

*Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board*



*Annual Report  
2016 / 17*



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 17**

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## **TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**

### **Chairman**

William Jack (Mandatory for the Earl of Mansfield)

### **Members Elected by Upper Proprietors**

S. Furniss (Mandatory for Dunkeld House Hotel)  
C. Mercer Nairne  
A. Riddell  
G. Coates (Mandatory for Taymount Timeshare)

### **Members Elected by Lower Proprietors**

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

### **Co-opted Members**

#### *Representatives of Salmon Anglers*

D. Brown  
C. O’Dea (Tay Ghillies Association)  
S. Mannion  
I. McLaren  
J. Wood

### **Honorary Member**

J. Apthorp

### **Observers**

N. MacIntyre (Scottish Natural Heritage)  
B. Roxburgh (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)

### **Board Staff**

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

#### **Clerk**

Inga McGown

#### **Telephone**

01738 583733, mobile 07786 361784  
Email: [ingamcgown@btconnect.com](mailto:ingamcgown@btconnect.com)

#### **Fisheries Director**

Dr David Summers

01738 583733, mobile 07974 360787  
Email: [d-summers@btconnect.com](mailto:d-summers@btconnect.com)

#### **Operations Manager**

Michael Brown

01738 583733, mobile 07748 968919  
Email: [mjabbrown@btconnect.com](mailto:mjabbrown@btconnect.com)

#### **Bailiff staff**

Craig Duncan  
David Ross  
Ron Whytock  
Ross Pirie  
Marek Wolf

07748 338667  
07974 360789  
07967 709457  
07971 695115  
07816 159183

#### **Kelt Reconditioning Unit**

Steve Keay

01738 583755

#### **Website**

[www.tdsfb.org](http://www.tdsfb.org)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017

It has been my privilege to be a member of the Tay Salmon Fisheries Board and to have been its Chairman for the last eight years.

The last few years of my chairmanship have been dominated by the substantial changes proposed by Scottish Government following the "Thin" report.

The changes proposed would have radically altered the way that Fisheries Boards are constituted, as well as their legal status.

After several years of uncertainty, these proposals have now been largely abandoned and the way forward much clearer.

As a result, I believe it is the right time for me to stand down and I will therefore not be seeking re-election at the coming AGM.

I wish to thank all Board members who have shown me such great support during my time in office, the job would not have been possible without it.

My thanks go also to all members of Board staff as well as to the Ghillies Association, whose members have supported the Board with both their time and with substantial financial contribution.

Finally, I must make special mention of our River Director, Dr David Summers, whose efforts on behalf of our river (often unseen) have made my role so much easier and enjoyable.

I am particularly pleased that Iain McLaren has agreed, if elected, to take my place.

Iain brings a wealth of experience, both as a fishery scientist and an avid fisherman, as well as a new energy and I wish him well in the post.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W H Jack', written on a light-colored background.

W H JACK  
Chairman

I moved to Tayside in 1978 to take up a post at the Freshwater Laboratory, where I was employed until taking early retirement in 2012. In the intervening years I was involved in range of practical fishery related science throughout Scotland.

Ever since I was a child I have had a passion for fishing. I caught my first Tummel salmon in March 1979 and have been fortunate enough to have fished throughout the district every year since. I count myself as having been incredibly lucky to experience so many enjoyable times on the Tay and its tributaries.

The season past was more that likely the poorest season on record for salmon fishing on the Tay. Like many other anglers, I can look back to when things were so much better and fish more abundant. Who knows what lies ahead for salmon stocks on the Tay? With most of what happens to salmon abundance being determined at sea and out with anyone's control, it would be easy to see everything as being all gloom and doom with no hope for the future. With the season that we have just had that would be very understandable! However, without doubt the most encouraging thing that I witnessed this past season was to watch salmon spawning in the upper Garry. This will be the first time in nearly 70 years that this has happened. This has only come about with the Board working with SSE and SEPA to deliver a good outcome for salmon in the Garry. There are good things that can be done.

I have been a co-opted member of the board, representing salmon anglers, for the last three years. Were I to be elected Chairman, I would see it as an opportunity for me personally to put something back into the Tay. The Tay has been good to me. As a Board member it is clear to me that we are very fortunate to have such good staff. I think they deserve all the support the Board can give them. To that end and by whatever means at our disposal, we should ensure that the whole of the district is producing as many smolts as possible. At a time of poor survival at sea I would see that as our priority.

Yours sincerely

Iain McLaren  
Prospective Chairman



## 2017 REPORT

### Season 2017

The 2017 Tay salmon angling season opened on Monday 16 January. The preceding few weeks had been largely dry and, although there had been higher water around Christmas and New Year, the water level on the 15<sup>th</sup>, at just under three feet, was relatively low for the time of year. However, the river rose a foot or more overnight but, being only due to melted snow, the water had not coloured and the river was still perfectly fishable.

Some eight spring salmon were caught on opening day. Three from Loch Tay, two from Meikleour, one from Lower Farleyer, one from Taymouth Castle and one from Dunkeld House. That latter fish, a 19 pounder, won Robert Harvey the Redford Trophy for the largest opening day fish off the Tay.

Shortly after opening day, the Tay rose to nearly five feet but the rest of January was relatively dry for the time of year. By the 31<sup>st</sup> the level was down to about two feet. Catches had not lived up to early hopes and water was hoped for. An initial estimate is that a little over 20 fish may have been caught in January which is likely to be a bit below the recent average.

The Tay rose on 1 February and reached about 7 feet on 5 February. Further rain later on saw February end with the highest level of the season, over 8 feet. At the time of writing this report, catch returns have not been received from all beats. However, 65 fish were reported for February on the fishtay website against a five year website average of 123. As fishtay now includes most of the main beats on the Tay, the final total will not be much higher. The final tally will be well down. While that will be so, the proportion of fish weighing well into the teens of pounds or even higher appeared to be higher than usual and not that many fish under 10 pounds appeared to have been caught. What was caught seemed to have been dominated by 3SW fish. 2SW appear to have been relatively scarce.

March saw higher water levels. The Tay averaged about four feet throughout, with a number of rises, but no big floods. Indeed, 2017 proved to be free of major floods. While there was some snow inland and some frosty nights, there were also unseasonably mild periods and spring appeared a little ahead of normal. After a slow start, the fishing did pick up and 279 salmon were reported on the fishtay website for the month, but still below the recent fishtay five year average of 354. As in February, larger fish still seemed to be a major component of catches, including four fish reported as being in excess of 30 pounds.

The distribution of the catch was also different from usual. For example, the Stanley area usually fishes as well as anywhere in March, but in 2017, catches were well down in that area. However, catches at Cargill, Islamouth and Coupar Grange on the Isla were well over their March averages. Fish were caught on Loch Tay but not to the extent of some recent years. It would seem that a generally milder winter / early spring created conditions not normally seen until April and fish just passed through the Stanley area rather than stopping.

April started with a rise to over four feet, but then was a very dry month, ending with the Tay running at under one foot. As in March, the catch reported to fishtay was down on the five year average, 413 compared to 518. Given fishing conditions in tributaries were poor due to low water, fewer fish than usual are likely to have been caught on those tributaries beats that do not report to fishtay.

Again, because of the low water, some Tay beats did very badly but others did well. For example Ballathie and Cargill did better than normal but Islamouth did very well with 85 for April. Because of the conditions, it wasn't clear at the end of April whether the lower catches overall were due to a poorer run or not. However, by this time in the season, the number of 2SW did appear to increase and the proportion of 3SW fish, among catches of fresh fish, was declining.

The dry conditions of April continued into May and, by mid month, levels were down almost to drought conditions in some of the tributaries. Salmon with *Saprolegnia* fungus were in evidence, not only in the River Ericht, but even in the main River Tay also. SSE started to get concerned that it might not be possible to maintain the statutory minimum compensation flow from Pitlochry Dam because of falling water levels in Loch Ericht. That would have been something that had never occurred at this time of year before. However, in the second half of the month, things changed slightly. A little rain did stop the river at least from falling any further until a few days into June.

Only 378 salmon were reported on fishtay for May compared to a recent average of 635. The very low water may have contributed partly to the reduced total. However, with fish heading for the Ericht held up in the main river, Islamouth continued to fish well, totalling 100 for the month. That, and the fact that considerable numbers of fish were seen running the weir in Blairgowrie on small rises late in the month, indicated there may have been a reasonable run of fish heading for the Ericht. On the Tummel, more fish had passed through the Pitlochry counter by the end of May than in any year since 1978 (page 26). That was probably a reflection of warmer water temperatures allowing the run through earlier. When fish get through Pitlochry quicker and earlier, catches in the Tummel go down.

While starting off with Tay levels under a foot, the weather broke about a week into June. The Tay then ran around three feet for a period, but the latter half of the month saw levels settle again. 410 fish were reported on fishtay for June, but that was again down on the recent average.

In July, the Tay's level would have normally been thought of as having been on the low side, had it not been for the very low water earlier. The base level of the river generally remained between one and two feet, with a few rises. But July proved to be the only month of the season where the fishtay catch, at least, was close to its recent average. Because the water was generally low, the best of the July fishing was in the lower river but most middle Tay beats below Dunkeld had a hard time in July.

August was a wetter month. The Tay ran between three and four feet for most of the latter part of the month. But, while the increase in flow might have been expected to spread fish out, there did not appear to be a great influx of fresh fish to take advantage of it. In a number of recent years the summer grilse run has not peaked until August but this year grilse did not seem to appear in any

abundance at all. Many of the fish caught appear to have been salmon, many of which were colouring up. The same thing happened in 2016, but in 2017 the process seemed to commence a few weeks earlier with relatively few fresh fish after July. 566 fish were reported on fishtay for August while the recent average is 818.

Like August, September had no significant dry period. Tay levels generally fluctuated between two and four feet, creeping up towards the end of the month. But, while some days were hampered by conditions, water levels were not excessive as they sometimes can be at this time. However, irrespective of the conditions, the pattern established in August continued to play out. Very few fresh fish appeared to enter the Tay, neither grilse nor salmon. Colouring salmon appeared to make up large part of what was caught, even on the lower Tay. This was reflected in the fact that 561 fish were reported on fishtay for the month compared to a recent average of 1196.

October also saw several bouts of rain and, on a few occasions, the Tay rose to over five or six during the half month to the end of the Tay season. However, in the last week of the month, which saw the close of the season on the Earn and Eden, levels had settled back somewhat. However, even in October there was no sign of any significant late run of fish. Coloured salmon provided most of what fish were caught. 286 were reported on fishtay against a five year average of 1587, although that includes several years of the trial season extension.

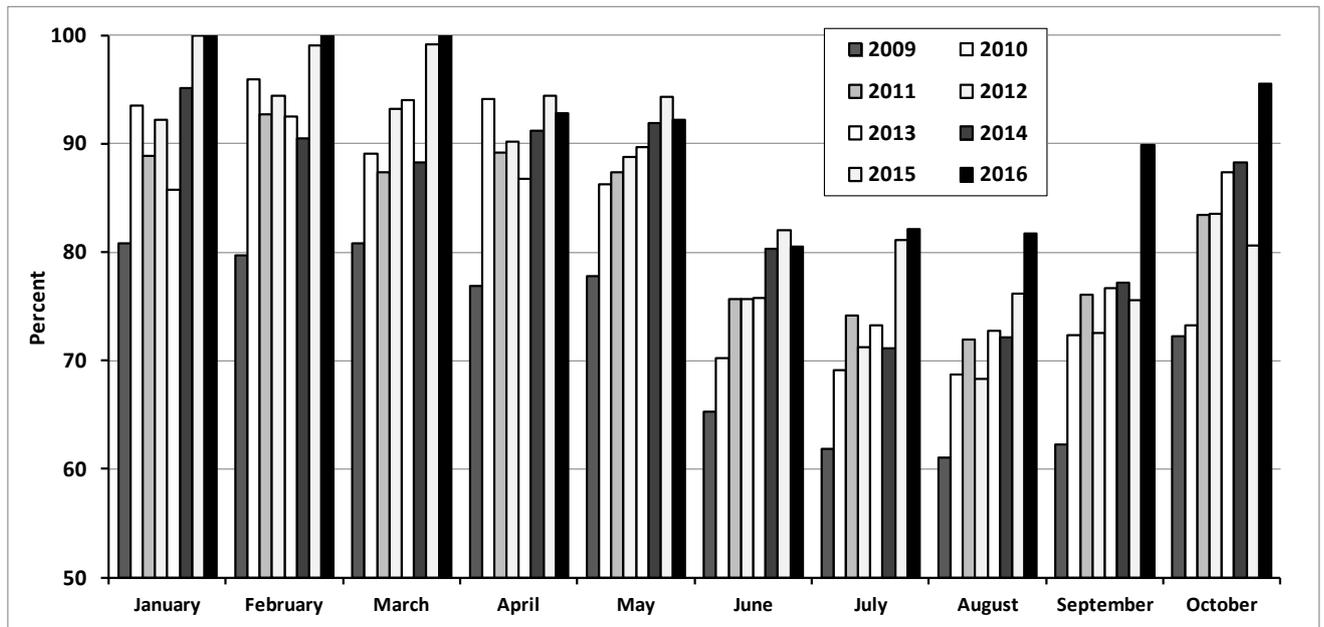
To sum up the season, with 3324 fish reported on fishtay, it is possible that the full final total might not reach 5000, which would make 2017 the poorest angling season in terms of reported catch since the 1950s. Then, of course, angling effort was probably lower on many beats and many nets were operating in the estuary and on the coast. Therefore, the total run of fish returning to the coast in 2017 may have been lower than in the 1950s, perhaps even the lowest recorded.

