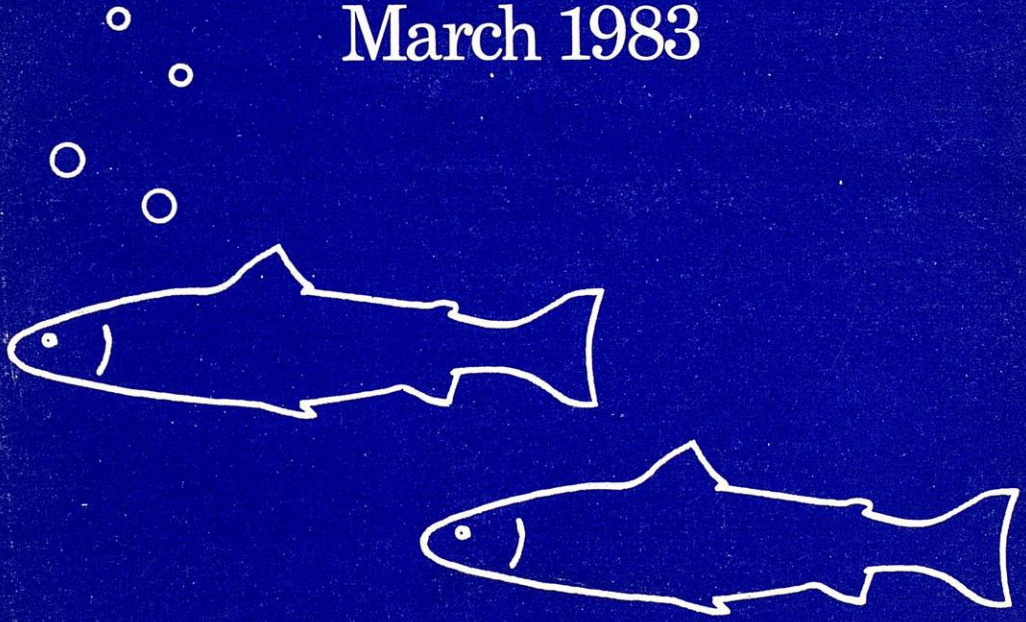
Atlantic Salmon Trust

Progress Report

March 1983



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Secretary:	Mr. E. Earl
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* Members of Committee of Management

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Mr. I.R.H. Allan, M.A.
Professor R.W. Edwards, B.Sc.,Ph.D.,F.I.Biol. (University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology)
Dr. Graeme Harris, Ph.D. (Welsh Water Authority)
Dr. J.W. Jones, O.B.E., PH.D.,D.Sc.,F.I.Biol.
Dr. G.J.A. Kennedy, Ph.D. (Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland)
Mr. D.J. Kinnersley, M.A. (National Water Council)
Mr. E.D. Le Cren, M.A., M.S.,F.I.Biol. (Freshwater Biological Association)
Dr. D.H. Mills, Ph.D., (Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources, Edinburgh University)
Dr. D.J. Piggins, Ph.D.,B.Sc., (Salmon Research Trust of Ireland Inc.)
Miss E. Twomey, M.Sc., (Department of Fisheries & Forestry, Dublin)
Observers: Mr. B. Stott (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)
Mr. W. Shearer (Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland)
Mr. H.J. Killick (Natural Environment Research Council)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP (EUROPEAN SECTION)

Mr. J.R.W. Stansfeld (Chairman)	U.K.
Mr. Thor Gudjonsson	Iceland
Dr. R. Vibert	France
(Vacancy)	Norway
(Vacancy)	Ireland
Dr. Nils Johansson	Sweden
Sr. Jose Lara Alen	Spain
Sir Richard Levinge	U.K.

PROGRESS REPORT: MARCH 1983

Aims and Objectives of The Trust

Recently the Trust was called upon to outline its aims and objectives bearing in mind the current position of the salmon stocks and the problems of conservation and the following is an up to date assessment of the Trust's position.

The Trust's main objective is to continue to act as a focal point for the collection and dissemination of new knowledge and facts about Atlantic salmon. It attempts to identify dangers and potential threats to the stocks of the species and works in the closest co-operation with all bodies currently striving for the conservation of salmon anywhere. Being a registered charitable organisation we are prevented from exerting pressure on the Government or members of Parliament, but this does not mean that we refrain from giving considered views on any Government White or Green Paper which conerns the well-being of Atlantic salmon. The Trust appreciates that salmon should not be preserved for its own sake but conserved for the benefit of the community. It is thus an important aim of the Trust to ensure that the true economic and social benefits arising from the country's salmon resource are assessed so that the runs of salmon may be cropped in a manner which provides the optimum benefits to the community and yet allows for the resource to be sustained and developed.

The Trust has long realised that it must concern itself with the international regulation and conservation of the stocks. Thus it has been involved in the organisation of international conferences, the most recent of which gave the impetus for the holding of the International Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic. The Trust now looks forward to the establishment of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation in Edinburgh.

On the European front the Trust has recognised the important role which the E.E.C. must play in international salmon discussions since the European Commission speaks for all member countries in salmon matters. Thus the Trust has been in constant touch with the Commission and its officers and, in addition, has been able to maintain very close links with the European Parliament through the latter's Working Group on Fisheries.

Examples of the Trust's work in the international field include the reports which it has published on the Faroese and Greenland commercial salmon fisheries and on the fisheries of Iceland. At home the Trust has continued to stimulate discussion on matters of importance affecting the management of salmon stocks. Its recent workshop on salmon statistics, resulted in action being taken by both the Government and the National Water Council to modify and improve the publication of the nation's salmon statistics. In addition a Workshop on the Economic Evaluation of the salmon resource has resulted in the preparation of evaluation schemes for national and regional consideration in the near future.

The Management of the Trust

Since the publication of the last Progress Report (August 1982) the most disturbing event which affected all aspects of the Trust and its management was the most unfortunate car accident involving both Sir Hugh and Lady Mackenzie. Although they were severely injured, it is a relief to be able to report that their recovery from this awful experience has been reasonably satisfactory and at the time of writing this report Sir Hugh has resumed his responsibilities as Chairman of the Council and Committee of Management. During the absence of Sir Hugh, the Council and Committee of Management elected Mr. David Clarke, the successful Chairman of the Trust's Appeal Committee, to act as Chairman of both bodies.

