

MINUTES

**of the MEETING of the
NORTH AND WEST DISTRICT
SALMON FISHERY BOARD held on
TUESDAY 22nd May 2018 at 1.30pm at
the MACPHAIL CENTRE, ULLAPOOL**

Present:

Mr D Davies (Vice Convener)
Mr C Marsham
Mr A Adamson
Mr J Allingham

In attendance:

Mr C Cook (Clerk, Bell Ingram)
Dr Shona Marshall (WSFT)
Mr M Taylor (Bell Ingram)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from; Mr R Vestey, Mr R Bradford, Mr C MacLeod, Mr D Lindsay, Mr G Osborne, Mr A Sinclair

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No adjustments were required to existing Members declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24th OCTOBER 2017

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 24th October 2017 were approved by the Board and signed by the Vice Convener who chaired the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Members present approved, as budgeted, the donation to AST of £1,000, to WSFT of £12,000 and £1,000 in respect of the consultancy supplied by the Trust during the financial year. This was conditional upon the Clerk circulating to absent Members to seek their views with a majority view of the Board finalising the decision.

6. BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT – YEAR TO 28th MAY 2019

Members considered and approved the budget presented by the Clerk subject to the removal of the provisional sum allocated for the production of a Fishery Management Plan. This decision followed the expectation voiced by FMS that the requirement to produce a plan would not fall within the next financial year.

Members agreed that the 2018 Assessment of 58p/£1RV should be applied.

Members asked the Clerk to update Proprietors on the Fishery Management Plan timetable forewarning them that 2019/20 Assessment could be considerably higher to fund the creation of plan instead and that the level of assessment hitherto enjoyed may have to rise to fund the operation of the plan in line with whatever obligations the Scottish Government impose once in place.

7. WEST SUTHERLAND FISHERIES TRUST - REPORT

Dr Shona Marshall talked to the report she prepared for the period to April 2018 and the funding proposals for the year ahead, both of which were supplied with the meeting papers.

She updated Members on the collaborative project the WSFT were involved with together with the Atlantic Salmon Trust and the University of Glasgow tracking the movement of sea trout smolts, and some larger fish, in Loch Laxford. 2 receivers have been placed in the river and 38 in the loch including in the vicinity of the mussel beds and the fish farm. 100 smolt tags will be fixed to smolts of which so far 60 had been done.

In addition, the Trust has been asked by Marine Scotland to electro-fish sites identified by MS as they develop a new 'National Electro-Fishing Sampling Plan'. Its purpose ultimately is to improve the accuracy of the annual Conservation Assessment categorisation carried out by MS which to date has met with more than a little suspicion. The WSFT will require the assistance of Proprietors to allow and, in some cases, facilitate access to more remote sites.

Finally, it was discussed and agreed that the NWDSFB/WSFT would issue the annual bio-security notice to Proprietors.

8. RESPONSE TO R.E.C.C ON SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND

The Clerk explained that following the very robust and critical report by the ECCLR Committee on the environmental impacts of salmon farming the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee to whom the report had been submitted for further action had sought views from consultees. The NWDSFB via the Clerk made a submission substantially endorsing the ECCLR report and expressing its conviction that the sector is not being sufficiently regulated or regulated sufficiently effectively. It encouraged government to motivate the sector towards closed containment of their farming operations and to accept the stand point that the status quo is not an option.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk expressed his thanks for the work FMS had carried out to help Boards and Trusts become GDPR compliant. He explained that the statutory responsibilities of the Board required the collection and holding of certain personal data. The FMS templates had been very helpful and the Board formally adopted the Privacy Notice which was now in place on the website together with the Data Handling Policy.

The Board were asked by the Convener if the Board felt it appropriate to add its name to the list of those in support of Salmon and Trout Conservation proposal to government for a moratorium on any new open cage marine salmon farms in Scotland or any expansion of existing sites. The request was made by the meeting to the Clerk to ask the question of the whole Board and seek its view.

Mr Allingham noted that this meeting would be the last duty of Crispian Cook who had acted for Bell Ingram in the role of Clerk since 2006 and led a vote of thanks to him for his help.

Mr Taylor, the Partner with Bell Ingram responsible for the northern offices, explained that Rob Whitson would be in post to replace Mr Cook from the end of July and that he would be responsible for matters during the inter-regnum. Mr Taylor is presently the Chairman of the Esks DSFB in Angus and Mr Whitson has previously served as Clerk to the Brora and Cromarty DSFB's.

10. DATE OF AGM AND NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Board Meeting will be held at 17 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness on the TBA October 2018. The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors will start at 10am and be followed by the Board at about 10.30am.

ACTION PLAN

Issue cheque for £13,000 to WSFT	CRWC
Update Proprietors on 2019/20 Assessment	CRWC
Issue Bio-security leaflet with Assessment	CRWC
Issue 2018/9 Assessment	CRWC
Adjust and re-issue budget	CRWC
Circulate dates for the October Meeting	CRWC