The Tay was not the only river to be so affected in 2017. In fact the problem appears to have been widespread. Possible reasons for the poor grilse run in particular are considered on page 31. It seems most likely that the problem, once again, is a marine one.

### **Catch and Release**

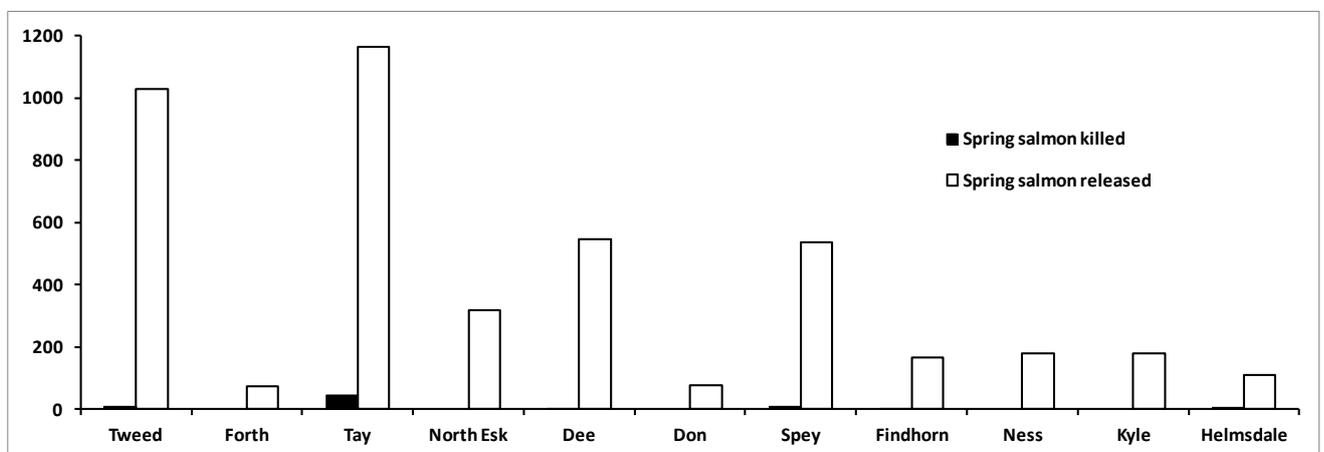
In 2016 and 2017, the Board continued to recommend a policy, introduced in 2010, of 100% catch-and-release of salmon up to the end of May with no more than one fresh grilse per day for the rest of the season. At the time of writing, the latest catch returns available to assess compliance with this policy are only for the 2016 season. As a result of the introduction in 2015 of national mandatory catch and release to 31 March, the reported release rate to 31 March was 100% for the first time in 2016 (Figure 1). Over 90% of fish were released in April and May despite release not being mandatory. In later months it has been the case in recent years that release rates have been a bit lower but rising again towards the end of the season. However, in 2016, there was a marked increase in the release rate later in the season with over 95% of fish being released in October (Figure 1). This increase in release rate, predicted in last year's *Annual Report*, probably reflected the fact that mandatory catch and release was in place on the Earn and Eden for the entire 2016 season plus a lack of fresh run fish, particularly grilse, in autumn 2016.

While full figures have yet to be received and processed, 2017 is likely to follow a very similar pattern given the prevalence of coloured fish in the autumn catches in 2017.



**Figure 1.** Percentage of the Tay district salmon and grilse catch released by month in each year from 2009 to 2016. The data used in this graph are Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science. Marine Scotland is not responsible for interpretation of these data by third parties.

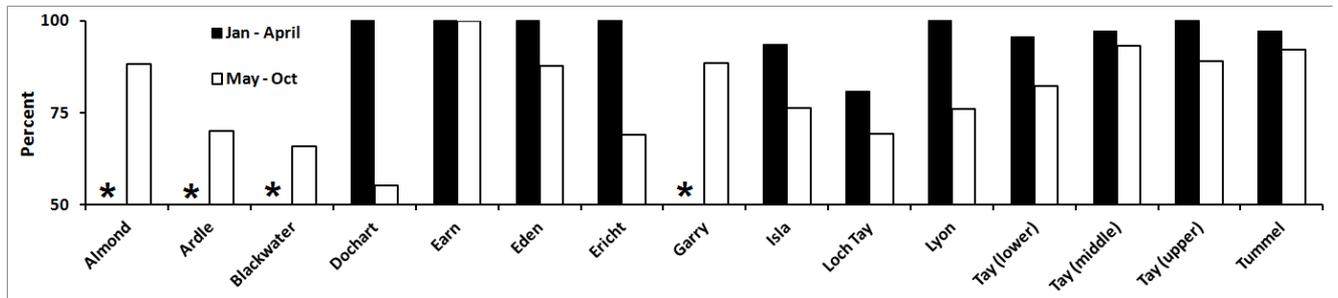
In 2016 more spring salmon were caught in the Tay district than any other Scottish district (Figure 2). This is the fourth year in succession the Tay has held this position. While very few spring salmon were killed, once again more were still killed in the Tay district than any other district in 2016.



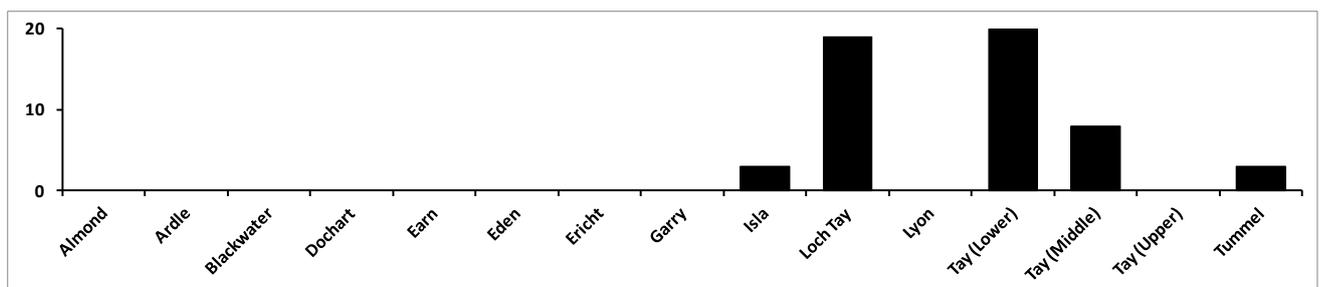
**Figure 2.** Numbers of salmon killed and released by anglers to 30 April 2016 on Scotland's major spring salmon rivers. Data from Marine Scotland Science.

### Catch and Release Rates in Different Parts of the District in 2016

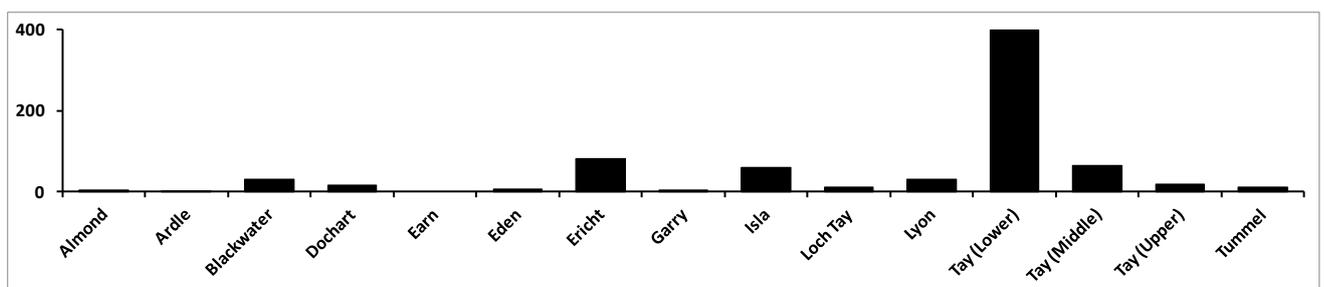
From Figure 3 it can be seen that, in 2016, a high rate of release was achieved in all parts of the district up to the end of April, although at 81% Loch Tay continues to most notably lag behind other areas in percentage terms. However, in terms of actual numbers almost equivalent numbers were killed in the lower Tay and Loch Tay (Figure 4). Later in the season release rates exceeded 50% in all areas, with some variation. The lowest rates of release tended to be in some of the tributaries rather than in the main river. The greatest number of fish retained in the May – October period was in the lower main River Tay (Figure 5).



**Figure 3.** Percentages of salmon released in different parts of the Tay district during the periods January – April 2016 and May – October 2016. Tributaries which did not produce any spring fish are marked with \*.



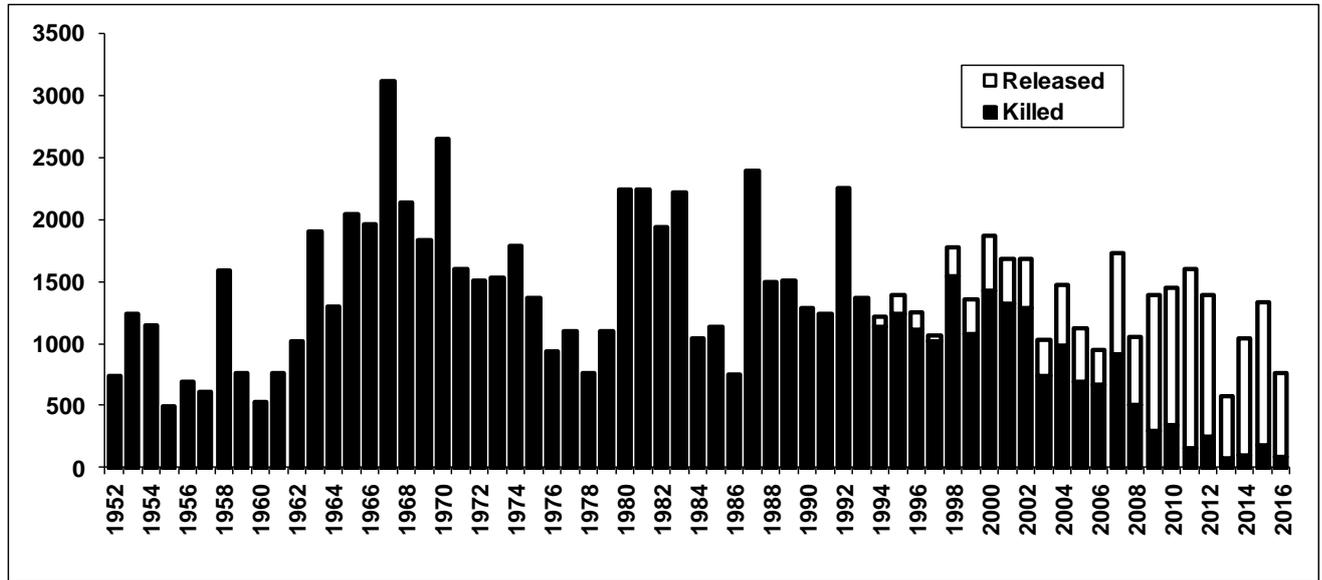
**Figure 4.** Numbers of reported retained salmon from different parts of the Tay district, Jan – April 2016.



**Figure 5.** Numbers of reported retained salmon from different parts of the Tay district, May – October 2016.

## Sea Trout Conservation

In 2009, the Board first recommended that, following a long decline in their numbers, all sea trout should be released without exception. This policy has been maintained thereafter. Since the introduction of the policy, the great majority of the catch has continued to be released (Figure 6). 2016 proved to be another poor year for sea trout, indicating that a continuation of this policy is the most sensible course of action.



**Figure 6.** Tay District rod & line catch of sea trout, 1952 – 2016. (Data obtained from Marine Scotland’s Statistical Bulletins of Scottish Salmon and Sea Trout Catches)

## Mandatory Spring Catch and Release Regulations

2017 was the third year of regulations introduced by Scottish Ministers requiring the mandatory release of all salmon caught up to the end of March. As shown in Figure 1 the measures had a significant impact on the overall spring release rate in 2015 and 2016. The measures were introduced for a period of five years, but are reviewed annually by Scottish Ministers.