During the year Sir Ernest Woodroofe and Dr. D.H. Mills became members of both the Council and the Committee of Management; previously Dr. Mills had been a co-opted member of the Committee of Management. In furtherance of its policy to have close ties with the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation and the recently established Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Trust invited Mr. Joseph Cullman 3rd, President of the Foundation, and Mr. Lucien Rolland, Chairman of the Federation, to become members of the Council; both invitations have been accepted.

The Committee of Management met on 23rd September, 1982, 4th October, 1982, 26th October, 1982 (in Edinburgh) and on 1st December, 1982, when the Annual General Meeting and a meeting of the Council also took place. At two meetings during this period members of the Council were invited to participate in the Committee's discussions.

Future Organisation of The Trust

In October, 1982, the Trust welcomed Dr. W.M. Carter, a Vice President and Executive Director of the Foundation, to its meeting of the Committee of Management of which he is a member. This gave the Committee an opportunity of discussing with Dr. Carter the possible extension of the Trust's activities and responsibilities throughout the North East Atlantic area. Dr. Carter advised the Committee that the Foundation would like to see the Trust become the focal point around which all European non-governmental salmon groups could rally. If this was achieved he felt that the Trust could then provide the same type of umbrella structure as the newly-formed Atlantic Salmon Federation is now developing for North America. Such development would, in Dr. Carter's view, permit co-ordination and inter-relationship of conservation activities and add greatly to the strength of positions the Trust may wish to take with respect to salmon management. The Trust has decided to consider the implications of these views of Dr. Carter and draw up plans for increasing its influence in the European and Scandinavian spheres.

Assistant to the Director

During the spring of 1982 the Trust appointed Mr. W.A. Prichard to be Assistant to the Director with special responsibility for the organisation of the Fishing Auction sponsorship and relations with

European Conservation Organisations outside the U.K. Mr. Prichard had a distinguished career within the Atomic Energy Authority, the Foreign Office and the International Agency for Research in Cancer.

Honorary Scientific Advisory Panel

On the resignation of Professor R.W. Edwards from the Chairmanship of the Panel, members agreed that Sir Ernest Woodroofe should take his place. Miss Eileen Twomey, a member of the Fisheries Research Laboratory, Department of Fisheries and Forestry, Dublin, and Dr. D.J. Piggins, Director of the Salmon Research Trust of Ireland Inc. were invited, and have agreed, to join the Panel. Mr. K.U. Vickers, Fisheries Officer, Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, and Mr. A.V. Holden, Director, Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory, Pitlochry, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, have retired from their Civil Service posts and have been replaced by Dr. G.J.A. Kennedy and Mr. W. Shearer respectively. Dr. Kennedy is a member of the staff of the Fisheries Research Laboratory at Coleraine, Northern Ireland, while Mr. Shearer is in charge of his Department's work and river installations on the North Esk and is based at Montrose.

The 1982 meeting of the Panel took place on 10 August. 1982, and reviewed the progress which had been made on the various projects proposed the previous year.

Economic Surveys: The Panel was advised that the Water Authorities had not been enthusiastic about undertaking economic surveys of angling in their areas along the lines of a scheme prepared for the Trust by the Portsmouth Polytechnic. Only the Welsh Water Authority indicated that this type of survey was necessary for the proper management of the salmon resource. The North West Water Authority did, however, have the matter raised at the Fisheries Advisory Committee of the National Water Council but, it is understood, without success.

A proposed Scheme for the study of the economic value of the United Kingdom's salmon resource, prepared for the Trust by the University of Reading, has been under consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for some time. The Trust is hopeful, however, that the Ministry and the University may be able to reach agreement during 1983 to have such a study carried out.

Loss of Spawning Grounds: The Welsh Water Authority advised the Panel and the Trust that it had decided to carry out its own investigation into the loss of spawning and nursery areas due to impassable obstacles. Previously the Panel had itself agreed to institute and finance such a study in Wales. In fact, the Welsh Water Authority is considering adopting a new process, developed by the North West Water Authority, of river mapping known as 'digital mapping' in which a computer is used to provide on maps of river systems various types of data connected with the Water Industry. This new technique provides a visual display on each map of the rivers' particular features including, of course, obstructions and even redd counts.

Collection of Salmon Data: The Panel was informed that as a result of the recommendations made at the Trust's Windermere Conference on

the Collection of Salmon Statistics, the National Water Council had invited its special Salmon Sales Group to consider the problem of producing quality salmon statistics for England and Wales. The Group, which is headed by Mr. Gordon Bielby, a member of the Trust's Committee of Management, and includes the Trust's Director, has met the challenge admirably and already the statistics for the 1981 season have been published in an attractive booklet by the National Water Council. This development has caused much satisfaction to the Trust which considers that the National Water Council, and those responsible for the publication, deserve the appreciation, not only of salmon enthusiasts, but of all Government officials who are required to handle such statistics in the course of their duties.

Future Projects: In looking to the future the Panel has recommended that the Trust should co-operate with the Welsh Water Authority in the organisation of a Workshop on the Sea Trout during 1983. In addition, consideration will be given to the planning of either a conference or workshop for next year.

The Appeal Campaign

Mr. David Clarke, Chairman of the Appeal Committee, has continued his excellent work to attract funds to the Trust, while Wing Commander P.E. Dodson has developed his appeal campaign in a most successful manner. Discussions on the extension of the appeal to Scotland were also held during the past few months.

Fishing Auction: In conjunction with the Appeal, and acting on the advice of Mr. S.P.L. Johnson, a member of the Committee, the Trust decided in the Spring of 1982, to organise an Auction of fishing for the 1983 season with the object of raising funds for the Trust. To this end, selected individuals on many of the salmon rivers of Britain were approached and asked if they could canvass riparian owners and others on the Trust's behalf. In due course, the result of the very generous response to these appeals for help was brought together in a catalogue in December 1982. It was decided that the Auction should be a postal one, and it was very widely advertised in the national, local and sporting press. At the time of this Report, it is not krown what the financial benefits may be from the 50 or so lots contained in the catalogue, but by the closing date over 360 catalogues had been sent out on request.

