



TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021/2022

Dear Stakeholder,

The Board and staff of the Tay District Salmon Fishery Board are pleased to attach our Proposed Management Plan for the Tay, Earn and Eden for the next 12 months. This time next year we will be submitting for your consideration a three year management plan which provides for greater continuity spanning the triennial elections process. We are seeking your feedback by way of this consultation before completing and implementing the plan.

Our overriding objective is for the river to export as many smolts as possible every year. This is the only way we will sustain and hopefully in time rebuild annual catches preserving the reputation of the Tay as one of the healthiest and most productive salmon rivers in Scotland. The Tay Rivers Trust are our closest partner. The positive working relationship underpins everything we want for the rivers in the Tay system.

In preparing the plan we have been acutely aware of the severe financial impact Covid has had on many businesses in the district including many people who through their assessments fund the work of the Board. We have therefore tried to strike a balance between our aspiration and the cost of what we do. You should be aware however that the Board do aspire to improving the health and productivity of the river and in due course we will need to enhance annual funding. Your feedback on our approach would be appreciated on this and all of the other aspects set out in the plan. You should also be aware that next year the Board plan to undertake a satisfaction survey to establish how people feel we have performed and what further improvements people would like to see.

The Board are committed to continuing with the hatchery. This is however a significant annual cost and is also an activity that the Scottish Government are taking an increasing interest in. The board recognise the key role it plays in a river system impacted by hydro dams.

We look forward to hearing from you. A tight timescale has been set for your returns. Please use the returns proforma which will enable us to compile responses efficiently.

Many regards

Iain McLaren, Convener

On behalf of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board



TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Tay District River Management Plan 2021

CONSULTATION DRAFT

This Management Plan, produced by the Board and staff of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board, details the Board's proposed work for 2021 on the Tay, Earn and Eden. It's overriding objective is for the river to export as many smolts as possible to sustain and hopefully in time rebuild catches ensuring the Tay remains one of the most productive salmon rivers in Scotland.

Delivery of the Plan also involves the Tay Rivers Trust, our closest partner, with whom we are developing a positive working relationship to underpin everything we want for the rivers in the Tay system.

This year's Plan has been prepared with the severe financial impact of Covid very much in mind. The Board has tried to strike a balance between our aspiration and the cost of what we do. We have tried to keep the assessment as low as possible. But, when financial conditions allow, the Board aspires to a more ambitious longer-term plan for improving the health and productivity of the river which in due course we will need to enhance annual funding.

We are seeking your feedback by way of this consultation before completing and implementing the plan. Your views would be most appreciated. Next year the Board also plans to undertake a satisfaction survey to establish how people feel we have performed and what further improvements people would like to see.

The Plan details two types of actions; "direct" actions where the Board can take the initiative and lead a project and "indirect" actions where the Board's role is to influence other organisations with whom decision making power lies, usually other statutory bodies.

Goal 1 – Stewardship

Conservation outcomes

Direct actions		
River Tay and Tributaries	Continue Catch & Release Policy, Review Annually	Ensuring spawning stocks are as high as they can be.
All areas	Enforce the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003. Continue to employ a core team of full-time trained bailiffs and may appoint honorary bailiffs who have passed the IFM certificate.	Ensuring spawning stocks are as high as they can be.
All areas	Respond to consultations on developments.	To prevent damaging development.
All areas	Promote awareness of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> among anglers and river users. A contingency plan should be produced in the event of <i>GS</i> being discovered in the Tay	<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> is a parasite of salmon which will practically wipe out salmon in a river. It was introduced to some rivers in Norway but is not present in the UK.

Predation

Direct actions		
Tay, Earn and larger tributaries	Perform counts of piscivorous birds and apply for licences to shoot to scare, especially at migration bottlenecks. Quantify impacts, particularly to establish whether pre-smolting salmon are a significant component of goosander diet in winter.	Piscivorous birds predating on juvenile salmon and smolts
Tay Lower	Continue to apply for licences to control seals in upper Tay estuary. Investigate seal scarers.	Seals can penetrate the Tay to the head of tide and beyond. Predation on adult salmon in the river and descending kelts plus scaring fish from pools.

Habitat outcomes

Direct actions		
All areas	Monitor burns spawning and autumn for beaver damming. Engage with beaver issues, including Scottish Beaver Forum etc as they arise.	Beaver dams now appear regularly in burns and can block passage of descending smolts and spawning adults
All areas	Board staff or volunteers should keep fish passes clear in spring and autumn.	Fish passes can clog with debris (can be exacerbated by beaver damming) preventing upstream passage of adults.
Almond	Get permission to replace weir at Buchanty Spout.	Hydro Board installed a gabion weir below Buchanty Spout to back up water level. Eventually it will fail, effectively increasing the height of the falls, making it more difficult for fish to ascend the Almond.
All areas	Think about extending control of invasive plants and mink outwith the Scottish Invasives Species Initiative area and for 2023 find replacement for SISI.	Invasive Plants cause loss of native vegetation, erosion, access to river, visual amenity. Mink predation on juvenile salmon and sea trout
Shochie	Improvements required at two weirs, or complete removal if possible.	Some salmon may have difficulty ascending these weirs in certain circumstances.

