



# **RIVER STINCHAR DISTRICT** **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

Clerk to the Board: Iain K Clark, LLB (Hons), Dip LP, NP  
c/o Gilson Gray LLP, 160 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2HQ  
Direct: +44 (0)141 530 2025 Mobile: +44 (0)7908 022 304  
Email: [RiverStincharDSFB@gilsongray.co.uk](mailto:RiverStincharDSFB@gilsongray.co.uk)  
Website: [www.stincharfishing.co.uk](http://www.stincharfishing.co.uk)

## **MINUTES**

of

**Annual Public Meeting of the**

**River Stinchar District Salmon Fishery Board**

**3 June 2025 at 7pm**

**Colmonell Community Hall, 37 Main Street, KA26 0RY**

**1. Welcome – Roger Pirrie (RP), Acting Chair in Johnny Warrender’s absence**

RP welcomed those in attendance

**2. Persons Present**

<i>Roger Pirrie (RP)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler’s Rep), Acting Chair</i>
<i>Iain K Clark (IKC)</i>	<i>Gilson Gray LLP (Clerk to the Board)</i>
<i>Gordon Hyslop (GH)</i>	<i>Colmonell Angling Club (Salmon Angler’s Rep)</i>
<i>Francis Young (FY)</i>	<i>Balnowlart, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs (SB)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>

**3. Apologies**

<i>Johnny Warrender</i>	<i>Benan, Pinmore, Board Member</i>
<i>Pamela Dunlop</i>	<i>Glenginnet, Barr, Board Member</i>
<i>Struan Candlish</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>Jack Warrender (JaW)</i>	<i>River Watch Coordinator</i>

**4. Declaration of Members’ Interests – Iain K Clark, Clerk to Board (IKC)**

In accordance with the Board’s good governance obligations, the Board has agreed a Meetings Protocol and Policy on Members Interests. All Board Members have signed a Declaration of Interests. The Board maintains a Register of Relevant Interests, pursuant to Section 46E of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”). All existing Board Members present were invited to declare new/amend existing interests. No new interests were declared or amended.

**5. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous Annual Public Meeting of 3 December 2024 were approved as follows:

Proposed: RP                      Seconded: SB

**6. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

None

As all of the attendees at this meeting were also present at the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors on 6 May 2025, with appropriate updates highlighted by the Clerk, the following were taken as read (with additional updates noted below):

**7. Annual Report re. the activities of the Board for the year to 5 April 2025**

- (a) Report from the Chair – RP**
- (b) Report from the Clerk to the Board – IKC**
- (c) Report on Fishery Assessments – IKC**

The Clerk updated the Board on the 2025/2026 payments made so far, following Fishery Assessment Notices being issued on 19 May 2025.

- (d) Consultation Responses - IKC**
- (e) Good Governance - IKC**
- (f) Code of Practice - IKC**
- (g) Scientific Report – Stuart Brabbs, Ayrshire Rivers Trust (SB)**
- (h) Electrofishing Report - SB**
- (i) Annual Catch Returns - IKC**

**8. Presentation of Annual Audited Statement of Accounts to 5 April 2025 – IKC**

**9. The proposed activities of the Board for the next year**

- (a) Report on Expected Budget – IKC**

The Clerk updated the Board that ART had confirmed their RPI increase in the donation to £6,840.15, increased by only 4.5%.

It was also confirmed that the budget agreed for Japanese Knotweed injection was £1,000 carried over from the previous year and not billed + £4,000 for the current year, a total of £5,000.

- (b) Proposed Works – SB**

As agreed at the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors.

**10. Question and Answer Session:**

- (a) Presentation of Updated Fisheries Information Pack – IKC**

A physical copy was made available at the meeting and will be circulated electronically and in hard copy (as requested) to Qualified Proprietors, Tenants, Clubs, Associations and Syndicates in due course.

- (b) River Stinchar River Watch Scheme – IKC/JaW, River Watch Coordinator**

The Clerk updated the Board on behalf of JaW, who was unable to attend tonight. Agreements have been signed with JaW as River Watch Coordinator and with three River Watch Patrol Coordinators. A Mobile phone sim is being purchased, and an email address is being set up, signage, posts and poster covers, together with waterproof clothing will be procured; and publicity arranged involving Police Scotland. The expectation is that Patrols will commence from July through to January.

**(c) Demonstration of NEW River Stinchar Catch Return App - ART**

Everyone present had previously seen this demonstrated at the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors.

**11. Any Other Business - RP**

- (a) There was a discussion about efficiencies and trying to be more environmentally friendly by going paper less and the Board agreed that we would go over to a model where the bulk of documents would now be circulated electronically and not printed for meetings. This will be a considerable cost and time saving.

The deadlines/structure agreed was:

- Calling Notices for Meetings generally sent 21 days before a meeting.
- All reports and other documents to be sent to the Clerk 2 weeks before the meeting.
- The Clerk will circulate Board Packs electronically 1 week before the meeting.

There was also a discussion about trying to make efficiencies of time in relation to meetings and how they are conducted.

It was agreed that, generally the Board will aim to meet three times per annum:

- December – by Microsoft Teams
  - February – in person to discuss budgets, Fishery Assessment Rate, Annual Meetings
  - Annual Meetings to be held in Mid-May (in person and papers would be printed):
    - 7pm Board Meeting
    - 7:30pm Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors
    - 8:30pm Annual Public Meeting
  - Other meetings can be held on an *ad hoc* basis, as required
- (b) The Clerk congratulated SB of ART for securing the licence from the Marine Directorate of Scottish Government, with multiple agency involvement to deal with shingle in the estuary, which had been washed down and was preventing the smolts being released to the sea. GH was involved in coordinating with Robert Elliott and others to chase the piscivorous birds (particularly cormorants) which were collecting, during the 8 days that it took to secure the licence (SB had previously been advised of a turnaround of around 14 weeks for such an application).

GH and SB were at great pains to emphasise that, had this work not been done, the smolts would have been massacred by the piscivorous birds; and that this was not acceptable, standing that Atlantic Salmon are an endangered species.

GH then arranged to carry out the work under licence, to carve a channel through the shingle to release the smolts, which immediately went out to sea. SB also intimated all the required notices on the multiple agencies requiring to be notified for such works, including HM Coastguard, etc. ART are preparing an application to have a standing arrangement for when/if a similar situation arises again, which will require to have certain conditions set.

## **12. Next Meeting**

SB and RP will separately be speaking with JW on his return from business and we may then arrange the Next Board Meeting by Teams.

RP thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting concluded at 20:36.