL4) showed salmon to be absent. The site is upstream of the waterfall known as the 'Pot and Kettle' and alongside the results of time delineated surveys conducted

upstream of the aforementioned natural barrier in 2015 would suggest that it still acts as a barrier to salmon migration. Juvenile trout were abundant at BEL4. It remains to be seen if these trout are the progeny of sea trout or resident brown trout.

Since stocking of artificially reared salmon ceased on the Culburnie Burn, densities of salmon fry have dropped to numbers that would be classed as 'poor'. The 2015 salmon fry density was 4/100m² and would be classed as poor. Conversely, density of salmon parr (1++) has increased with the most recent survey generating a density of 48/100m² that would be classed as 'excellent'. Results of time delineated surveys conducted along the length of the Culburnie Burn showed salmon fry in low/absent numbers indicating very little salmon spawning activity in the winter of 2014. The presence of high numbers of salmon parr at CUL1 would suggest that the majority of salmon parr at the site have moved from the Bruiach Burn to occupy the Culburnie Burn. Timed surveys were also conducted upstream of the former bridge apron that was eased in 2014. Whilst no salmon fry were encountered, numbers of juvenile trout appear to have increased.

A series of time delineated surveys were also conducted on the Black Burn. These were carried out to ascertain if salmon were utilising the available habitat. No salmon were captured in any of the surveys whilst juvenile trout were captured at each site. This would suggest that the Black Burn is primarily used as a nursery area for brown and sea trout.

Site BE2 (River Beaully mainstem) showed evidence of extreme gravel movements, presumably an artefact of severe winter spates. This may have impacted on the density of salmon fry which dropped from 132/100m² in 2014 to 45/100m² in 2015 achieving a density classification of 'moderate'. There was also a slight reduction in salmon parr (1++) density from 7/100m² in 2014 to 6/100m² in 2015. It should be noted that this almost certainly an artefact of site selection that favours salmon fry. Site BE3 (River Beaully mainstem) also saw some changes to the substrate matrix with an apparent influx of some larger boulder and cobble. This appears to have favoured older year classes of salmon with salmon parr density rising from 24/100m² in 2014 to 44/100m² in 2015 that would be classed as 'excellent'. Density of salmon fry also increased in 2015 to 55/100m² that would be classed as 'good'. The most dominant year class of salmon parr was 1+ indicating most salmon of Beaully origin will smolt at two years old.

The Breakachy Burn (Site BRE1) continues to show itself as an important nursery burn. Salmon fry density was once again classed as 'excellent'. However, salmon parr (1++) were less abundant in comparison to previous surveys despite high densities of fry in the last two years. The precise reason for this remains unclear. 1+ was the most dominant cohort of salmon parr.

The Eskadale Burn site (ESK1) saw a resurgence in salmon fry density in 2014 yet numbers fell away again in 2015 to a 'moderate' density of 17/100m². It would appear that spawning activity on the Eskadale is becoming quite intermittent. Despite this, numbers of salmon parr (1++) have held up well with the 2015 survey generating a density of 65/100m²; the highest on record for the site. The most dominant year class of salmon parr were aged 1+.

Two sites were the subject of fully quantitative surveys on the Erchless Burn: ERC1 and ERC2. ERC1 saw some changes to the habitat in 2014 but the site appears to have stabilised since then. Salmon fry density in 2015 was 95/100m² and would be classed as 'excellent'. Density of salmon parr (1++) has remained stable in low numbers. This is almost certainly an artefact the habitat at the site which favours salmon fry. Salmon fry were absent from ERC2 in 2015 whilst salmon parr density (1++) was classed as 'good'. The site is more suited to older year classes of salmon with its larger substrate. Examination of year classes found 0+ fry to be most abundant whilst older year classes were primarily composed of 1+ salmon parr.

Site AD3 (Abhainn Deabhag) once again showed juvenile salmon in abundance. Although the salmon fry density dropped from 140/100m² in 2014 to 84/100m² in 2015, fry density would still be classed as 'good'. Density of salmon parr (1++) was the third highest on record for the site at 48/100m² and would be classed as 'excellent'. Examination of year classes found three cohorts to be present: 0+, 1+ and 2+. The high numbers of 1+ may suggest that most salmon of Abhainn Deabhag origin will smolt at two years old.