The Trust would once again wish to thank all those who contributed so much to this Auction, and it is hoped that it may become a regular annual event.

Finance

The Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 30 June, 1982, were approved by the Committee of Management on the 4th October, 1982. (Appendix 1).

The Trust finished the financial year with a surplus of £20,694 which unfortunately, and due to adverse stock market conditions, was less than the figure for 1980-81 (£54,439). The administrative costs increased to £23,076 compared with £15,768 for the previous year

reflecting increased staff and additional work.

The Committee of Management decided during the year to put all the investments into the hands of a firm of Merchant Bankers and to appoint a special sub-committee to advise on the future financial policy of the Trust.

Public Relations

Mrs. Jenny Botsford has continued to act as the Trust's Public Relations Consultant throughout the period under review. Recent activities have included publicising the sale of the Douglas Anderson salmon painting in aid of the Trust and a request for applicants for the 1983 Bensinger-Liddell Memorial Salmon Fellowship; two BBC TV nature programmes are seriously considering a major feature programme on salmon.

Mrs. Botsford's work in relation to the publicising of the Fishing Auction had the added advantage of obtaining extensive country-wide publicity for the Trust and its objectives. Press reports included two each in The Times and Financial Times and others in The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian and other national papers as well as fishing and glossy magazines and a wide range of provincial newspapers; the Eastern Daily Press not only gave considerable space to the work of Mr. David Clarke on behalf of the Appeal and the Fishing Auction but also provided a highly amusing cartoon on the Trust's efforts in respect of the Auction. Some seven broadcasts included the BBC World Service and CBC Canada, prompting enquiries from far flung places.

The Fishing Press has continued to be favourable towards the Trust, while The Field has once again been generous in allowing the Trust to express its views on a wide variety of subjects connected with salmon management. There is no doubt also that the lectures and articles given by Dr. D.H. Mills and Mr. Noel Smart on their Faroes visit last year brought considerable attention to the Trust and underlined its international influence.

International Atlantic Salmon Foundation and the Atlantic Salmon Federation

As reported in the last Progress Report, the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation is now affiliated to the newly established Atlantic Salmon Federation which encompasses North America. Fortunately it has been decided to continue the publication of the excellent Atlantic Salmon Journal, formerly compiled by the Atlantic Salmon Association and also the 'Newsletter' previously published by the Foundation. As a result the Trust continues to be kept fully informed of North American salmon matters.

Mr. David Clarke attended a meeting of the Directors of the Foundation in December, 1982, at which plans for the re-organisation of salmon conservation bodies in both North America and Europe were discussed.

North Atlantic Salmon
Conservation Organisation

At the time this Report goes to press, it is understood that the United States, Iceland and the E.E.C. have ratified the proposed Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean which in turn establishes the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation with headquarters in Edinburgh. To enable the Convention to come into force four parties to it must signify their approval, provided that among the four parties are two members of each of the three regional Commissions established. This means, in effect, that Canada and the United States must be among the ratifying parties. At the beginning of 1983, the prospects for Canada ratifying the Convention Agreement were not good. In 1982 an Agreement was reached between the European Community and Canada which regulated fishing agreements for both parties in 1982 and 1983. Under the Agreement salmon quotas were granted off the West Coast of Greenland to the Community to be fished exclusively by Greenland fishermen. The Canadians are satisfied with these arrangements which fix the Greenland salmon quota at 1270 m.t. per annum, and they take the view that if they ratify the Convention these restrictions may no longer apply. If they have to re-negotiate the quotas the result would, they consider, be much less satisfactory to them. As a result Canada is seeking an assurance from the European Community that the existing quota will remain in force if it ratifies the Convention. However, the situation does not only depend on relationships between the Community and Canada because the United States is equally concerned about the future regulation of the Newfoundland fishery which intercepts salmon bound for the American eastern rivers.

The whole question of the Canadian - E.E.C. debate is, however, further complicated by legal issues. The Canadians' point on whether the provisions of the Convention would supersede those of the bi-lateral arrangements between their country and the E.E.C. or whether those arrangements would be allowed to prevail and continue, is an important one. There is no doubt that one of the functions of the West Greenland Regional Commission to be established under the Convention and detailed in the Convention agreement is

> "to propose regulatory measures for fishing in the area of jurisdiction of a member, of salmon originating in rivers of other parties;"

Thus it is open to the West Greenland Commission to make new regulations altering the existing quota for Greenland, or to do nothing and allow the bi-lateral agreement quota to stand. However, since the E.E.C. is only one of three parties to the West Greenland Commission it cannot on its own decide the future action of that Commission no matter what policy it adopts.

On a more positive note, it is interesting to report that all parties to the 1982 Reykjavik Convention Agreement met in Edinburgh during the first week of February, 1983, to consider procedural matters affecting the organisation of the Council and Regional Commissions of the proposed new Salmon Conservation Organisation. Hopefully, and provided

Canada ratifies the Convention, the first Council Meeting of the Organisation may be held in the Autumn of this year.

Salmon Quotas

The position regarding the Faroes salmon quota is that the 1982/3 quota of 625 metric tonnes will be retained for 1983/4 following agreement between the E.E.C. and the Faroes. The Greenland quota for 1983 remains the problem due to Canada's demand for assurances from the E.E.C. as mentioned earlier. Hopefully this will be resolved shortly and the 1270 metric tonnes retained for at least the current year.

The European Economic Community and the European Parliament

Enforcement of Fisheries Regulations: The main development within the Community has, of course, been the agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy. As a result any threats to our salmon stocks from the fishing boats of other member countries have now been removed. One feature of the Community's policy will be the continuation of the prohibition of salmon fishing outside the 12 mile limits of each member country. The Trust has, however, been concerned about the enforcement of this rule and it was, therefore, interested to learn that a Community Inspectorate of Fisheries had been established. However, it seems clear that the enforcement of Community fishing regulations will continue to be the responsibility of the Fisheries Inspectorates of each country within their own fisheries jurisdiction. The Community Inspectorate would not do any patrolling of its own, but would have the task of ensuring that there was an even-handed and efficient administration of fisheries regulations in the waters of member states. Hopefully this will mean that in the future all the Fisheries Inspectorates will exercise the same high level of enforcement as at present occurs in U.K. waters.

