



Skye District Salmon Fishery Board

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 5th April 2018 at Aros Heritage Centre, Portree at 10.30am

Present

Derek Dowsett (Snizort and Convenor), Duncan Burd (Red Burn, etc.), Neil Cameron (Portree Angling Association and Scottish Government), Peter Jarosz (Wester Ross DSFB), Martin and Catriona Leslie (Braes Estate), Claire Lumley-Holmes (Marine Harvest), Ewen MacPherson (SGRPID, Portree), Bill Peppe (Drynoch and Borline Fishings), Ian Stewart (Portree Angling Association), Karen Whelton (Marine Scotland) and Jim Rennie (Clerk).

1. Convenor's Welcome

Derek Dowsett welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Colin Cartwright (Clan Donald Lands Trust), Grant Fullarton (Broadford River – upper), Ally MacAskill (John Muir Trust), Sir Ian Macdonald of Sleat, Bt (Kilmuir Nets), Sarah McGrory (SNH) and Richard Oliphant of Condie (Kylrhea Fishings).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2017

Martin Leslie, seconded by Duncan Burd, proposed approval. Members agreed.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

a) Discharge of Effluent near Black Rock, Portree The Convenor advised that, as agreed, he had contacted both SEPA and Scottish Water requesting information following the sampling carried out. However, there had been no response. After discussion, it was agreed that he should write again, advising that if no response was received, he would be approaching the MSP for help in getting one. **Action point DD**

b) Outstanding Levy Payments The Clerk advised that Peter Jarosz had provided the wording used by the Wester Ross DSFB and had followed the procedure of writing three times to each proprietor with outstanding dues and this had elicited payment of dues up to 2016 from all but 3 Estates. Of these, MacLeod Estates will be visited by Martin Leslie to see if payment can be procured without having to take court action (Duncan Burd

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indicated his willingness to represent the Board should that be necessary). Mr van der Weem (North Scorrybreck) has proved elusive with the lawyers reputed to be representing him have indicated that they no longer do so. Duncan Burd offered to pass on documentation to him, and the Clerk will give him the necessary documentation. Ms Geischer (Broadford) is the other party and Duncan Burd agreed to write a letter advising her of the need for payment. **Action point JR and DB**

- c) *Possible Board amalgamations* It was noted that any amalgamation with the Wester Ross DSFB is on hold. The variation, especially in the levy rate, between the two Boards, is problematic.

5. Annual Accounts for 2017

The Clerk presented the audited accounts for 2017. The Clerk had forgotten to discuss the possible inclusion of outstanding dues with Donald Rankin's office before the 2018 accounts are prepared. Ewen MacPherson, seconded by Ian Stewart, proposed approval of the accounts. This became the finding of the meeting. It was also agreed, after discussion, that £3,000 should be passed to the Skye Fisheries Trust. **Action JR**

6. Clerk's Annual Report

This was noted.

7. Convenor's Report

Derek Dowsett urged all to stay on the alert regarding escapees from fish farms. The new farm in Uig Bay operated by Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd had suffered the loss of fish following damage to a cage in early 2018. The fish seem to have 'vanished' and their whereabouts are unknown.

8. Re-assessment of levy charged to proprietors

The current levy of 40p in the pound Sterling was considered adequate as no increase in expenditure by the Board is anticipated. It was noted that a re-assessment of valuations being undertaken by the District Valuer is unlikely to be completed until later in 2018 and we should await that before considering any change.

9. Any Other Competent Business

- a) *General Effect of Fish Farms on surrounding waters* Martin Leslie noted that the seabed being affected by fish farms consists of 'sludge' which currents disperse over quite a wide area. He noted that, many years ago, so many lobsters were caught around Portree that local families (including that of his in-laws) had so many that they were almost fed up with them. Nowadays, none are caught in the area. It was noted that SEPA set the standards to be met. The Convenor agreed to take the matter up with SEPA. **Action point DD**

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b)Concerns regarding Catch and Return Policy and Close Season Neil Cameron noted that Portree Angling Association members are making more comments regarding the catch and release policy and wondered whether an extension to the fishing season by a couple of weeks might be a good move. The Convenor agreed to follow this up and Karen Whelton agreed to ascertain what steps need to be taken by the Board in that respect.

Action point DD and KW

No members of the public attended the meeting, so business was concluded with Catriona Leslie proposing a Vote of Thanks to Derek Dowsett for chairing the meeting.

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