



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

Fisheries Office, Logie Steading, Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QN

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Minute of Meeting of the Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Held on Friday 23rd May, 2014 at the Long Room, Logie Steading, at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Alasdair Laing – Chairman
 Philip Mackenzie
 Ewen Brodie
 Lady Balgonie
 Seymour Monro
 Diana Usborne
 Angus McNicol
 Rob Hoskin
 Billy Strathdee

In attendance: Albert Duffus – Superintendent
 Robert Laughton – Director, Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust
 Valerie Wardlaw – Administrator, FDSFB

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies: Andrew Howard, Lord Cawdor, Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming, Anthony Laing, David Sneddon	
2.	Minutes of Meeting held on 18th November 2013: Minutes were approved with the following amendments (see attached amended minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 4. Include reference to the agreement to ask Findhorn Proprietors to contribute to the FNLFT to cover the Trust's £5k shortfall in 2013/14 Item 5. Grilse code- Change 'Release' rate to 'Keep' rate. 	VW VW
3.	Matters arising not covered below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale reading equipment- Bob Laughton has purchased equipment for under £500; attended a scale reading workshop; and is finalising a report on scales and will circulate it shortly. Thank you to Ewen Brodie for providing the majority of scales. Information about the spring run fish would be very useful- Alasdair & RL to discuss training Charlie Monro and Iain Neale in taking scale samples safely from fish which will be released. VW to ask all proprietors to take scale samples from all retained fish. Website update- all Findhorn pages updated, please send any amendments or updates to Valerie. New vehicle- Albert has organised purchase of a Vitara Hatchery equipment- RL & AD to discuss removing hatchery equipment and purchasing the Dalmagarry electrofishing equipment with Alan Hodgekinson. Spey rafting code- VW to circulate a link to code. 	RL AL/RL VW RL/AD VW
4.	Admin & Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints Procedure- has been sent to the Scottish Government and is on the Findhorn website. Register of Financial Interests- VW has circulated forms, could all board members complete and return to VW. The Board agreed that these would 	ALL

	<p>be kept on file at the Fisheries Office should anyone wish to consult them. VW to add a note to this effect to the website. Financial interests will be a standing item on Board meeting agendas to register any updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration handover- VW will be taking over administration of the Board's finances from R&R Urquhart on the 3rd June. The Board agreed to outsource bookkeeping and payroll administration to Angela Porter. VW will investigate costs for independent examination of the accounts and bring options to the Board for discussion. • Will Cowie remains the Clerk and will continue to offer legal advice to the Board. • Alasdair has received a financial update from Will Cowie and the figures are in line with budget to date • Assessments- The outstanding assessments for three beats due since 2011 are being paid. The Board agreed assessment notices should be sent out at the beginning of September this year for payment by the end of October. Next year's assessment will be agreed at the August Board meeting. Seymour thanked all Proprietors who have paid the additional contribution to the FNLFT. • 2015 Meeting dates: Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 18th August 2015 (daytime), Annual Public meeting (AGM) 18th November 2015 (evening meeting). Times and venues t.b.c. 	<p>VW</p> <p>VW</p>
5.	<p>Wild Fisheries Review</p> <p>Alasdair briefed the Board on discussions to date. The review has the remit to consider and make recommendations on the future management of wild fisheries. The ASFB and RAFTS are working closely on their respective responses. The Review team will report in September with legislation enacted in 2016.</p> <p>There is a Wild Fisheries Review meeting in Elgin on 25th June to which the FNLFT and the Lossie DSFB will be invited. No representatives from the Lossie DSFB are able to attend. Bob Laughton will attend for FNLFT and Ewen Brodie will attend on behalf of boards in the area.</p>	<p>EW</p>
6.	<p>Early Season 2014</p> <p>AD circulated Spring Salmon returns (see attached) showing 141 fish have been caught to end April- which is the best spring since 2008 when 150 were caught. Release figures are approaching 100% and Alasdair thanked the Forres AA for working hard to encourage their anglers to comply with the code.</p> <p>Spinning was discussed and AL agreed to ask Moray Estates to request their anglers to stop using spinners. The Board agreed that Forres AA could continue to use spinners as banning them would adversely affect their ability to attract young anglers.</p>	<p>AL</p>
7.	<p>Conservation & Bio-security 2015</p> <p>The Board agreed there was no reason to change the Conservation Code for next season. The updated Biosecurity forms are working well.</p> <p>VW will ask all proprietors how many Biosecurity signs they need at their entry points to the river and will obtain a revised quote for the cost of updating the signs to bring to the Board.</p>	<p>VW</p>
8.	<p>Head Bailiff Report</p> <p>Patrols continue. Sean is helping with Mink control, scale reading, water sampling and bird counts. AD is waiting for confirmation on the Seal licence</p>	

	quota. Albert confirmed he will retire at the end of January 2015.	
9.	FNLFT Director Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL circulated a progress report- see attached. • The Seal Licence quota has been confirmed. A quarterly report must be submitted to the Scottish Government. • Sawbill ducks - a management plan for these predators is being prepared and more data on numbers is needed. Counts on the Findhorn are being organised. Counts are organised for the times of the year when sawbill duck predation will adversely affect smolts. 	AD RL
10.	Catchment Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaschyle WF- 12 turbines approved on appeal with grid connection in 2017. The Board agreed that RL should ensure appropriate water monitoring programmes were in place but fish monitoring was not required as the development will only peripherally affect the Mosset. (AL declared his interest). • Berryburn WF is now commissioned with no adverse effects reported, the monitoring programme will continue. • Tom nan Clach WF- applying for an extension, VW to ask Lord Cawdor for an update. • Cairn Duhie WF- planning application is submitted and is at consultation stage- no deadlines available. RL is discussing monitoring programmes with the development company. • Kyllachy WF- a planning application is due to be submitted shortly, RL is being consulted on monitoring programmes. • Garbole substation construction and operation should not affect fish, but RL is being consulted. • Moy WF- starting construction, RL has submitted a fish monitoring proposal. • Overhead line upgrade for Moray Coast- the route is still at consultation stage. • Dalmagarry Quarry- RL to check that this will not affect Dalmagarry Burn. • Drynachan Micro-hydro- in construction. 	RL VW RL RL
11.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM stated that there will be a Joint Chair's meeting on Tuesday the 27th May for the Chairs of the three river Boards to discuss joint issues with the FNLFT. • Achagour Fly Fishing Competition- Sunday 1st June, SM thanked those who had supported this fundraising event for the FNLFT by offering prizes. • AL requested that all proprietors send him weekly catch updates as he is compiling a weekly report for FishPal. • A review of Bailiffs pay was discussed and agreed. Suitable recognition of AD's 21 years of excellent work for the Board was discussed and agreed. Bailiff recruitment for 2015- the Board agreed to advertise for a new bailiff in September with the intention of appointing a replacement for AD in December 2014. 	ALL
12.	Dates of future meetings 2014: 20th August 2014- Board meeting at 6pm followed by AGM (Annual Public Meeting) at 7.30pm, venue t.b.c. 24th November 2014- Board Meeting 10.30am, venue t.b.c.	
	Close of Meeting	