



## Skye District Salmon Fishery Board

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Aros Heritage Centre, Portree at 2.00pm

#### Present

Derek Dowsett (Snizort and Convenor), Duncan Burd (Red Burn, etc.), Roddy Campbell (Glendale Estate), Peter Jarosz (Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trust and Wester Ross ASFB), Martin and Catriona Leslie (Braes Estate), Ian Lindsay (Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trust), Stephen MacIntyre (Mowi Scotland Ltd), Ewen MacPherson (SGRPID, Portree), Juan Carlos Torres (Mowi Scotland Ltd), Lynn Schweisfurth (Member of public, Glendale Estate), Ian Stewart (Portree Angling Association) and Jim Rennie (Clerk).

#### **1. Convenor's Welcome**

Derek Dowsett welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Alan Johnson (Camasunary), Peter and Berni Kinloch (Kingsburgh and Glenhaultin), Ally MacAskill (John Muir Trust), Lord Godfrey Macdonald (Kinloch), Richard Oliphant of Condie (Kylrhea Fishings), Bill Peppe (South Bracadale) and Ally Young (Marine Scotland).

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The Convenor noted that an agreement to donate £3,000 to the Fisheries Trust had been omitted from the previous minutes. Subject to the amendment of the draft minutes to reflect the omission, Duncan Burd, seconded by Ian Stewart, proposed approval. Members agreed.

#### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes**

- a) Discharge of Effluent near Black Rock, Portree No response had been received from SEPA. Martin Leslie recommended an approach to the MSP to seek the answers sought. **Action point DD**
- b) Outstanding Levy Payments The Clerk noted that, with Duncan Burd's assistance, contact with Mr van der Weem had been established and part payment achieved. Martin Leslie's efforts had resulted in MacLeod Estates making payment of most of their outstanding dues. Ms Geischer has still made no payment, but the sum outstanding is under £100.

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- c) General Effect of Fish Farms on surrounding water The Convenor had failed to get a response from SEPA As with item 3a above, it was agreed to contact the MSP for assistance.
- d) Concerns regarding Catch and Return Policy and Close Season It was noted that an Act of Parliament (via a Private Member's Bill) would be needed to amend the season's dates.

## 5. Annual Accounts for 2018

The Clerk presented the audited accounts for 2018. After the Clerk had answered various questions, Ewen MacPherson, seconded by Catriona Leslie, proposed approval of the accounts. This became the finding of the meeting. It was noted that the Board has been paying for the Skye Fisheries Trust's telephone line in the Convenor's Skeabost office and it was agreed that this line should be disconnected. The Clerk will take the necessary steps.

**Action JR**

## 6. Clerk's Annual Report

This was noted. The Clerk agreed to issue assessments as soon as possible.

## 7. Convenor's Report

There was considerable discussion regarding the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee (ECCLR) report. Peter Jarosz noted that there are no assurances that the Scottish Government will take action on the report, despite the fact that current legislation doesn't meet the industry's needs and the status quo is not an option. However, SEPA is expected to announce new standards (for sea lice, etc.) at the end of May. Concern was also expressed about the requests made to the Icelandic Government for large-scale fin fish farms, which could have a devastating effect on wild salmon from UK waters. The views of the Icelandic Government are unknown. Stephen MacIntyre indicated that Mowi Scotland Ltd is willing to invite Board members to their fish farm sites to see what happens on their farms. Martin Leslie noted that the firm did the same a few years ago when they were called Marine Harvest. The offer was welcomed and should be followed up. Concern about the state of the seabed below fish farms continues to be of concern, and Stephen MacIntyre noted the problems involved with containment. Migratory routes of wild salmon are still relatively unclear and need investigation, perhaps with the fish farm industry helping to fund such research. In response to a question from Lynn Schweisfurth, Stephen indicated that Mowi are anxious to align with the views of locals where possible. The Convenor commented that quite often, it is Government action, or lack of it, which is at fault.

## 8. Re-assessment of levy charged to proprietors

Peter Jarosz noted that revised valuations have been issued for Wester Ross, but the Clerk indicated that he has heard nothing. He will contact the District

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Valuer before issuing a demand for 2019. The current levy of 40p in the pound Sterling was considered adequate as no increase in expenditure by the Board is anticipated. **Action JR**

**9. Election of Convenor, Vice-Convenor and Clerk**

Derek Dowsett indicated the Convenor's his desire to resign as Convenor, but expressed his willingness to continue as Acting Convenor until the end of the 2019 season if necessary. He left the meeting whilst the subject was discussed. It was agreed, after much discussion, that a Special General Meeting towards the end of October 2019 should be held to elect new office bearers and that the current incumbents should continue as acting officers until then.

**10. Any Other Competent Business**

There were no further matters for discussion. Business was concluded with Martin Leslie proposing a Vote of Thanks to Derek Dowsett for chairing the meeting.

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