TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

MINUTES FROM MEETING

7pm Tuesday, 7th June 2022

Present:	David Godfrey (Chairperson), Claire Mercer Nairne (CMN), Jerry Saunders (JS), Nicola Thompson (NT), Bobby White (BW)
In Attendance:	Dr. David Summers (DS) Fisheries Director, Inga MacGillivray (IMacG) Clerk to the Board, Anne Woodcock (AW) Marketing & Media One member of the public was present.

IMacG noted that TPM had tendered his apologies. She stated that DG had intimated he would be willing to chair the meeting. She asked if the Board were agreeable to this suggestion, and it was unanimously carried.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Toby Metcalfe (TPM) Convener, Andrew Parrott (AP), Calum Innes (CI), Nicki MacIntyre (NMcI) NatureScot Representative, Calum McGregor (CMcG) SEPA Representative, John Nevin (JN) and Peter Hutchinson (member of the public).

IMacG noted that CMcG had been promoted and would be in touch regarding a replacement representative.

2. **Declaration of Interests Update**

There were no new declarations.

3. **Minutes of Meeting held 12th April 2022**

The Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read. ALL agreed they showed a true and fair reflection of the meeting and the Chairperson signed a copy of said Minutes.

4. **Report on Matters Arising from Meeting held 12th April 2022**

The report had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

Salmon Strategy Presentation

DS noted he had met Marie Gougon personally at a recent event and had asked her to visit the Tay. He mentioned the issue of seal predation within the Tay catchment to her, of which she was aware. There was some discussion surrounding seal predation with no actions decided.

Governance & Policies Update

JS explained the Board were looking to update their policy regarding board member misconduct to include a right of appeal. He had checked the FMS policy and found it did not include any appeal. He had put the proposal to FMS for discussion and was awaiting feedback. He was supportive of FMS backing board policies, and NT concurred.

Ericht Abstraction sub committee

JS noted there had been a meeting of the group the previous week. He stated the feedback from the local group had been positive and constructive. He added that if this approach worked, perhaps it could be rolled out to other areas. DS agreed with this proposal.

5. Financial Report

The Financial papers had been circulated previously and were taken as read. IMacG presented the financial situation which showed a bank balance of £142,609 to 31st May 2022 with a net deficit of (£158,890) to date. She explained this was normal due to minimal income being received until assessment invoices were sent out.

NT asked that the new policy on paying assessment invoices be circulated to all proprietors. IMacG replied this was incorporated on the invoice but that she intended to highlight.

ACTION: IMacG to highlight new payment policy to all proprietors when sending out assessment levies

6. River Management Plan 2022 Update

Plan Objectives paper had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

Seal Licence

DS advised the seal licence had been denied and this had been the case on other rivers. DG asked if seals were an issue on the Eden and Earn and whether the Board could apply for a seal licence for these rivers. DS stated it was possible, but the main problem would be finding someone who could be authorised. The process involved gaining permission from the police and the specification of timings and logistics.

7. Draft 3 Year Plan for Approval

The draft 3 year plan had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

DS explained the plan was split between projects which could be achieved in 2022 and those to be developed in 2023/4.

DS noted that the Convener was keen to look at a plan similar to the Spey Catchment Initiative with NatureScot. The Chairman asked if this could be done through TRT and DS stated it could but would require discussion with NatureScot.

NT added that TRT would look at areas of the plan that could be funded by TRT.

JS thought the plan readable and brilliantly presented and he particularly liked the links to the Scottish Government salmon strategy.

There was some discussion surrounding smolt passage and pit tagging mortalities with no actions being determined.

NT asked if the draft plan was good to go. IMacG suggested board members examined the plan and fed back any comments to DS. Once finalised, she could then send out with the assessment invoices.

ACTION: ALL to examine plan and submit comments to DS by Friday, 17th June 2022

JS suggested making full use of hatchery and stocking as many areas as were allowed. DS explained that the Tay was a SAC area and therefore subject to restrictions on stocking, but that the Eden and Earn were not in a SAC area. He pointed out that the trouble with stocking the Eden and Earn was finding broodstock, and that there were issues with Eden survival rates.
JS added that the hatchery was a beacon of hope to anglers, ghillies and owners.
JS suggested producing a map detailing the various areas around the catchment and picking up on various points such as where the Board have stocked out and what juvenile populations are like in various locations.
The Chairperson stated that a lot of the information could be found in the annual report.
AW suggested using QR codes if a map were to be produced, which would bring the images to life.

8. Director Report

The Director's Report had been circulated previously and was taken as read.
DS noted that a fish rescue had been carried out the previous week at Stanley due to a burst pipe. He praised BW for his quick actions in alerting Board staff. SEPA had supported the Board in their dealings with the hydro operator and DS had suggested a licence review.
JS suggested approaching local people to monitor key areas at critical times during smoult passage.
NT suggested leaning on SEPA for inspection regimes.

9. Operations Manager Report

The Operations Manager Report had been circulated previously and was taken as read.
DS outlined a potential case which could not be taken forward due to there only being one witness. He explained the Fisheries Officers di have some bodycam equipment. The Chairman asked that the Fisheries Officers wore bodycam equipment to avoid future issues.
The Board asked DS to thanks the Fisheries Officers for their hard work.

ACTION: DS to thank Fisheries Officers team on behalf of the Board.

10. Hatchery Report

DS noted that most parr had now been stocked out and there were only the Lochay parr left, which would be stocked out later in the year. He highlighted the issue of low numbers of broodstock and asked for help with broodstock fishing in the autumn to augment numbers.
The Chairperson asked if BW could help with the broodstock fishing volunteers.

ACTION: BW/DS to liaise over broodstock fishing volunteers

11. Health & Safety Report

DS advised there had been no reportable incidents since the last meeting. The report from Green's of Haddington had been received but there were no material changes from last time.

ACTION: DS to liaise with Green's of Haddington regarding H&S report and finalise ASAP

12. **Tay Rivers Trust Update**

NT stated that the road repair was still high on the TRT agenda, as was the Auction Dinner in October. She noted that this was now a sell out event.
JS asked Board members if they could help with auction lots for the dinner.

13. **TRT/TDSFB Memorandum of Understanding Update**

DS noted the MoU was only awaiting the allocation of his and IMacG's time. The Chairperson asked if the time could be allocated on actual work undertaken and this was agreed.

ACTION: IMacG to send DS copy of timesheet
ACTION: IMacG to liaise with DS and invoice actual time used for all employees to TRT

The Chairperson asked if the lease had been agreed to which DS replied it had but was awaiting Board approval. NT suggested this could be done electronically.

14. **Marketing Update**

The Marketing Update paper had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

15. **Governance & Policies Update**

NT stated that the HR consultant had finalised most of the staff contracts and policies and just DS contract remained to be done. She noted the plan had been sent to DS and IMacG and was awaiting feedback. Once this was completed, there would be a further meeting with the HR consultant before signing off and communication with staff.

16. **AOB**

Complaint regarding large number of anglers on Tay beat

The Chairperson stated that a ghillie had complained to him regarding large numbers of anglers fishing on a Tay beat. This was noted by the Board.

The following items were discussed in private by the Board due to the fact they are of a commercially sensitive nature.

17. Minutes from Closed section of Meeting held 12th April 2022
18. Draft Budget 2022
19. Financial Report – Debtors Update
20. Proposals for co-optee Board member
21. AOB

End of Open Meeting Minutes

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th August 2022 at 7pm