Results from the Glass Burn survey (GLB1) were encouraging with the salmon fry density of 54/100m² being the highest on record. A record density of salmon parr (1++) was also recorded at 31/100m². Salmon fry and parr densities would both be classed as 'good'. The most dominant year class were 0+ salmon fry whilst older year classes were primarily composed of 1+ parr."

8 Scale Sampling Survey

8.1 The following is an extract from the Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust report on scale sampling undertaken on the Beaully in 2015. A full copy of the report is available on the Board's website www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk.

Scale samples were submitted from a total of 85 adult salmon captured between the 14th April and 15th October 2015, equating to ten per cent of the total 2015 salmon catch (877 fish).

Overall, the samples were of a very high quality, resulting in 80 complete and five partial ages being determined. The majority of those samples for which it was possible to determine the freshwater age (64 per cent) were found to have spent two years in freshwater before smolting. The other 36 per cent were found to have spent three years in fresh water.

The proportion of three freshwater year fish recorded in the samples from the Farrar catchment (42 per cent) in the upper system was significantly higher than that from the Lower Beaully (32 per cent). This pattern is similar to that seen in other Scottish rivers, with the colder climate in the upper reaches resulting in slower growth of fry and parr. The majority of grilse sampled in 2015 were found to have spent two years in freshwater (62 per cent of the total grilse sample). The other 38 per cent were found to have spent three years in freshwater.

It was not possible to carry out any meaningful analysis on the sea age of the submitted samples as sampling was heavily biased toward sampling of grilse rather than the larger multi sea winter salmon. The majority of the fish sampled (grilse and MSW salmon combined) during the 2015 season (48 per cent) were found to have a combined freshwater and sea age of three years.

The majority of grilse (62 per cent) had a total age of three years, with a further 38 percent having a total age of four years. The MSW salmon ranged between 4 and 6 years of age, the majority having a total age of four years (67 per cent), followed by those having a total age of five years (28 per cent), with a further six per cent at six years of age.

Analysis of scale samples taken from fish caught between April and May 2015 (the 'spring' period) indicates that the majority were MSW salmon. Furthermore, the results suggest that the return of 3SW fish on the Beaully system is generally associated with the spring period.

Grilse made up a small proportion of the samples in both May and June (20 and 17 per cent respectively) It is not clear whether this is due to a lack of fish in the system, or a symptom of selective sampling. By July the samples were dominated by grilse, with a small proportion of summer and autumn salmon.

The April samples were made up of kelts (50 per cent) and spring fish exhibiting 'no plus growth' (50 per cent). Fish exhibiting 'plus growth' made up a majority 60 per cent of the May sample. As expected, all of the samples in June were from 'summer' fish exhibiting plus growth. However, four per cent of the July sample was found to be from 'spring' fish with no plus growth. This is a particularly significant observation as it demonstrates that spring fish can be captured throughout the season and the associated importance of releasing 'coloured' fish.

The scale samples collected in 2015 provide information relating to the size ranges (in terms of weight) of both salmon and grilse in the Beaully district. The results suggest that fish over 10 pounds are most likely to be MSW salmon, with fish under 6 pounds most likely being 1SW grilse. Fish between 6 and 10 pounds could be either MSW salmon or grilse and difficult to positively identify without scale reading.

It is recommended that a Beaully specific 'Length/Weight Conversion Chart' be developed. This would give anglers the ability to determine the weight of a fish using its length rather than actually weighing, significantly reducing handling time. Length/Weight Conversion Chart could also be used to assign a weights to fish photographed as the pass through the SSE fish counters. Combined with analysis of head shape and/or sex data, this could be used to develop estimates of egg deposition.

9 Conservation Work

Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust (NBFT)

The Board continues to support and work closely with the Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust (NBFT). A financial contribution of £20,000 was made to the Trust during the year. In addition to the juvenile fish and scale sampling surveys referred to above, the Trust undertook the following principal activities in the Beaully catchment during 2015:

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Scottish Mink Initiative

This project has now officially ended due to a shortfall in funding. NBFT have continued to support their bank of volunteers. If the second SISI bid (see below) is successful, the mink control work will be picked up by the Project.

