

ARGYLL DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD MINUTES

Thursday 7th November 2024

The Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray and Teams

TIME: 10.30am

The ADSFB meeting followed on from the AFT AGM.

Attendance: Roger Brook (RB, Chairperson), Alasdair Reynolds (AR), Jane Wright (JW), Tim King (TK), Alan Kettle White (Senior Biologist AKW), Robert Younger (RY), David Stewart (DS), Jonathan Brown (JB), Alyssa Stewart (AS, Minutes), Graeme Anderson (GA, AFT Biologist), Victoria Paul (VP) Robert Jackson (RJ, AFT Biologist), Rebecca Smith (RS), Tuggy Delap (TD), Hugh Nicol (HN), Alan Stewart (AS), Andrew Barker (AB)

ADSFB: Liz (Teams), Ian Amory (Teams), Ray Doonan (Teams), Malcolm Robertson (Teams)

Apologies: Mr Sutherland, Steven Beale, Ian Tegner, Lucy Abel Smith, Frans Bommel, Rosie Campbell Preston, David Milburn, Tony Huntington, Beth Nicholson, Charles Fforde, Jamie Gibb, Duncan Byatt, Emma Scobie, Johnny Buchanan Jardine, Pandora Buchanan Jardine, Caroline Fleming

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

RB explained the difference between the ADSFB, which is a governed body representing the proprietors. The AFT is a charity employing Biologist's and a separate body to the ADSFB.

The meetings are held consecutively and have a healthy working relationship.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The previous minutes were approved by AB and seconded by DS.

BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

The Biologist report was circulated prior to the meeting.

AKW presented the Biologist report which will be circulated with the minutes.

AWE Counter

RB explained that AI now identifies and counts the fish at the Awe barrage.

There is data to support the view that the way the dam is operated affects the fish, the timing of their return and health.

Seal Deterrent

ADRIA bailiff Ewan used the deterrent, and it did work, by chasing the seals out of the pool. The seal deterrent is not a fixed piece of equipment and has to be deployed and operated by Ewan to deter the seals.

RB thanked the AFT Biologists for their hard work.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON AQUACULTURE

RB is of the view that the Argyll DSFB and Aquaculture are working towards a new era. Lice levels are a shadow of what they used to be, the new SEPA regime has been a key activist in this and Mowi and Bakkafrøst are working towards the highest accreditation for their product and have distinctly done better with their lice levels. There is a reasonable dialogue with these companies.

RB stated that the Argyll DSFB has insufficient income from proprietors to make significant improvements to the fisheries.

Argyll DSFB have negotiated with Mowi for funding habitat and fisheries improvement projects in the Awe District. The Argyll DSFB has agreed, after much deliberation, to take money from aquaculture to support the AFT with their projects.

Disease and warming seas are an issue for the farms.

UPDATE ON LOCH LONG FARM

No update since the reporter's recommendation in February.

CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

LEVY RE-EVALUATION

There are a few outstanding levy payments.

Some levy assessments have remained the same as the Marine Scotland catch return has not been submitted and may be appealed by proprietors.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.