



Nairn District Salmon Fishery Board

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Nairn District Salmon Fishery Board

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (Public Meeting)

held at Cawdor Community Centre

At 6pm on Monday 10th March 2014

Present: Lord Cawdor (Chair), Rossie MacRae, Lorna Moffat, David Johnstone, Derek MacKenzie, Alan Leslie Melville, James Mackintosh-Walker,

Proprietors: Alec Rose, John Cooper, Cllr Liz MacDonald, Cllr Laurie Fraser

In Attendance:

Alastair Skinner (River Bailiff), Valerie Wardlaw (Administrator), Angus McNicol (Cawdor Estate), Bob Laughton (FNLFT), Seymour Monroe (FNLFT), Colin Patterson (Tordarroch Estate)

Members of the Public: Catriona McNab

Meeting opened at 6.05pm

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies: Debbie Owen, Alastair Campbell, Angus Mackenzie, Neil Macpherson, Captain Wolfe-Murray, Jock Millar	
2.	Minutes of AGM held on 12th November 2012 Minutes were approved. Proposed by J. Mackintosh-Walker, seconded by R. MacRae.	
3.	Matters Arising Rupert Houghton is in the first year of a three year PhD, studying better ways of eradicating crayfish- Geddes Burn is one of his sites.	
4.	Year 2013 Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord Cawdor presented the Annual Report for 2013 (please see attached). LCA thanked Rossie MacRae for Chairing the Board for the last ten years. Catch Returns- L CA stressed the importance of collating catch and release figures for the river in a timely manner to inform the Conservation Code policy and management of the river. VW will be contacting Proprietors to obtain their catch data for the 2013 season. Ault Dearn Burn- FNLFT will be electrofishing the Burn in 2014 to assess the fish populations. Mink- please inform Bob Laughton a.s.a.p. of any sightings as there is a good capture rate if traps are set soon after sightings. INNS- BL thanked the Kilravock, Cawdor and Geddes Estates, Nairn AA and all volunteers for their help last year with invasive 	VW BL *ALL

*ALL refers to All attendees/Proprietors

	<p>species control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailiffing- L CA introduced the new Nairn River Bailiff, Alastair Skinner. • Other Personnel- The Board has agreed to transfer outsourcing of the Bookkeeping and Payroll from Cawdor Estate to Angela Porter, who will also be undertaking those tasks for the FNLFT and the Findhorn DSF Board. This is part of the efficiency savings the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie DSFBs are hoping to make by pooling resources. • Conservation Code 2014- LCA commended the Nairn AA for leading on the conservation of the spring run by setting a 100% catch and release until the 31st of May. The Board voted to set the same Conservation Code for the river as a whole. The code is voluntary, so could all riparian owners encourage their anglers to comply with it to protect the vulnerable spring run fish stocks. • Conservation Code needs to be amended under Catch & Release to read 'Limit killings to no more than 2 salmon and 3 grilse per rod per week'. • Future meeting dates are fixed but the purpose of meetings may change as the Board complies with the new legislation. Agendas and minutes of meetings will be available on www.fnift.org.uk/river-nairn • Seymour Monro gave a short update on FNLFT finances and informed the meeting that next year the Trust may have to ask for a small increase (c £500) in contributions from the Nairn Board to cover biologist costs for project work on the Nairn. • There was a short discussion on the structure and set up of DSFBs. 	<p>*ALL</p> <p>VW</p>
5.	<p>Accounts for Year to 15th May 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised Accounts were presented to the meeting. Concerns were raised about the increase in levies since 2011. In 2010 the rateable value of the Nairn Salmon Fishings were re-assessed, as they are every 5 years, based on catch data. Most beats saw a sizable increase in the rateable value of their fishings. The Board sets the annual assessments based on expected expenditure, and all Board members had voted to set next year's assessment as £1 in the £1. • Cllr Liz MacDonald queried why the Town Beat Proprietor (Highland Council) was not represented on the Board. Lorna Moffat informed the Board that she had taken over as mandatory for the Town Beat when Laurie Fraser stepped down. Cllr MacDonald said she would like to act as the Town Beat Proprietor and Lorna Moffat gave up her mandatory. LCA welcomed Liz MacDonald's willingness to join the Board as a proprietor on behalf of the Council. • L CA suggested the Board should write to Robert Shepherd, the District Assessor, pointing out the discrepancy between declining catches and increased rateable value. He also said it might be possible to appeal the valuation if all proprietors on the river joined together, however the rateable value and the assessment remain 	

	<p>two separate things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Accounts were approved. Proposed by Rossie MacRae and seconded by Derek Mackenzie. 	
6.	<p>Conservation Code</p> <p>Was discussed under the Annual Report item.</p> <p>Seymour Monro requested that all anglers collect details of any fish caught: collect scales, length and weight, evidence of sea lice or damage, photographs and forward to the Trust. Scale packets are available from the FNLFT.</p>	*ALL
7.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-optees to the Board. Lorna Moffat was proposed as a Nairn AA representative by LCA and seconded by Jamie Mackintosh-Walker. Seymour Monro was proposed as a FNLFT representative by Jamie Mackintosh-Walker and seconded by David Johnstone. Captain Wolfe-Murray is interested in letting/selling his fishings (Daviot East)- please get in touch with VW for more information. 	
8.	<p>Date of the next Annual General Meeting (Annual Public Meeting)</p> <p>9th March 2015</p>	

Meeting closed at 7.05pm