Goal 2 – Enhancement

Habitat outcomes

Direct actions		
Dochart	Work with Scotland’s Rural College and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority to get flood banks lowered on Fillan Water.	Flood embankments on Fillan Water may have exacerbated bank erosion in a critically important spawning area.
Lunan Water	Obtain permission to open out areas of dense tree canopy to stimulate growth of weed and grasses to provide fish cover.	Dense tree shade over otherwise fertile burns suppresses algae / vegetation resulting in slower growing fish relative to general area. Also an emerging issue on other tribs. This experimental work will inform future policy.
Indirect actions		
Dall Burn	Lobby SEPA to prioritise removal of an impassable weir under Water Environment Fund.	Impassable weir on lower reaches prevents all salmon access.

Hatchery outcomes

Direct actions		
Garry	Stock eggs from reconditioned kelts to kick start restoration of Garry salmon population.	Adult salmon still to colonise newly restored river.
Garry	Mitigation stocking of eyed eggs from reconditioned kelts in Allt Glas Choire. Ultimately sufficient broodstock may be obtained in Glas Choire below intake or in Garry with no need to recondition.	Adult salmon have no access above impassable hydro abstraction weir on Allt Glas Choire
All areas	Conduct scientific stocking in areas with low juvenile abundance to determine whether carrying capacity is being achieved.	To identify areas where juvenile salmon numbers are limited because of access constraints or other constraints on successful spawning
Indirect actions		
Braan	Seek permission to establish a salmon population in the River Braan by trapping adults at Inver and trucking around Hermitage and Rumbling Bridge falls	Natural impassable waterfalls prevent salmon entering this otherwise excellent salmon river.

Hydro and abstraction mitigation

Indirect actions		
Garry	Lobby SEPA to seek to make the upper River Garry accessible to salmon.	Salmon cannot access upper River Garry despite flow now restored, because Garry Intake is not screened for smolts.
Lochay	Make case and lobby SEPA for conversion of rock fish passes on River Lochay to "rock ramps".	Three fish passes, hewn from rock may pose difficulty to some ascending salmon, because salmon have yet to colonise the upper reaches. Reducing the fish pass gradients and increasing flows may help.
Lochay	Lobby SEPA / Scottish Government for more for dry weather abstraction to cease on River Lochay.	Hydro water abstraction exacerbates low flows during dry periods and may reduce salmon parr habitat
Lyon	Collect information on the impact of damming on water chemistry. If an effect is found, lobby SEPA and others for replacement of lost nutrients.	Juvenile surveys indicate invertebrate community of the River Lyon has been altered because of hydro flow regulation. Change in temperature regime and chemistry are potential causes. Salmon growth rates appear significantly affected.
Ericht	Monitor smolt passage at Blairgowrie Fish Farm to inform SEPA of the suitability of arrangements. If necessary, lobby SEPA to conduct further review.	Fish farm abstracts from Ericht at Blairgowrie. Despite recent SEPA review can still take a significant proportion of the flow and the bypass effectiveness remains to be demonstrated.
Arable areas	Lobby SEPA to review irrigation abstraction licences.	in dry weather, agricultural irrigation is common and can impact on drought flows in burns particularly.

Goal 3 - Knowledge

Conservation outcomes

Direct actions		
All areas	Continue with juvenile electrofishing surveys, including National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS) and Gaur and Lochay above fish passes. Review regularly.	Understanding the status of the salmon population and identify problem areas.

Water quality

Direct actions		
All areas	Commission audit of historic SEPA invertebrate data.	There are concerns that diffuse and point source pollution and other impacts may have altered or reduced freshwater invertebrate populations.



TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

TAY RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM – 2021

As a Board, we have devised a River Management Plan and are seeking feedback from Tay Catchment stakeholders. We're interested in listening to your views on the plan, both good and bad.

The consultation opens on Monday, 21st June 2021 and **closes on Friday, July 16th 2021**. You can respond by either sending a paper copy of your response to TDSFB, Unit 6, Cromwellpark, Almondbank PH1 3LW, or emailing consultation@tdsfb.org.

Please read through the attached River Management Plan 2021 and respond using the boxes below – Should you require any further explanations or information on the projects, please contact David Summers on 07974 360787 or email director@tdsfb.org. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation.

GOAL 1 – STEWARDSHIP

Conservation Outcomes

Do you agree with the conservation outcomes the TDSFB are proposing?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes **No** **Undecided**

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

GOAL 1 – STEWARDSHIP (continued)

Habitat Outcomes

Do you agree with the habitat outcomes the TDSFB are proposing?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

Predation

Do you agree with the TDSFB's ongoing and proposed measures to combat predation in the Tay Catchment?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

GOAL 2 - ENHANCEMENT

Habitat Outcomes

Do you agree with the habitat outcomes the TDSFB is proposing?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

Hatchery Outcomes

Do you agree with the hatchery outcomes the TDSFB is proposing?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

GOAL 2 – ENHANCEMENT (Continued)

Hydro & Abstraction Mitigation

Do you agree with the TDSFB's proposal on hydro and abstraction mitigation?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

GOAL 3 – KNOWLEDGE

Conservation Outcomes

So you agree with the TDSFB's proposal for conservation outcomes?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

GOAL 3 – KNOWLEDGE (Continued)

Water Quality

Do you agree with the TDSFB's proposals on water quality actions?

Please place an X beside your answer

Yes

No

Undecided

Please use the space below to expand upon your answer.

Many thanks for your cooperation. It would be helpful if you could please provide your details below. Your reply is confidential and is covered by the TDSFB GDPR Policy.

Name	
Beat (if applicable)	
Capacity eg proprietor, ghillie, angler	
Phone number	
Email address	