

Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board
Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting on 22nd April 2014 at 1pm
The Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

Present

Roger Brook (Chair) (Awe) **RB**
Rosie Campbell-Preston (Awe)
David Stewart (Creran)
Stephen Gibbs (Arran)
Caroline Fleming (Arran)
Andrew Barker (Ruel)
Elaine Jamieson (Forestry Commission) **EJ**
Russell Buchanan (DDAC) **RBu**
Bill Duff (DDAC)

David Lilley (DDAC)
Jimmy Middleton (Tenant netsmen's rep)
Jane Wright
Jeremy Hall-Smith **JHS** (Member of the public)
Patti Hall-Smith (Member of the public)
Craig MacIntyre (Clerk/AFT) **CM**
Alan Kettle-White (AFT) **AKW**
Helen MacIntyre (Administrator)

- 1) **Introduction from Chair** – Roger Brook welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) **Matters arising** – The meeting had been advertised in The Oban Times, The Argyllshire Advertiser, The Campbeltown Courier, and a poster put up in the angling shop in Dunoon. No members of the public contacted us regarding the meeting, and none have attended the meeting. (The two members of the public at the meeting were guests of a Board member.)
- 3) **Questions submitted by members of the public** – None
- 4) **Argyll DSFB Annual Report.**
 - a. 2013 Activities: 2013 catch returns showed a 30% drop in salmon and 40% drop in sea trout caught, which was a similar trend in the rest of Scotland and can be attributed to the weather. Catch and release policies have been followed in most places, with the exception of the Kintyre district. The Board received many consultations for aquaculture, wind farm, and hydro electric developments. You can find information about these on our website (<http://argyll.dsfb.org.uk>). We received two complaints from proprietors who did not want to pay their levies. However, they are required to pay by law.
 - b. Planned 2014 Activities: There will be work on the River Awe to improve Salmon Cruive. More treatment of Japanese knotweed will take place. The issue of salmon stocking in Argyll rivers will be addressed, with regard to reasons for stocking.

JHS asked how accurate is salmon catch reporting. RB said Marine Scotland assume it is consistent but not necessarily accurate; however we assume it is not only not accurate but also not consistent due to an increase in catch and release fishing resulting in reporting of fewer salmon caught.

EJ asked if new forestry plans meet with the Board's approval with regard to wild fish populations. CM answered that some new plans are great, such as for Glen Creran, but in some cases we still see forestry planted right up to a river, which is bad for wild fish. RB added that road construction for forestry can have an impact and sometimes contractors don't follow the rules. AKW explained that culverts can be difficult for fish to pass at certain flow levels, and Argyll Fisheries Trust will be running a workshop later in the year about this. CM added that a very poor culvert went in on the Ruel a few weeks ago and has caused problems. RBu asked who should we approach with forestry complaints. EJ stated that she is keen to understand current issues and that any complaints about forestry commission land should go straight to Lochgilphead Forestry Commission rather than the contractors.

David Stewart proposed that the Annual Report is approved, seconded by Russell Buchanan, agreed by all.
- 5) **Report on 2013 Accounts** - There was a surplus of £3920, which will be used for fishery protection and enhancement activities, to be decided by the executive committee. Assets currently stand at £21,600. Any funds being held that would have been given to an RIA will be ring fenced and the money used in that area only. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Stephen Gibbs, seconded by Jane Wright, and approved by all.
- 6) **Date of next meeting** – April 2015, date to be arranged at Board meeting in October 2014.