



## River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

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

01309 611220 admin@fnlft.org.uk

[www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn](http://www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn)

### Minute of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

Held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 in the Long Room, Logie Steading, at 7.30p.m.

**Present:** Alasdair Laing – Chairman  
 Andrew Howard  
 Ewen Brodie  
 Lady Balgonie  
 Seymour Monro

Robert Hoskin  
 Billy Strathdee  
 Anthony Laing  
 David Sneddon

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

	Item	Action
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Philip Mackenzie, Diana Osborne, Lord Cawdor, Sir Alastair Gordon-Cumming, Edward Crookes, Edward Greenwell, Simon Woolton, Andrew Fleming, Rosie Leschalles	
2.	<b>Minutes of AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013</b> Minutes were approved.	
3.	<b>Matters arising not covered below</b> None	
4.	<b>Year 2013 Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2013 Annual Report can be downloaded from the River Findhorn website <a href="http://www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn/chairmans-report/">http://www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn/chairmans-report/</a></li> <li>• River Director's Presentation (<a href="#">link</a> –ctrl+click to access)- RL will be conducting juvenile fish surveys on the Findhorn this year. There will be sawbill duck counts in October to prepare for an application for a licence to manage the populations in the river. Please forward any photographs of sawbill ducks to RL as they are very useful for helping to gauge the populations in the river. (Try to have recognisable landmarks in the background to identify the location).</li> <li>• Head Bailiff- reported that there was a good spring run in 2014, and the Bailiffs were busy patrolling due to the low water levels between May and August. The bailiffs have also been patrolling the River Lossie and managing the Mink project. The seal quota has been implemented. The Scottish Fisheries Protection Vessel patrolled the Moray Firth recently, acting as a deterrent to illegal net fishing.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b>
5.	<b>Consideration of Accounts for year to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014</b> The <a href="#">Accounts</a> have been prepared by Independent Accountants overseen by the Board's two Honorary Treasurers. The members agreed to accept the accounts, once the Treasurers confirm if the income from the	<b>PM/AH</b>

	investment portfolio is re-invested each year.	
6.	<p><b>Wild Fisheries Review</b></p> <p>Alasdair Laing gave an update: Andrew Thin has been appointed to chair the review. He has had a series of meetings with Boards and Trusts across Scotland and is due to report in September. The likely outcome will be the creation of a Fisheries Commissioner to manage the statutory functions of Boards, and approximately 20 regional Fisheries Management Organisations (hybrid of Boards and Trusts). There is likely to be a centralised levy raised across Scotland, which will be significantly higher than the current Findhorn levy as most other rivers have a levy of £1 in the pound or higher. Additional funds may be raised by rod licences. Carcass tagging has also been discussed. Legislation was due to be enacted before the next elections in 2015, but may be postponed.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Proposals for 2014/15</b></p> <p>RL will be continuing the current projects and regular activities including the juvenile fish surveys of the Findhorn, INNS and predator control, educational visits and monitoring of developments.</p> <p>Marine Scotland has been asked to compile a monitoring strategy on the effect of the development of offshore renewables on migratory fish in the Moray Firth. RL will contribute on behalf of the Board and FNLFT.</p>	<b>RL</b>
8.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Developments- the Board continues to monitor developments in the catchment and offer comments where appropriate. RL &amp; AL attended the Glen Kyllachy Windfarm site visits- a decision to be published shortly. Other windfarms in planning are Tom nan Clach and Moy, and the electricity substation at Tomatin. The upgrade of the Inverness to Aberdeen power line will be monitored.</p>	<b>RL</b>
12	<p><b>Dates of future meetings 2014:</b></p> <p>24th November 2014- Annual Public Meeting at 12.30, The Long Room Logie Steading.</p>	
	Close of Meeting	