**Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 22nd October 2014 at 1.30pm
Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray**

**Present:** Roger Brook (RB), David Milburn (DM), Andrew Barker (AB), Keith Miller (KM), Tuggy Delap (TD), Tom Turnbull (TT), David Stewart (DS), Richard McKenzie (RMcK), Caroline Fleming (CF), Stephen Gibbs (SG), Jimmy Middleton, Russell Buchanan (RBu), Bill Duff, Bill Rankin, Steven Austin (SA), Robert White (RW) Jeremy Hall Smith, Danny Brazier, Alan Kettle-White (AKW), Craig MacIntyre (CM), Helen MacIntyre

**Apologies:** Rosie Campbell Preston, Elaine Jamieson, Jane Wright, William Shaw, Michael Handley, Andrew Montgomery, Steven Beale

1. **Introduction and Apologies** – RB welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies (above)
2. **Minutes of Meeting April 2014** – Proposed by DS, seconded by DM, and accepted as an accurate record.
3. **Matters Arising** – The small rivers committee should meet and report back on the classifying of small rivers.
4. **Clerk’s Report** – The Board has been fairly quiet, with relatively few consultations. The budget remains unchanged for next year. We made a small surplus of £200 last year.
5. **AFT Biologist’s Report**

AKW gave a presentation on the work that AFT have been doing over the past year, including:
Loch Etive Rivers Project – Assessment of habitat and fish populations so improvements and recommendations can be put forward.
Managing Interactions Aquaculture Project – RAFTS project looking at sea lice infestations.
Scottish Beaver Trial – Monitoring impacts on fish populations, suggests no impact on fish at the one site with a dam that has been monitored.
EU Invasive Plants (CIRB) Project – Treating Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendrum Ponticum.
Consultations have made up a third of AFT’s work, which subsidises their charitable work.
More information about project work can be found on the AFT website.

1. **Wild Fisheries Review**

RB talked through the summary of recommendations, highlighting those that are of most interest to AFT and ADSFB. Any changes resulting from recommendations adopted by the Scottish Government will almost certainly not be adopted until after the next Scottish General Election in 2016.

* Local Fisheries Management Organisations (FMOs) will be empowered, but a central wild fisheries unit will be in control. FMOs will be an amalgamation of Boards and Trusts and will be charities. They will manage all fish species. In Argyll, brown trout will be a big population to manage, bigger than salmon.
* Evidence-based management is needed
* The central unit will be based within Government, lead by a senior figure able to command respect with stakeholders.
* FMOs will advise local authorities, rather than being consultees as they are now.
* The government will write a model constitution for FMOs. As charities, the government cannot tell them what to do, but if they don’t do what they want then they will not get funding.
* FMOs could be used internally on a federated basis, a bit like what ADSFB have done with RIAs. Likely there will be around 25 FMOs, which is similar to the number of Trusts.
* ASFB and RAFTS are to develop a formal transition program. They currently have a working group which includes CM.
* Review acknowledges the financial disincentive of reporting catches, but does not give a solution. It suggests the levy should be extended to include all fisheries of significant potential commercial value. For example this would include Loch Awe. Net and rod fisheries are to be treated equally, which means net fisheries will be hit hard. The levy is to be collected centrally, with one levy rate used nationally. However, a locally enhanced levy can be used for funding local priorities. We presume levies will be collected from all and then redistributed to those who need it most.
* An angling for all program is suggested, which would be funded by a rod licence.
* Should introduce a ban on killing salmon as soon as possible, which would include netting. This should spell the end of netting in Scotland. To get a licence to kill salmon you would have to prove the sustainability of the population. This would likely be determined by Marine Scotland Science, but it is unclear who would pay for this.
* Impacts on salmon and sea trout in the marine environment should be researched.
* Closed days should be abolished. This would mean fishing on Sundays would be allowed.
* Protection orders
* Bailiffs should be warranted centrally but employed locally.
* Stocking should be subject to licensed consent from central unit and only in exceptional circumstances.

RB believes that if it is enacted as a whole then it will be good for us. RW thinks the report seems to be simply to raise money from anglers, and that everything needs policing which means more administrators and more money. RB suggested that the small rivers committee reconvene and decide what constitutes a fishery so we can input this into the WFR working group. TD asked whether hill lochs would be levied, and RB said yes if they are commercially viable. AKW pointed out that if you get a protection order then you are deciding that the fishery has value.

Next steps are the reaction from the government and then a consultation for a Green Paper, hopefully later this year. We have to try to support the good in the review. CM said the funding moving from east to west should help.

1. **Any Other Business**

FishPal – This has been successful for the Craig beat on the River Orchy this year. ADSFB pays a yearly franchise fee and any fishery in Argyll can join for a small fee. The more that join the smaller the fee.

Re-election of Board Members at the next meeting – This is likely to be the last re-election of members since ADSFB will probably be merged into a Fisheries Management Organisation.

1. **Date of next meeting** – Wed 22nd April 2015 was proposed for the 2015 AGM and Public Meeting.