TDSFB Public Meeting

NOTE OF MEETING

Sunday 26th July 2026

2 – 4pm

Birnam Arts

Chair: Lorraine Henderson, Convenor

Attendees

Members of the Public	
1	Colin Millar
2	Ron Whytock
3	Callum Tod
4	Alex Stewart
5	Conelius O'Dea
6	Gail O'Dea
7	Richard Mills
8	Simon Furniss
9	Alan Wells
10	Colin Smith
11	Mike Smith
12	Kevin McHugh
13	Katrina Wood
14	Stewart Pitt
Online Attendance	
15	Alistair Riddell
16	Stuart Lang
17	Alisdair Ker
18	Francis Jennings
19	Steve Keay

20	Ted Eadie
Board Members	
21	Grant Kellie
22	David Rudge
23	John Nevin
24	Iain Wood
25	Nick Bossley
26	Iain Law
27	Bobby White
Speakers	
28	Lorraine Henderson, Convenor
29	David Bamford, Catchment Manager
30	Craig Duncan, Hatchery Manager
31	Michael Brown, Operations Manager
32	Amanda Nicolson, Office Manager
33	Mark Purrmann-Charles, Invasive Species Team Leader
34	Paige Dodds, Fisheries Intern
Other - Staff	
35	Diego Bustio, Fisheries Intern

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome - Lorraine Henderson, Convenor

The Convenor, Lorraine Henderson, welcomed attendees to the Annual Public Meeting and thanked everyone for attending both in person and online. It was noted that attendance had significantly increased compared with the previous year.

The Convenor highlighted the Board's commitment to openness, transparency and collaboration and acknowledged the significant progress made since the current Board came together in February 2026.

Agenda Item 2 - Current Situation - Lorraine Henderson, Convenor

It was reported that considerable progress had been made in strengthening the organisation, including:

- Improved financial position through increased consultancy income.
- Recovery of approximately £25,000 in historical debt, with further recoveries ongoing.
- Modernisation of business systems and organisational processes.
- Continued investment in environmental and fisheries management projects.

Thanks were extended to staff and Board members for their commitment, with particular recognition given to Amanda Nicolson, Office Manager and Bob Mason, Board Member for their work on levy administration and debt recovery.

Agenda Item 3 - Catchment Update - David Bamford, Catchment Manager

David Bamford, Catchment Manager, outlined current priorities across the catchment, including:

- Concerns regarding reduced water flows within the River Lochay due to hydroelectric abstraction and the resulting impact on salmon migration and water temperatures.
- Planned engagement with SEPA, SSE and Fisheries Management Scotland to improve water management.
- Proposed habitat improvements, including tree planting and installation of temperature monitoring equipment.
- Fish passage issues at Blairgowrie, highlighting the need for improved fish passage infrastructure and consideration of future engineering solutions.

Questions were raised regarding hydro schemes, Archimedean screw turbines, fish stocking and smolt migration.

Agenda Item 4 - Enforcement Update – Michael Brown, Operations Manager

Michael Brown, Operations Manager, introduced the Board's new reporting arrangements, including:

- Dedicated telephone, WhatsApp and email reporting services.
- Improved incident recording and intelligence gathering.
- Recent successful prosecutions supported by TDSFB fisheries officers.
- New legislation increasing penalties for salmon poaching offences.
- Investment in new operational equipment including body-worn cameras, thermal imaging equipment and satellite communications.
- Introduction of a formal warning notice system for lower-level offences.

Questions were answered around identifying illegal fishing activity, engagement with Paddle Scotland and the confiscation of equipment used in fisheries offences.

ACTION: An action was raised to develop an educational leaflet for the public explaining how to identify potential illegal fishing, when to report concerns, and the reporting routes available, to improve confidence in reporting incidents.

Agenda Item 5 – Hatchery Update - Craig Duncan, Hatchery Update

Craig Duncan, Hatchery Manager, provided an overview of hatchery operations, including:

- Annual broodstock collection, egg production and stocking programme.
- Continued success in broodstock reconditioning.
- Installation of additional rearing tanks and automatic feeding systems.
- Ongoing work to increase hatchery capacity and broodstock licence numbers.
- Launch of the "Friends of Summerhill Hatchery" initiative to encourage financial support.

Questions were asked regarding hatchery capacity, stocking policy, smolt production and fish counters.

Agenda Item 6 - Business Support Update – Amanda Nicolson, Office Manager

Amanda Nicolson provided an overview of organisational improvements since joining the Board, highlighting work undertaken to:

- Modernise IT systems and reduce paper-based processes.
- Strengthen governance, compliance and business resilience.
- Improve HR systems, staff wellbeing and employment practices.
- Review estate management, fleet management and financial processes.
- Develop a programme of continuous improvement across the organisation.

It was emphasised that these changes would strengthen organisational resilience and allow greater focus on protecting the Tay Catchment.

