

REPORT FOR 2015

of

HELMSDALE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

CHAIRMAN	Sir John Nutting Bt.QC
PROPRIETORS	Mrs M E Clay A Heber-Percy N McCorquodale W Southall Lucy Reeves
CO-OPTTEES	D Sutherland R Mackay
CLERK	N J D Wright, Arthur & Carmichael
ANNUAL CATCH	The Catch for 2015 was 1454, which was considerably below the ten year average.
COUNTER	The Counter Total was 3417.
CONSERVATION POLICIES IN PLACE INCLUDING CURRENT RATE OF CATCH AND RELEASE	Broodstock Capture and reintroduction of Hatchery Fish. Increasing Rate of Catch and Release. For the whole Season it was just over 90%.
REGULATORY MEASURES PROMOTED EITHER STATUTORY OR VOLUNTARY AND HOW THESE ARE BEING MONITORED	Prevention of Poaching, taking of Fish by illegal means by team of three full time Bailiffs plus one Seasonal Summer Bailiff.
SURVEYS OF JUVENILE FISH POPULATIONS	Due to rain and turbidity in the headwaters, habitat work was not completed.
NUMBER OF BAILIFFS TRAINED AND EMPLOYED & SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES	Three full time Bailiffs and one Seasonal Summer Bailiff. Illegal Nets - None Offences Reported - None Court Cases - None
SUMMARY OF THE MAIN PRESSURES ON THE CATCHMENT	Escaped Farmed Fish hybridising with Helmsdale Salmon.
DETAILS OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY THE BOARD	Bank Repair Works per CAR.

<p>DETAILS OF ANY CONSENTED STOCKING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE</p>	<p>Broodstock Capture in October/November 2015 of 60 Salmon.</p> <p>Discussions with Professor M. Gage of East Anglia University to assess per DNA Analysis the success of the Hatchery are ongoing. This work is conditional upon funding being obtained.</p>
<p>COMPLAINTS</p>	<p>The Board has prepared a Complaints Procedure which was approved at their Meeting on 11th May 2014.</p> <p>No Complaints in 2015.</p>
<p>MEETINGS - 2015</p>	<p>The Annual Public Meeting was held at 4.05pm on Saturday 09th May 2015 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p> <p>The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Proprietors was held at 2.30pm on Saturday 09th May 2015 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p>
<p>ANNUAL REPORT</p>	<p>This Annual Report will be published on the Board's website and a copy will be sent to The Scottish Government by the end of May 2016.</p>
<p>ACCOUNTS</p>	<p>Accounts will be published on the Board's website and a copy will be sent to The Scottish Government by the end of May 2016.</p>
<p>MEMBERS INTERESTS</p>	<p>The Board has prepared a Register of Members Interests. This will be reviewed at the Qualified Proprietors Meeting each May.</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR 2016</p>	<p>The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 07th May 2016 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p> <p>The Annual Public Meeting will be held at 3.00 pm on Saturday 07th May 2016 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p> <p>Fish Surveys - Continue Electro Fishing Programme.</p> <p>Habitat Improvements - Bank Repairs as necessary.</p> <p>Priorities for Bailiffs - Disease control of Gyrodactylus salaris, and protection of the fishery.</p> <p>Stocking Strategy - Stocking as necessary in light of Electro Fishing Results and Counter Runs.</p>

NJD WRIGHT
Clerk - April 2016

