

CAITHNESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING 2016

The meeting took place on Monday 22 August at the Ulbster Arms, Halkirk at 10 am. Statutory notice had been given to the Scottish Government and via the local press and board's website.

Attendees

Board Chairman (The Rt Hon. the Viscount Thurso), Members and Officers
Robin Mackinlay, Chairman, Forss House Fishings Association (FHFA)
Fiona Kinnear (FHFA)
Hamish Sutherland (for Sir David Black, Upper Forss proprietor)

Proceedings

The Chairman welcomed all those attending.

The 2015 Annual Report and the 2015 Accounts were presented. Highlights of activity over the past year were summarised, with the following of particular note:

- a) The successful conclusion of the 3 year electro-fishing programme covering all rivers within the district;
- b) The groundwork had been laid for a Flow Country Fisheries Management Organisation to be established in response to the Scottish Government's proposals for Wild Fisheries reform. An overarching science plan dealing with conservation and practical effort for fisheries was developed alongside this.

The importance of completing returns for the 2017 revaluation of fisheries was drawn to the attention of all proprietors.

Q & A Session

Representatives from Forss House raised several questions relating to:

- a) The constitution and financing of the board, the role of the bailiffs and the working relationship between board and rivers.

The Chairman provided details, explaining that these were for the most part statutory arrangements. He was to forward the link to the relevant Freshwater Fisheries legislation.

- b) Conservation measures under consideration for the Forss estuary.

The board offered support to the Association, agreeing a way forward starting with a site inspection by the Scientific Consultant and Head Bailiff.

Future Meetings

Next year's Annual Public Meeting was expected to be held in August. The Chairman reminded all present that members of the public were always welcome to attend board meetings as observers.