

## **TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD**

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Proprietors within the Tay District held in terms of Section 44(1) of the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 held at Birnam Institute, Birnam, Dunkeld at 11am on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013.**

Present: Bill Jack (Chairman)  
Allan Dunnet  
Mike Hay  
Gordon Nichol  
David Brown  
Gary Harkin  
Rona Harkin  
Thomas Steuart Fotheringham  
Sam Mercer Nairne  
Bruce W Reid  
David Godfrey  
Bob White  
Edward Eadie  
Alastair Riddell  
Tim Atkinson  
Callum Towns  
John Young  
John Wood  
Simon Furniss  
Will Lindsay  
D R Milburn  
S R Wright  
Stephen Mannion

In Attendance: Dr. David Summers, Fisheries Director  
Lee Fisher, Operations Manager  
Inga McGown, clerk  
Mark Cockburn, Fishpal  
Jack Coburn, P&KC

Apologies: William Jackson  
Brian Roxburgh (SEPA)  
Lord Stormont

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

The Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

## **Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012**

The Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, which were incorporated into the Annual Report had been circulated and were taken as read.

The Administrator gave a brief overview of the accounts and the main variances year on year. 2012 saw a small surplus of £715, and a bank balance of £253k. The appeals continue to cause uncertainty for the finances, as there is a potential decrease in income.

Callum Towns queried whether the amount given by the Tay Foundation towards the funding of the hatchery was enough, whereby the Chairman replied that some of the monies raised from the Summer Lunch and Auction and the season extension were being kept for future investment in the hatchery should it be required.

The Accounts and Minutes were then approved on a proposal from Callum Towns, and seconded by Will Lindsay.

## **Annual Report 2012/13**

David Summers then gave a presentation on the 2013 fishing season, with emphasis on how well the season had gone, the Kelt Reconditioning facility, the Trial Extension and a proposed Scottish Government review of fisheries management.

As to why the season had gone so well on the Tay compared to previous years and other rivers, Dr. Summers gave some possible explanations including weather conditions coinciding with a stronger run of spring salmon and stocking. He stated that there were no conclusive answers to be drawn on the latter.

The kelt reconditioning facility intends to raise production from around 750 thousand spring salmon eggs to in excess of 1.5 million, many of which will be used to restart lost populations, for instance in the River Garry. Dr. Summers urged all attendees who had not been to see the hatchery to make a point of coming to view it, as it really is an impressive asset.

He then introduced the season extension, which has now completed its third year since its inception in 2011. The conditions of the trial are that it is 100% catch and release, with one third of all gross income from the participating beats to be donated to the Tay Foundation. The Chairman would then expand upon this later in the meeting.

As to the Government review of fisheries management, this is being scoped out at present and a secretariat has already been established. However, precise details of the areas it will cover and who will conduct the review are not yet available. The timing of this is already later than originally planned apparently. The future of District Salmon Fisheries Boards may be up for discussion. This review could be a major issue for the Board in the coming year.

On a proposal by David Godfrey, and seconded by Will Lindsay, the Annual Report was approved.

## **Season Extension**

The Chairman gave a brief history of the season extension. The licence was granted in August 2011, which did not leave much time for proprietors to let their beats for that season. Therefore, it was thought that the results from that year were inconclusive.

The Chairman went on to propose that we extend the trial for one final year in 2014 to give us three full years' data on which to base any decision. Furthermore, during the course of 2014, the Board should seek opinions from all interested parties to include not only proprietors, but hotels, tackle shops, and any other businesses directly affected by the extension. He proposed an EGM to be held after the season extension in 2014, but before the AGM, to determine whether we, as a river, would like to make the extension permanent by way of a vote.

The Chairman then opened the floor to comments or suggestions.

Callum Towns stated that Islamouth Fishings had gone along with the extension albeit reluctantly, but would certainly not be in favour of fishing beyond week 48 in 2014 and beyond.

The Chairman was asked whether we needed to apply for another licence, and replied that we have a provisional licence which cannot go beyond four years.

Bob White commented that the financial gain from donating a third of gross income to the Tay Foundation had been very worthwhile, and the Chairman agreed stating that by the end of 2014, we will have collected around £100k for the four years, which has greatly helped the hatchery running costs.

The Chairman then asked the attendees whether the Board should carry forward the extension proposal. There was a show of hands for, and only 2 against, therefore the motion was carried to extend the season in 2014, and then put to a vote.

### **Any Other Business**

Edward Eadie asked what the Board's views were on the Greenland decision to increase netting and indeed the Scottish salmon netsmen wanting to start their operations sooner in the season than in previous years.

Dr. Summers replied that the Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland have had a voluntary code of practice for the last 15 years not to net until April, but had stated they are considering now netting from the start of the season. It was not clear, he suggested, whether that was really the intention or whether they were really wanting to be compensated by District Fisheries Boards for not fishing, for example. The ASFB is currently developing a policy on this, but some parts of the country will be relatively unaffected anyway.

As to the issues in Greenland, Dr. Summers had not been keeping up with current information, but stated that Alan Wells of the ASFB was probably the best source of information, as he attended the meetings of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation where such issues were discussed and decided.

The Chairman closed the meeting by reminding the attendees that there will be another Open Meeting on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March to which all interested parties were welcome to attend. He added that all Board meetings were now open to the public, and all Minutes from meetings are now published on our website.

No further items were raised and the meeting was brought to a close.