## Staff Changes

There was only one change to Board staff in 2017. A new trainee leading bailiff was appointed in the autumn to replace a bailiff who had resigned the previous year.

## Enforcement

In 2017 no cases initiated by board staff have been sent to the Procurator Fiscal at the time of writing. However, some instances of illegal fishing activity were suspected but the evidence obtained was deemed insufficient or inadmissible. In several instances anglers fishing without permission were asked to leave. While undertaking these duties bailiff staff received assistance from

time to time from Police Scotland and once again, the Board wishes to express its thanks to Police Scotland, particularly local offices, who are always extremely helpful.

During the course of the year, Craig Duncan, one of the bailiff team attended meeting's of Fisheries Management Scotland's enforcement committee, Marine Scotland's regulatory and enforcement bailiff development group and Police Scotland's rural and wildlife steering group.

### **Health and Safety at Work**

Health and safety at work is a major consideration for the Board. The Board's staff are frequently required to work in situations where potential hazards are present. Therefore the Board is insistent that health and safety provision is of the highest standard. As described in last year's *Annual Report* a review of the Board's Health and Safety Policy was conducted in 2016 by health and safety consultants Greens of Haddington.

In early 2017 revised H&S policy handbooks were distributed amongst all staff members, were signed for and that the bailiff team met to discuss any changes or updates, of which there were none. A copy was made available to the Board members.

At the time of writing (November 2017), no incidents have been reported to the HSE under RIDDOR in 2017.

### **TDSFB Annual Public Meeting 2017**

The Board held its fourth Annual Public Meeting on 23 March 2017. The meeting was held in the Birnam Institute and attracted a good attendance of both proprietors and anglers. Presentations on the work of the Board were given by the Chairman and the Fisheries Director with questions and answers following. The minutes of the meeting can be found at [www.tdsfb.org/reports.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/reports.html).

### **Annual Bailiffs' Conference**

The Annual Fisheries Management Scotland bailiffs' conference took place this year in Dumbarton hosted by the Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association. Most of the bailiff staff and the Operations Manager were able to attend and found it informative. Speakers this year included the Chief Constable of Police Scotland.

### **Fisheries Management Scotland**

Fisheries Management Scotland, a new organisation to represent DSFBs and fisheries trusts, replacing the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, was formed over the winter of 2016 / 17. The first election to form its board was held in January and the Board's Fisheries Director, David Summers, was elected as one of the six positions for representatives of DSFBs.

More information on the work of Fisheries Management Scotland can be found on its website [www.fms.scot](http://www.fms.scot). The minutes of its regular meetings can be found at <http://fms.scot/board/>.

### Tay Ghillies Association Monthly Prize

During 2017 the Tay Ghillies Association once again ran a fish of the month award to encourage good catch and release practice on the Tay. Each month the winner received two personalised crystal whisky glasses and was entered into a fish of the year competition for a crystal engraved decanter.

The monthly winners for 2017, to September, were: Paul Kelly, 19½ lbs, Meikleour & Upper Islamouth; Ian Kennedy, 22 lbs, Ballathie; Tim Greenfield, 22lbs, Catholes; Frode Loderkjaer, 20 lbs, Newtyle, Paul Hughes, 20lbs, Newtyle; Cloe Delaney, 14 pounds (first ever fish), Taymount; Kenny McGregor, three fish on the fly, Upper Redgorton; Neil Gallagher, 16 lbs, Upper Scone; Gilbert Fenwick, 29 lbs, Lower Redgorton.

### Hatchery Report 2016/17

As described in recent *Annual Reports*, the Board’s stocking activities are now centered around the Kelt Reconditioning Project. This entails the keeping and feeding in captivity of salmon kelts following stripping. Such fish can live in captivity for several years on average, producing eggs each winter with the great advantage of not impacting on the source population of the kelts. The Board has run the kelt reconditioning project since 2011 when it took over the former Marine Scotland Science hatchery at Almondbank.

Shortly after taking on the Almondbank facility in 2011 the Board expanded the capacity to hold reconditioned kelts. However, all the new tanks have never yet been filled and as reported in the last *Annual Report* there was a major setback in 2016 because of an outbreak of bacterial kidney disease. While that resulted in a reduction in the captive stock, the broodstock fishing in autumn 2016 was more successful than previously, allowing more new fish to start the reconditioning process in 2017 (Table 1).

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Eggs from new broodstock</b>			300,211	189,021	312,421	436,787
<b>Eggs from reconditioned broodstock</b>			354,722	421,379	316,204	222,810
<b>Total</b>	779,000	582,000	654,933	610,400	629,225	659,597

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

In order to better understand why there had been a failure to grow the captive population to its full capacity a review of the operation was conducted in the spring of 2017.

The review found, among other things, the numbers of new fish brought in each year was not sufficient to outweigh the numbers of older fish dying each year and that the number of fish obtained each year was generally considerably less than the Board was licensed to catch. If similar numbers of new broodstock to that obtained in 2016 could be obtained consistently, the spare capacity would be filled in a few years. Broodstock fishing was sometimes relatively unsuccessful because of adverse water conditions in the run up to spawning time. Therefore it was recommended that steps should be taken to maximise the chances of catching broodstock. It was recommended that two broodstock fishing teams should be established instead of one, requiring temporary / volunteer assistance and catching methods reviewed.

Therefore, in the autumn of 2017 a second set of broodstock electrofishing equipment was obtained, paid for by a generous donation from the Tay Ghillies Association. Members of the TGA also volunteered to assist with broodstock fishing and received training in the operation and health and safety. While admittedly weather conditions were better than in some years, the two broodstock fishing teams comfortably succeeded in catching the full allocation of broodstock. If this can now be repeated annually the number of reconditioned fish will hopefully increase year on year.

The eggs that were produced in the spring of 2017 were stocked out into various areas within the Tay district shown in Table 2. The choice of stocking sites was made in keeping with the Board's stocking policy which the hatchery subcommittee recommended should be reviewed. Owing to generally milder temperatures experienced during the 2016/17 winter, stocking out commenced earlier than usual. As has been the case previously, as many eggs as possible are stocked out at the eyed ova stage and most of the remainder stocked out as unfed fry. A relatively small proportion were reared on in the hatchery until the autumn when they were released as fed-on parr. These 11,241 parr were all adipose fin clipped for future identification as part of ongoing trials of the success of this type of rearing.

<b>Tributary stocked</b>	<b>Number stocked</b>	<b>Stage stocked</b>	<b>Broodstock type</b>
River Garry (upper)	272,389	Eyed ova / unfed fry	Reconditioned kelts and new broodstock
River Tilt	36,879	Eyed ova / unfed fry	New broodstock
Fillan tribs. (Auchreoch, Clifton and Auchtertyre burns)	68,700	Eyed ova / unfed fry	New broodstock
Errochty Water	49,972	Eyed ova / unfed fry	New broodstock
Allt Dubh Choirein and Ruchill Water (Earn)	140,797 1774	Eyed ova / unfed fry Parr	New broodstock and reconditioned kelts
Cononish	26,660	Eyed ova / unfed fry	Reconditioned kelts
Lyon tributaries	44,517	Eyed ova / unfed fry	New broodstock
River Tay (Catholes)	1653	Parr	Reconditioned kelts
River Lyon (main stem)	4665	Parr	New broodstock
River Lochay	3149	Parr	Reconditioned kelts
<b>Total</b>	<b>651,155</b>		

**Table 2.** Numbers of salmon eggs, fry and parr stocked out from the hatchery in 2017.

## **Salmon in the Classroom**

Salmon in the classroom is a joint project which is now headed by the Tay Foundation, although delivery is largely conducted by other partners which include Perth and Kinross Council Ranger Services, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Ranger Services, Atholl Estates Ranger Services and the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board.

In 2017, salmon eggs were provided from the Board's hatchery at Almondbank to four primary schools (Aberuthven ( two classes), Luncarty, Crianlarich and St Stephen's (Blairgowrie)) and Kinross High. In the spring, most of the participating classes and a class from Craigclowan school visited the Board's hatchery and were given talks and demonstrations on the salmon life cycle and its conservation, the process of the hatchery and the fisheries on the River Tay. Later in the year, Board staff performed electrofishing demonstrations in the streams where the alevins or fry had been released by the pupils. Schools were also invited to submit a project record to a competition. The project received financial support from Vaillant Group which particularly enabled transport to be available for site visits. The Tay Ghillies Association have generously agreed to fund full transport costs for 2018.

## **Upper River Lyon Salmon Genetics Project**

Previous work by the Board and the Tay Foundation has shown that juvenile salmon numbers in a stretch of the upper River Lyon between Stronuich and Lubreoch hydro dams may not be as high as might be expected from the number of adults that can spawn there. It has been suggested that perhaps juvenile salmon in that part of the river might have lower survival rates than further downstream but this has not been tested yet.

However, advances in DNA analysis mean that it is now possible to separate out siblings within a population of juvenile salmon by obtaining small fin tissue samples from them. This then means that from a sample of juvenile salmon it is possible to estimate how many adult salmon gave rise to that sample or to estimate how many salmon have spawned in a given area.

In 2016 the Tay Foundation decided to establish a project using such techniques to determine the number of spawning salmon between the two dams and in two areas downstream of Stronuich Dam. The objective being to test whether smaller numbers of spawners produce more juveniles downstream of the dam compared to upstream. The Tay Foundation and some Rvier Lyon proprietors are to fund the project. The Board has contributed to the project by providing staff to collect the samples of fish.

In the event, because of river conditions and the low numbers of parr present sufficient samples were not obtained between the dams in 2016. Therefore, sampling was performed again in 2017 and eventually a sufficient number of parr were obtained. The genetic analysis will now be performed by the River and Lochs Institute of the University of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness.

## Low Flows and Fish Migration

The period of low flows in the spring of 2017 caused issues for migrating fish in some areas. For example, the river became too low for fish to move on the River Ericht and there were reports of fish with fungus in the Ericht in addition to the Tummel and even in the main stem of the Tay. In the Ericht, fish which had ascended almost up to Blairgowrie before the water really dropped got stuck in pools in a section of river where the flow was particularly low. Water is drawn off the River Ericht at the road bridge in Blairgowrie to supply a fish farm. At its worst, perhaps more than half of the flow was being abstracted, leaving fish with little possibility of ascending upstream. This is an issue that has occurred before and was once again drawn to the attention of SEPA.



*River Ericht, Blairgowrie, May 2017, low flow conditions. Hardly any water was flowing over the weir leading to fish passage problems.*

The period of lowest flow coincided with the time when the main smolt run was expected to take place. If there is much water during the smolt time, smolts migrate quickly to sea and are rarely seen. In 2017 smolts took their time and being delayed, they ceased to move only at night and became active even during the middle of sunny days.

The low flows meant that abstraction points again proved more attractive than normal and smolts could find themselves in problem areas.

One such example was a small hydro station at Stormontfield, which is supplied by water from Stormontfield Lade. Underwater filming with a Go Pro camera (provided to the Board by the TGA) revealed a large number of smolts holding station deep down in front of the screens. Because of the low flow, the current speed through the screens was such that the smolts were not in danger of tiring and being pinned on the screens but it was clearly a problem if smolts could not get past.

The information was relayed to SEPA and thence to the operator who increased the flow in the bywash. Thereafter, smolts were still seen in front of the screens but smolts were also observed in

the chambers of the bywash with the GoPro camera indicating that the smolts were now passing through but being delayed on the way.

### **Scone Game Fair**

Board staff attended the Scone Game Fair this year, sharing a fish conservation stand with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Atlantic Salmon Trust and giving talks about the Board's work in the "Anglers' Bothy". This was part of an initiative by the organizers to raise the profile of the angling part of the fair. It had been several years since the Board had a presence at the Game Fair. The experience was found to be of value and hopefully can be repeated in 2018.

### **Pacific Pink Salmon**

Since pink salmon were first introduced into some western Russian rivers several decades ago, pink salmon have occasionally turned up in Scottish fisheries. However, many more turned up in the summer of 2017 in Scotland and other countries, notably Norway. Several were caught on the Tay, including at Almondmouth, Taymount, Cargill and Dalmarnock. A dead specimen thought perhaps to be a kelt was found near Pitlochry Dam and reported to Marine Scotland Science.

In some other rivers pink salmon were observed to spawn in late summer, but around this time the Tay rose making it difficult to observe any spawning in the Tay, but it would probably be safe to assume that some must have. Eggs were obtained in some rivers such as the Dee, Ness and Spey and these have successfully reached the fry stage in captivity. Therefore it seems likely that spawning will produce emergent fry in the wild.

