

CAITHNESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 23 MAY 2014

Present:	Viscount Thurso (Chair) Earl of Caithness Sir Richard Dunbar Tom Stitt	John Mackay (Vice Chair) Anson MacAuslan Tertius Threipland Roddy Willis
In attendance:	Eddie McCarthy Eleanor Constable	Alan Youngson
Observers	Hamish Sutherland	
Apologies:	Simon Laird, Ian Cormack	

Register of Interests

A new register was drawn up to record the interests of the newly elected Board. The register would be available for inspection in accordance with current legislation.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising from previous meetings

The subject of the Halladale River's interest in joining the Caithness DSFB was given further consideration. The Chairman would write to the Halladale River and to the Northern DSFB setting out the Board's position.

Action: Chairman

Admin and Finance

- 2014 Assessment Rate

The Estimates for the year had been finalised and a rate of 35p in the £ was confirmed.

- Nomination of Representative to the Flow Country Rivers Trust

Mr Laird was nominated as the Board's Director and Trustee.

- Consultations

The record of consultation activity since the last meeting was noted.

Consultant's Report

- Installation of temperature monitoring equipment on the River Thurso

Mr Youngson outlined plans by Marine Scotland Science to install equipment at selected sites along the River Thurso as part of a national study into the effects of temperature on Atlantic salmon. The Thurso proprietors had already been consulted and signed up to the project and the Board looked forward to hearing the findings later in the year.

- Electrofishing Survey 2014

After further discussion of the costs and benefits of undertaking a survey for a second, consecutive year the Board gave the go-ahead for planning to begin. A list of organisations was drawn up for the Chairman to contact on the fundraising front to assist with financing the project.

Action: Chairman

River Improvements Committee

Further to the elections it was agreed that the Committee should be reconstituted and continue the work that it had previously undertaken, comprising Mr MacAuslan (spokesman), Mr Mackay, Mr McCarthy and Mr Youngson. The Board was to be notified of meetings so that other members could contribute at any time.

Inspector's Report

Arrangements for boat cover for the year were finalised.

Any other business

- Northern DSFB review of protection measures

The Board discussed a recent request from the NDSFB for assistance in a review of coastal protection measures. The Chairman was to respond to the NDSFB with the Board's position.

Action: Chairman

- Wild Fisheries Review

The Chairman reported on round table discussions he had attended with the Chair of the Review and other Caithness stakeholders. The Board discussed some of the issues arising and all members were urged to put their views in writing to the Review panel to have their say.

Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Proprietors was scheduled for 2.30 pm on Tuesday 26 August at the Ulbster Arms. The Annual Public Meeting of the Board would follow immediately afterwards.