



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

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www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn

Draft Minute of the Annual Public Meeting

Held on Monday 24th November 2014 in the Long Room, Logie Steading, at 12.30p.m.

Present:

Alasdair Laing – Chairman
 Andrew Howard
 Ewen Brodie
 Robert Hoskin
 Billy Strathdee
 Anthony Laing

Tom Brennan (rep James Stuart Cowgreens)
 Duncan Mackenzie (Corryborough)
 David Smart (Dunphail)
 Donna Skelly (Coignafearn)
 Rory McLeod- (MEDCO)

In attendance:

Albert Duffus (FDSFB Superintendent)
 Sean Mclean (FDSFB Bailiff)

Robert Laughton (Director, FNLFT)
 Valerie Wardlaw (Administrator, FDSFB)

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies: Philip Mackenzie, Diana Usborne, Lord Cawdor, Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming, Lady Balgonie, David Sneddon, Seymour Monro, Ian Wills, Campbell Ross, Rosie Leshallas, Edward Crookes, Andrew Fleming, Alistair Galloway, James Stuart	
2.	Minutes of 2013 Annual Public Meeting Minutes were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not covered below None	
4.	Year 2014 Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair's Report: Catches for the 2014 season were even poorer than the 2013 season. Total catch was 1140 which is the worst year since 1999. However as will be apparent from the FNLFT Director's report the river is not in bad health. FNLFT Director's report was presented as a series of slides which can be accessed here. Juvenile fish population surveys were scheduled for this year, however some were unable to be completed due to the spate in October. The August spate was a 1 in 30 year event and there were reports of fish killed. However the spate did not cause massive losses, some tributary burns were affected, whilst others showed good or even improved juvenile fish populations. The catch data show a small increase in the spring run and a decrease in grilse and wintersummer salmon, which is in keeping with the records and anecdotal returns from the rest of Scotland. Marine survival is likely to be a major factor affecting numbers of fish returning to the river. Global warming is increasing the temperature of the sea, moving the areas of good feeding grounds further away from Scotland. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mink control continues – please report any sightings immediately to improve probability of capture. • Seal Control- the quota has been implemented. • Sawbill control- regular counts have been instigated and volunteers are welcomed to help with these. A licence to control numbers has been applied for, • INNS control continues, however the infestation in the lower Findhorn is severe. <p>Head Bailiff Report The catch returns can be accessed here.</p>	
5.	<p>Accounts for the year to 15th May 2014 The accounts have been formally approved by the board and can be accessed here. If anyone has any queries about them then get in touch with the Administrator.</p>	
6.	<p>Proposals for 2015-16 Continuing with predator and INNS control, scale sampling, education and monitoring of windfarm and other developments. Donna Skelly indicated that Coignafearn are committed to projects to improve habitats on the estate and are interested in working with the FNLFT.</p>	
7.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coignafearn are decommissioning a hydro scheme- Donna will discuss with RL but doesn't anticipate any impact on the river. • Wild Fisheries Review- Alasdair Laing reported that it has gone to the new Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform – Aileen McLeod MSP- expect the government will consult on the measures they wish to implement in the spring. There is concern amongst DSFBs on the loss of statutory powers that could affect their ability to improvemanage fisheries effectively. The majority of recommendations can be implemented without legislation and the ASFB/RAFTS joint working group will be investigatingassessing how these can best be developedput in place while legislation is considered. • RL showed the meeting a 100+ year old pearl mussel shell which was found after the spate, indicating that there have been populations of pearl mussels in the river. If anyone finds any other shells please contact RL. 	
8.	<p>Date of next meeting The next Annual Public meeting will be in May 2016- date and venue will be confirmed.</p>	
	Close of Meeting 1.30pm	