Pink salmon differ in some important respects from Scottish Atlantic salmon. The spawning period is earlier; late summer as opposed to autumn/winter. In higher latitudes pink salmon fry still emerge in the spring, but higher temperatures here have meant they emerged in late autumn instead. Unlike Atlantic salmon, the pink salmon fry do not spend years in freshwater. Instead they are immediately silver and migrate to sea on emergence, although there may be a little uncertainty over the speed at which this occurs.

It may be there will be little or no competition with Atlantic salmon juveniles. It is also not yet known how well pink salmon will survive at sea, particularly given they will be entering the sea in early winter as opposed to spring. However, if they do survive and become established, the presence of large numbers of returning adults in future may create other very significant threats to existing Atlantic salmon populations.

It is not yet clear why these fish have appeared in such numbers this year. They have most likely come from naturalised populations in Russian White Sea rivers or northern Norway. Perhaps sea conditions enabled exceptional survival of the pink salmon fry that migrated into the Barents Sea in 2015. There has been notable warming in that area in recent years. It is still a matter of speculation whether abundance will remain at this level in that area or indeed increase and whether the successful breeding range will expand, even to include Scotland.

For more detailed information on the pink salmon issue see [www.cefas.co.uk/media/191673/cefas\\_rapidriskassessment\\_pinksalmon\\_05-09-17.pdf](http://www.cefas.co.uk/media/191673/cefas_rapidriskassessment_pinksalmon_05-09-17.pdf).

### **Pitcastle Archimedean Screw Turbine**

In 2016 an Archimedean Screw hydro turbine was constructed on Pitcastle Estate. The turbine is fed by a lade which draws water off the River Tay just upstream of the Grandtully Rapids and returns the water via the turbine just upstream of the Grandtully Bridge. Archimedean turbines of a particular size have been shown to pass smolts without significant apparent damage elsewhere but the Pitcastle machine is a particularly large model and smolt passage trials have yet to be conducted on a turbine of this size apparently. Accordingly a condition of the licence issued by SEPA is that smolt passage should be monitored.

The Board was approached to perform this work and consideration was given to such work for the spring smolt run of 2017. However, on visiting the site, it was clear that catching all of the smolts which exit this turbine over any period of time would be no easy task. The power of the highly turbulent flow, up to 7 cumecs, would make it difficult to trap smolts without them being damaged in the process.

It was agreed with SEPA therefore that in this first year monitoring would be limited to trying to determine whether smolts do actually enter the lade in any numbers or not. That would require trapping at the top of the lade where the speed and turbulence of the flow is much less. While a fyke net arrangement was constructed for this purpose, in the event, flows were so low that the hydro did not operate during the smolt run and no monitoring could take place therefore.



*Archimedean screw turbine at Pitcastle (top right of photo). Photo taken from the Grandtully Bridge.*

## **Marine Scotland Science Coastal Acoustic Salmon Tagging Project**

In order to provide more information on the mixed stock nature of coastal salmon netting, Marine Scotland Science intimated they were to conduct a major coastal adult salmon tagging study in the summer of 2017. It was intended that of the order of adult 750 fish would be caught in bag nets at Armadale on the north coast of Scotland and released with acoustic tags fitted. Acoustic tags emit pulses of sound into the water which can be detected by submerged listening devices some distance away. As well as trying to detect the fish at sea, MSS wished for acoustic detectors to be installed in river mouths around Scotland to determine where these fish would end up. MSS requested assistance from DSFBs and fishery trusts to install detectors and Board staff with assistance of fishery owners and ghillies installed a detector near the Friarton Bridge and another at Almondmouth.

In the event only 82 fish were tagged. The detectors were removed in November and returned to MSS to download the data.

## **Stronuich Fish Pass, River Lyon**

In the summer of 2017 a problem occurred with the Borland fish pass at Stronuich Dam in the upper reaches of the River Lyon. The top gate became stuck and the automatic operation of the pass had to stop. It was found that the gate was sticking to part of its seal and the seal was duly replaced and normal operations resumed. In the interim period before the seal was replaced, some lifts were performed manually by manipulating the upstream level of the loch above relative to the stuck position of the gate.

## **Possible New SEPA Hydro Abstraction Reviews**

In addition to the River Garry, there are a number of other abstracted waterbodies in the Tay catchment and further afield that are listed for review in the various Scotland River Basin Management Plans as a result of the Water Framework Directive. SEPA are the lead agency for these reviews and have visited a number of such sites in the Tay catchment. Most such waterbodies locally have little or no salmon interest and have not involved the Board. However, in 2017 Board staff attended visits to the River Lochay and the River Ericht (Rannoch) along with staff from SEPA and SSE. Work to improve flows in the Lochay and to create a new flow in the Ericht would have some benefit to salmon, though probably less in the latter case. The Board will obviously take an interest in any developments in these catchments.

## **Water of May, Forteviot Railway Viaduct**

As a result of damage in the 1993 flood (presumed), the bed of the Water of May under Forteviot Viaduct was protected with gabion mattresses. These are now deteriorating. After consultation with the Board and SEPA it was agreed that it would be replaced with an impervious concrete surface to prevent water flowing through the mattress rather than over it. The work was conducted in the autumn.

## **Support for two PhD Proposals**

The Board supported two different applications from researchers at Aberdeen University for funding for PhD projects which may have relevance to salmon in the catchment. One project involved researching novel ways of controlling signal crayfish and the Shee Water, which has an expanding crayfish population, would be a proposed study area. The second, supported by SSE, involved using drones fitted with temperature sensing cameras to look at, among other things, the effects of hydro dams on water temperature. It has recently been announced that the second of these applications was successful and will commence in 2018. The first was not successful.

## **Almondbank Flood Defence Works**

Major flood prevention works commenced in early 2017 at Almondbank, both along the East Pow Burn and the River Almond downstream of the main road bridge. This entailed the building of concrete walls along stretches of the burn and the main river. In places this required the edges of these watercourses to be enclosed with coffer dams in order for foundations to be built. Board staff were consulted to ensure that any salmon redds were not damaged by the works and were engaged to remove fish, particularly lampreys, from behind the dams prior to work being conducted.

## **Beavers**

In 2016 Scottish Ministers announced that they were minded to formally recognize feral beavers and have them accorded European Protected Species status. In advance of the formal protection coming into force, Scottish Natural Heritage established a Scottish Beaver Forum to update stakeholders on the work going on and, more particularly, to seek views on management issues. Both the Board and Fisheries Management Scotland are represented on this group.

A new survey of the Tayside beaver population has been conducted in 2017 and the results are expected to be published in late 2017. SNH has also been commissioned to prepare a Habitat Regulation Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment on beaver reintroduction which is also expected to be published in late 2017. It is anticipated that the Statutory Instrument required to alter the status of beavers will be laid in the Scottish Parliament either late in 2018 or early in 2019 in order to be in place before kits are born in the spring.

It appears likely that there will be a scale of activities that can be conducted to mitigate beaver effects from discouraging beavers removing dams in certain circumstances without a licence to other activities, including lethal control, which will require a licence from SNH. The thinking, as of October 2017, is that licences will be required where breeding lodges or breeding burrows are present or where lethal control is required.

## **Environment Agency Consultation on Salmon Conservation Measures**

The Environment Agency consulted on future conservation measures for salmon in England. The decline in grilse catches in the last few years seemed to be a major spur behind the proposals. This

was a broad ranging consultation covering both angling and commercial salmon fishing. While most of the issues were of no direct relevance to the Tay, it also covered the NE English drift and fixed net salmon fisheries which do impact on rivers in SE Scotland. For example, despite generally decreased summer and autumn catches in eastern Scotland in 2016, that fishery surprisingly reported over 18,000 salmon and grilse in 2016.

While the NE England drift net fishery is due to close in 2022, several options were suggested for the interim. One was closure in 2018. Another possibility seemed to suggest nets might continue to operate to catch sea trout while releasing salmon. The Board responded to the consultation, strongly supporting the proposal for closure in 2018. The Board's response can be found under Scientific Reports at <http://www.tdsfb.org/reports.html>.



*Salmon nets on the seafront at Filey, Yorkshire, July 2017.*

### **Scottish Invasive Species Initiative**

The Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) was originally a project being developed by the River and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) with the intention of applying for Lottery funding. However, when RAFTS was wound up in early 2017 the proposal was taken under the wing of SNH but included a number of partner fisheries trusts and DSFB, including the Board. An application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery and this has been successful. The project will commence in 2018 and will run until 2021.

As far as the Tay district is concerned, the project will cover a region comprising the mainstem of the Tay from Perth to near Kenmore, lower Glen Lyon, the Tummel and Garry, and the Ericht and Isla. It will not include the Earn, Eden, Loch Tay and Dochart. This choice was due to an unfortunate historic funding rule rather than some deliberate choice to exclude those areas.

An officer to coordinate invasive control work will be appointed, to be shared between the Tay and the North and South Esks and employed by the Esk Board. The Lottery grant will pay for the salary of this officer plus expenses.

Invasive plants are an issue in many parts of the district. Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed are at an extent where they can still be controlled or eradicated before they become a problem. Giant hogweed in particular is at a stage on the Tay where its treatment is required before it explodes and becomes a serious problem for fishery owners as it is on some rivers. This project will tackle this.

The actual work of treatment will be performed by contractors, volunteers (organised by the project officer, where such are appropriate) and some by bailiff staff. The main aim is to hit invasive species hard during the course of the project which should then make continued prevention and control relatively easy.

### **New Road Bridge over the River Tay at Broxie**

The long standing possibility of a new road bridge over the Tay north of Perth is now becoming closer to a reality. Proposals are being developed for a bridge to connect the A9 / new Bertha Park Village with the A93 and A94 at Scone. The proposed location is at the lower end of the Waulkmill / Lower Redgorton beats, just below the lower Waulkmill fishing hut.

The project is currently at the preferred route development stage and it is currently envisaged that a planning application will be made in 2019 with work projected to start in spring 2021 with completion in 2023.

Three types of bridge are being considered. A single free span, two spans with a pier in the middle and a third with two piers. The former, which might be most preferable from a fisheries point of view, would appear to be the more expensive to build.

### **Proposed Conservation Regulations 2018**

Marine Scotland published the results of their river categorisation exercise for 2018 in early September 2017. While the Tay will continue as a Category 1 river, the Earn and Eden were proposed as Category 3 once again, having been elevated to Category 2 in 2017. The main reason for this change would appear to have been changes to the model used by Marine Scotland Science. The numbers of fish estimated to have spawned in the Earn and Eden in the years 2012 – 2015 were much lower than the same estimates made for the same years last year. On the other hand, in some rivers, the same estimates increased.

The Board responded to the consultation drawing attention to these anomalies and to continued shortcomings in the model. Despite being raised in previous years, For example, the model still makes no allowance for habitat differences between rivers and that the fish counters on which the model is based are on rivers that are not representative of rivers like the Earn and Eden. These issues will tend to both overinflate the conservation limit for those rivers while also underestimating the number of fish in those rivers.

For example, because late in the season the catch in rivers like the North Esk, Beaully, Awe and Garry above Pitlochry Dam, mainly consists of fish that have built up over the whole season, the model

assumes that catches in autumn are high relative to counts of incoming fish in the same months. But when implemented on rivers that don't have strong early runs like the Earn or Eden, the number of fish in the river is underestimated. This problem was pointed out last year, but still remains in the model.

Subsequently, the Board's Fisheries Director joined Marine Scotland's Salmon Biologists Liaison Group which will better allow some of the Board's concerns to be made more directly. As of November 2017, Marine Scotland have said they will look at a particular aspect of the model which might have the effect of offering some incorporation of habitat differences. But even if it does, it will not take effect until the 2019 categorisation round. There appears to be no willingness on the part of Marine Scotland to have some form of transitional arrangements until the model is refined. Lack of human resource appeared to be a reason claimed by Marine Scotland Science for the slow progress in this matter. Some local anglers on the affected rivers have expressed disappointment at this outcome and have been making representation to local politicians.

Marine Scotland information on the subject can be found at [www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status). The Board's response to the consultation can be found at [www.tdsfb.org/wildfisheries.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/wildfisheries.html).

### **Proposed Offshore Wind Farms**

Several years ago, Scottish Ministers granted consent for three wind farms, Sea Green, Inchcape and Neart na Gaoithe to be located off the coast of Fife and Angus, directly in front of the mouth of the River Tay. However, RSPB Scotland had this decision judicially reviewed and while the legal process was underway all work in connection with these proposed wind farms ceased. However, in November, the Supreme Court refused RSPB Scotland permission to appeal an opinion of the Court of Session. Work can now resume. However, in the interim, turbine technology has developed rapidly and the developers now wish to change the specifications from their original consented designs. This requires revised applications to be re-submitted.