NBFT trapped the cruives area for three weeks between January and March and caught no mink. This is despite common sightings in previous years.

Moray Firth Trout Initiative

In support of the Moray Firth Initiative (MFTI) and to further inform the overall health status of coastal burns, NBFT carried out its suite of bi-annual time delineated electro-fishing surveys. Results from the Beaully coastal burns were in line with previous results in terms of trout numbers although numbers of salmon appear to have declined. This is with the exception of the Tomich Burn that exhibited good numbers of salmon parr in two different year classes. These sites will be revisited in 2017.

Historically, NBFT carried out education events in support of the MFTI. However, since the project's HLF funding has come to an end, there is no further funding available for NBFT to continue their 'trout in the classroom' events. However, we do plan to revisit Beaully Primary school under the remit of the 'Pearls in Peril' project.

Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI)

Rivers and Fisheries Trust of Scotland (RAFTS) has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and support from Scottish Natural Heritage to develop the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative. This has allowed RAFTS to progress with producing a detailed proposal for a second round application which will be submitted in 2016. If successful, the 4 year Scottish Invasive Species Initiative will begin in 2016 and will run until October 2020.

This Initiative will create a network of volunteers and support local organisations to control several invasive non-native species (INNS) across a 29,500 square km area in the north of Scotland, focussing on rivers, lochs and riparian corridors. On top of managing these invasive non-native species, the project aims to help local people take care of their local rivers and riparian habitats restoring them to a more native, natural state.

In addition to the above mentioned, there is a strong educational remit contained within the HLF bid. Over the years, NBFT has built strong links with a number of local schools. Each one has been contacted to explain the SISI project. Depending on uptake, up to five schools will be targeted each summer/autumn for class talks and outdoor events.

Barriers to Fish Migration/Habitat Enhancement

Red Castle Burn

As part of their Fisheries Management Plan, NBFT sought to investigate the potential benefits of reconnecting the Red Castle Burn to its original path after its upper reaches were diverted to form a pond that acted as irrigation for

a local arable farmer. Habitat surveys upstream of the pond were carried out in June/July in an attempt to quantify the extent of habitat upstream of the aforementioned impoundment. Preliminary analysis of results suggest that the burn has suffered from poor land management which has manifested itself in a substrate that is often dominated by fine silt and sand. Furthermore, the burn is littered with timber blockages. However, it would seem that the burn still supports a population of resident brown trout. If re-connected, a maximum of three kilometres of habitat would be opened up. The result of this are currently being written up and will be available mid July 2016.

Allt Bail a' Chladaich – Tributary of Abhainn Deabhag (Upper River Glass) at Tomich Village

This small tributary of Abhainn Deabhag was found to have had significant bed alterations resulting in severe degradation of instream habitat in its upper reaches. It would appear that the burn has been straightened and the bed altered by the placing of hand pitched stones resulting in a compacted bed with no fish cover. NBFT sought the advice of a SEPA geomorphologist to investigate options to enhance instream habitat. Following a desktop study, SEPA have suggested that the burn had been altered prior to the first published OS maps in 1860. The reinforcement/straightening are located at a point on the watercourse where it appears to be dropping in gradient before flowing across the Abhainn Deabhag floodplain. Digital terrain modelling of the area indicates a very obvious alluvial fan in and around where the reinforcement/straightening has taken place. According to SEPA, this indicates that the watercourse historically supplied sediment from the upstream catchment to this point and that prior to its alteration, the channel would have been reasonably dynamic with periodic bed elevation changes especially during big floods. This would suggest that the burn was altered to alleviate flooding of fields and roads.

The straightening and reinforcement of the bed and both banks has rendered the channel quite sterile with little or no opportunity for change. SEPA quite rightly have concerns that if the burn was to be 'restored' there is a chance that fields, roads, bridges and other infrastructure could be inundated during spate conditions.

NBFT has obtained a quote to complete a formal hydro-geomorphological of the affected reach in the field. Without this information, it is highly unlikely SEPA would any remedial work to the burn.

