



## River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

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

### Minute of Meeting of the Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016 at Darnaway Castle at 10.30am

**Present:** Alasdair Laing – Chairman  
 Andrew Howard  
 Mark Laing  
 Graham Bell  
 Anthony Laing

Robert Hoskin  
 Billy Strathdee  
 Julie Balgonie  
 John Moray  
 Colin Cawdor

**In attendance:**

Sean Mclean- Head Bailiff  
 William Forrester- Bailiff

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

	Item	Action
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Ewen Brodie, Philip Mackenzie, Alastair Gordon Cumming,	
2.	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016</b> Item 6- VW to amend. Minutes were approved.	<b>VW</b>
3.	<b>Matters arising</b> None	
4.	<b>Budgets and Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An updated budget for the year was circulated- a small (£300) loss for the year is anticipated.</li> <li>Rebate of Assessments- legal advice suggests the board should agree a policy if it wishes to rebate assessments. The board agreed that if rod fishings are not exercised for good reasons, or netting rights are not exercised for conservation reasons, then the assessment can be rebated. This policy is to be implemented for the Coulmony &amp; Dunphail beat, and the netting beats owned by the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Trust. AlaL will discuss the Hopeman net fishings beat with the owners, Crown Estate.</li> <li>Dunphail catch returns for 2015 - have not been received by SMcL. ML will have them sent to SMcL.</li> </ul>	<b>AlaL</b>  <b>ML</b>
5.	<b>Operational Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smolt Trap- RL explained that installing a rotary screw trap to survey the smolt output of the river would provide useful data to add to information from juvenile surveys and catch data. Smolt data are likely to be included in the conservation limits modelling in the next few years. A smolt trap is a portable floating fish trap which requires a site with suitable anchor points and a stretch of river which channels the smolts through the trap. Redcraig or Limekilns might be suitable sites. It is placed in the river between the beginning of March and the end of May and needs daily staffing to measure and return the smolts. The cost of importing a trap from Canada would be £15-16K, with an additional £4-5K on staffing. RL to enquire if the trap on loan from the Pitlochry lab will be being used next year. The Board agreed to purchase a rotary screw trap if one cannot be borrowed from Pitlochry.</li> <li>Decontamination Equipment- RL to provide an advice note for proprietors</li> </ul>	<b>RL</b>  <b>RL</b>

	<p>to help with decontamination of equipment based on providing access to 5l sprayers to take sachets of Vircon. The bailiffs should carry decontamination kit and should do spot checks on anglers next year to re-inforce the message about decontamination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner's responsibility for invasive plants- AlaL passed on the legal advice- landowners are responsible for preventing the spread of invasive plants and animals from their land, but there is no legal responsibility to eradicate INNS.</li> </ul>	<b>SMcL</b>
6.	<p><b>Triennial Elections</b>  VW reported that one Lower proprietor and six Upper proprietors would be standing for the Board. The Forres AA will be an Upper proprietor representative, as the majority of their beat is above the division of the river. Forres AA won't have a named candidate as their officers are liable to change at their AGM later in the year. AlaL agreed to stand as Chair. VW has asked if the Forres AA and the Findhorn AA would like to have co-opted seats on the board, but at the moment there are no candidates.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Wild Fisheries Reform</b>  AlaL sent out a note before the meeting giving an update. If WFR is named in the programme of legislation to be announced in September, then a bill will be enacted in 2016-17. The FNL Boards and FNLFT have evidence of their discussions with the Spey Board requesting the formation of a joint FMO. However, at the moment the Spey would like to become a stand-alone FMO. The ASFB is investigating the transfer of staff to the FMOs- this should be guaranteed; with changes in job descriptions likely.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Head Bailiff Report</b>  Postponed to AGM</p>	
9.	<p><b>FNLFT Director Report</b>  Postponed to AGM</p>	
10	<p><b>Catchment Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom nan Clach WF is under construction.</li> <li>Logie WF is nearing completion.</li> <li>A9 &amp; A96- RL is keeping a watching brief.</li> <li>Farr Substation- the site is being reassessed due to local objections- RL is monitoring.</li> <li>SSE Blackhillock to Beaully overhead power line upgrade- is likely to follow the line of the current pylons.</li> </ul>	<b>RL RL</b>
11	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CC- mentioned the dangers of river surges- the one in July could have swept anglers away, except for the quick thinking of Cawdor staff, who warned downstream estates and anglers. SEPA has a flood warning text alert system which estates can sign up for to receive early warnings of possible river surges. <a href="http://floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodupdates/">http://floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodupdates/</a></li> <li>AH- asked that additional information be added to the Conservation code to deal with badly damaged fish after the 100% catch and release period ends on 14<sup>th</sup> May. RL will draft an amendment, but advises anglers to keep the fish cool and pass it on to the Bailiffs or RL to take scale samples from.</li> <li>Graham Bell asked for a copy of the Valuation Roll.</li> </ul>	<b>RL VW</b>
12	<p><b>Dates of future meetings:</b>  Board Meeting, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 10.30am venue t/b/c/  Meeting ended at 12.25pm</p>	