The developers of the Inch Cape wind farm met with representatives of all DSFBs between the Tweed and Dee and explained that fewer turbines are now proposed but these will be larger and will require more powerful piling. The proposed 71 Inch Cape turbines may have an installed capacity of 12 to 15 MW each. Compare that with the fact that the hydro station at Pitlochry Dam only has an installed capacity of 15 MW. Further engagement with this sector is now envisaged as these plans develop to ensure that any potential impacts on salmon are mitigated and that information on any effects on salmon can be obtained as these projects proceed.

### **New Mansfield Estates Netting Lease**

In addition to leasing former Tay Salmon Fisheries Company and Perth and Kinross Council net fisheries, the Tay Foundation has a lease of the salmon netting rights on the River Tay at Scone. This was once a significant commercial salmon fishery but, by leasing the rights from 1 January 1993, the Tay Foundation was able to close the fishery in the interests of salmon conservation. However, as

the lease was due to expire on 31 December 2017, the Tay Foundation entered into negotiations with the Earl of Mansfield for a new lease in 2016. This has now been concluded and will run from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2033 under the same terms as before.

### **Meetings Attended**

During the course of 2017, Board staff attended numerous meetings, not previously mentioned. The Fisheries Director attended several meetings of SEPA's Fish and Fisheries Advisory Group, a media training day organised by the River Tweed Commission, the AGM of the River Earn Improvement Association, meetings with other DSFB / trust directors. He also gave a talk about the River Garry to an open meeting of the Forth DSFB and at Fisheries Management Scotland's annual conference. The Fisheries Director and the Operation's Manager also gave talks on the Garry restoration and the Tummel smolt tagging project at Pitlochry Angling Club's open night. The Operation's Manager attended the also attended the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre's annual biologists' meeting plus a meeting in Dingwall organized by SEPA where DSFB and trust staff operating rotary screw traps shared experience.

### **Wild Fisheries Reform**

Recent *Annual Reports* have described a process whereby Scottish Ministers sought to develop proposals for changing Scottish fisheries management structures since 2014. At one point these looked like culminating in the replacement of district salmon fishery boards with a new type of "fisheries management organization" (FMO). However, in early February 2017, the Scottish Government announced that it had ruled out "proposals to overhaul the structure and remit of District Salmon Fishery Boards, following a consultation on draft provisions for a Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill and draft Wild Fisheries Strategy." It also ruled out issues such as a general criminalizing of fishing for brown trout and freshwater fish and rod licences or a wild fisheries levy. It did still talk of a potential fisheries Bill and has reiterated this since although the timing of any such Bill or indeed its content is still unclear. The original statement talked about the Scottish Government facilitating trials of voluntary board mergers to "identify any existing legislative issues" that impeded mergers. It also mentioned that fishery management plans would be developed "to trial any changes with boards and will also explore potential freshwater conservation provisions".

Since that time, it is understood that there has been some work on developing a web based fisheries management planning system that DSFBs may be invited to trial in the near future. There will also now be no requirement for "conservation plans" to be produced under Salmon Conservation Regulations. These have been subsumed into this wider fisheries management planning process. It does not appear completely clear whether the ultimate objective of this process is still to require DSFBs fisheries management plans that will require statutory approval from Scottish Ministers. However, recently Scottish Ministers obtained the necessary powers, if required, under the Scotland Act 1998 to be able to bring the existing salmon levy under their control. Tax is not devolved to the Scottish Government and because the existing levy stems originally from Westminster legislation, altering the levy system was previously something they did not have the powers to do.

## Opening Day 2017 Celebrations at Meikleour

This season, the Board supported opening day celebrations on the Meikleour beat. Following a breakfast in the Meikleour boathouse, held in conjunction with Perthshire Chamber of Commerce and Meikleour Fishings, a procession of anglers led down to the river. The guest of honour this year was Jim Smith, Managing Director of Generation at SSE. As well as blessing the first boat with a quail of whisky and champagne, and performing the first cast of the season, Mr Smith formally announced that it was SSE's intention to start engineering work in the spring to restore flow to the River Garry.

*Parade of anglers heading to the River Tay, Opening Day 2017 at Meikleour (right).*

*Jim Smith, Managing Director of Renewable Generation with SSE, blesses the river with Claire Mercer-Nairne of Meikleour Fishings (below).*

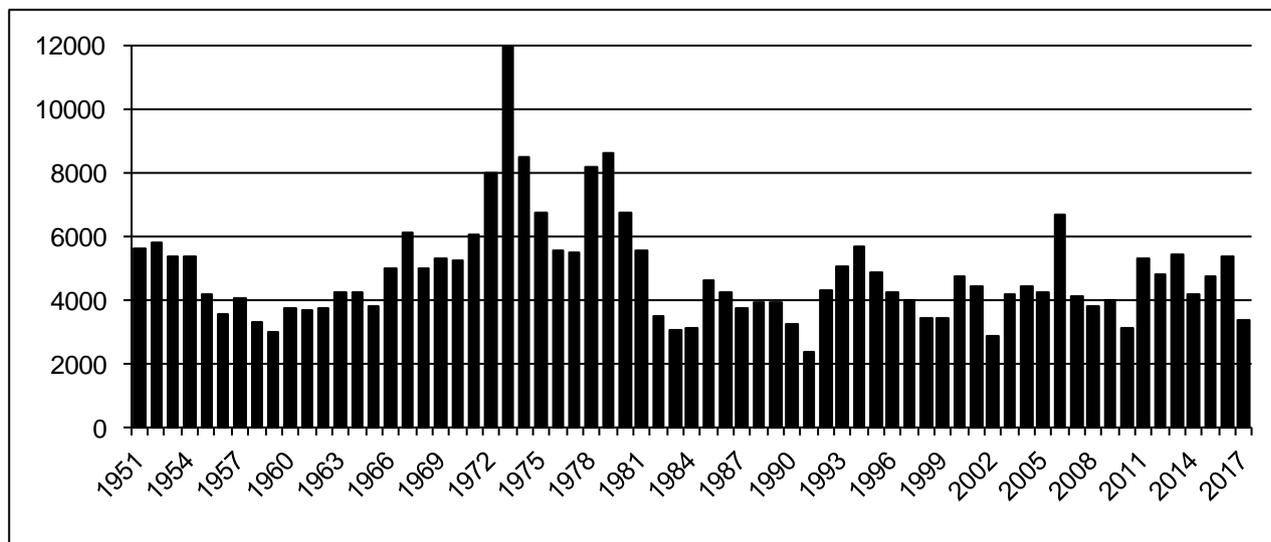
*Shortly after a spring salmon is landed immediately opposite (below right).*



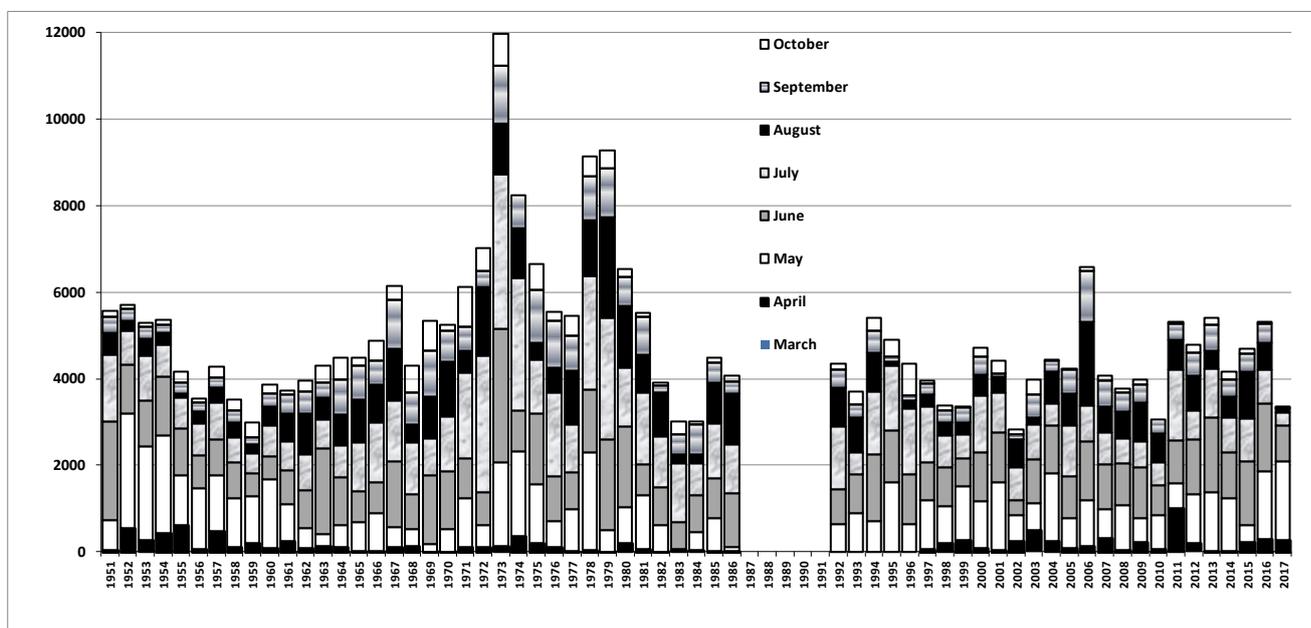
## FISH COUNTER RESULTS 2017

### Pitlochry Dam

The count at Pitlochry Dam to the end of May 2017 was the highest since 1978 and one of the highest ever. The count to the end of June was also very good, although June itself was squeezed, perhaps a consequence of a warmer winter / spring simply allowing fish to ascend the ladder earlier than usual. After this encouraging start, the counts collapsed in a manner with no precedent. Whether there was a lack of summer MSW salmon or they just came early is not clear but there was clearly a failure of the grilse run. These count data confirm the results from the new PIT tagging study (page 29) and the lack of grilse is considered further on page 31.



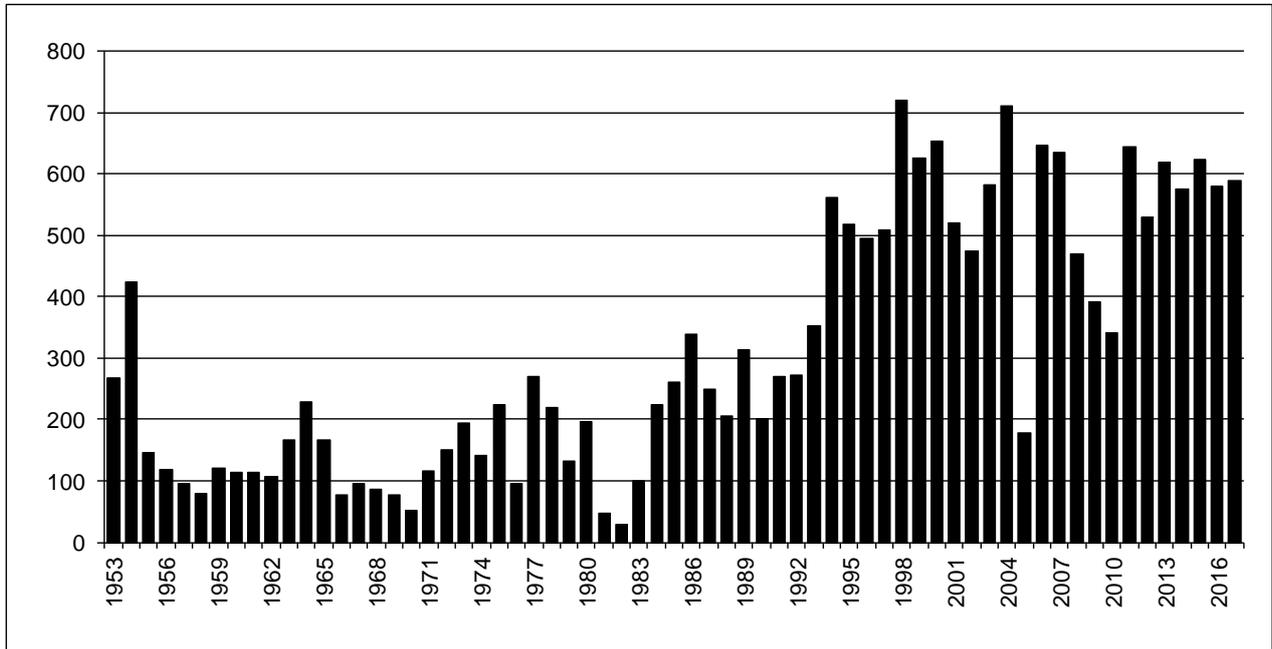
**Figure 7.** Annual net upstream counts (that is down counts are subtracted from up-counts on a daily basis) through Pitlochry Dam fish ladder, 1951 – 2017. (Data courtesy of SSE)