In this connection the Irish Game Fish Protection Federation drew the Trust's attention to well-publicised allegations that Irish drift net fishermen were capturing salmon at sea far beyond the Irish 12 mile limits during 1982. The Trust has forwarded the necessary papers to the European Commission and to the Ministry in London for such action as may be possible .

A North Atlantic Salmon Management Policy

It is now imperative that a management plan is prepared by the Trust for North Atlantic salmon and presented to the Council of the European Communities through the European Parliament. This is the urgent task for the Trust to tackle as it is essential that the Council is advised in a responsible way about the needs of salmon before the proposed North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation meets for its major discussion on the subject. Arrangements for drawing up such a plan are under way and the members of the Trust's Council and Committee of Management will be given an opportunity to comment on it at an early stage.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea: Annual Meeting in Copenhagen

In October, 1982, the Director was invited to attend the 70th Statutory meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in Copenhagen. The numerous papers and discussions of the Meeting proved to be of great interest to everyone who is concerned with salmon fishing and management. Some of the matters dealt with included the following:-

Introduction of Pink Salmon to U.K. Waters. The most important revelation at the Council, as far as the Trust was concerned, was when the Mariculture Committee of the Council was notified of Britain's proposals to investigate the feasibility of establishing a pink salmon brood stock in United Kingdom waters and of obtaining an all-female line of pink salmon for the purpose of eventual sea ranching.

This matter was first raised in 1980 in a paper written by Messrs. Lee and Parrish of the Lowestoft and Aberdeen Government Laboratories respectively and in a recent letter to the Director of the Trust, Mr. Parrish wrote as follows:-

> "Consideration of the possibility of developing pink salmon ranching in U.K. waters has been going on within the Fishery Department for some time, and I presume the Working Party to which you refer is a MAFF/DAFS group of scientists, chaired by Controller R & D, which has been looking into the scientific/technical aspects of it during the past couple of years. No decisions have been reached about launching any kind of pink salmon ranching programme and, as I said in my reply of 15 July, 1980, to your earlier enquiry, I feel sure that the Government wouldn't embark on one without prior consultation with parties concerned with salmon in the U.K."

Pink salmon spawn in the lower reaches of rivers and migrate as fry to the estuary and the sea. Thus they are not believed to interact too severely with resident stocks of salmonids in a river system.

The Trust has written to the Lowestoft Laboratory of M.A.F.F. to obtain further details of the proposals and the reasons behind them, as it is important for the Trust to present its considered views on the matter to the Ministry at the appropriate time.

Fortunately I.C.E.S. itself has been involved in establishing a code of practice in respect of the transfer of marine species and it should be advised at the earliest possible time when any country has decided that transfers or introduction of new species are to take place.

The Report of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee's 12th Session (31 May - 3 June, 1982) also makes reference to the need for the establishment of procedures whereby introductions of exotic species of fish should be subjected to rigorous and scientific evaluation before they are carried out. The Commission was advised at the session to adopt a code of practice similar to that adopted by I.C.E.S.

I.C.E.S. Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon. The Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon contained much information on both the Greenland and Faroes fisheries, although no report has been received from the scientific observers from member states who were on board Faroese salmon fishing vessels during the 1981-82 season. Further work by the scientists is planned during the 1982-83 season with the full co-operation of the Faroese Government and scientists. It was reported that the 1981 calendar year catch in the Faroes fishery was estimated to be 1,027 m.t. - compared with 718 m.t. in 1980. In view of the adoption of a quota system for the fishery for the 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons, it seems likely that the season will be shortened. In 1982 external salmon tags recaptured up to October, 1982, in the Faroes fishery were:-

Norway	-	88
Sweden	-	10
U.K. - Scotland	-	13
U.K. - England and Wales	-	4
Canada	-	1

The number of Norwegian tags recovered is believed to have reached 100 by the end of the year. The Canadian tag, perhaps the most interesting recovery of all, is reported to have been on a salmon (2 year smolt) from the Liscombe River, Nova Scotia.

In addition to the external tags recovered in the fishery, two Irish and two Scottish micro-tags (minute wire tags inserted in the nose of the young fish) were also detected.

In considering the figures for tag recoveries, it should be borne in mind that countries involved have not indicated the number of smolts tagged by them so that the proportion of recaptures to tagged fish cannot be ascertained at present. In addition it would be relevant to learn the proportion of hatchery-produced smolts which were tagged. In connection with the recovery of the Canadian smolt tag, the Trust is advised that there are occasions when Atlantic salmon have strayed from their normal routes and this particular capture may not mean that a significant number of Canadian salmon feed in the vicinity of the Faroes.

Salmon Farming in the Faroes. It will be recalled that in their Report on their visit to the Faroes Salmon Fishery in March, 1982, Dr. D. Mills and Mr. N. Smart gave details of the Home Government's promotion of the cage rearing of salmon. Now it has been reported in the Fishing Press that a Danish Salmon Smoking Company has been purchasing increasing amounts of cage-reared salmon from the Faroes Islands. It is understood further that the Company considers the quality of these farmed fish to be superior to that of the wild-caught Greenland salmon.

West Greenland Fishery. As regards the W. Greenland Fishery, which is, of course, now subject to a quota of 1,270 m.t., the 1981 catch was reported to be 1,264 m.t. The 1982 catch has not yet been published but it is believed that in spite of the introduction of new

mesh sizes for the nets and a delayed opening of the season (25 August and not 1 August) to enable fewer but larger fish to be caught, the actual numbers of salmon caught that year will show an increase over 1981. It is understood that this has been due to the proportion of smaller than expected salmon present in the fishery. Latest reports indicate that the Greenland salmon quota, which is given in weight and not numbers of fish caught, was not reached in 1982.

I.C.E.S. Papers and Discussions: Delayed Smolt Runs. A paper by Dr. D.J. Piggins (Salmon Research Trust of Ireland) discussed the 1980 smolt run of Atlantic salmon in the Burrishoole river system in Co. Mayo, Ireland, when low water conditions delayed the natural run until early June. Subsequent investigation revealed that in the following year (1981) the return of one-sea winter grilse was much lower than in the previous eleven years. On the other hand, the return from the one-sea winter grilse reared as smolts in the Trust's laboratory was normal. These smolts had been released from special ponds into brackish water and were thus unaffected by the drought.

