

# Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board

Minutes of the AGM held at the Argyll Hotel, Inveraray on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## Present - Board

Roger Brook (Chair) (Awe) **RB**  
Stephen Gibbs (Arran) **SG**  
Caroline Fleming (Arran) **CF**  
David Stewart (Creran) **DS**  
Tuggy Delap (Fyne) **TD**  
Andrew Barker (Ruel) **AB**  
Michael Handley (Nell) **MH**  
Beth Nicolson (Nell) **BN**  
Jimmy Middleton (Tenant nets men's rep) **JM**  
Russell Buchanan (DDAC; salmon angling rep)  
**RBu**

Jim Frame (SEPA)  
Stephen Austin (SNH)  
Willie Shaw (Salmon angling rep)  
Robert White  
Rosie Campbell-Preston  
Andrew Montgomery

## Present - Others

David Milburn **DM**  
Richard Hammond **RH**  
William Duff (DDAC) **WD**  
Craig MacIntyre (Clerk) **CM**  
Daniel Brazier (AFT)

## Apologies

Jim Sharp (DDAC)  
Annie Craig (Ruel)  
Tom Turnbull  
Laurance Larmour

## In Attendance

Donald McNeill (Forestry Commission)

1. **Apologies** were offered (see above).

2. **Minutes** of the October 2012 meeting were accepted.

## 3. Matters arising

None

## 4. ADSFB Executive Committee

RB – More members from other areas required. Please contact the Clerk if anyone is interested in sitting on this committee

## 5. Clerk's Report (attached to minutes)

Catch statistics are included in the report, however not all forms are returned.

**Action: Catch statistics to be published on Argyll DSFB website.** <http://argyll.dsfb.org.uk/>

Tayinloan Onshore Fish Farm was discussed – ADSFB to support this application.

Annual accounts prepared by Simmers show a surplus of £5223 for 2012. This is to be used by Executive Committee for river improvement projects. The accounts are attached to these minutes and will be made available on the Argyll DSFB website.

6. **Small Rivers Committee.** RB – this issue was raised at the October 2012 meeting. There should be a Small Rivers representative on the Executive Committee. DS said he would do it if no one else wanted to. AB suggested Nick Ferguson, Auchalick River, Loch Fyne, as a possible rep.

7. **Aquaculture Update.** RB – update on the Aquaculture & Fisheries Bill has it goes before the RACCE (Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment) Committee. Basically, the aquaculture industry got all that they asked for, including keeping sea lice data confidential. DSFBs face closer scrutiny in the future, including hatcheries (see point 9 below).

Managing Interactions with Aquaculture Project – CM gave a presentation prepared by RAFTS which was recently presented to Marine Scotland. The presentation demonstrates the Locational Guidance model,

which was developed to assist wild fish interests and council planners when dealing with applications for new fish farms. The model uses a risk analysis to depict the sensitivity of certain areas. The model requires refinement, however is potentially a useful tool when dealing with the risks associated with aquaculture.

#### **8. Argyll Fisheries Trust presentation – DB.**

The Trust's activities in 2012 included our Southern Hebrides Rivers Project, which involved fish habitat and electrofishing surveys of Islay, Jura & Colonsay. Reports are due in the summer of 2013. The Trust is also doing its Rivers in the Classroom project in primary schools on the islands.

The Managing Interaction with Aquaculture project included coastal netting of sea trout to monitor sea lice burdens. RAFTS published the results of a genetic analysis of fish of the west coast of Scotland. It was estimated that about 25% of wild fish had farmed fish genes. The full report can be downloaded from the RAFTS' website at [http://www.rafts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/MIAP\\_Genetic\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.rafts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/MIAP_Genetic_report_final.pdf).

Other work included habitat restoration on the River Awe; assistance with the River Creran restoration project and hatchery; continued monitoring for the Scottish Beaver Trial in Knapdale; tackling invasive non-native plants around Loch Awe; Black Lynn restoration project.

**9. Stocking salmon in rivers** – as mentioned in point 7 above, Marine Scotland are starting to take an increased interest in the activities of DSFBs. This means that DSFBs must be operated correctly, and that all hatcheries must have a plan. The purpose of the hatchery must be made clear, be it for stock enhancement, restoration or conservation. Measurable targets and outcomes must be considered. The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards will shortly be releasing a policy paper on stocking which will provide advice to DSFBs.

The results of the genetics work done by AFT and RAFTS (see 8 above) suggest that prudent management of fisheries that operate a hatchery must consider if the brood fish used contain fish farm DNA, which may make the progeny less viable. DSFBs will consider directing all brood fish to be genetically tested before being used for breeding. This is likely to cost around £20 per sample.

**10. ASFB/RAFTS report.** Items already covered above.

**11. AOB.** MH asked if any work being done on Freshwater Pearl Mussels, especially in Euchar catchment. CM – no work planned or contracted by SNH. It was understood that reintroduction of FWPM in Euchar was not successful.

**12. Date of Next Meeting** – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 in conjunction with AFT AGM.