

SPEY FISHERY BOARD BRIEFING



July 2013

www.speyfisheryboard.com

Opening up Spey burns to wildlife project

The Spey Foundation have teamed up with the Speyburn Distillery, in Rothes, to promote their 'Opening Up Spey Burns for Wildlife Project' as part of their conservation programme. The Speyburn Distillery are committed to helping to protect and enhance the natural surroundings, which include the water source for Speyburn Single Malt – the Granty Burn, one of the Spey's tributaries, on a project to open up the Spey burns for wildlife.

The Speyburn's project is mirrored across the Atlantic, where they have teamed up with American Rivers – a charity similarly dedicated to the wellbeing of its nation's natural waterways. In order to play a part in this valuable venture, new members are invited to join 'Clan Speyburn' and with every new member who signs up, Speyburn will donate £1 to The Spey Foundation (full details can be found on www.speyburn.com). Every bottle of Speyburn 10 Year Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky and their Speyburn Bradan Orach Single Malt Scotch Whisky, which are sold in the UK and rest of world (excluding the U.S.), will have a neck tag attached to promote their support for the

conservation of salmon rivers. Consumers just need to go to www.speyburn.com/clan-speyburn and sign up for the Clan, ticking the Salmon Run box.

The funding received from this exciting new sponsorship will go towards the continued work of the Spey Foundation to manage, protect and enhance the natural habitat for the fish to spawn along the River Spey and all of its tributaries.



Spey fishery board go to Holyrood!

The Cairngorms National Park Authority invited the Spey Fishery Board to showcase the Spey Catchment Initiative at a reception at Holyrood on the 25th June. The reception was held to celebrate the National Park's 10th Anniversary and was attended by Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, and other Members of Scottish Parliament. The SFB's Director Roger Knight, Operations Manager Duncan Ferguson and Project Officer Liz Henderson heard the Minister praise the Catchment Initiative's Allt Lorgy project during his opening address and were on hand to answer questions about it during the course of the evening.



Holyrood, Edinburgh

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BRIEFING – JULY 2013

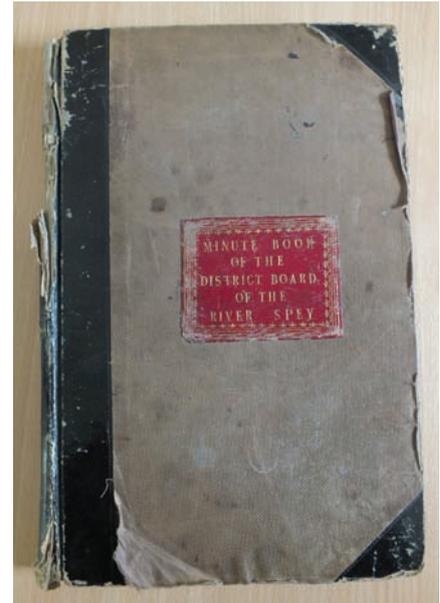
150th Anniversary edition 1863 to 2013

To mark the 150th Anniversary of the Spey Fishery Board, we have looked back at our earliest records which date back to the very first Board Meeting of the District Board of the River Spey 6th May, 1863.

PROPRIETORS OF 1863

His Grace Charles Henry Gordon Lennox Duke of Richmond
 The Rt. Hon. Sir John Grant Ogilvie of Grant Bt, Earl of Seafield
 James William Grant Esq. of Wester Elchies
 The Rt. Hon. James Earl of Fife
 Sir George McPherson Grant of Ballindalloch Bt.
 The Rt. Hon. Lord Alexander Gordon Lennox
 The Rt. Hon. Lord Henry Gordon Lennox
 Captain John Gordon of Cluny
 Sir Robert Glendonwyn Gordon Baronet of Letterfowie
 Hay MacDowall Grant Esq of Arndilly
 William Grant Esq of Carron
 Miss Margaret Gordon MacPherson Grant of Aberlour
 Alexander Aeneas Macintosh of Mackintosh
 Lieutenant Colonel David Edward MacPherson of Belleville
 Ewen MacPherson of Cluny Macpherson

*First Minute Book
 of the District
 Board of the River
 Spey 1863*



Note: Since 1863 the total number of River Spey Proprietors have increased from 15 to a total of 68.