Lake Stocking of Fingerlings. Lars P. Hansen and Christofer Senstad of the Directorate for Wildlife and Freshwater Fish in Norway described their preliminary results of stocking fin-clipped fingerlings of Atlantic salmon in Lake Storevatnet, Ims, S.W. Norway in 1980. Up to July 1982 the recapture rate in the smolt trap at the river mouth was 6.8% and compared with naturally produced salmon in the river system, the lake-stocked fish showed excellent growth rates although they migrated as smolts later in the year and over a longer period than is the case for the natural smolt.

Predicting Salmon Runs. Predicting runs of Atlantic salmon is one aspect of salmon management that biologists would like to achieve. Dr. Paul Elson of Canada has managed to provide a mathematical model for the Foyle Fisheries Commission which has been used during the past years to predict the runs on the River Foyle in Northern Ireland with reasonable accuracy. E.M.P. Chadwick, another Canadian, gave a most interesting paper in which he describes work which used Atlantic salmon smolts to predict harvests and returns of one-sea winter salmon (grilse) one year in advance. Smolt migrations at Western Arm Brook (Newfoundland) were significantly correlated to the commercial and recreational fisheries of the local area one year later.

Estimating Total Spawning Escapement. Chadwick also presented a paper in which he examined the recreational catch as an index of Atlantic salmon spawning escapement on Newfoundland rivers. On eight rivers with fishways and counting weirs, he found that there was a significant correlation between the recreational catch and river escapements.

Mr. Basil Parrish. One of the most interesting items of information received in Copenhagen was the appointment of Mr. Basil Parrish, the then Director of the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen and Chairman of the I.C.E.S. Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon, to be the General Secretary of I.C.E.S. when the present holder of the post - Mr. Hans Tambs-Lyche retires later this year.

United Kingdom Salmon Management

National Salmon Policy. The Trust has continued with other

interested groups to impress upon the United Kingdom Government the urgent need for the adoption of a National Salmon Policy on the lines of the policy paper drafted by the Trust and published jointly by it and the Salmon and Trout Association. The national press and the fishing magazines have devoted much space to the need for the acceptance of common management principles for the entire United Kingdom and it is hoped that some of the proposed principles will be reflected in any future consultative or policy paper published by the Government.

It was also decided by the Trust following its meeting in Scotland during October, 1982, to strengthen its liaison with the Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards. As a result the Director met representatives of the Association and the Salmon and Trout Association in Edinburgh during December, 1982. The meeting prepared a draft statement of objectives for better salmon management which closely followed the principles contained in the previously published National Salmon Policy. Emphasis was, however, given to the need in Scotland for a new countrywide framework of District Salmon Fishery Boards with adequate finance and additional powers. Furthermore, it was accepted at the meeting that it was important for Government to establish a comprehensive licensing structure throughout Great Britain to cover both rod and net licences and also to regulate the sale of salmon. All three organisations were asked to consider and adopt the draft list of objectives and principles as their policy.

Drift Netting Operations

The Trust has continued to express concern over the effect which drift netting was having on salmon stocks, not only in the United Kingdom but also in the Republic of Ireland where over 80% of the commercial catch of salmon is taken by fishermen using this method of netting. In considering the views of salmon conservationists many national Governments have been inclined to justify drift netting because it is an efficient way of catching salmon and provides considerable employment. It is, of course, true that drift nets, particularly if they are constructed of monofilament twines, can be extremely efficient, but they are not necessarily more labour-intensive than, say, draft or seine nets used in a river estuary. However, the Trust was concerned not only with the indiscriminate form of fishing often exercised by drift nets but also with the damage these nets cause to the fish themselves. The Director accordingly reviewed in a memorandum the work done on this issue by scientists in Ireland, England, Canada and Norway and submitted it to Mr. Buchanan-Smith and also to Mr. O'Toole, the new Minister for Fisheries in the Republic of Ireland. The paper indicated that in Canada drift netting had caused the rupturing of the blood vessels of salmon with resulting haemorrhaging. In Canada also investigations suggested that salmon escaping from gill nets shortly before spawning lost some of their spawning potential. In submitting the memorandum to Mr. Buchanan Smith, the Trust requested him to give consideration to the holding of sea trials to ascertain the effect which English drift nets might have on salmon. The Trust asked Mr. O'Toole to consider a drastic reduction in the drift netting operations in the interests of the salmon resource.

The Director paid a visit to Newcastle in November, 1982, to attend a small meeting comprising representatives of the North East of England drift netsmen and Mr. A.S. Champion, Fisheries Officer to the Northumbrian Water Authority. At the meeting the Director expressed the view of the Trust in relation to drift netting and received a very good hearing. The Trust has invited Mr. Champion to prepare a study of the North East drift net fishery in co-operation with the fishermen for future publication by the Trust because it believes that there is a need for accurate detailed information about this fishery to be disseminated.

Salmon Sales Control

The Special Committee appointed by the National Water Council to consider the question of a scheme to regulate the sale of salmon in England and Wales has continued its work and it is hoped that a report on the subject will be published during the year. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. G.H. Bielby, and another member, Mr. Warwick Ayton of the Welsh Water Authority, attended numerous meetings throughout the country to discuss the operation of the salmon tagging scheme they saw in operation when they visited New Brunswick, Canada, last year. The Trust arranged for the Merchants in the New Billingsgate Market to meet Mr. Bielby and Mr. Ayton, while both officers talked to members of the Trust's Council and Committee of Management following last year's Annual General Meeting.

Bensinger-Liddell Memorial Salmon Fellowship

A Selection Committee consisting of Sir Ernest Woodroofe, Mrs. Anne Liddell, the Director and Mr. Alex Prichard, met on the 25th January, 1983, to select the 1983 holder of the Fellowship. Seven candidates were interviewed, and the Committee unanimously agreed to make the award to Dr. D.J. Solomon who is a Principal Scientific Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft. The Fellowship, which is worth $6000, will be used by Dr. Solomon to study salmonid stock enhancement techniques used in North America. The study will include work on Pacific salmon, since much of the science and technology is applicable to both species. Dr. Solomon, whose work in the field is well known to those concerned with research on salmonids, will make a written report to the Trust on the results of his investigations funded by the Fellowship.