River Cannich at Loch Carrie

Following a meeting with residents in Glen Cannich in 2013 to investigate the apparent decline of trout from Loch Carrie and the upper River Cannich, NBFT were commissioned to undertake surveys to investigate the health of the various nursery burns in the area. During this time, NBFT discovered a weir on the River Cannich that had been missed during the catchment wide habitat survey between 2007 and 2009. This weir acts a complete barrier to fish movement and severely impacts on the connectivity of habitats in the catchment and has almost certainly contributed to the apparent demise of the River Cannich trout population. Funding to remove/ease the structure would be available via the SEPA Water Environment Fund (WEF).

NBFT have engaged with land owner of left bank and he has offered an agreement in principle for the work to go ahead. Ownership of the right bank is likely to be in the hands of the Forestry Commission. Once ownership of the right bank has been properly established and an agreement in principle sought to action the weir's removal, we can start an application to SEPA's WEF to remove the weir.

River Farrar – Allt na h-Inse Creagaich

A barrier to fish migration was identified on the above mentioned burn by NBFT in 2008. Qualitative (presence/absence) surveys of the burn upstream of the structure carried out since 2010 have shown an absence of salmon. NBFT met with SSE on site in December 2015 to discuss the matter further. It transpires that the structure is owned by SSE and was installed a number of years ago. It was agreed with SSE that salmon were present in spite of the badly designed culvert and agreed to begin internal discussions on how best to remedy the situation.

Fisheries Management Plan

An updated Fisheries Management Plan for the Beaully catchment for 2014-2020 was prepared by the Trust and approved by the Board. This will form a key part of the conservation and habitat improvement focus for the Board and Trust over this period. An update on the plan objectives is attached at Appendix 2 of this report. The full Plan can be found on the Board's website at: - <http://beaully.dsfb.org.uk/publications/>

Inner Moray Firth Netting Stations

In 2015 the Ness District Fishery Board and Beaully District Fishery Board jointly reached agreement with the proprietors of netting rights in the Inner Moray Firth which resulted in two previously active stations being unused during for a further season. This continued an agreement first reached in 2013. Under the new salmon conservation measures, the stations are not currently active.

Stocking Applications

Under the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, the Board has a duty to consider any application for stocking of any life stage of salmon or sea trout. Written consent must be obtained from the Board before any such stocking takes place.

No applications for stocking were received by the Board during 2015. The Board does not currently operate any stocking programme of its own.

10 Statutory Duties

Enforcement Measures

River Patrols

The bailiff team carried out regular river patrols throughout the season. A number of individuals were found to be fishing without authorisation and in contravention of the Board's conservation policy. No evidence of illegal nets was found, though the team continues to keep a close eye on this.

Coastal Patrols

The Board liaises with the Cromarty District Salmon Fishery Board to effect coastal patrol enforcement. Unfortunately, the patrol boat was out of action in 2015 as it was still awaiting statutory listing by the Maritime Coastguard Agency. The boat is now back in action for 2016.

Court Cases

No cases were brought to court in 2015.

The Board's aim is to increase the current effectiveness of the enforcement team. Increase liaison with neighbouring Boards' enforcement teams is actively being pursued.

Consultation Responses / Liaison

The Beaully system is heavily affected by hydro-electric schemes operated by SSE plc. For a number of years members of the Board have held twice annual liaison meetings with representatives of SSE plc. The Board views these meetings as important in maintaining a good relationship with SSE enabling discussion on any specific concerns regarding the impact of the hydro-electric schemes within the catchment.

During 2015 the Board responded to a number of consultation requests. In particular, the Board responded to the Scottish Government's consultations on proposed licencing system for killing wild salmon and the subsequent proposals for conservation grading, as well as the consultation on Wild Fisheries Reform. A response was also made to the revised planning application for Druim Ba wind farm.

Compliance with Good Governance

Meetings

The annual meeting of qualified proprietors will be held on 28 June 2016 at Beaully. This meeting will be publicised by means of the Board's website and local notices and a copy of the notice will be sent to the Scottish Government. The minutes from the annual meeting of June 2015 can be viewed at www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk.

A date for the annual public meeting is still to be confirmed. This meeting will be publicised by means of the Board's website and local notices and a copy of the notice will be sent to the Scottish Government.

