

ARGYLL DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
Annual General Meeting and Triennial Elections

Loch Fyne Hotel and on Teams

2nd April 2024, 10:30am

ATTENDANCE: Roger Brook (Chairperson, RB), Robert Younger (Clerk, RY), Johnny Brown (JB), Hugh Nicol (HN), Alasdair Reynolds (AR), Tim King (TK), Alan Kettle White (AKW, Senior Biologist), Jane Wright (JW), Alyssa Stewart (Minutes, AST), Andrew Barker (AB), Alan Stewart (AS), Ian Tegner (IT, Teams), Tuggy Delap (TD), Rob Jackson (RJ)

APOLOGIES: David Stewart, Alasdair Ross, Frans Van Bommel, Rosie Campbell Preston, David Milburn, Jamie McGrigor, Charles Fforde, Virginia Sumsion, David Sumsion, Ian Amory, Steven Beale, Caroline Fleming, Duncan Byatt, Bill Rankin, Duncan MacGillivray, David Sutherland, Bridge of Orchy, Ewan Chrystal, Graeme Anderson

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes were approved by JW and seconded by TK.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS 'INTERESTS

None.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

FINANCE & CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

The reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

BY has taken RB's seat on the FMS Board. It is vital for Argyll to have a voice, BY stated there is an optimistic view from FMS regarding bringing grants into the system.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 2023

RB explained that the Board holds money for improvement.

Costs of running the board is £8k, we are covering cost to run the board.

£10k is reserved and the remaining balance is available for the Trust.

Apparent loss is a reflection of cash flow and does not represent an operating loss.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

LEVY 2024

The assessed value has decreased by 25%, however, costs of running the board has not, therefore the levy charged has to cover running costs.

The Board aim to raise money to enable survey work, quotes and consultations.

To raise the running costs the Board needs a levy of 52p in the £. Previously the levy was 35p in the £.

Proposed new levy on non-bailiff districts:

52p + 33.5p = 85.5p (previously 65p)

Proposed Awe Levy:

Awe levy rate of £3.90 to cover bailiff costs.

Proposed Ruel Levy:

The Ruel has the option of paying the bailiff rate or the lower rate, AB confirmed that Ruel will pay 85.5p.

Catch figures were discussed. Not everybody is returning their catch return, which are required by law.

Marine Scotland figures will be used for the assessor reassessment, using a 5-year average. Figures suggest that some fisheries are not sending figures to the assessor.

BY suggested that a letter to be written to those that do not return their catch return. AS will draft the letter.

AQUACULTURE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

SEPA is taking over the licensing of fish farms, the new regime is a CAR licence, focused on sea lice, this will stop things getting worst.

It is anticipated that EMP's will continue to 2025.

There has been a shift with some fish farms whereby they want to change from a 2-year cycle to a 1-year cycle. Loch Etive will be used to raise the post smolts.

Trout Farms in Loch Awe will be converted to salmon smolts, there is nothing the Board can do to stop it.

Loch Shuna EMP has two companies operating that are out of production synchronisation, they no longer fallow at the same time.

It was agreed that RB has the authority to discuss the restoration of the synchronised cycle with the companies.

FMS UPDATE

Helen Feenen has replaced Charlotte at FMS.

BY stated that lice framework and funding opportunities are on FMS's agenda.

Loch Long Salmon report has been submitted to Scottish Ministers on the 15th of February.

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

Elected proprietor board members:

Arran, Mrs Caroline Fleming

Awe, Roger Brook (CHAIR)

Creran, David Stewart

Fyne, Michael Delap

Ruel, Andrew Barker

River Goil Angling Club, Tim King

Co-opted members:

Loch Fyne Angling Club, Ewan Chrystal

BY will contact Bill Rankin at DDAC regarding being co-opted on the Board.

RB was elected as convener.

AS was thanked for her hard work.

AOB

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TBC

The Argyll Fisheries Trust Board meeting joined the meeting at this point.

ARGYLL FISHERIES TRUST PRESENTATION WITH ARGYLL AND WEST CATCH STATISTICS ANALYSIS

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

A discussion took place after the presentation.

The impact the intensive inshore network has on fish was discussed.

Salmon downturn in the sea is seen everywhere, not just Argyll.

IT asked of the effects to the Euchar River which has been affected by flooding. AKW is expecting more intensive rainfall and flooding. However, it is not all negative, floods can redeliver new sources of sediment.

Argyll Fisheries Trust is supporting the Ruel with a potential trial using Otter Ferry to facilitate a hatchery for wild gene pooling.