Acid Rain

The subject of Acid Rain and its effect on, amongst other things, Atlantic salmon stocks, continues to concern all salmon conservationists. Unfortunately the subject is a highly complex one and although it has been the subject of countless national and international conferences, it is difficult for the ordinary person to know what is the present position regarding our own salmon stocks. In August, 1982, the Earl of Avon, in reply to a question on this subject, informed the House of Lords that "The U.K. Review Group on Acid Rain found the highest deposition of acid rain to occur in parts of Cumbria and in the West Central Highlands and Southern Uplands of Scotland. In these areas the inputs involved are of the same order as those in the high input areas of Scandinavia." This startling piece of

information received little or no publicity, and as a result the public in general remains in the dark.

The Trust is, however, grateful to Dr. D.H. Mills for supplying it with a great deal of up to date information on the subject. In a paper Dr. Mills defines acid rain as being rain which has a pH somewhat lower than 5.6 which is the value for normal rain. He explains that a rain with a pH value of 4.6 is, in fact, 10 times more acidic than normal rain. In his paper Dr. Mills explains that emissions of gaseous oxides of sulphur and nitrogen mainly cause acid rain which is likely to be carried by prevailing winds and deposited in other countries. It has been shown that the areas most sensitive to the acid precipitation are those with thin, acid soils over nutrient-poor slow weathering rocks, such as granite, quartzite and schists which have a poor neutralizing capacity. Having described how acid waters can affect young fish, Dr. Mills writes that although the monitoring of freshwater in Great Britain has not been as extensive as, for instance, in Canada and Scandinavia, the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory staff in Pitlochry have found at least two lochs in South West Scotland which appear to have lost their trout populations. Streams in the upper Forth Valley appear also to be too acid to support young salmon, but here it has not been determined whether the condition is due to acid rain or to the fact that the streams flow through areas afforested with conifers which tend to become more acid as the forest matures.

In Canada, the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation reports that nine rivers in Nova Scotia have a pH of only 5.1, the borderline at which salmon can survive and reproduce. Thirteen Nova Scotia rivers now have pH values of between 4.7 and 5.0 pH and in another eight there is no sign of salmon life.

The E.E.C. in Brussels has commissioned a London-based consultancy to conduct a study on the implications of the acid rain phenomenon. The E.E.C. is keen to establish the costs and effectiveness of alternative courses of action by the member states to bring about a reduction in the level of acid precipitation in the affected areas. It is appreciated that the main problem is how to obtain international agreement on solutions which are economically and politically acceptable.

United Nations Law of the Sea Conference

In an earlier Report the Trust criticised the United States for not accepting the draft agreement of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference which contains some important principles affecting salmon management, including Article 66 which stipulates that salmon producing countries shall have the primary interest in and responsibility for such stocks no matter where they went into the ocean. Now it is reported that the countries of the European Community are in two minds about the Convention. The division of opinion is not, of course, caused by the Articles relating to salmon management but by those related to sea bed mixing. However, the result is that the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium and Italy have now sided with the United States and decided not to express their agreement. Before the

Community signs the Convention six member states must signify their approval - so far only five have done so.

It is perhaps sad that the essential features of Article 66 of the Convention, which were only included after great pressure by the Trust and the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation, are in danger of being lost or watered down. Even in the 1982 Reykjavik Salmon Convention of January 1982 the principles of the Article are not spelt out and there is a mere statement to the effect that the Salmon Convention "will take into account the provisions on anadromous stocks of fish in the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference".

Atlantic Salmon News from Abroad.

France. In January, 1983, Mr. Alex Prichard spoke to l'Association Internationale de Defense du Saumon Atlantique on the visit to the Faroes by Dr. Derek Mills and Mr. Noel Smart, which aroused great interest. Mr. Prichard also investigated the possibility of strengthening collaboration between the Atlantic Salmon Trust and other European organisations concerned with salmon conservation, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Our French colleagues were encouraging and hopeful that such collaboration would be fruitful, particularly in the preparation of common viewpoints to put to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation which is to be situated in Edinburgh, to determine policy on Atlantic salmon matters on the high seas.

The situation of the Atlantic Salmon itself in France is considered to be about stable: that is to say, catches range from 10 to 30 tons per annum, or, as one French scientist put it, the French consume roughly 1,000 times the quantity of salmon which they produce. For this reason there is very strong interest in France in salmon ranching (since there are no suitable waters for salmon farming), including various species of Pacific salmon. There has recently been some improvement in the position of the River Dordogne, but it has some way to go before it can be compared as a salmon producing river with the Allier or the Gave. Troubles in France appear to stem from pollution, indiscrimate extraction of gravel and sand from the rivers, the lack of passes, and haphazard fishing methods. The point was also made that the good intentions of the Central Government, which is well disposed towards the Atlantic salmon, are not always carried out at local levels.

Republic of Ireland. Normally reports from Ireland have always included many references to the scale of illegal fishing which takes place in the country's rivers. It is, therefore, a pleasant change to report a significant development aimed at enhancing the much endangered salmon stocks of the Republic. The Electricity Supply Board, which has a statutory responsibility for developing and managing a large number of salmon fisheries on such rivers as the Erne and Shannon has agreed to expand its smolt rearing facilities, with assistance from the Government, in order to assist the total salmon industry in the country. A smolt rearing station at Cothaleen's Falls on the River Erne will, when completed, produce ½ million smolts. In 1983 a development at Carrigadrohid on the

River Lee will be designed to produce another ½ million smolts. In its Annual Report the Board remarks that it has been calling for a national re-development effort for salmon for many years which must include worth while controls on legal salmon exploitation and the suppression of illegal activities. Unless something is done along these lines the Board does not believe that a development programme of producing an additional million smolts will be sufficient to rehabilitate the stocks. To emphasise their concern, the Board mentions a continued decline in salmon runs on the River Shannon and states that in the Rivers Erne, Clady and Crolly the count of fish had reached a dangerously low level.