SPEY DISTRICT BOARD.

THE following is the Annual Report by the Superintendent submitted to the Meeting held in Elgin on 18th October, 1889 :—

I.—Salmon Spawning.

The following Tables show the dates of the first appearance of salmon spawning beds, and the number seen and counted by the Bailiffs during the last two Spawning Seasons of 1887-88 and 1888-89 on the following named streams or tributaries, viz. :—

1887-88.		
Name of Stream.	Spawning Commenced.	Number of Beds for Season.
Fiddich	21st October, 1887	920
Avon	22nd October, 1887	1460
Livet	"	
Conglass	"	
Lochy	"	
Dulnain	13th October, 1887	521
Nethy	15th October, 1887	220
Druie	20th October, 1887	668
Feshie	14th October, 1887	
Tromie	"	
Truim	"	60
Spey (above Laggan, Badenoch)	15th October, 1887	
Total		3849 Spawning Beds.

1888-89.		
Name of Stream.	Spawning Commenced.	Number of Beds for Season.
Fiddich	8th October, 1888	1045
Avon	24th September, 1888	1338
Livet	11th October, 1888	679
Conglass	13th October, 1888	358
Lochy	20th October, 1888	164
Dulnain	10th October, 1888	651
Nethy	22nd October, 1888	286
Druie	17th October, 1888	336
Feshie	15th October, 1888	447
Tromie	11th October, 1888	125
Truim	10th October, 1888	118
Spey (above Laggan, Badenoch)	9th October, 1888	90
Total		5637 Spawning Beds.

Increase over last year, 1788 Spawning Beds.

First meeting of the District Board held at Elgin Court House on 16th September 1863

‘John Whyte appointed to be Chief Constable and Superintendent salary of £130 per annum and £50 to cover travelling and all other expenses. The Board confirmed on the Superintendent power to appoint Constables/Water Bailiffs not to exceed fifty.’

Note: £180 in today’s money is approximately £14,090

Minute from 14th July, 1871

‘The Superintendent stated that it would be very desirable to have a Bothy for the Watchers erected at Dabruach on the south side of the Tromie – the Superintendent having produced offers for its erection the Board authorised the Superintendent to get the Bothy erected at the expense of the Board provided the permission of the Proprietor and Tenant of the ground has been previously obtained.’

Minute from 26th July 1872

‘On Monday 13th May, the Superintendent having stated that the men had been asked additional wages the Board agreed to increase the same by One Shilling per neck to each of the men regularly employed and Four Pence additional per night to the men occasionally employed at the mouth of the Spey.’

‘The Clerk reported that Inspector McKenzie had detected a Breach of the Weekly Close Time by George Tough, Tenant of Captain Dunbar Brander’s Fishings at Lossiemouth.’

Minute from 27th September 1872

‘The Clerk reported that since last meeting he had obtained a conviction against George Tough Brandenburgh in the Lossie District for a breach of the Weekly Close Time being a second offence – and that a fine of £15 was imposed by the Sherriff’. (Today’s value approx. £1,040)

Minute from 7th August 1874

‘The Board took up the question of the wages to be given to the Water Bailiffs during the ensuing Close Time. After deliberation it was resolved to continue the same rate of wages – Seventeen Shillings per week to the Bailiffs formerly employed, with One Shilling and Sixpence additional for lodgings to those obliged to reside from home to attend their duties.’