In addition, further meeting of the Board was held on 16 December 2015. This meeting was publicised by means of the Board's website and local notices. Three members of the public chose to attend this meeting. The minutes from these meeting can be viewed at www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk.

Annual Report and Accounts

This annual report will be published at www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk. The annual report for 2015 was published on the same website. Annual Accounts to 31 December 2015 are attached at Appendix 1.

The accounts will be published on the website. The accounts for 2014 were published on the website.

Complaints

The Board has set up and maintains a complaints procedure which can be viewed at www.beaully.dsfb.org.uk. The procedure was reviewed at the Board meeting of 4 December 2014 and remains unaltered. This policy was notified to Scottish Government.

No complaints have been received in the last year.

Members' interests

The register of members' interests can be viewed at the offices of Bidwells, Elm House, Cradlehall, Inverness. 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.

11 Priorities for the Forthcoming Year

In addition to the delivery of its core statutory function, the Board, in conjunction with NBFT, proposes to progress the following key objectives over the coming year: -

Salmon Conservation Measures

Of greatest priority, The Board will seek to work closely with Marine Scotland Science to refine and improve the data used to ascertain conservation limits for salmon.

Electro-fishing

To continue juvenile fish surveys at the core sites within all the tributaries of the Beauly system, together with sites on the main stem river.

Barrier Removal

In conjunction with the Beauly Fishing Syndicate, tributary burns on the Lower Beauly will continue to be regularly checked for debris blockages.

Non-native Plant Species

The Board and NBFT will work with RAFTS to deliver the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI), building on previous treatment works already undertaken.

Predation

The Board and NBFT will continue to gather evidence to inform applications for lethal control of sawbill birds. We will also continue to press for an update the existing seal management plan.

Habitat Improvement

A plan will be considered for potential remedial works to the Redcastle burn where historic diversion of water has impacted on the habitat. Any plan will require to be developed in conjunction with the local landowner.

It is intended that negotiations will begin with landowners / occupiers along the River Glass with a view to improving livestock fencing along the river bank and riparian edge.

Appendix 1

Draft Annual Accounts to 31 December 2015

Beaully District Fishery Board

Audited financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2015

Beaulieu District Fishery Board

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Beauly District Fishery Board

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Beauly District Fishery Board

We have audited the financial statements of Beauly District Fishery Board for the year ended 31 December 2015 set out on pages 3 to 7. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the board's members. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the board's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 board and the board's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of members and auditors

Section 44 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 requires the board to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the board and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those accounts, the board's members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the board will continue in operation.

The board's members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the board. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the board and hence for taking reasonable steps in the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

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 District Fishery Board's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Board; 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.

Beauly District Fishery Board

Independent auditors' report (continued)

To the members of Beauly District Fishery Board

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the board as at 31 December 2015 and of its deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013.

Saffery Champness

.....

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Kintail House
Beechwood Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

Beaully District Fishery Board

Income and expenditure account For the year ended 31 December 2015

			2015		2014
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income					
Levies receivable	2		39,097		35,702
Interest receivable			9		5
			<u>39,106</u>		<u>35,707</u>
Expenditure					
Annual subscription for Association of Salmon Fishery Boards		1,720		1,793	
Insurance		1,152		1,134	
Administration costs		8,020		5,600	
Contribution to Ness & Beaully Fishery Trust		20,000		20,000	
Contribution to Moray Firth Sea Trout Project		500		500	
Accountancy		1,900		1,250	
Bank charges		45		72	
Sundry expenses		485		166	
Netting buyout		2,376		2,376	
Anti-poaching costs		2,000		2,325	
Subscriptions		612		577	
Irrecoverable VAT		1,989		1,456	
		<u></u>	<u>(40,799)</u>	<u></u>	<u>(37,249)</u>
Net deficit for the year			<u>(1,693)</u>		<u>(1,542)</u>

Beaulieu District Fishery Board

Balance sheet As at 31 December 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Prepayments	1,272		1,656	
Cash at bank and in hand	30,836		26,314	
	<u>32,108</u>		<u>27,970</u>	
Current liabilities				
Trade creditors	6,852		3,860	
Accruals	3,443		604	
	<u>10,295</u>		<u>4,464</u>	
Net current assets		<u>21,813</u>		<u>23,506</u>
Capital account				
At 1 January		23,506		25,048
Deficit for the year		<u>(1,693)</u>		<u>(1,542)</u>
At 31 December		<u>21,813</u>		<u>23,506</u>

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 9 June 2016, we approve the financial statements set out on pages 3 to 7. We acknowledge our responsibility for the financial statements, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis as set out in note 1 to the financial statements, and for providing Saffery Champness with all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

So far as the members are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Additionally, the members have taken all necessary steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

On behalf of the board

.....
Jock Miller

Date :

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

1.2 Compliance with accounting standards

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), which have been applied consistently (except as otherwise stated).