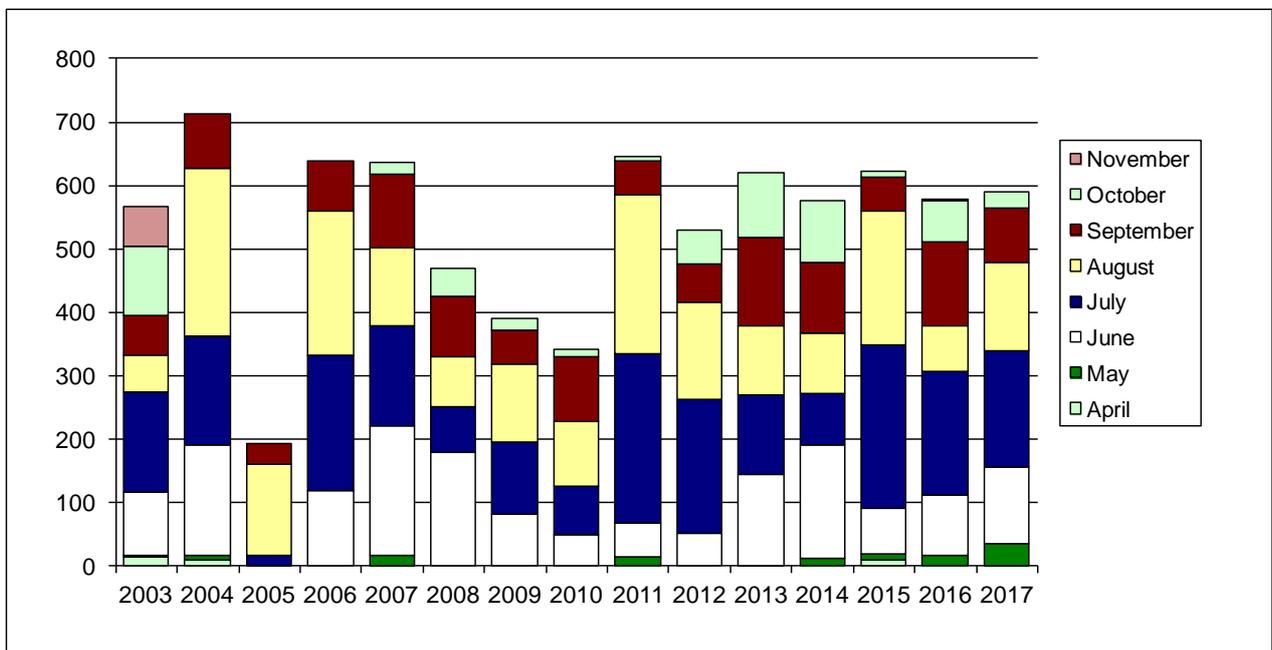
**Figure 8.** Monthly net upstream counts, Pitlochry Dam, 1951 to 2017. (Data courtesy of the late Michael Gardner, David Stewart, Ross Gardiner and SSE) (Note: 2017 data only to 20 October)

## Clunie Dam

Relative to the reduced count at Pitlochry Dam, the count at Clunie Dam which is upstream of Pitlochry, held up well in 2017. The bulk of the count was made in the summer when Pitlochry was poor, meaning either much of the Clunie count was delayed spring salmon or some error at Pitlochry, but that is not supported by PIT tagging (page 29). If there was a poor grilse run at Clunie, then the count would presumably have been much higher had there been a more normal grilse run.



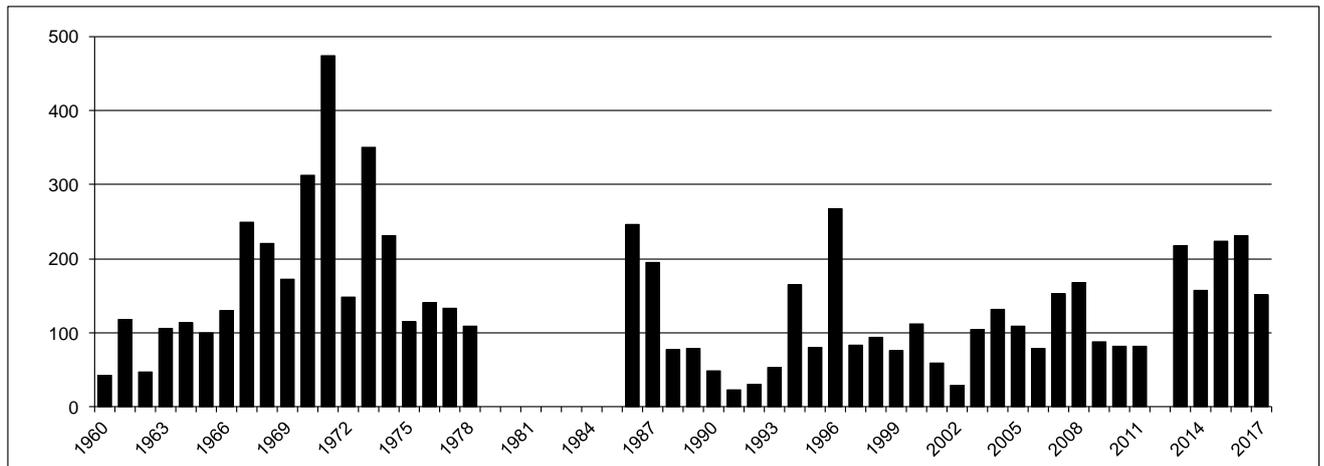
**Figure 9.** Net annual upstream counts through Clunie Dam fish ladder, 1953 to 2017. (Note: there was a malfunction in 2005). (Data courtesy of SSE)



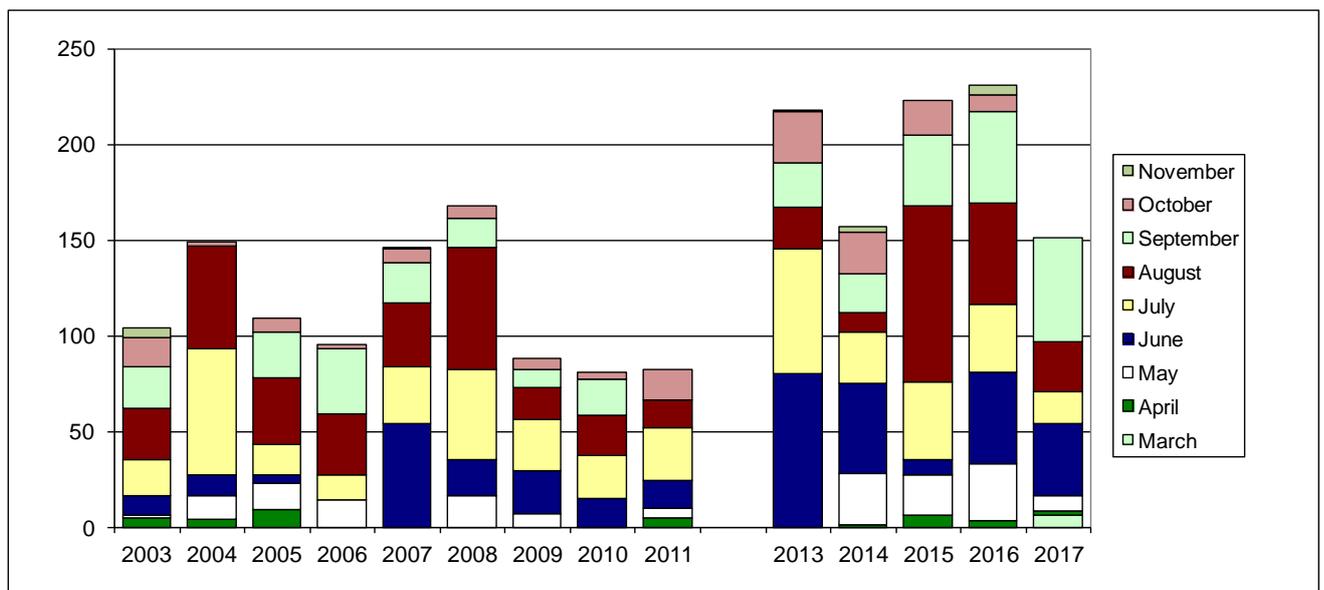
**Figure 10.** Monthly net upstream counts, Clunie Dam fish ladder, 2003 – 2017. (Data courtesy of SSE) (Note: 2017 data only to 13 October)

## Lochay Falls

The Lochay Falls are a naturally insurmountable barrier to salmon on the lower reaches of the River Lochay near Killin. As compensation for the loss of former spawning areas on the Lyon, the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board installed a Borland fish lift to allow salmon access to the Lochay. SSE now operate a fish counter on the upstream exit of the fish pass. For a number of years counts on this river had improved perhaps as a result of fish passage improvements by SSE and stocking by the Board. However, the count has fallen back a bit in 2017. Perhaps the skewing of the count towards September might have been caused by delayed salmon that did not run previously because of low flows in late spring.



**Figure 11.** Net annual upstream counts through Lochay Falls Fish Pass, 1960 to 2017. (Note: there was a malfunction in 2012). (Data courtesy of SSE)



**Figure 12.** Monthly net upstream counts, Lochay Falls Fish Pass, 2003 – 2017. (Data courtesy of SSE) (Note: 2017 data only to 13 October)

## RIVER TUMMEL SMOLT TAGGING PROJECT

The River Tummel smolt tagging project is a joint project between the Tay Foundation, Marine Scotland Science, SSE and the Board. Its main aims are to provide a means of monitoring the marine survival of salmon from the River Tummel and to determine any impacts on smolts passing through the Tummel system, e.g. when passing hydro dams. The project is being conducted on the Tummel simply because Pitlochry Dam and its fish ladder provide the conditions for this work to be undertaken. It simply would not be feasible on other similarly sized tributaries. The project commenced in 2016. This report provides an update on developments since those reported in last year's *Annual Report*.

The main features of the project are that salmon smolts are trapped upstream of Pitlochry Dam, where it is feasible to do so. They are implanted with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and released back into the river, the locations dependent on the questions being asked. When the fish return as adults their tags are individually identified by a detector installed within the fish ladder at Pitlochry Dam.

The project commenced in 2016 when a rotary screw trap was deployed in the Errochty Water. The trap was late in being deployed (1 April) and some 388 smolts were caught and tagged although the target had been 2,000. In the hope of doing better in 2017, two rotary screw traps were operated. One was deployed again in the Errochty Water and another was deployed in the River Garry near the A9 bridge, where the flow is greater and more volatile than in the hydro-controlled Errochty.

The Errochty trap began operating on 13 March 2017 and the Garry trap on 23 March. The Errochty trap caught pre-smolts from the outset, generally small numbers daily but much more on any increase in flow. 238 were caught on 19 March. Numbers increased into April but the Errochty run petered out by 29 April and trapping ceased on 9 May. 1,647 Errochty smolts were caught and tagged. The Garry trap did not prove anything like as effective. 293 were caught and tagged, giving an overall total of 1,940.

A proportion of the smolts caught on the Errochty were released upstream of the trap and 36% of those were recaptured again in the trap (54% were recaptured in 2016). The recapture data provided an estimate of 4,584 for the overall smolt run of the Errochty smolt run in 2017, which is in the region originally assumed unlike the 720 estimate for 2016. Trapping efficiency was not estimated on the Garry but it will have been much lower as the proportion of the flow intercepted by the trap was lower.

Those Errochty smolts not released above the trap were used in a trial to determine whether Pitlochry Dam might have any significant impact on passing smolts since most of the smolts pass through the turbines. These smolts, plus those recaptured for a second time, and all the Garry smolts were transported to Pitlochry and released either immediately upstream of the dam or just below it.



*Rotary screw smolt trap in the Errochty Water (above) and River Garry (right).*



The logic behind this exercise is that, if all fish which return as adults do then ascend the fish pass and are detected, any significant difference in survival should be apparent. The detector itself was installed in the fish ladder on 28 February 2017 and activated on 5 April. It is hoped to install a second back up detector in early 2018.

While most smolts do not descend through the fish pass, some smolts were detected nevertheless. 89 were detected between 10 April and 22 May, i.e. 7.5% of those released upstream of the dam. As the spring was dry, conditions may have been relatively good for attracting smolts into the pass.

As of late November 2017, three grilse have been detected ascending the ladder out of 388 smolts tagged in 2016. That is a return as grilse of under 1%, a figure well below expectations. Under usual circumstances, the validity of such a low figure might have been questioned, but the fact that it coincided with an exceptionally low summer count at Pitlochry Dam (page 26) suggests it may indeed be genuine. If a higher percentage does not return as 2SW salmon in 2017 that will be a cause for real concern.

In the interim, it can be concluded that the 2017 experience has proved that a target of 2000 smolts is possible but, for 2018, a more effective location will be found for the second trap and an even earlier start to trapping is anticipated.