The Trust welcomes the views of the Board and shares its concern for the future wellbeing of Irish salmon stocks.

Norway. The Trust has received more interesting salmon reports from Mr. R.J. Brooks, who has an intimate knowledge of the River Laerdal. He gives details of catches on the river, by weight, and notes that the fluctuations in catches coincide exactly with bad spawning years due in turn to heavy exploitation by Norwegian drift nets. Some indication of the effect which drift netting appears to have on the River Laerdal salmon is shown in the appended table prepared by Mr. Brooks:-

	Year	R.Laerdal annual catch in weight (Kg)	Percentage in net marked fish
	(1969	4,306	-
	(1970	7,434	-
Drift	(1971	7,733	-
Netting	(1972	11,317	-
Legal	(1973	16,440	30%
for all	(1974	20,030	50%
Norwegian	(1975	10,309	80%
Nationals	(1976	6,271	90%
	(1977	4,068	95%
	(1978	4,885	95%
Drift	(1979	8,516	50%
Netting	(1980	12,276	50%
Restricted to	(1981	10,118	10%
Licence	(1982	7,755	5%
Holders			

Mr. Brooks is concerned at the high proportion of Norwegian tagged salmon being captured in the Faroes Salmon Fishery, but there does not seem to be any evidence as yet to show that the fishery is causing a decline in the stocks of the major rivers in Norway.

Atlantic Salmon News
from Nearer Home

The Thames Salmon Restoration Programme. The news from the Thames must be of great interest to all salmon conservationists. Including 10 fish found by members of the public, the total known run for 1982 was 126 fish. Some of the captured fish were taken to suitable

holding areas in the system so that they can eventually be allowed to spawn naturally, while others were retained in fish farms for monitoring purposes before their release into spawning areas. Most significantly by the 24 November, 1982, a total of 8 large salmon redds were observed in the Upper Thames catchment area - the first observation of spawning in the River Thames for over 150 years. In November and December all of the 'ripe' females and males captured by electro-fishing were retained for use as broodstock. Marks on the fish indicated that some had originated from the 1980 parr stockings and some from the 1981 smolt release.

Electro-fishing surveys have also produced evidence to indicate the effect of the rehabilitation programme throughout the river system. 200 or more healthy smolts were captured on the River Chess, and over 100 in the River Lodden at the end of last year, while 500 parr have been captured in the River Wey.

The results so far are most encouraging and not even a critical article by Mr. Anthony Netboy in the "Flyfishers" Magazine should damp the enthusiastic efforts of the Thames Water Authority. Mr. Netboy mentions a statement by another writer who suggested that "the re-introduction of salmon to the Thames is as unnecessary as it is irrelevant to the needs of anglers". To dismiss the pioneering work of the Thames Water Authority in such terms is unwarranted. It must be appreciated by everyone connected with the Thames that many problems of management will need to be solved if a run of salmon is restored to the river, but not to take the initial step towards the rehabilitation of the stocks would have been incomprehensible.

Notwithstanding Mr. Netboy's views, the Trust is showing its support for the efforts of the Water Authority by helping to sponsor an afternoon's discussion on Salmon Restoration Programmes during the next Annual Study Course of the Institute of Fisheries Management in London next September. The assistance granted by the Trust will enable Mr. R. Jones, the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries, Connecticut, to lecture to the Institute on the Connecticut River Restoration Scheme. During the same afternoon, Mr. John Ritter of Canada will talk about his country's management plan, and of course there will be a paper on the Thames given by Mr. M. Bulleid, the Regional Fisheries Officer for the Thames Water Authority.

River Trent Salmon Prospects. The Severn-Trent Water Authority has announced that an angling milestone occurred on its famous River Trent when, as part of a survey, a salmon was caught on the river by an angler who, in fact, was Mr. Peter Jarrams, the Trust's Bensinger-Liddell Memorial Salmon Fellow for 1981. The Trust is proud of Mr. Jarram's achievement and also of his appointment as Chairman of a Committee which will be required to assess the degree to which salmon have so far returned to the river even before any artificial propagation programme has been undertaken, and to quantify the problems which would have to be solved if an attempt was made to re-establish the fish stocks.

The Trust will follow with great interest these developments, and wishes Mr. Jarrams well in his new responsibility.

Scotland. The Trust has received a most interesting report from Mr. William Shearer of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland in which he outlines the research work being done on the movement and exploitation of Scottish salmon. Mr. Shearer writes that some of the fish (mainly grilse) tagged in bag nets on the Scottish coasts travelled long distances before being recaptured. For instance, fish tagged on the North West Coast were recaptured as far East as the North Esk, while others were recaptured on the coast of Mull. Fish tagged on the North Coast travelled even greater distances as some were caught in the coastal nets sited at fishing stations operating between the River Ayr on the West Coast and the River Tay on the East. Two further recaptures from this particular experiment are worthy of special note since one was caught in the River Boyne (East coast of Ireland) by rod and line and the other in Dingle Bay (South West Ireland) by net; both fish were captured within months of tagging.

In his report Mr. Shearer refers to an unfortunate limiting factor of these tagging experiments, namely, the fact that information relating to movement ceases the moment a tagged fish is recaptured. As a consequence it was not possible to determine what would have been the final destinations of tagged fish recaptured at coastal netting stations and even perhaps some of those caught in freshwater if they had not been caught. This problem was particularly well illustrated by the recapture for a second time of the following fish. In each of the years 1977, 1978 and 1979 fish were tagged over roughly the same period on the north and north west coasts and a number of the fish tagged on the north coast were recaptured at the tagging site on the north west coast. The owner of this fishery agreed to release some of these fish and three were recaptured for a second time. During their second period of liberty two of these fish reversed the general direction they must have followed to reach the tagging site on the north west coast as one was caught at the mouth of the River Barvas (Lewis) and the other was caught at Armadale, a few miles west of the original tagging site at Strathy. The third fish which was released and subsequently recaptured was caught at Laide (Wester Ross) some thirty miles south of the tagging site on the north west coast where it had been released for a second time. Unlike the previous two fish this salmon had apparently travelled in the same general direction throughout its two periods of liberty. Therefore on the basis of the results the coastal patterns of movement and the size of the contribution which individual river stocks made to each fishery may be misleading.

