

REPORT FOR 2017

of

HELMSDALE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

CHAIRMAN	Sir John Nutting Bt.QC
PROPRIETORS REPRESENTATIVES	Sir A Heber-Percy N McCorquodale W Southall Alexander Darwall George Stephenson
CO-OPTEES	D Sutherland R Mackay
CLERK	N J D Wright, Arthur & Carmichael, Dornoch.
ANNUAL CATCH	The Catch for 2017 was 1720 .
COUNTER	The Counter Total was 3860 : at end of Aug. 2017.
CONSERVATION POLICIES INCLUDING CURRENT RATE OF CATCH AND RELEASE	Broodstock Capture and reintroduction of Hatchery Fish. Maintaining high Rate of Catch and Release. For the whole Season it was 96% .
REGULATORY MEASURES EITHER STATUTORY OR VOLUNTARY	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	Better coverage in 2017, and Board's team carried out research work for the Forestry Commission.
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 CATCHMENT	Escaped Farmed Fish hybridising with Helmsdale Salmon.
DETAILS OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS BY BOARD	Bank Repairs per CAR

DETAILS OF CONSENTED STOCKING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE	<p>Broodstock Capture target in October/November 2017 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>
COMPLAINTS	The Board has prepared a Complaints Procedure which was approved at their Meeting on 11th May 2014. No Complaints in 2017.
MEETINGS - 2017	<p>The Annual Public Meeting was held at 11.00am on Saturday 06th May 2017 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p> <p>The Annual Meeting of the Qualified Proprietors was held at 10.35am on Saturday 06th May 2017 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p>
ANNUAL REPORT	This Annual Report will be considered at the Board Meeting on 12 th May 2018.
ACCOUNTS	Accounts will be considered at the Board Meeting on 12 th May 2018, and copy submitted to the Scottish Government.
MEMBERS INTERESTS	The Board has prepared a Register of Members Interests . This will be reviewed at the Qualified Proprietors Meeting each May.
SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS FOR 2017	<p>The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors will be held at 10.30 am on Saturday 12th May 2018 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.</p> <p>The Annual Public Meeting will be held at 10.45 am. on Saturday 12th May 2018 at Kildonan Hall.</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 - **MAY 2018.**

N. J. Wright
12th May 2018