

CAITHNESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 13 JUNE 2016

Present:	Viscount Thurso (Chair)	SWM Threipland	I Cormack
	J Mackay	ACW MacAuslan	T Stitt
	R Willis		
In attendance:	A Youngson	EC McCarthy	E Constable

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Earl of Caithness, Sir Richard Dunbar and SWD Laird.

2. Register of Interests

The register of interests was circulated for members to update. No changes were recorded.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2016 were approved. There were no matters arising.

4. Fisheries Management Organisation (FMO)

a) FMO Template

The chairman updated the board on progress. He had briefed the Helmsdale and Northern boards, plans had been further consolidated, and the final draft document would be ready shortly.

Action: Chairman to complete draft for circulation to board members + chairmen of the two other boards.

b) Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)

The consultant had been introduced to relevant contacts on the two other boards and had completed a preliminary draft of a scientific schedule/prospectus for the Flow Country. The FMP is intended to be an overarching document for the FMO. It will link in with the Conservation Plans to be produced by each river for submission with an FMO application (see also para 6b). A range of useful external reference data is also being included to have to hand within the one document.

Action: AY to forward latest draft to Chairman to review; thereafter all board members + HDSFB/NDSFB chairmen to be circulated for comments.

5. Finance and Admin

a) 2016 Estimates and Assessment Rate

The Estimates were approved and a rate of 37p in the £ set for the current year.

b) Staff

It was agreed that bailiff J McCarthy should attend the introductory electric fishing course at Inverness College this summer, enabling him to stand in as team leader for the consultant should the need arise at any time. A requirement for a further level of training in order to undertake analysis work was identified for the future.

c) Consultations etc.

Details of local development activity on which the board was consulted during the last quarter were noted. The Flow Country film produced by MaraMedia for the RSPB to which the board contributed last September is to be launched at Caithness Horizons on 25 June (1-4 pm) and will be on show permanently at Forsinard.

6. Development and Conservation Committee

a) 2016 Electric Fishing programme

The board approved the schedule set out by the Consultant for this summer, with an approximate budget of £6k anticipated.

b) Marine Scotland Local Fishery Biologist Liason Group (MSLFBLG)

The consultant is now linked up with the group and will keep a watching brief on activity for the board. At present the group is developing a template for the Conservation Plans required for each river within an FMO (cf. para 4b).

7. Flow Country Rivers Trust (FCRT)

a) Activity

An application by the Trust for a grant of £3200 from the Stroupster wind farm community fund towards a restoration scoping project on the River Wester had been unsuccessful. This was the second attempt to seek funding from community sources (the first with SSE). The Trust proposed to continue to pursue ways of raising funds for this project and other sources/routes were discussed.

b) MOU

The chairman voiced concern over a lack of clarity in the Trust's objectives. The Trust was asked to review the MoU to ensure that procedures agreed were implemented and to consider whether any amendments might be required after 2 years of operation.

Action: JM to take up with the FCRT.

8. Any other business

NTR

9. Meeting dates

The 2016 Annual Public Meeting was scheduled for Monday 22 August at 11 am, with a routine board meeting taking place immediately afterwards.