

NESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011

The Board has pleasure in presenting its report for 2010/11 covering the year to 15 May 2011.

Financial

The financial outturn for the year was satisfactory with a small surplus being made. The reserves position is regarded as reasonable given the need for substantial expenditure to replace the ageing vehicle fleet and for ongoing research into the solutions to some of the systems problems.

Board

There were a number of changes at Board level during the year. In November, Hugh Campbell Adamson who had taken on the role of interim Chairman was replaced by Andrew Duncan. At the same time Michael Martin was appointed Vice Chairman. A full list of the current Board is attached to this report.

Activities

The Board has continued to provide a Bailiffing service to the system.

Through our close working arrangements with Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust, their biologists have continued to do sterling work into researching the system for its quality of habitat, stocking levels and assisting in finding solutions to some of the problem areas in the system.

A strategy document has been drawn up to try and identify the issues the Board needs to address over the next three years and to help put these into a working format.

A sub-committee looked at the work of the Bailiffs and made recommendations on how to redirect their efforts and to bring them in line with the business plan strategy.

A second sub-committee was established to look at the upper part of the system and to try and find solutions to the desperate problems that exist in that area. A good start has been made but much work still requires to be done.

A third sub-committee was tasked with establishing a web-site for the Board and they hope to have this up and running by early 2012.

As far as salmon stocks are concerned there was a reasonable run of fish through the system most of the year with an encouraging increase in upper system fish in the 2011 spring. The 2010 grilse run was yet again disappointing. The Board's catch and release policy continues to be observed by more and more anglers with only a tiny minority now seeming reluctant to accept that this is the most meaningful thing we as anglers can do to maintain and improve our stock of fish.

While the general pattern over most of Scotland in the last few years has been for improved salmon runs and catches, our system has continued its slow decline.

Be assured the Board will do whatever it can to try and reverse this trend but answers are not easy to find and no doubt a combination of factors are at play.

The Agenda for the meeting is given below.

By order of the Board

J M Martin
Clerk

**NESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

(At 15 November 2011)

<i>Upper Proprietors:</i>	Andrew Duncan (Chairman)	- Ness Castle mandatory
	William Armstrong (Vice Chairman)	- River Oich proprietor
	Ryan Rutherford	- Ness Side mandatory
	Paul Williamson	- River Gary proprietor
	Annie Girvan	- River Moriston mandatory
<i>Lower Proprietors:</i>	Don Mackay	- Highland Council mandatory
<i>Co-options:</i>	Sandy Patience	- Netsmen
	Graham MacKenzie	- Loch Ness Anglers
	Neil Cameron	- Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust
	Angus MacGruer	- Loch Ness Anglers
<i>Clerk:</i>	Michael Martin	

AGM Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM**
- 3. Annual Report 2010/11**
- 4. Accounts (For Year Ending 15 May 2011)**
- 5. AOB**