

ARGYLL DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Annual General Meeting

Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray

24TH MARCH 2025, 10:30am

ATTENDANCE: Roger Brook (RB, Chairperson), Robert Younger (RY, ADSFB Clerk) Alasdair Reynolds (AR), Jane Wright (JW), Tim King (TK, Treasurer), Alan Kettle White (Director, AKWW), , , Jonathan Brown (JB, Director), Alyssa Stewart (AS, Secretary), Alan Stewart (AS, minutes), Alison Elliott (AE), Rebecca Smith (RS), Charles Johnson (CJ Auch Estate). Ewan Chrystal (Teams, EC Loch Fyne Angling Club), Andrew Barker (Ruel District) Jesse James (JJ), Graeme Anderson (GA)

APOLOGIES: David Stewart, Robert Jackson, Rebecca Smith, Hugh Nicol, Frans Van Bommel, Philip Fleming, Charles Fforde, Rosie Campbell Preston, Benedict Justin, Jamie Gibbs, Gordon Stephens, Ian Amory, Ian Tegner, Lucy Abel Smith, Victoria Paul, Sascha Klengel, Tuggy Delap

RB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Trust Board meeting has been postponed.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 2ND APRIL 2024

Minutes were approved by TK and seconded by AB.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declaration of interest.

MATTERS ARISING

BY has not managed to contact Bill Rankin regarding co-option onto the Board.

FINANCE & CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 2024

Accounts were approved by JW and seconded by RS.

The Board holds funds from SSE for use solely on the Awe district.

Mowi will be donating £50k for the Awe district.

Running costs of the Board needs to be addressed if the loss continues.

ACTIVITIES 2024

Outlined in the Clerks report.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2025

Outlined in the Annual Report.

LEVY 2025

To remain the same as 2024.

The Ruel will be included in the Bailiff levy.

Outstanding levies have been issued a reminder letter which will lead to legal proceedings. AKW suggested information is sent to proprietors to inform them of activities.

Councils use different re-evaluation methods and at different dates/years which could be an issue for the ADSFB.

AQUACULTURE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Loch Long reported in 2024 to the Government of what action it to be taken, there has been no further communication or action. BY stated this is unacceptable.

Salmon farms are wanting to move from a two-year cycle to a one-year cycle. This would improve the sea lice count as historically the count is worst in the second year of the cycle. It remains to be proved whether it is the length of time or size of fish in the cages that affect lice counts.

The freshwater farms are being moved to Salmon farms in the loch awe, which is an escape risk.

Mowi have bought Sanda Island, Kintyre to install a large fish farm which is another farm on the migration route.

Sea Lice regulation framework will be imposed and regulated by SEPA. The fish farmers are opposing this on mass, based on their view of lack of data.

AFT will be working on test sites for SEPA and monitoring work for salmon farms which has evolved from EMP's.

If anyone wants to be involved with discussions with Salmon Farms, please contact Roger.

FMS UPDATE

Funds for restoration projects is being developed. This is a model to help landowners and managers to access funding for riverbank restoration projects.

Discussion is taking place as to who will administer the fund.

Monitoring challenge for the aquaculture framework may be awarded to FMS.

Marine Directorate has a new team who have no experience with fish and aquaculture.

Catch and Release FMS has developed a policy for salmon and sea trout.

RIVER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND BOARD REPRESENTATION

River Improvement Associations were developed to give formal local representation.

ADRIA has met consistently for 20 years and employs a bailiff. At the recent meeting ADRIA failed to elect a committee. JB is the Treasurer for ADRIA, and only active person.

Proposed to suspend ADRIA as an organisation, transfer funds to ADSFB restricted to the Awe District, and transfer the bailiff under TUPE rules to the ADSFB.

Benefits will also be the reduction in duplication of the work for AKW and AE.

JB was proposed by RB as a co-opted deputy convener of the ADSFB and will be the line manager of the bailiff.

The bailiff has been informed of the decision and all in agreement.

This was agreed by all members.

AOB

AR apologised to the AFT Directors, the AFT has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.

ARGYLL FISHERIES TRUST PRESENTATION WITH ARGYLL AND WEST CATCH STATISTICS ANALYSIS

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes,

SSE have provided funds for tags, costing £36k.

Receivers were provided by Atlantic Salmon Trust.

AB stated that the habitat work on the Ruel has been beneficial for the fish population in the River Ruel.

AKWW was thanked for his presentation and work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th November 2025