

## **TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**

**Minutes of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board meeting held at Cromwell park, Almondbank, on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

**Present:** Iain McLaren (Convener)  
Councillor Bob Band  
David Godfrey  
Steve Mannion  
Claire Mercer Nairne  
Tom Monaghan  
Jim Perrett  
Mike Smith  
Alec Stewart  
Allister Wallace

**In Attendance:** Inga MacGillivray - Clerk  
Dr. David Summers - Fisheries Director  
Brian Roxburgh (SEPA)

**Apologies:** David Brown  
Nicki MacIntyre (SNH)  
Lord Mansfield  
Cohn O'Dea

1 member of public

The Convener noted that Lord Mansfield had reluctantly resigned and ALL agreed that his replacement should be the candidate from the December elections with the most votes (after Board electees). The candidate was Simon Furniss.

**ACTION: IMacG to contact Simon Furniss regarding place on the Board.**

The Convener noted that CMN wished to resign from the Tay Foundation (TF) and the Board would require a second representative to join him on the TF. AW "volunteered" to which ALL agreed.

There was some discussion surrounding the TF and the reason for CMN resignation (CMN stated she had felt the TF was not salmon centric). DS explained that the TF was a charity and had a wider remit than the Board, but that in practice salmon would still play a large role in its activities.

MS and SM asked that their concern over the reasons behind CMN resignation be minuted.

**ACTION: IMacG to arrange AW induction to TF.**

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no new declarations of interest.

**ACTION: IMacG to chase Board members for Declarations where not received.**

### **River Eden**

The Convener welcomed a River Eden representative to the meeting. The representative gave an account of the problems the Eden was facing and asked for help from the Board.

In particular, he asked if the Board would consider taking Eden fish for broodstock, put in a fish counter and extend the season. The continued Category 3 status and a recent pollution incident were concerns. The Board agreed to put 5,000 parr into the Eden next year if it received a licence from Marine Scotland but stated that a fish counter would be difficult to site correctly. The Marine Scotland national electrofishing model that was being developed was intended to provide another means of categorisation for rivers like the Eden but this was still just in development. As to the season extension, the Board did not think this would be granted by Marine Scotland given the present low catches in the river and recent marked decline in autumn running fish generally. The representative raised the question of water abstraction by farmers, which led to a brief discussion.

**ACTION: DS to ensure Eden stocked with 5,000 parr in 2019.**

**ACTION: DS to explore feasibility of Ranunculus study on Eden by TDSFB drone.**

**ACTION: Eden Angling Association to look into possibility of funding from recent pollution incident.**

The Convener thanked the Eden representative for attending the meeting.  
(The Eden Representative left the meeting)

### **3. Minutes from Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

The Minutes were then taken as being read, agreed unanimously and signed by the Convener.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **Luncarty Weir**

DS explained that he had been in touch with SEPA and their main concern was the amount of material upstream of the weir that might erode unpredictably once the weir was removed. DS had sent bailiffs to carry out a survey which confirmed there was a depth of sediment upstream of the weir. MS asked that the weir just be removed. DS and IMacL explained that for various reasons the weir could not be removed immediately.

BR pointed out that the weir was now the responsibility of Stewart Milne homes and they would have to maintain it. All agreed that there was no problem with removing the weir, but a plan was required to minimise the impact of removal.

**ACTION: DS /MS to work out plan for weir removal for next meeting.**

#### **Finance – FMS Expenditure**

**ACTION: DS to invite Alan Wells to a future Board meeting and perhaps Stewart Middlemass also.**

#### **Eden Electrofishing/Broodstock**

DS explained that he had contacted the Ness DSFB and that their trials had shown that catching smolts and rearing on was a slow process producing relatively low number of eggs but salmon fry had been caught this year following stocking in the spring providing that the eggs were viable.

#### **FMS Stocking Policy**

DS explained that the policy had been rewritten amidst some criticism. However, he still had concerns with the second draft from a Tay perspective.