Agenda Item 7 - Strategy Development – Amanda Nicolson, Office Manager

Amanda Nicolson outlined progress in developing the Board's new organisational strategy, including:

- Completion of a Futures Focus Workshop involving Board members and staff.
- Use of SWOT and PESTLE analysis to inform future priorities.
- Development of an organisational Values and Behaviours Framework.
- Work towards a shared vision for the future of the Tay Catchment.
- Invitation for attendees to vote on proposed organisational straplines and contribute to the wider consultation process.

A suggestion was made that references to "Tay" within proposed straplines should say Tay Catchment should better reflect the wider catchment area served by the Board. This was gratefully received and will be incorporated into any future strapline.

Agenda Item 8 - Digital Incident Reporting – Paige Dodds, Fisheries Intern

Paige Dodds demonstrated the new digital incident reporting system, explaining how it will:

- Enable fisheries officers to record incidents electronically in the field.
- Capture GPS locations, photographs and evidence.
- Improve intelligence gathering and reporting.
- Produce automated reports and identify incident trends through mapping.

A question was raised regarding future public access to the reporting system however it was confirmed that this was purely an internal recording tool and members of the public should continue to report incidents via the existing reporting services available.

Agenda Item 9 - Invasive Species Update – Mark Purrmann-Charles, Invasive Species Team Leader

Mark Purrmann-Charles provided an update on the invasive species programme, highlighting:

- Expansion of the project area following additional funding.
- Appointment of additional staff.
- Continued success in American mink control through volunteer partnerships.
- Expansion of invasive plant management across additional catchments.
- National recognition received through environmental awards.

Agenda Item 10 – The Future – Lorraine Henderson, Convenor

The Convenor thanked all speakers, staff, volunteers and attendees for their participation and summarised the key messages and highlights from the day.

Attendees were encouraged to continue engaging with the Board through future consultations, social media and ongoing feedback as the new organisational strategy is developed.

Agenda Item 11 – AOCB and Closing Remarks – Lorraine Henderson, Convenor

AOCB – Blairgowrie Weir and Fish Passage

An attendee raised concerns regarding the proposed restoration works to the fish pass and weir at Blairgowrie, particularly the potential impact on both upstream and downstream migrating Atlantic salmon. It was noted that the existing weir and lade system represents a significant barrier to the downstream migration of salmon smolts from the River Ericht catchment, especially during periods of low spring flows. Concern was expressed that the current proposals could increase the risk of smolts becoming delayed and consequently more vulnerable to predation.

David Bamford, Catchment Manager advised that he was aware of these concerns and noted that Perth & Kinross Council is progressing to the next stage of the fish pass design process. It was acknowledged that the project is complex, requiring a careful balance between improving fish passage and accommodating the existing hydroelectric infrastructure and associated licensing requirements.

It was recognised the importance of ensuring that any future design provides effective passage for both upstream and downstream migrating fish. This includes considering historic features that previously assisted fish movement and incorporating the best available evidence into the final design. The Board confirmed that it will continue to engage constructively throughout the design and planning process, monitor progress closely, and work with all relevant partners to help ensure that the long-term interests of the River Ericht and its salmon populations remain a priority.

Closing Remarks - The Convenor thanked everyone for attending and reflected on the key themes arising from the meeting. It was emphasised that the Board is committed to making it easier for the public to report illegal fishing through improved reporting systems, the use of digital technology and enhanced engagement with Police Scotland and the Crown Office to ensure that the information gathered supports successful prosecutions. The Board will also produce educational material to help anglers, ghillies, proprietors and the wider public recognise and report illegal fishing incidents.

Members were advised that Board vehicles will shortly display the new reporting contact details to improve visibility, provide reassurance that fisheries officers are actively patrolling the catchment, and act as a deterrent to illegal activity. The Convenor also acknowledged the value of the new enforcement equipment provided through Fisheries Management Scotland, noting its importance in both evidence gathering and ensuring the safety of fisheries officers.

The meeting heard about the launch of the Friends of Summerhill Hatchery initiative, which aims to secure additional funding to support the future development and sustainability of the hatchery.

Thanks were extended to all speakers, staff, interns, funding partners including NatureScot and Fisheries Management Scotland, technical support staff, sponsors, volunteers and contractors who have supported the Board's work.

The Convenor advised that, as part of the Board's modernisation programme, six Board sub-groups have been established covering HR, Fleet, Operations, Projects, Finance and Stakeholder Engagement. These groups will strengthen governance, support business planning and improve oversight of the Board's activities.

In closing, the Convenor reaffirmed the Board's commitment to becoming a more professional, efficient, transparent and engaging organisation, with the aim of increasing stakeholder trust and confidence. Attendees were encouraged to continue engaging with the Board and to contact the Office Manager or Convenor with any questions or feedback following the meeting.