1.3 Turnover

Levies represent amounts receivable from the proprietors in order to finance the work of the board.

Beauly District Fishery Board

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2015

2	Levies receivable	2015	2014
	£	£	£
Glass			
Balmac Forest Limited	655		598
Erchless Estate	1,309		1,196
C B Pease	327		299
N McAndrew	327		299
A D Pease	327		299
C Wallace	327		299
J M Whitbread	327		299
Blair Investments LLP	786		717
Inverness Investment Trust Limited	851		777
R Kwint	458		418
Wryley Farms Limited	327		299
G Purdie	278		254
Over Rankeilour Farms	491		448
Scottish and Southern Energy Limited	458		418
D M Fraser	65		60
		7,313	6,680
Farrar			
Glenavon Estate Braulen	131		120
C F Spencer Nairn	1,637		1,494
Over Rankeilour Farms	491		448
		2,259	2,062
Beauly			
Beaufort Estate	1,309		1,196
Lower Beauly Fishing Syndicate	23,568		21,520
Upper Beauly Fishing Syndicate	2,291		2,092
Lovat Highland Estates Limited	2,357		2,152
		29,525	26,960
		39,097	35,702

Beaulieu District Fishery Board

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2015

3 Control

The board is controlled by the elected proprietors.

4 Related parties

Members of the board represent proprietors who pay levies to the board. Levies are paid in accordance with assessed rateable values. The members of the board are assessed at the same rate as proprietors who are not members of the board.

Appendix 2

Update on Fishery Management Plan

GENERIC CATCHMENT WIDE ACTIONS

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2015
Marine Survival	Moray Firth		Cooperate with potential research projects on the impacts of marine renewable projects in the Moray and Pentland Firths.	MSS		Ongoing. Attendance at meetings in conjunction with NDSFB.
Abstraction and Impoundment	Catchment Wide	Smaller fish, eggs and larvae that pass through screens on intakes are said to be 'entrained'. Larger fish that do not pass through and are physically impacted on the screens are 'impinged'. Both can result in significant mortalities of fish, in particular salmon smolts.	Ensure that all intakes (e.g. power station, micro-hydro, drinking water) are known, adequately screened and operated effectively in accordance with legislation. Ensure SSE operate turbines at optimum load for smolt survival.	SEPA, SSE		Ongoing. Each CAR application for micro-hydro is scrutinised by NBFT. Comments lodged by NBFT. Ongoing discussions with SSE at BDSFB at liaison meetings.
Predation	Catchment Wide	Populations of mergansers, goosanders and cormorants predating on salmon parr and smolts.	Maintain accurate piscivorous bird counts to support annual management licence applications			Counts completed by NBFT. 2016 license to be applied for in the coming weeks.
			Submit annual application for bird licence to Scottish Natural heritage in partnership with the Moray Firth Predator Group		Y	As above
		Common and grey seals predating on smolts, adult salmon and kelts particularly in the Moray Firth and lower reaches of the Beaully system.	Review, maintain and implement the Moray Firth Seal Management Plan.			Ongoing in conjunction with NDSFB.
		Dolphins within the Moray Firth predating on salmon and sea trout smolts, adults and kelts.	Work in partnership with Spey Board to assess the impacts of cetacean predation on salmon and sea trout stocks.	SDSFB, SF, WDC, SNH	Y	As above.
Non-Native Species	Catchment Wide	Surveys have indicated that a number of non-native plant species are present in the Beaully District. Remedial actions have commenced on the River Beaully and elsewhere within the District.	Develop and implement a catchment wide eradication programme of key non-native plant species.	Coille Alba		Considerable progress made in 2015. Work will continue until end 2016. Assuming success of SISI bid, this will be picked up by the Project and will run until 2020

