

# **Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust**

## **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Kyle Fisheries Office, Ardgay**

### **Present**

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)  
Michael Brown (MB)  
John Green (JG)  
Tom Inglis (TI)  
Steven Mackenzie (SM)  
Gregor Macleod (GM)

### **Apologies**

Lt Col C Gilmour  
Richard Sankey

### **Attending**

Audrey Campbell, Administrator (AC)  
Alex Hunter (AH)  
Malcolm Moss (MM)  
Hugh Mackenzie, KSDSFB (HM)  
Keith Williams, Director (KW)  
Kim Sawyer (KS)  
Jonny Shaw (JS)

### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone present and noted that the meeting was quorate.

### **Minutes of AGM held 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – Approval and Adoption**

Minutes were adopted as an accurate record of the last meeting and signed by RDM. No comments.

### **Matters Arising**

None.

### **Chairman's Report**

2014 has been a year dominated by political events, such as the referendum, the Land Reform Review and Wild Fisheries Review.

The Wild Fisheries Review is due to report its recommendations in October, however the timing is unclear of how recommendations are implemented after that.

It has been a year of change for both the Trust and the Board. This has been a long, difficult process but is felt to be well worth it, with improved compliance, communication, financial management etc. It is particularly pleasing that, with the acquisition of the new office, everything is now under one roof. RDM felt that the changes made stand Kyle Fisheries in good stead and will set the bar for the future.

RDM expressed his gratitude to everyone for the considerable effort involved. The Trust is also greatly indebted to those individuals who contributed financially to the office purchase.

### **Directors Report**

2014 catches have been very disappointing, typically 50% of normal numbers, but some have reported as low as 30%. This appears to be the trend everywhere this year and is not confined to our catchment. Interestingly, fish counters show little change from normal numbers.

KW has taken part in a lot of fieldwork this season. The electrofishing programme is almost complete with key sites all done.

Diebidale habitat and electrofishing work is complete and the report is almost ready to be submitted to SEPA. SEPA will then assess if any remedial works should be carried out and whether they will be eligible for funding.

Pearl Mussel surveys have commenced as part of the Pearls in Peril Project. The PIP Riverwatcher gave a short presentation at the recent Ghillies meeting. KS felt that it was a useful and interesting talk.

MB asked if there was any possibility of becoming involved in pearl mussel hatchery work. KW advised that this has been considered but is extremely unlikely; this type of work must be driven and funded by SNH.

More regular newsletters have been issued to improve communication. 'Pearls in the Classroom' events are about to start. The 'Salmons Tale' events held in conjunction with the Kyle Development Trust continue, with two spawning related events scheduled for November.

KW will carry out a thorough review of projects, activities, staffing, costs etc. over the winter months. The Fishery Management Plan is out of date and will be redrafted before being circulated for input. An up to date, strong FMP is critical for the future and will dictate the way forward. It will also be important to identify clearly where different responsibilities lie, either with the Board or Trust.

It was noted that the new office has created an opportunity for the local community to call in and engage with the Trust. It is hoped to do more to encourage this in the future.

#### **Adoption of Draft Accounts to amended year end 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

The financial year end has been amended to fall in line with the Board. TI proposed that the draft is an accurate reflection of the accounts and these were adopted subject to minor amendments which do not affect the figures.

#### **Election/Re-election of Trustees**

Richard Sankey and Tom Inglis both stood down and offered themselves for re-election subject to approval.

RDM proposed they both be re-elected, SM seconded.

#### **Articles of Association**

No changes proposed.

#### **Reappointment of Auditors**

All agreed that AW Gray & Butler, Tain, be reappointed.

#### **AOB**

AH asked if the AGM date could be moved to the end of October or the beginning of November. This will be considered.

MM felt that the Draft Accounts do not have enough detail about charitable activities. JG hoped that in the future the Trust will concentrate more on scientific and educational work. He would like to see, for example, schools in the area coming to visit educational displays in the office, tours or 'meet the biologist' events.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of the next AGM to be advised.

#### **Meeting Closed**

<b>ACTION POINTS</b>			
	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed By:</b>
1	AC	Ask accountants to make minor changes to accounts	immediate