## THE POOR 2017 GRILSE RUN

2017 was second year in a row with a reduced grilse run and particularly a lack of fresh fish of any age in the autumn. In 2016, there were few fresh fish after August, but in 2017 fresh fish seemed to stop even earlier.

While there may also have been fewer late run salmon and few late run grilse, there seems to have been a lack of grilse in the summer too. This is evident from the poor summer count at Pitlochry and the poor return of PIT tagged grilse there. Had the PIT tagging project not commenced when it did, there may have been a temptation to question the reliability of the counter data, especially given the apparently normal count at Clunie. However, the two together provide strong evidence of a poor run. The Board is aware of at least one other Scottish river with a similar PIT tagging project that has had as bad a return or worse.

The geographically widespread nature of the problem and the PIT tagging evidence point to the main issue being at sea rather than being due to a poor smolt run in 2016, for example say being caused by storms Desmond and Frank in December 2015.

The biggest question now outstanding is whether the whole of the 2016 year class has suffered equally or whether next year's 2SW salmon run will be less affected. At the same time in 2016, the same question was posed. At start of spring 2017, there did not seem to be that many 2SW fish about, but there were more 3SW fish. However, 2SW fish did appear in due course and the 2017 2SW run suggests that 2SW spring / early summer fish might not be on quite the same trend as grilse.

In other recent *Annual Reports* it has been suggested that the evidence seems to indicate that more fish are staying longer at sea before maturing for the first time. For example, the notable increase in early 3SW fish compared to the 2000s. However, this year's grilse run seems to have almost been something of a step change. 2018 could be pivotal therefore. We may find out whether we are returning to a phase similar to that seen at some periods in the past or to some completely new type of state that has had no recorded precedent. The PIT tagging project should prove very valuable in this regard.

## RESTORATION OF FLOW TO THE RIVER GARRY

Over a stretch of approximately 21km, the upper River Garry between Loch Garry and Struan had practically no flow in it after it was harnessed for hydro power in the 1950s. Except in times of very high flow, all of the flow was abstracted at two points on the main river and on several of the more important tributaries as far downstream as the Bruar Water. A weir was constructed at Struan in the 1950s to prevent salmon accessing this area during wet weather and later becoming stranded.

For a number of years, previous *Annual Reports* have described how, as a consequence of the EU Water Framework Directive, there has been a possibility of some flow being returned to the River Garry, enough to restore a self sustaining salmon population. These reports document a slow process, but last year, it was reported that an agreement had at last been found between SSE, SEPA and the Board and that work would be taking place in 2017.

In December 2016, SSE commenced works by breaching the weir at Struan, potentially allowing salmon back into the Garry once again. Then, as shown on page 25, SSE formally announced on 16 January that it intended work to start in the spring. Then in April / May Work started on both an intake on the River Garry and on a tributary, the Allt Glas Choire. The work at both intakes was designed to allow a “hands off flow” to be released downstream of the intake weirs whereby no abstraction can take place until the flow reaches a certain level. However, in order to reduce generation losses, a mechanism will allow the flow released to be reduced somewhat in wet weather when there is natural inflow anyway. Target flows set several kilometres below each intake will be maintained by a combination of flow release and natural runoff.

In order to get access to the intakes it was necessary for SSE not to abstract water from any of the tributaries. Therefore, from the date at which work started in May, there was a flow in the main River Garry from the junction of the Edendon Water (Dalnacardoch) downstream. Only the last 1.5 km below Garry Intake remained dry.

The contractors, AMCO, completed the work at Garry Intake in early August. At the time of writing (late November) work on the Glas Choire intake is near completion. The various tributary intakes were then “turned in” on 20 September and a flow was thereafter maintained from Garry Intake. An official opening event took place on 30 October. Roseanna Cunningham MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform attended a reception at Pitlochry Dam Visitor Centre and thereafter at Garry Intake the Board’s Fisheries Director was invited to crank the handle to turn on the flow. A temporary compensatory flow was released from the Edendon intake in order to allow the flow from Garry Intake to be turned off and on without drying out the newly wetted river once again.

That proved to be necessary because the Board’s bailiff staff had observed adult salmon jumping at falls at Struan some weeks earlier. They had also observed salmon above those falls but not above a second fall further upstream. In early November Board staff walked the river several times and were delighted to observe some adult salmon spawning in the Dalnamein area. A number of fish were observed and approximately 30 salmon redds.

All of the flow of the River Garry was abstracted at Garry intake weir (right).

With a coffer dam to seal off the working area, a mechanism to control flow release was constructed in the summer of 2017 (below).



The Board's Fisheries Director, with Dr Alastair Stephen from SSE and Terry Ahearn, CEO of SEPA, officially turn on the flow on 30 October (right). Even at about 75% of the design flow, the difference immediately below the intake was dramatic (below).



As of late November, the flow release mechanism at Garry Intake is still being fine tuned and the flow is not yet running at its full level to achieve a flow of about 1 cumec at Dalnamein Lodge. In 2018, of course, there will not be unregulated flow from tributaries as there was in 2017 and conditions for fish migration might differ.

It is recognised that, in future, fine tuning ("adaptive management") may be required and a "freshet" release plan to aid fish migration will have to be developed on the basis of experience. Accordingly, an adaptive management monitoring plan is being developed by SEPA, SSE and the

Board to learn how the ecology, including salmon, responds to the restored flow and whether the flow is appropriate or not.

Included within this plan, the Board will continue initially at least to stock parts of the Garry with eggs from reconditioned kelts of local origin in order to ensure that there will be a return of adult fish to test out their ability to pass falls etc under the flows available. The parents of all the eggs stocked will be genetically “fingerprinted” so that stocked juveniles in the river can be differentiated from naturally spawned juveniles in order to determine that natural spawning is successful. The ultimate aim, of course, is a self-sustaining population.

*In December 2016, SSE breached the weir at Struan (right) which had prevented salmon accessing the Garry for 60 years.*

*Salmon were later seen jumping at the falls at Struan and then spawning near Dalnamein. The photo below is of a kelt near Dalnamein in November 2017.*



## **AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2013**

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

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

Point 1) has been covered by the main body of this report. 2) has partly been summarised by the main body of the report but might be further summarised by saying that the Board intends to continue to work on the same issues covered in 2017. It particularly intends to develop the River Tummel Smolt Tagging Project and the River Garry Adaptive Management Monitoring Plan in 2018.

Regarding point 3), as of the time of writing (November 2017), no complaints were received in 2016.

### **New governance requirements**

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

### ***Meetings***

All meetings of the Board, including Board meetings and the annual meeting of qualified proprietors, were open to the public as observers, and will continue to be so, although some items of business at Board meetings may be taken in private.

There was an annual public meeting on 23 March 2017, which was separate from the annual meeting of proprietors. Members of the public participated fully and minutes of the meeting can be found at [www.tdsfb.org/reports.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/reports.html). There will be another such meeting in 2018.

The dates and details of forthcoming meetings can also be found at [www.tdsfb.org/reports.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/reports.html).

The minutes of Board meetings have also been published at [www.tdsfb.org/reports.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/reports.html) where they will continue to be published. Hard copies can also be obtained from the Clerk on request.

### **Annual Report and Accounts**

The Annual Report with accounts for 2015/16 was published at [www.tdsfb.org/reports.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/reports.html) and hard copies were sent to all qualified proprietors in the district and a copy sent to Scottish Ministers.

This report and subsequent Annual Reports will also be published on the same basis and a copy will be sent to Scottish Ministers.

### **Complaints procedure**

The Board has set up and maintains a complaints procedure which can be viewed at [www.tdsfb.org/governance.html](http://www.tdsfb.org/governance.html).

### **Board members' interests**

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

## TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Proprietors within the Tay District held in terms of Section 44(1) of the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 held at Birnam Institute, Birnam, Dunkeld at 11am on Tuesday, 13th December 2016.**

Present: William Jack (Chairman)  
Alastair Riddell  
John Wood  
Claire Mercer Nairne  
Mike Smith  
David Godfrey  
Duncan Twigg  
Edward Eadie  
Simon Wright  
Vivian Thomson  
Alan Dunnet  
Grant Tigwell  
David Parratt  
Bruce Reid

In Attendance: Dr. David Summers, Fisheries Director  
Inga McGown, Clerk to the Board  
Stephen Mannion  
Mike Brown  
Simon Furniss  
Geoff Coates  
Iain McLaren  
Geordie Stewart  
Bob White  
Gordon Pollock  
John Lessels  
Gordon Nichol  
Mike Hay  
Gary McErlain  
Simon Hill  
Alun Williams  
S Watt  
John McDougall  
Ian Young  
Ken Freshwater

Apologies: John Apthorp

The Chairman welcomed the attendees, and proceeded to work through the agenda.

### **Minutes of Annual Meeting of Proprietors held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015:**

The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Proprietors were previously circulated in the Annual Report and taken as read. There were no matters arising, and on a proposal by Iain McLaren, and seconded by John Wood, were approved.

### **Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015**

The Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, which were incorporated into the Annual Report, had been circulated and were taken as read.

The Clerk gave a brief overview of the accounts and the main variances year on year. 2015 saw a surplus of £27,547.

There were no questions, and on a proposal from Simon Furniss, and seconded by Alastair Riddell, the Accounts were approved.

### **Annual Report 2015/6**

The Annual Report 2015/6 had been previously circulated and was taken as read. On a proposal by Simon Furniss, and seconded by Iain McLaren, the Annual Report was approved.

### **Board Activities for 2016 season and beyond**

Dr. David Summers gave an overview of the events of 2016, highlighting the 2016 catch figures, what happened to the autumn run, the Wild Fisheries Review, and the main activities of the Board throughout the year.

The spring 2016 catches had shown an encouraging start. However, from August onwards, there had been a lack of fish, and those that were caught were generally not fresh, but the Tay was not the only river with this problem, as the Dee and the Tweed were hit just as badly, if not worse. This pattern has been seen before, as Dr. Summers demonstrated in a collection of graphs with commentary.

He went on to state that the lack of an autumn run may have had various underlying factors, but it was difficult to come to any concrete conclusion, and indeed, almost impossible to predict what would happen next. The unprecedented temperatures in the Arctic may have had an effect.

Dr. Summers then went on to examine the Wild Fisheries Review, giving the history behind the review, before moving on to the current situation. It is not clear now when any Bill is likely to be introduced. One had originally been planned for late 2016/early 2017 but this is no longer going to happen. Finance, in particular seems to be a big issue and has as yet remained unresolved. There is also the matter of categorization of rivers, with the Tay catchment being largely category 1, with the exception of the Earn and the Eden which were in category 3 in 2016. They have now been

recategorized for 2017, both as category 2, after much lobbying by both the Board and representatives from the rivers in question.

Rivers of all categories now require a Conservation plan, but this has yet to be defined

As to the main activities of the Board, Dr. Summers summarized these as follows:

**Hatchery/Kelt Reconditioning:**

There was a slight setback to hatchery operations in 2016, with an outbreak of bacterial kidney disease (BKD). This disease was carried by new broodstock fish and those affected were culled. It did not affect the old broodstock, and measures have been put in place this year to minimise the risk of such an event happening again. Our progeny are principally being used to restock the Upper Garry, Lochay, Ruchill and Cononish, and for the first time, fin clipped parr were stocked in the Catholes beat as an experiment to see how well such fish do in the mainstem of the Tay.

**River Garry:**

Under EU Water Framework Directive, the Garry should have been rewatered by December 2015. This deadline has obviously not been met, but Dr. Summers confirmed that talks between the Board, SEPA and SSE had almost come to a satisfactory conclusion, and an announcement would be imminent.

**Lyon Project:**

Dr. Summers explained this was a project led by the Tay Foundation, funded in part by the Lyon proprietors, and assisted by the Board. In essence, the project is looking to determine whether the salmon environment is more hostile above Stronach Dam than below using modern genetic techniques.

**Tummel Smolt Project:**

The Tay Foundation now has two rotary screw smolts traps and the joint project is managed by the Board's operations manager, Mike Brown.

Dr. Summers reminded the assembled group that the 100% catch and release regulations will remain in place until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Summers for his report, and introduced Mike Brown, TDSFB Operations Manager, who gave a presentation on the smolt project.

**Any Other Business**

**Query on Annual Report:**

Grant Tigwell asked where the data behind Figure 4 on Page 10 of the Annual Report had come from, as he believed more fish had been released than the figures stated. The Chairman thanked Mr. Tigwell for his efforts in Catch and Release, and Dr. Summers answered his query in that the figures

had been provided by proprietors themselves.

**Hatchery Capacity:**

Ian Young stated that he had attended most of the Board meetings throughout the year and would like to commend the Board on how they went about their business. However, since the hatchery was running below capacity, he asked whether it be possible to bring in summer and autumn run fish. The Chairman agreed that the hatchery was currently running under capacity but that the priority was to kickstart the Garry at present. Once this has been achieved, the Board may look at other parts of the system. The Board were looking to prioritise areas in most need.

