



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

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Draft Minute of Meeting of the Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Held on Monday 24th November, 2014 in the Long Room, Logie Steading, at 10.30am

Present:

Alasdair Laing – Chairman

Andrew Howard

Ewen Brodie

Robert Hoskin

Billy Strathdee

Anthony Laing

In attendance:

Albert Duffus – Superintendent

Sean Mclean- Bailiff

Robert Laughton – Director, Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust

Valerie Wardlaw – Administrator, FDSFB

Rory McLeod- (MEDCO)

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies: Philip Mackenzie, Diana Usborne, Lord Cawdor, Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming, Lady Balgonie, David Sneddon, Seymour Monro	
2.	Minutes of Meeting held on 20th August 2014 Minutes were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not covered below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bailiff appointment- The Board approved the appointment of Billy Forrester as the new bailiff, start date 2nd February 2015 Biosecurity signs- VW has some responses- could all proprietors send her numbers of signs required for their beats by end December 2014 Biosecurity forms- the bailiffs will remind proprietors to check their tenants are complying with biosecurity advice next year August spate- VW will forward any information from the Flood Alleviation scheme on the spate, but they estimate it was a one in 30 year event. 	ALL SMcL VW
4.	Budgets and Accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Assessment of future accounts. The board agreed to appoint Anne Laing Accountants to assess the accounts in future. Following the decision in August to alter the accounting year Tthe accounting period is 16th May 2014 to 31st January 2015 and VW will request shadow accounts to 15th May 2015 for comparison purposes. Insurance- VW will ask for combined quotes for the 3 DSFBs and the Trust An Income and expenditure update was presented for 2014-15- VW to adjust for financial year ending 31.1.15. Alasdair L to check if the VAT line was still required. Assessments- all assessments for years to 2014-15 are paid except for 	VW VW VW AL

	<p>one beat where ownership is being confirmed. There are 8 assessments still due for the current year amounting to £20,000. VW has sent reminders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment letters for 2015-16 will be issued in July 2015 with a narrative explaining previous year's payments. • Register of Financial Interests- all board members have completed a form. VW to email board to check if any require updating. • 	VW
5.	<p>FNLFT Director's Report Main report at Annual Public Meeting The August spate delayed this year's electrofishing surveys. RL will ask Roger Knight for an additional quota to tackle the rogue seals in the river. Moray Estates can provide help with taking the quota. Moy windfarm has been asked to rectify poorly installed temporary culverts - this has been done and inspected.</p>	RL AH
6.	<p>Head Bailiff Report Report in Annual Public Meeting. The Bailiffs have maintained a high profile patrolling the river and at Burghead Harbour, with additional patrols on the River Lossie. SMcL has been managing the mink project. AD has compiled catch returns- it is the worst year since 1999. Release rate is high on most beats, but some are still failing to comply with the Conservation policy. The spring run was slightly better this year, whilst grilse catch was down. EB proposed extending the 100% catch and release to the end of June; however the Board agreed that the current conservation measures were satisfactory with the monitoring data showing the fish populations in the river were good. BS added that Forres AA membership would be severely affected if further restrictions were imposed. The Board agreed to keep the Conservation Code under review. Please ask all anglers to try and collect scale samples- especially checking for scales in nets after releasing spring fish- as this will help identify spring fish and inform future decisions.</p>	ALL
7.	<p>Catchment Developments Moy WF is in construction phase, Berry Burn is generating, Tom nan Clach is approved but are planning to reduce the number and increase the size of turbines, Logie will be constructing in 2016, Glen Kyllachy was turned down but will be appealing. BL has responded to the Cairn Duhie consultation. Garbole substation site has moved- VW to check what is planned. Offshore WF in the Moray Firth- BL is monitoring the research on how offshore developments may affect smolt migration.</p>	VW
8.	<p>Outcome of National Conservation Measure Consultation The Scottish Government is consulting on a mandatory 100% release to the 1st April. (This was announced after the meeting- new legislation is in place that release is mandatory to 31st March).</p>	
9.	<p>Wild Fisheries Review A new minister is in place- Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform – Aileen McLeod MSP- Alasdair expects the government will consult on the measures they wish to implement in the spring. There</p>	

	<p>is concern amongst DSFBs on the loss of statutory powers that could affect their ability to improve fisheries. ASFB have asked DSFBs to respond to comment on the recommendations by the 28th November. Board members are asked to respond to VW with their comments by the 26th so she can collate and AL circulate for approval before submission.</p>	<p>ALL AL</p>
10	<p>AOCB EB asked about the sawbill surveys- RL will cover that in the APM EB asked if scale samples were being sent in- most are coming from Lethen, but also from Forres AA. A note about checking nets for scales will be included in the next FNLFT newsletter. There was some discussion on the reintroduction of worming and permitting spinning, both under strict supervision, for under 16s, the purpose being to encourage younger people to start fishing. The legal position on the river will be investigated and a possible proposal brought to the next meeting. Board Membership- additional proprietors or representatives of other organisations can be co-opted to the Board at any time- could all members consider if they know of anyone who would be interested in joining the board.</p>	<p>VW/RL VW/BS ALL</p>
12	<p>Dates of future meetings 2015: May 25th Board meeting 10.30am August 17th Board meeting 10.30am November 23rd Board meeting 10.30am followed by the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors at 12.30pm. Venues to be confirmed.</p>	
	Close of Meeting 12.30pm	