

**MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER DEVERON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**  
**being a Meeting open to the public in terms of the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013**  
**held at CASTLE HOTEL, HUNTLY on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 3.30pm.**  
**This meeting was held in conjunction with that of the TRUSTEES of THE DEVERON, BOGIE & ISLA RIVERS**  
**CHARITABLE TRUST. The minutes cover both organisations.**

At the outset the Chairman explained that in terms of the 2013 Act, all Meetings require to be open to the public. An invitation to the public was published on the Board's website along with a copy of the proposed Agenda. Any member who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

**Calvert McKibbin and Andrew Allwood** attended as members of the Public.

**Present:** **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **Robert Shields** (B & T), **Rory Cooper** (B & T), **Mrs J Player** (B), **Frank Henderson** (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), **Richard Breakell** (B), **Jim Cruickshank** (B&T), **Richie Miller** (B and representative of DBI Trust), **Neil Stephen** (Ghillies Rep – DBI Trust),  
In attendance- **Mrs S Roebuck** (Clerk to Board and Administrator of DBI Trust);  
**Marcus Walters** (DBI Trust)  
{ **B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative**}

**Chairman:** Malcolm Hay

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, Mr Gordon Nelson from Tritech gave a short presentation on the sonar trial at Montcoffer.

**Apologies for Absence:** C Richard Marsden (B), Matthew Marsden (B), A Gordon Morison (B) Gordon Christie (B & T).

**Minutes of Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018** A draft of the Minutes of the Meeting had been sent to all Members of the Board and Trust and unanimously approved by those who had attended. The minutes have been published on the Board/Trust's website ([www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)) and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.  
There were no queries nor matters outstanding.

**Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013** Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

**Update on Financial Matters** Mrs Roebuck reported that bank balances in both organisations were healthy. The next quarterly accounts will be made up to 30 September and circulated in October.

Mrs Roebuck informed members that The Trust is now VAT registered as of 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The fund at McInroy and Wood now stands at £123,458.21.

Mrs Roebuck reported that she will be sending out statements for 16 outstanding assessments from 12 proprietors (£20,500). Mr Hay pointed out that late payments are a continuing problem and has explained the importance of paying balances on time.

**Report by Mr Miller & Mr Marcus Walters on DBI Trust work** Mr Miller and Mr Walters had prepared a written report on the work of the Trust since the last Board Meeting and this was handed out (available on request).

Mr Hay raised concerned at the number of smolts lost between Rothiemay and Huntly and asked if it would be possible to shepherd that area next year.

**AOCB – Hatcheries**

Mr Hay explained that using hatcheries to increase stocks may not be a viable option. He explained that in Iceland they have to do it because they have no natural indigenous stock. The spawning areas on certain rivers are ruined by volcanic dust. Furthermore, In Iceland they are able to bring smolts to 70/80grms weight in 1 year because they have free geo thermal water conditions so no need for expensive hatchery infrastructure. It is a completely different process from what would be required here as fish would need to be kept for a minimum of 2 years to get the smolt to that stage, by which time the smolt is completely domesticated and its ability to forage or even survive is badly compromised. Weak smolts become easy prey and if they do survive they pass on weak genes onto the next generation. Mr Hay explained that the current scientific findings are that hatcheries are potentially harmful to the wild stock and are not the answer if there is an existing healthy wild population.

**AOCB – Next meeting:**

**Next Board/Trust meeting will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Castle Hotel at 12noon.**

**Meeting closed at 4.55pm**

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending. The Annual Proprietors Meeting and DBIT AGM followed.