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2015
		Mink remain present and active with the Beaully system.	Maintain role of NBFT as Coordinator for the Scottish Mink Initiative in the Beaully Catchment.			Project now officially ended. NBFT continuing to monitor and trap. No sightings on Beaully catchment in 2016. Three weeks trapping so far.
	Catchment Wide	Invasive species are the second greatest threat to biodiversity and their ecological impacts and economic consequences can be devastating.	Maintain high levels of awareness and encourage the development of preventative biosecurity measures for anglers and other river users.			Ongoing. Biosecurity plan up for renewal in 2016.
Illegal Fishing		Illegal fishing deprives fishery owners and management organizations of revenue and is potentially ecologically damaging.	Develop and implement a strategy for the effective policing of the Beaully District.	Ness DSFB, Cromarty Firth DSFB		Ongoing.
Human Exploitation	Catchment Wide	Stocks of fish populations already under pressure are particularly susceptible to human exploitation.	Continue catch and release initiatives. Reduce other exploitation where possible e.g. netting buyouts.	Ness DSFB		Ongoing in conjunction with NDSFB.
Forestry	Catchment Wide	Forestry has the potential to damage or improve fish populations.	Continue to influence forestry design plans when consulted.	Forestry Commission Scotland, Estates		Ongoing in conjunction with BDSFB.
Pollution	Catchment Wide	Point source pollution occurs periodically.	Maintain vigilance and report incidents to SEPA	SEPA		Ongoing.
Other	Catchment Wide	There is a general lack of information regarding fish distribution and status in many areas, particularly lochs.	Continue to utilise estate records, SEPA survey data etc to improve understanding.	Estates, SEPA		No specific actions to date.
	Catchment Wide	Assessment of trends in rod catches is required to inform management decisions.	Utilise NASCO rod catch tool in accordance with ASFB guidance.			Yearly analysis of catch data by NBFT – completed in 2016

BEAULY COASTAL

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2015
Human Exploitation	Moray Firth	Mixed Stock Net Fisheries in the Moray Firth.	Negotiate a long-term buyout of remaining netting interests in Moray Firth.	NDSFB		Ongoing in conjunction with NDSFB.
	Moray Firth	Rod and line sea trout fishery	Introduce a voluntary and incentivised sea trout log book scheme to encourage submission of returns from the Firth	IAC,BAC, MFTI, NBFT, NDSFB		Ongoing in conjunction with MFTI. Good number of samples received from BAC from Downie beat in spring. Samples sent for analysis to Andy Walker
Illegal Fishing	Moray Firth	Historically large scale problems relating to the illegal exploitation of sea and sea trout through the use of set nets.	Maintain overt and covert patrols of coastal areas to deter or detect any illegal fishing activity.			Ongoing in conjunction with NDSFB.
Man-made obstructions	Redcastle Burn	Access to upper reaches denied by dam structure.	Assess desirability of remedial action.	SEPA		Surveys complete. Report ready for mid July 2016

