

	<p>a scoping document RL has drafted recommending amalgamating the 3 DSFBs and keeping the FNLFT as a separate charitable organisation for fund raising. The board discussed the options and challenges and agreed the principal of DSF board amalgamation is sensible, but asked for further detail before making any decisions. Costs, benefits, disadvantages and opportunities need to be detailed for an amalgamated board compared with the option to use consultants/contractors to provide the scientific and administrative support the FDSFB requires. Detail on representation from the three rivers on the amalgamated board and any support the Scottish Government might offer is also required. RL agreed to provide an updated scoping document in the new year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Safety- RL has updated the H&S Policy which is available here. RL has asked Green's to review H&S across the 3 Boards and FNLFT- approx. cost £1500. RL to take this forward. 	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
6.	<p>Head Bailiff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean McLean circulated the draft catch returns for 2017- some returns are still to come in. The total catch returned to date was 1500 fish (2207 in 2016), which is about the 30 year average. The water levels were consistently high after May/June this season, enabling fish to swim upstream without hindrance. The release rates were good for salmon, grilse and sea trout. Poaching incidents were down this year, with no serious incidents and one net found on the Muckle Burn. Sean reported that animal rights activists may become an issue due to the protest against wildfowling in Findhorn Bay. He was confronted by some activists whilst undertaking goosander scaring duties. The Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Officers recommend wearing GoPro body cameras to act as corroborative evidence in the event of any confrontations or complaints. SMcL will investigate procuring cameras. 	<p>SMcL</p>
7.	<p>FNLFT Director Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Laughton circulated an update. The poor grilse run this year affected the catch figures and may deter anglers returning in the future. The catch figures should ensure the Findhorn continues to be a Grade 1 river. The catches would need to drop in two successive years for a river to be regraded. RL will try and ascertain what changes in catch would result in a regrading. Juvenile Surveys indicate a healthy population with increased numbers of older parr, which mean smolts should be more robust when they leave the river, aiding survival. RL will complete and circulate his report in the new year. Smolt Trap- the AST have indicated the FDSFB can retain their rotary screw trap in 2018 and RL plans to install it in the Divie for a second year. 	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
8.	<p>Catchment Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairn Duhie has been approved on appeal. 	
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Forres AA would be keen to support angling development in Forres schools- RL is submitting funding applications.</p>	<p>RL</p>
10	<p>. Dates of 2018 meetings:</p> <p>Monday 21st May 10.30am, Board Meeting</p> <p>Monday 20th August, Board Meeting followed by AGM</p> <p>Monday 26th November, Board Meeting</p>	