

Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board
Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting on 22nd April 2015 at 1pm
Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray

Present

Roger Brook (Chair) (Awe) **RB**
David Stewart (Creran) **DS**
Andrew Barker (Ruel) **AB**
Hugh Whittle (Nell)
David Jardine (Forestry Commission) **DJ**
Bill Duff (DDAC)
Bill Rankin (DDAC)
Jimmy Middleton (Tenant netsmen's rep)
Jennifer Lang
Stuart Lang
Gren Lang
Campbell Thompson (Member of Public)
Craig MacIntyre (Clerk/AFT) **CM**
Helen MacIntyre (Administrator)

Duncan Rogers
Bebe Corbett
Stephen Austin (SNH)
Jamie McGrigor
Willie Shaw
Tom Turnbull
Ian Amory
Ian Tegner
Calum Macfarlane-Barrow
Richard McKenzie (LAIA)
David Sumsion
Andrew Montgomery
Michael Handley
Nicholas Ferguson
Steven Beale
Brian Scott
Iain McArthur
Tuggy Delap (Fyne)

Apologies

Stephen Gibbs (Arran)
Caroline Fleming (Arran)
Beth Nicholson (Nell)
Rosie Campbell-Preston (Awe)

- 1) **Introduction from Chair and apologies**– Roger Brook welcomed everyone. See above for apologies.
- 2) **Matters arising** – None
- 3) **Questions submitted by members of the public** – None

4) **Argyll DSFB Annual Report.**

CM presented the annual report. Catch returns show that salmon catches in 2014 were down on the five year average. However, the number of fish over the Awe counter was up by 60%, showing that catch numbers were not representative of fish presence. Sea trout catches were still below the five year average, however anecdotal evidence across Argyll suggests sea trout numbers are increasing, which is promising. Catch and release figures from the Add were very poor at only 53% of fish returned, and Kintyre was poor too. This is not sustainable. We are looking for 80-90%. Habitat improvement work included some tree planting on the Goil, which we are looking to do on other areas. There are just two hatcheries in operation this year – on the Creran and the Etive.

CT suggested that fewer people are fishing because of catch and release restrictions being brought in. RB disagreed, saying that in Argyll it is the other way around, with fewer fish leading to fewer anglers. JL asked why hatcheries aren't supported by the Board anymore. RB explained that the science has shown that hatchery reared fish mostly don't survive, and those that do will weaken the genetic mix of the wild populations. JL asked if catch and release is working to increase fish numbers. RB thinks that it is but that the situation is worse out at sea so fewer salmon are returning.

5) **Report on 2014 Accounts**

CM presented the 2014 accounts, which showed a net surplus of £3,000 and assets of £25,000. DS proposed that the accounts be approved, DM seconded, and they were approved with no objections.

RB proposed that the levy remain at £1 in the £ for all proprietors except for those in the Awe or Ruel districts who are charged at £2.30 in the £ (with 75% returned to the district to pay for bailiffing). All agreed.

JL asked what ADSFB spends the levy income on. CM described all the activities which includes: contracting work for the improvement and protection of salmon and sea trout in Argyll; appointing and managing bailiffs; responding to consultations for aquaculture, wind farms, hydro schemes and other works that may affect wild salmonid populations in Argyll; and administration of the Board. Further information on these activities can be found on our website: <http://argyll.dsfb.org.uk/your-levy/>

- 6) **Date of next meeting** – April 2016, date to be arranged at Board meeting in October 2015.