

ARGYLL DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 23rd April 2026, 10:30am

Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray

ATTENDANCE: Roger Brook (RB, Chair), Robert Younger (RY, ADSFB Clerk), Alasdair Reynolds (AR), Jane Wright (JW), Tim King (TK), Alan Kettle White (AKW), Jonathan Brown (JB), Alan Stewart (AS), Rebecca Smith (RS), Hugh Nicol (HN), Tuggy Delap (TDL), Andrew Barker (Ruel District), James Gilchrist (JG), Ray Doonan (RD), Mark Shone (MS), Alison Elliott (AE, Secretary)

APOLOGIES: David Stewart, David Milburn, Frons Van Bommel, Lucy Abel Smith, Ian Tegner, Gordon Stephens, Duncan Byatt, Charles Forde, Ian Amory, Steven Beale

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR AND APOLOGIES

RB welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

MINUTES FROM AGM HELD ON 24th MARCH 2025

Minutes were previously circulated. Approved by TK and seconded by JB
Transfer of Bailiff employment from ADRIA to ADSFB was discussed. RB noted ADRIA remains in existence but without a functioning committee/chair; it retains a bank account and limited funds. Concern was raised about the Board taking on an unfunded liability. The Chair and Johnny Brown will continue working to keep arrangements functioning and to support Ewan.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No conflicts were declared. Members were asked to declare any conflicts should they arise during the meeting.

ACCOUNTS 2025

RB summarised the annual accounts, noting that headline income figures are dominated by funds received and redistributed for fisheries conservation/improvement (SSE & MOWI). SSE (£32K) for 2025 was not received until this financial year. The running costs of £8,900 were broadly consistent with last year. Consultation costs have been reduced, fewer meetings and greater use of Teams. RB thanked Alan for his support. Approved by JB and seconded by TK.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2026

Outlined in the Annual Report.

FINANCE & CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Clerk's annual report was previously circulated. Two cases of court action are in the process of being actioned for non-payment of levies.

A discussion was had regarding the lack of catch return forms. Further email follow-ups would be undertaken as this is a legal requirement.

LEVY RE-EVALUATION 2026

The meeting agreed to keep the levy unchanged for a further year to support core functions (including bailiff arrangements). RB stated the rates as £3.90 (bailiff rivers) and £0.855 (non-bailiff rivers).

AQUACULTURE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

SEPA issued licences to salmon farms, with industry appeals leading towards litigation. It was noted (following discussion with Helen) that negotiations may resolve key issues, including modelling of sea lice loading, and the outlook may be cautiously more optimistic than first appeared.

The Scottish Government has removed EMPs ahead of full SEPA implementation, creating uncertainty. The Trust reported SEPA's proposed wild fish monitoring currently covers only a small subset of the previous monitoring effort.

Monitoring continues with certain companies under Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) requirements; improved practice was noted where treatments are initiated before thresholds are reached.

RB reported progress towards a voluntary agreement (via Fishery Management Scotland strategy work) to apply financial penalties for escapes, with proceeds directed to a fund for fisheries/riparian improvement, preferentially in affected areas.

AKW summarised current sea lice counts by area, noting generally low counts in several regions (Firth of Clyde, Loch Fyne, West Mull, Loch Etive).

An initial scoping application on Sanda Island was discussed. Mowi approached the Board to propose operational constraints (use every second year, for less than a year, timed after smolt migration) and willingness to contractually commit and include conditions in planning. The Board agreed this represented an improved situation. Therefore, it was agreed to withdraw the objection.

An Invite will be sent from RY to Nick Underdown (new Director, WildFish) to give a short presentation at the November meeting.

AOB

An update was noted that FMS is considering a change in legal form (potentially charitable status) in response to financial pressures and evolving focus. It was noted that an application process may proceed during the year alongside constitutional updates.

COMPLAINTS

No complaints noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3rd November 2026, 10.30am at Loch Fyne Hotel