Many people are concerned with salmon exploitation rates in river systems throughout the country and it is therefore interesting to learn about some of the findings of Mr. Shearer and his team on this aspect of salmon management. Mr. Shearer reports that the level of exploitation varied greatly between different areas of Scotland but it tended to remain remarkably uniform between years at each site. The exploitation rate on fish tagged at all sites except that on the north coast was greater by the fixed engine fisheries than the net and coble fisheries.

The average combined rates of exploitation by the fixed engine and net and coble fisheries on fish tagged on the north west, north and east coasts and in the Moray Firth were 9, 26, 19 and 45 per cent respectively. Although these results were consistent from year to year at each site they may not describe the annual situation

pertaining in each area since they refer only to the grilse component of the stock and they were obtained over a relatively short period each fishing season.

Based on the assumption that the fish caught by the nets were not available to the rod fisheries, the average rates of exploitation on the fish tagged on the north west, north and east coasts and in the Moray Firth by angling were 2, 3, 3 and 2 per cent respectively. Although there was little variation both between years at the same site and between the different sites for the reasons already described, these results must be treated with some caution.

The Future for the Trust

This Progress Report illustrates the path the Trust is now following in both the national and international spheres. For the future, it is clear that nationally the aim must be to achieve a common salmon policy throughout the United Kingdom. To bring this to fruition it is essential that all domestic bodies concerned with the welfare of Atlantic salmon should work together. The role which the Trust is uniquely qualified to play in the international sphere is now widely acknowledged and it is the intention of the Trust to extend its involvement in future international debates on the management and protection of Atlantic salmon.

APPENDIX I

HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the annexed accounts of the Atlantic Salmon Trust Limited ("The Trust") which have been prepared on the historic cost basis.

The market value of certain UK quoted investments as at 30th June 1982, was approximately £43,000 less than their historical cost of acquisition. Certain of these investments have been held by the Trust for periods exceeding twelve months and were indicating market values at 30th June 1982 significantly below their values as at 30th June 1981. The Trust has, therefore, considered it advisable to create a specific provision of £39,300 to reflect the potential loss on a future disposal of the investments concerned and I consider this provision to be reasonable.

Subject to the above comments, in my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Trust as at 30th June 1982, and of its excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date. I have obtained all the information and explanations which I have considered necessary for the purposes of my audit. In my opinion, the Trust has maintained proper books and records, which are in accordance with the accounts and which give, in the prescribed manner, the information required by the Companies Acts 1948, 1967 and 1981.

P J Tomlin, F.C.A.

Cedar Lodge
6 Beech Road
Reigate
Surrey RH2 9LR

5 November 1982

ATLANTIC SALMON TRUST LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE 1982

1981				
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
	79,691	At 30th June 1981		136,998
		Add:		
	54,439	Excess of income over expenditure for the year		20,694
	134,130			157,692
		Deduct:		
(2,868)		Realised losses less gains on disposals of investments (net gains 1981)	13,529	
-		Provision for unrealised losses on investments	39,300	
	(2,868)			52,829
	136,998	At 30th June 1982		104,863
		CURRENT LIABILITIES		
4,173		Amount due to stockbrokers for purchase of investments	42,219	
4,181		Sundry creditors and accruals	4,849	
	8,354			47,068
	£ 145,352			£ 151,931

D. Clarke

G D F Hadoke

M R T O'Brien

1981				
129,296		QUOTED INVESTMENTS AT COST	95,834	
		Deduct:		
-		Provision for unrealised losses	39,300	
	129,296	(Market value £52,937)		56,534
		CURRENT ASSETS		
2,345		Stocks of prints and poems	1,904	
-		Amount receivable from stock-brokers on sales of investments	45,856	
1,369		Income tax recoverable	4,177	
2,546		Sundry debtors and prepayments	24,384	
9,796		Bank and cash balances	19,076	
	16,056			95,397
	£ 145,352			£ 151,931

ATLANTIC SALMON TRUST LIMITED
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1982

1981				
		INCOME		
		Appeals		
66,029		Charitable donations (Note 1)	58,894	
2,656		Proceeds from lottery	1,861	
1,351		Profit on sale of prints	1,053	
477		Commission on sale of bronze figures	183	
70,513			61,991	
		Deduct:		
18,923		Appeal expenses (Note 2)	34,831	
	51,590	Net income from Appeals		27,160
		Investment income		
17,723		Income from quoted securities, including Income tax recoverable	20,661	
894		Bank interest income	850	
	18,617			21,511
	£ 70,207			£ 48,671

1981				
		EXPENDITURE		
		Administrative costs		
7,228		Salaries and State contributions	11,096	
1,430		Rent, rates and services	1,112	
4,489		Printing, stationery and general office costs	7,091	
2,401		Travelling expenses	3,527	
220		Audit fee	250	
	15,768			23,076
		Projects		
-		Bessinger - Liddell Scholarship	3,358	
-		Reports: On Faroes and Salmon in Iceland	1,543	
				4,901
-		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		
54,439		TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUND		20,694
£ 70,207				£ 48,671

Notes:

(1) Charitable donations

Covenanted donations, including income tax recoverable
Pledged donations not under covenant
Other donations

(2) Appeal expenses

Salaries and commission
Campaign Secretary: salary and expenses
Public relations and advertising
Printing, stationery and postage
Travelling and miscellaneous expenses

(3) Deeds of covenant spread over 4 to 10 years

Total covenants entered into as at 30 June 1982 amounted to £205,404 (gross), subject to cancellations and possible changes in the basic rate of income tax over the covenanted periods concerned. Pledged donations and other donations as at 30 June 1982 amounted to £177,287 (gross).

First Appeal	Second Appeal	Total	1981
3,734	25,965	29,699	16,940
488	8,689	9,177	8,563
27	19,991	20,018	40,526
4,249	54,645	58,894	66,029
-	4,788	4,788	8,659
-	23,330	23,330	-
-	6,145	6,145	8,027
-	170	170	1,067
-	398	398	1,170
-	34,831	34,831	18,923