



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

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www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn

Minute of Meeting of the Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Held on Monday 25th May 2015 in the Long Room, Logie Steading, at 10.30am

Present:

Alasdair Laing – Chairman
 Andrew Howard
 Ewen Brodie
 Philip Mackenzie
 John Moray

Robert Hoskin
 Billy Strathdee
 Anthony Laing
 Lady Balgonie

In attendance:

Andrew Wallace- RAFTS
 Sean Mclean- Head Bailiff
 William Forrester- Bailiff

Robert Laughton – Director, FNLFT
 Valerie Wardlaw – Administrator, FDSFB

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies: David Sneddon, Seymour Monro	
2.	Minutes of Meeting held on 24th November 2014 Minutes were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not covered below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity Signs- the signs are being printed and will be delivered by the bailiffs at the beginning of June. Findhorn reserves- VW has asked Will Cowie for advice on how to transfer the reserve if required and will follow up with Will. 	SMcL WC/VW
4.	Budgets and Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Accounts for 16th May 2014 to 31st January 2015 were presented. The Board agreed to wait for the shadow accounts to 15th May 2015 to be available before signing off on the accounts. Alasdair, Philip and Andrew to agree how the settlement for the retired Superintendent should be recorded in the accounts. A draft Budget for February 2015 to January 2016 was presented (see attached). The assessment for 2015/16 was set at 51p in the pound to give a breakeven for the year. Assessment letters will be sent in July with an explanatory note detailing previous year's payments. 2017 quinquennial review- the board agreed to ask the District Assessor to revalue the River Findhorn salmon fishings in 2017. 	VW AL/AH/ PM VW VW
5.	Wild Fisheries Review AL gave an update on the WFR- the Scottish Government has published a consultation paper which sets out the Government's response to the	

	<p>independent Wild Fisheries Review. The consultation period is May to August with the results incorporated into a draft Wild Fisheries Reform Bill in the autumn. The legislation will be published in 2016 but not enacted until after the Scottish elections.</p> <p>AH suggested a meeting to discuss the proposals would be useful and Andrew Wallace recommended inviting members of the Nairn and Lossie Boards to discuss a joint response. AL will check room availability and invite members of the three boards to a meeting by the middle of July. AL will circulate the ASFB scoping exercise on the proposals prior to the meeting to aid comprehension of what the Scottish Government is planning.</p> <p>The consultation on licencing the killing of wild salmon was discussed- any legislation will apply to rod and nets equally. Anyone wishing to kill fish is will likely have to show that this will not adversely affect conservation limits in order to obtain licences.</p>	<p>AL</p> <p>AL</p>
6.	<p>Head Bailiff Report</p> <p>Spring 2015 Bailiff Report. (see attached)</p> <p>Sean will be circulating monthly bailiffing updates to the board in future.</p> <p>Spring Catch Data- Sean presented the Spring catch figures and finalised figures can be accessed here.</p>	
7.	<p>FNLFT Director Report</p> <p>BL presented the recent work of the FNLFT. (link to document)</p> <p>Bob asked for all anglers to submit scale samples from retained fish.</p> <p>UDN- some fish have been seen with these lesions in the Findhorn- if you catch a fish with lesions please contact Bob as soon as possible in order for samples to be collected.</p> <p>Diseased Eels have been found in the Dee and Spey- the cause of the diseased fish is not currently known.</p> <p>Sawbill ducks- any sightings and photographs of sawbills taking fish should be sent to Bob or Sean -this is useful information to add to the regular bird counts. Bob will reapply for a control licence in the autumn.</p> <p>INNS control- the current funding finishes this year, but RAFTS are applying for a further three years of funding from 2016.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>RL</p>
8.	<p>Catchment Developments</p> <p>Moy WF - Bob will visit to check how the construction is going.</p> <p>Knocknagael to Tomatin overhead power lines- Bob is commenting on the proposed routes which cross the Findhorn and Nairn at Farr/Kyllachy .</p> <p>Tom nan Clach WF- has resubmitted a planning application.</p> <p>Kyllachy WF won their appeal and will be building in 2017.</p> <p>Logie WF will start construction in late 2015 or early 2016.</p> <p>Glenferness WF- Highland Council decision in June.</p> <p>Ourack WF is starting consultation.</p> <p>Further wind farms extending Berryburn are being considered.</p> <p>A96 duelling- options have been published and consultation started.</p> <p>Forres Flood alleviation scheme is complete- the build-up of gravel on the back run at Moy is being monitored and will be addressed nearer the end of the two year maintenance contract.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Rathbones Investment Portfolio- AH agreed to be a second signatory with AL.</p>	

	Billy Strathdee reported the sea trout fishing is much improved this year in the main river.	
10	<p>Dates of future meetings 2015: August 17th Board meeting 10.30am</p> <p>Note new date: December 14th Board meeting 10.30am followed by the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors at 12.30pm. Venues to be confirmed.</p>	
	Close of Meeting 12.15pm	