Bailiff Weekly Wage £0 17s 0d (Today’s value approx. £61.50)

Bailiff Lodging Allowance £0 1s 6d (Today’s value approx. £5.43)

Minute from 1st July 1881

‘There were submitted to the Meeting two estimates of the cost of repairing the Banks of the Dorback a tributary of the Nethy at the parts damaged by the floods last year, the object being to prevent the pollution caused in the River by the clay and sand brought down the stream when in flood, as the Estimates came to £200 and £150 respectively, it was resolved to allow them to be on the table in the meantime.’

THOMAS BALMER, Chairman

Minute from 19th October 1877

‘The Clerk reported that the Superintendent had seized the nets, these in number, at John Geils fishings at Strathline which he had found in fishing order during the weekly close time between 19th and 21st May last, with the fish found therein, and in consequence he had brought a complaint under the 24th section of the Act of 1868 against John Geils before the Sheriff Court at Banff for breach of the Weekly Close Time. ...The case was continued until 27th and the result was the conviction of the accused. Being a second offence the fines imposed were:

For 3 nets at £5 __ £15 ,, ,, (Today’s value £1,040)

For 14 Fish each £1 __ £14 ,, ,, (Today’s value £1,030)

Price of fish seized __ £8 7 ,, ,, (Today’s value £613)

Extract from the Superintendent’s Annual Report, for year ending 26th August 1891:

‘In consequence of there being some two or three hundred navvies employed at the works of the Aviemore and Inverness new line of railway at Carrbridge, it will be necessary to have at least two additional bailiffs put on duty on the Dulnain at Carrbridge to assist the usual Bailiffs to protect the fish during the coming close time. Carrbridge is the centre of the best spawning grounds upon the Dulnain, and all sorts of characters are likely to be found among so many navvies.’

‘The full force of Bailiffs is constituted as follows:- The Superintendent, stationed at Aberlour; the Inspector, stationed at Grantown; eight sergeants and thirty-four Constables.’

GEO. K. MACGREGOR, Superintendent

Riverside Walk in Aviemore Re-opens Thanks to Help from the Army

A team of Royal Engineers from 236 Field Squadron of 71 Engineer Regiment, based in Elgin, refurbished a footbridge and boardwalk alongside one of the most scenic stretches of the River Spey, using materials paid for by Scottish Government ‘shovel ready’ funding, through Cairngorms National Park Authority. The footbridge had over recent years fallen into a state of disrepair, limiting access to what was once a popular riverside walk that runs along the edge of a small island parallel to Dalfaber Road in Aviemore. In November another team of Royal Engineers from 124 Squadron repaired a smaller foot bridge at the northern end of the island and the Aviemore Scouts cleared back the undergrowth to redefine the path.

The project was coordinated by SFB Project Officer, Liz Henderson for the Spey Catchment Initiative, in conjunction with the Aviemore and Cambusmore Enhancement Company. Others who contributed to this project include: Spey Valley Hire Ltd, Abernethy & Aviemore Angling Improvement Association, Aviemore Scouts and Cairngorm Brewery who donated liquid refreshments for the troops!



The bridge and boardwalk last summer



236 Field Squadron on completed boardwalk



Above: Knockando Woolmill



Above right: Invertebrate Sampling Demonstration by SFB Biologist, Brian Shaw



Right: Trout Habitat Mapping by Moray Firth Trout Initiative

Youth Activity Day

A Youth Activity Day was held at the Knockando Woolmill on Saturday 11th May, which was attended by 90 young people. The activities included mini rafting, textile design, the waterwheel challenge, dragons den, flock to fabric, felt making, trout habitat mapping, provided by Moray Firth Trout Initiative and electro-fishing demonstrations and invertebrate sampling, by the Spey Foundation, in and around the Knockando Burn.

Gordon Castle Highland Games & Country Fair 2013

The Spey Fishery Board and Spey Foundation operated a stand at the Gordon Castle Highland Games Event which was held on Sunday 19th May and attended by approximately 8000 visitors.