**ACTION: DS to put in writing his concerns regarding the FMS stocking policy and forward to FMS.**

#### **MS queries and replies**

MS reported that he had never been happier!!

## **8. Presentation by Ian Robertson (Scottish Angling National Development Structure)**

Ian Robertson gave a presentation about his alliance with FMS and their shared vision to give young people exposure to angling, and the country environment.

The Board agreed to consider his proposals.

## **5. Financial Report**

### **Cash Account to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018:**

As at 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the Cash Account showed a small deficit of £1,034, and the overall bank balance stood at £427,427, of which £150k is invested.

### **Income**

The assessment and appeal figure in the forecast column remains the same as budget, as the Assessor will be processing all outstanding appeals by the end of October, so final figures will only be available then.

The Actual appeals figure of £6,381 relates to the Eden/Earn category 3 status from 2016, and the expected figure for the end of the year is £8,368.

The SISI project is now well under way, and a forecast of £1,500 has been added to reflect the monies to be claimed in mileage and staff time with regards to this project.

The consultancy forecast has increased by £18,600 to largely reflect £12k Government electrofishing program and £7k Pitcastle.

### **Expenditure**

Salary and pension figures are pretty much in line with budget.

The vehicle cost at £25,871 comprises roughly £10k repair bills, £4k insurance and the rest in fuel costs.

The rent, rates and general insurance total of £20,116 is predominantly made up of our annual insurance charge (£13k) as well as our monthly rates charge.

We have contacted the Government regarding the road repairs dispute and have had our neighbour's deeds inspected by our legal adviser. He will be sending a legal letter in the near future outlining our position on the matter.

Repairs actual figure of £10,647 includes the £4,800 lade repair bill.

Hatchery spend is £46,493 to date, of which £29,551 is salary related and of the remaining £16,492, £10k was spent on fuel, £1.2k on food, £1k on chemicals and the rest on sundries.

Fishtay and website spend of £8,380 largely relates to the Fishpal invoices.

The cost of Opening day, Pitcastle project, smolt project and drone surveys total £2,124 against the £2k projects budget. The forecast has been adjusted to reflect the slight increase.

Capital Expenditure of £31,389 relates to £12,750 cost of new Jimny, £16,664 for the new hatchery boilers and £1,975 for the drone.

We are now looking to be slightly over budget by £2,161, but this may all change once the appeals figures are known. IMacG stated that she had received an update from the assessor but was yet to finalise the figures.

## **6. Health & Safety Report**

DS reported no notifiable H&S incidents nor near misses since the last meeting.

### **7. Fisheries Director Presentation**

DS gave an overview of the history of his role as Fisheries Director, and how his workload had changed over the years. He listed his present areas of focus, and listed other issues that had impacted his work in the year.

### **9. TDSFB Plan for the Future**

The Convener stated he was aware time was running short but felt it important to discuss the plan for the future. MS suggested having another meeting prior to December to discuss agenda items not covered to which ALL agreed. DS went on to give a brief outline of the methodology behind the plan.

**ACTION: DS to circulate plan and papers to ALL ASAP**

(MS left the meeting)

### **10. AS Paper – C&R code for 2019**

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read. A brief discussion surrounding the code for 2019 ensued, with the majority of the Board agreeing to adopt the same code as previously used for 2018, and to adapt this should the need arise.

**ACTION: DS/IMacG to update code for 2019.**

### **13. AOB**

#### **Date for next meeting**

ALL agreed to meet on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm in Almondbank to discuss items not covered on agenda.

**ACTION: IMacG to circulate details to all Board members.**

#### **Fisheries Officers**

IMacG explained that the bailiffs were considering changing their title to Fisheries Officers, to which ALL agreed.

#### **Annual Report**

IMacG pointed out that there was no longer time to produce a “glossy” Board report as the printers demanded an earlier deadline, but this could be up for discussion for next year’s report.

There were no further items, and the Convener thanked the Board for attending, and closed the meeting.