LOWER BEAULY

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2015
Impoundment & Water Abstraction	Kilmorack and Aigas Dam	Concerns at the numerical differential between the fish counter counts at Kilmorack Dam and Aigas Dam have periodically been raised.	Utilise data provided by SSE to assess accuracy of counts.	SSE		On going discussions with SSE. Awaiting new SSE counter software before this can begin.
Barriers to Migration	Culburnie Burn	A former bridge apron appears to be a barrier to fish migration.	Remedial engineering on bridge apron to facilitate salmon migration.	SEPA		COMPLETE
	Bridgend Burn	Culvert periodically causes fish access issues.	Continue to cooperate with Lovat Estate and other partners to keep culvert debris free.	Lovat Estate, Highland Council		COMPLETE. Plans to completely de-culvert section. Could be funded by SISI
	Black Burn	Sawmill weir no longer in use which prevents fish migration.	Improve fish data for Black Burn to assess desirability of removal of weir	SEPA		COMPLETE
	All Lower Beaulay	Debris accumulations have historically caused fish migration issues.	Continue to check for serious accumulations and remove if required	Lower Beaulay Fishing Syndicate, BAC		Ongoing. Work done by Lower Beaulay ghillies.
Agriculture	Belladrum Burn	A number of issues associated with agricultural production such as water gates and damage to riparian habitats by livestock have been identified.	Liaise with farming community to implement best practice.	SEPA, MFTI, SRDP		No action to date.
	Bridgend Burn	Silt inputs are an ongoing issue in the lower reaches of the Bridgend Burn.	Liaise with farming community to implement best practice.	SEPA, MFTI, SRDP		NBFT supplied supporting information to landowner. Application submitted – awaiting response.
Other	All Lower Beaulay	Salmon aquaculture was a historical feature of the Beaulay catchment. The legacy of this on the genetic integrity of the native population is unknown.	Consider use of SNP genetic assessment to identify degree of genetic introgression.	RAFTS	Y	No action to date. Cost may be a prohibiting factor.
	All Lower Beaulay	The destination of the early-running component is currently unknown.	Undertake feasibility exercise to assess potential use of genetic analyses, tagging, tracking etc to improve knowledge of spatial distribution of this stock component.	RAFTS	Y	Tagging began in 2015 with support, training and advice from NBFT.

UPPER BEAULY

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2014
Other	Eskadale Burn	Salmon aquaculture was a historical feature of the Beaully catchment. The legacy of this on the genetic integrity of the native wild population is unknown.	Consider use of SNP genetic assessment to identify degree of genetic introgression.	RAFTS	Y	No actions to date. Cost may be a prohibiting factor.

FARRAR

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2015
Impoundment & Water Abstraction	Deanie Burn	For reasons unknown the Deanie Burn does not support an established salmon population. Issues relating to flow levels, acidity levels etc have been considered but evidence is currently lacking as to the cause of the issue.	Continue monitoring fish populations. Consider use of egg box experiment.			ONGOING – Suggest geomorphological assessment
	Upper Farrar	Habitat surveys undertaken by NBFT established that two tributaries of the Farrar are currently largely dewatered.	Establish quantity of water required to establish compensation flows on burns and consider this quantity in relation to current Misgeach compensation levels.			Burns not perceived as priority by SEPA. There will be no progress with this under current RBMP phase
	Farrar Tributary	A recent culvert replacement at a small tributary of the Farrar has the potential to inhibit upstream migration of adult salmon.	Monitor salmon population upstream of culvert.			Site visit with SSE in December 2015. SSE to investigate remedial actions.
Agriculture	Lower Farrar	Fencing of many sections of the Farrar downstream of Loch Beannacharan is currently lacking in many areas. This allows sheep to graze close to the river banks.	Approach Culligran estate to establish if improved fencing is feasible.			No actions to date.
Cultural Oligotrophication	Upper Farrar	Regeneration of native forests is likely to reverse trend of reduction in nutrient levels.	Continue to support Braulin and Culligran Estate in regeneration efforts.			Ongoing.
Climate Change	Upper Farrar	Regeneration of native forests is likely to help 'climate change proof' Farrar.	Continue to support Braulin and Culligran Estate in regeneration efforts.			Ongoing

GLASS, CANNICH & AFFRIC

Limiting Factor	Location	Description	Proposed Management Action	Potential Partner Organisations	Specific Research Requirement?	Actions to date in 2015.
Barriers to Migration	Burn at Tomich Village	Extensive alterations to the river bed have been made which has destroyed habitat and may be limiting fish migration. A more detailed assessment of the nature of the habitat and fish populations within the burn is required.	Increase understanding of salmon population of burn using electric fishing surveys. Consider geomorphological assessment of damaged area.			Desktop study complete. Site visit/assessment required to progress – to be discussed at meeting
	River Cannich	Weir close to Mullardoch Dam is preventing trout migration.	Consider options for removal of weir.	Estate		Contact made with North bank owner. 'in principle' favour of removal. See report for more detail
Agriculture	River Glass	NBFT habitat surveys have identified areas where improved fencing would reduce 'poaching' of river banks by livestock.	Liaise with farming community to implement best practice.	SEPA, SRDP		No action to date.

Appendix 3

Map of Catchment

BIDWELLS



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