**Seal problems**

Duncan Twigg asked whether the growing seal population could be dealt with, to which the Chairman replied that the seal population was growing at an alarming rate, but the Board had looked into various methods to deter them, and while culling might appear the only permanent solution, that would be a political minefield.

**Conservation Plans:**

Simon Wright asked who was responsible for drawing up conservation plans and what they entailed, to which Dr. Summers replied that it would all be explained by Marine Scotland Science in due course.

**Handling of fish:**

Mike Smith commended the board on their work, with particular reference to Dr. Summers for all the hard work he had done. He then went on to enquire what the best way to handle fish was.

Dr. Summers replied that the Board's catch and release code recommended not taking the fish out of the water whilst unhooking and to handle as little as possible.

**7 Day Fishing:**

Ian Young asked the Board whether they would be supportive of the move towards 7 day fishing which he had heard about from Fishpal. The Chairman replied that he had queried this with Fishpal and they were yet to get back to him on the matter.

**Notification of Category 2:**

Simon Wright stated that it was still unclear whether the Earn and Eden were category 2, as they had received no formal notification. Dr. Summers replied that the information was on the Government website and should therefore be taken as read. The Chairman asked whether it would help if the Board wrote to the rivers, to which SW agreed it would certainly provide clarity.

***ACTION: The Board to write to all Eden and Earn proprietors to inform them of their Category 2 status for 2017.***

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting.

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

In accordance with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003, section 44, we have audited the financial statements of Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (the 'Board') for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

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

### Scope of the audit of the financial statements

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

### Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Board's affairs as at 31 December 2016 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Alan Taylor (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Campbell Dallas, the trading name of Prophet Titanium LLP  
Statutory Auditors  
5 Whitefriars Crescent  
Perth  
Perthshire  
PH2 0PA  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	NOTES	£	2016 £	2015 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Fishery assessments	2		467,681	468,266
Revaluation Appeals			(5,559)	-
Bad debts, changes to provision for doubtful debts etc			-	(6,255)
			-----	-----
			462,122	462,011
Compensation Received (SSE)			6,984	6,791
Contributions from Tay Foundation(Hatchery)			-	-
Contributions from John Apthorp through TF (new offices)			-	-
Contribution from Tay Foundation (Invasives)			-	-
Rent			602	-
Consultancy			390	3,690
Other			679	-
			-----	-----
			470,777	472,492
			-----	-----
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Salaries and National Insurance		211,563		208,885
Pension plus Death in Service- Board's contribution		13,142		13,186
LBM Consultancy Costs		-		-
Recruitment & Training		3,366		5,021
Road Maintenance		-		-
Bank Charges		214		212
Motor cars and boats running costs, incl insurance		26,130		28,866
Rent, rates and general insurance		30,640		30,949
Heat & light		17,281		11,511
Repairs&maintenance - General		8,709		8,137
Repairs&maintenance - Hatchery		-		-
Telephone & Communications		9,855		8,720
Printing, Stationery, Postage & Advertising		4,014		2,769
Annual Report Costs		702		600
Meetings and other statutory costs		1,391		3,030
Ghillies lunch and meeting		653		619
Administration costs		-		-
Legal fees		4,393		4,809
Audit and accounts fees		2,698		2,670
Depreciation		19,449		30,112
Subscriptions and levies		11,418		15,886
I T costs		651		492
Health & Safety implementation incl clothing		11,872		6,958
Hatchery Running Costs		51,317		53,868
Project Work		1,598		82
Websites		11,528		9,631
New Offices		-		170
Opening Day		35		-
Gifts & Presentations		40		390
			-----	-----
			442,659	447,573
			-----	-----
			28,118	24,919
Gain on sale of fixed assets			-	2,100
			-----	-----
			28,118	27,019
Interest received	3		460	528
			-----	-----
			28,578	27,547
Transfers to reserves: NASF(UK)	5		-	-
			-----	-----
Surplus for the year			28,578	27,547
			=====	=====

The notes on pages 44 to 46 form part of these accounts.

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	NOTES	£	2016 £	2015 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	4		111,022	118,571
			-----	-----
			111,022	118,571
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors & prepayments		42,060		63,853
Cash at Bank and in Hand		412,950		334,764
		-----		-----
		455,010		398,617
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Other creditors & accruals		119,501		99,235
		-----		-----
Net current assets			335,509	299,382
			-----	-----
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
			446,531	417,953
			=====	=====
<b>Representing:</b>				
Reserves	5		83,434	83,434
General Fund	6		363,097	334,519
			-----	-----
			446,531	417,953
			=====	=====

These accounts were approved on 12th December 2017

..... WILLIAM JACK  
BOARD MEMBER

..... SIMON FURNISS  
BOARD MEMBER

The notes on pages 44 to 46 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Fixed assets and depreciation

The cost of fixed assets is stated at the net amount after deducting grants available. Donations relating to expenditure on fixed assets are credited to the Profit and Loss Account in the year of receipt, where there are no conditions attaching to the donation.

Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned as follows:

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

Taxation

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

Death in service scheme

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

2 FISHERY ASSESSMENTS

	2016		2015	
	Rateable Value	Assessment	Rateable Value	Assessment
	£	£	£	£
Upper proprietors	881,075	468,679	875,774	465,912
Lower proprietors	4,425	2,354	4,425	2,354
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	885,500	471,033	880,199	468,266
	=====		=====	
Less River Shee		93		93
Estuarial netting stations		3,259		3,259
		-----		-----
		467,681		468,133
		=====		=====

The assessments are based on 53.2% of Rateable Value (2015 – 53.2%)

3 INTEREST RECEIVED

	2016	2015
	£	£
Bank interest	460	528
	-----	-----
	460	528
	=====	=====

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

4 FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Property £	Motor Vehicles £	Boats £	Plant & Equipment £	Office and Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost:						
At 1 January 2016	191,468	81,518	42,671	186,517	20,028	522,202
Additions	-	11,900	-	-	-	11,900
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2016	191,468	93,418	42,671	186,517	20,028	534,102
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Depreciation:						
At 1 January 2016	94,096	64,319	42,490	182,698	20,028	403,631
Charge for year	9,736	8,708	45	960	-	19,449
Eliminated for disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2016	103,832	73,027	42,535	183,658	20,028	423,080
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net book amounts:						
At 31 December 2016	87,636	20,391	136	2,859	-	111,022
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
At 31 December 2015	97,372	17,199	181	3,819	-	118,571
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

5 RESERVES

	GENERAL £	NASF(UK) £	TOTAL £
At 1 January 2016	83,434	-	83,434
Provision in year	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure in year	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2016	83,434	-	83,434
	=====	=====	=====

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

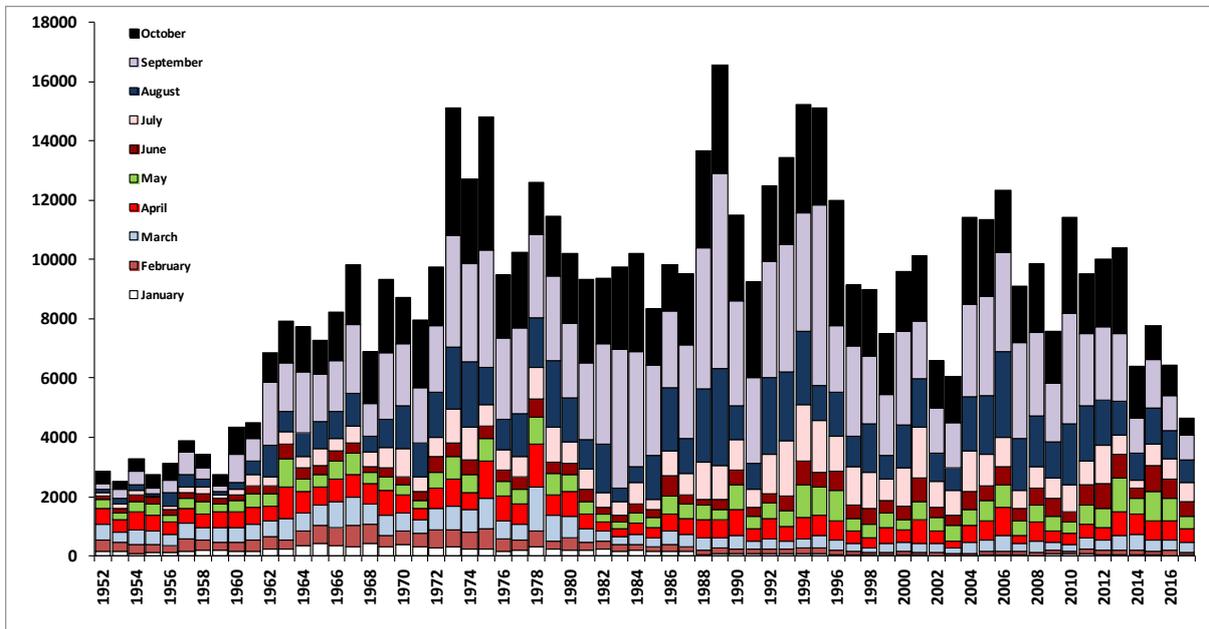
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

6 GENERAL FUND

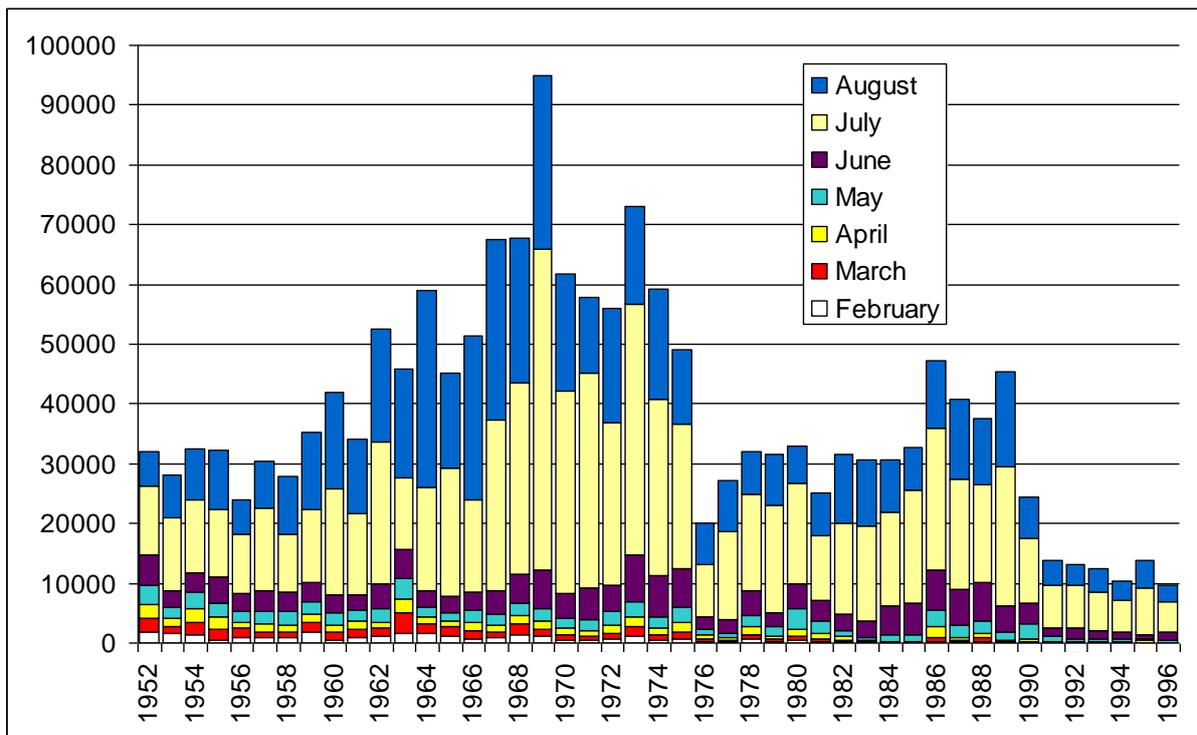
	2016	2015
	£	£
At 1 January 2016	334,519	306,972
Surplus for year	28,578	27,547
At 31 December 2016	363,097	334,519
	=====	=====

7 CAPITAL COMMITMENT

There were no capital commitments as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.



Monthly angling catch for the Tay District 1952 – 2017 (including released fish). The 1952 – 2010 data used in this graph are Crown copyright, used with the permission of Marine Scotland Science, Aberdeen. Marine Scotland is not responsible for interpretation of these data by third parties. 2011 to 2016 data were collected by the Board and 2017 is based on a preliminary analysis of [www.fishtay.co.uk](http://www.fishtay.co.uk) catches.



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

