

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE URR DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD HELD AT THE DOUGLAS ARMS HOTEL, CASTLE DOUGLAS ON TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2015

Present: W G N Gourlay (Chairman and Clerk)
R Bellamy
K Irving
W L Marshall
Captain D Ferguson
T C Florey

Apologies: D J Biggar
J Ribbens (GFT)
Miss J Graham (GFT)
Ms A Connick (SEPA)

Not Present: A. Craig, K. Gibson

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF 13th NOVEMBER 2014

The Minutes had previously been circulated in draft. They were approved without amendment.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

3. NETTING

George Gourlay advised that he had made a verbal agreement in principle only with the late Jamie Gilroy for the Board to lease the Balcary nettings from the 2016 season for 10 years at a rent of £1,000 per annum. Unfortunately this arrangement had not been ratified by the Board and reduced to writing before Mr Gilroy's death. There had been reservations regarding the possible effects of licencing and the responsibility for licencing particularly as Balcary is believed to be a mixed stock fishery.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the Board should pursue with Mrs Gilroy or the Executors conclusion of the lease arrangements. G. Gourlay said that this would probably be done in about June.

4. CATCH AND RELEASE

Members confirmed that they were aware of the Salmon (Annual Close Times and Catch and Release) (Scotland) Regulations 2014. Certain C.D.A.A. members had thrown their hands up in horror until reminded that the Regulations were in line with existing recommendations on the river.

5. WILD FISHERIES REVIEW

George Gourlay reported that he had completed and returned to A.S.F.B. their questionnaire requesting the Board's views on each recommendation in the review report. Noted that the legislations to be consulted on following the review is being dealt with in a piecemeal manner, initially under the Land Reform Bill.

R.A.F.T.S. and A.S.F.B. have a joint working group of which Jamie Ribbens is a member. Subsequent to the meeting the attached letter was received from A.S.F.B.

R. Bellamy offered to draft for circulation with the AGM papers a brief note outlining the possible effects on owners of the Wild Fisheries Review recommendations. The offer was accepted with alacrity.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

The cashbook and income and expenditure account for the period 20th May to 29th September was tabled.

| | £ |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Opening balance | 7,976.84 |
| Levies paid | 4,468.50 |
| Interest received | 11.94 |
| Expenditure | (4,206.31) |
| Closing Balance | <u>8,250.97</u> |

One further payment to D.A.A. as a contribution to bailiffing costs of £200 had been made. The total of levies outstanding was £382.50.

George Gourlay is to chase the outstandings.

Noted that the current levy income is sufficient to meet outgoings.

7. 2015 LEVY

Following the above agreed to recommend a standstill in the levy for 2015 at 45p in the £ to the AGM.

George Gourlay instructed to chase the Assessor regarding valuation of the Balcary nets.

8. CATCH STATISTICS

George Gourlay advised that with late returns the catch statistics previously circulated had been amended. The current version is attached to these Minutes.

9. SEPA

Anne Connick had provided a note of the current position regarding Dalbeattie Reservoir and crayfish following GFT's report and recommendation in December to use a Biocide.

Action is required from Scottish Water to agree funding and to enter into a Species Control Agreement with SEPA.

Nobody has kept D.A.A. in the loop. By this Minute both S.E.P.A. and G.F.T. are requested to do so.

10. GFT

A written report was tabled:-

- a) Crayfish
See above.
- b) Wind Farms
At U.D.S.F.B. instruction comments on the Loch Urr Wind Farm were sent to Scottish Government. There will be a bill for this service.
- c) Invoices
Noted the development of a follow up programme with approval and the possible availability of grant funding under SRDP.
- d) Biosecurity Status
Noted approaches to be made to the Associates to take on each with approval.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- a) George Gourlay and T. Florey explained the mechanics of revaluation and that the next revaluation year will be 2017, but based on catch data to 2015.
- b) George Gourlay to approach Mr Armstrong of Marine Scotland who had called off last year to ascertain if he could speak to the AGM this year. If not R. Bellamy could lead a discussion on the Wild Fisheries Review.
- c) Confirmed that this is not a year for reappointment of the Board. The AGM should be notified of the change of Chairman.
- d) Date of next Board meeting was not fixed. To be fixed at AGM on 10th March at 7pm.