

**MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING of the NORTH AND WEST DISTRICT SALMON
FISHERY BOARD
25th November 2025, 11:00 via Zoom**

Attendees

Mr Euan Anderson
Mr Alan Balfour
Mr Robin Vestey (Chairman)
Mr David Davies (Vice-chair)
Mr Keith Dunbar

In attendance

Dr Shona Marshall (West Sutherland Fishery Trust)
Ms Morven Mackenzie (West Sutherland Fishery Trust)
Ms Anastasia Young (Bell Ingram – Clerk)

The Convenor welcomed attendees to the 2025 Board Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Dougal Lindsay, Ms Sarah Harkins, Ms Lana Richardson, Mr Cathal Macleod, Mr Gerald Osborne and Mr Charles Stanton.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made during the meeting.

3. COMPLAINTS

AY received a complaint regarding our handling of Loch Duart and their high sea lice levels. AY has addressed this on behalf of the Board.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH MAY 2025

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th of May were approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING

AY has updated the Declarations of Interest Register.

AY received further information from WSFT regarding a potential increase in the Boards donation. The Board confirmed their support but note the assessments will need to be increased in the next financial year to reflect this. KD suggested Andy Johnston is invited to the May meeting.

KD referred to page five of the last minutes and Anne's comments regarding Scottish Sea Farms objections to SEPAs proposed protection zones. KD noted that MOWI decommissioned their operations on Isle of Ewe five years ago, and Sea Trout numbers have since started to recover. There have been reports of eight sea trout caught. This shows that when stocks are removed, sea trout can recover.

RV asked whether we should monitor other closed farms, to see if there is a recurring theme. KD suggested fishing efforts will be better next year, so hopefully more catches will be seen. SM noted an increase in herrings, whales and gannets. SM will monitor.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT – BUDGET/ACTUALS

The Bank Balance at the date of the meeting was £36,613.

The debtors are totalling £10,062, AY will send reminders.

The budget to actual is shown against a full financial year, hence a variation. Income received totals £31,006 and expenses total £18,908.45. Payments are still to be made to FMS, Lycetts Insurance and Bell Ingram.

7. WEST SUTHERLAND FISHERIES TRUST REPORT

The WSFT report was circulated with the meeting papers and presented. No questions were raised.

8. LOCH DUART – SEA LICE

Loch Duart were unable to attend the meeting, however a separate online meeting has been scheduled in December to discuss their high sea lice numbers. While they have been contacted by the Board on multiple occasions, their numbers remain high.

KD raised concerns over the Laxford site and is worried that the hard work from the Laxford project will be impacted once Loch Duart restock. AB noted the Laxford tends to get less sea lice.

KD reported that Mark Warrington gave us reassurance, however the issues remain unsolved. KD suggested this should be escalated to SEPA. Attendees agreed that Loch Duart should address these issues during the upcoming call. If the Board don't then see an improvement, the matter should be escalated.

9. BLUE HOPE ALLIANCE

AY has received contact from Blue Hope Alliance, asking the Board to sign a declaration of our support. This will allow Blue Hope Alliance to gain access to funding.

RV noted they have been working well with the Government and should receive our support. It was agreed that AY would sign the declaration on the Boards behalf.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AB noted meeting attendance has been poor, all agreed.

AY confirmed the next election will be due to take place next year. RV suggested there may be changes in personnel.

11. DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will take place in person during May. AY will circulate a poll to gauge availability and confirm by email.

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January 2026