

# **Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust**

## **Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 6pm  
Kyle Fisheries Office, Ardgay**

### **Present**

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)  
Michael Brown (MB)  
Steven Mackenzie (SM)  
Gregor Macleod (GM)

### **Trustee Apologies**

John Green  
Tom Inglis  
Richard Sankey

### **Attending**

Dr Mark Coulson, RLI, (MC)  
Hugh Mackenzie (HM)  
Keith Williams, Director (KW)  
Calvert Stinton, KoSAA

### **Trust Member Apologies**

N Forman Hardy  
Lt Col Colin Gilmour  
Hamish MacFarlane  
Nin Vestey

### **Trust Members or Nominated Proxies Attending**

Michael Baird  
Nicky Griffiths  
John Wightman  
Ashe Windham  
Atty MacDonald - Proxy for John Green  
Alex Hunter - Proxy for Richard Sankey  
Hugh Mackenzie, KSDSFB - Proxy for Michael Hasson  
Audrey Campbell, KSDSFB - Proxy for Tom Inglis (AC)

### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone present, noting apologies and introducing Mark Coulson from the Rivers & Lochs Institute (RLI).

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

Minutes were adopted without comment as an accurate record of the last meeting and signed by the Chair.

### **Matters Arising**

Action point discharged. KW continues to review Trust activities. It was noted that a great deal of progress has been and will continue to be made.

Project work completed last year resulted in significant progress on the Diebidale barrier easement project and a scoping study is now underway. The draft Fisheries Management Plan was produced. This has highlighted possible areas of work for the future.

### **AS<sup>3</sup>IG Project (Assessment of Salmon Stocks in Scotland – Integrating Genetics)**

Mark Coulson advised that the project, presented to Trustees at the March 2015 meeting is now underway. The project, focussing on rivers flowing into the Moray Firth, would like to develop specific case studies in the Kyle area with the support of the Kyle Board and Trust.

It was agreed that this research may complement current Trust activities and would be a useful tool to inform future conservation. KW will meet Mark to develop case study options before presenting these to the Trustees for discussion.

### **Chairman's Report**

This has been the first full year working within the new Kyle Fisheries structure; a change which RDM felt has brought many benefits and cost efficiencies. The current financial position is better than expected despite concerns expressed at the last AGM. The Joint Management Group is working well, meeting regularly to discuss day-to-day issues and provide KW with guidance and support.

Wild Fisheries reform recommendations have again dominated the year. This has a more direct effect on the Board; however it serves to focus the minds of Trustees on how they will fit into the proposed new FMO structure. RDM has spent a lot of time discussing the process and possible outcomes with RAFTS and ASFB however decision making is hampered by the vague political situation, particularly in relation to timing. It would seem that change at Board level is not likely to get underway until 2018.

### **Directors Report**

A written summary was made available to the Trustees in Dropbox prior to the meeting.

Progress on the Diebidale barrier easement has been necessarily slow but steady.

Upper Shin smolt work went very well with a great deal of effort from Hugh and Audrey. Data collected will inform an assessment of potential remedial action to improve smolt passage. Additionally, KW provided SEPA with information which resulted in the downgrading of the ecological status of Loch Shin and its tributaries.

The Oykel Scale Sampling project has continued and a report on findings will be written shortly.

The Trust currently holds a lot of data and it is hoped to make more use of this in the future, for instance to assist Scottish Government in making fully informed conservation decisions. New projects will be considered according to capacity.

KW intends to produce a full annual report for publication as part of the wider communication strategy. 'Kyle lines' has been well received and will continue.

### **Adoption of Draft Accounts to amended year end 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

RDM proposed that the draft is an accurate reflection of the accounts and these were adopted and signed.

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

Michael Brown and Gregor Macleod both stood down and offered themselves for re-election subject to approval. RDM proposed they both be re-elected, all agreed.

AC pointed out that Steven has now completed his second 2-year term as the river workers representative.

### **Articles of Association**

No changes proposed.

### **Reappointment of Auditors**

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

There had been some issues with the Company Secretary role this year. All agreed that this would be brought 'in house' with KW taking on the position.

**AOB**

None proposed.

**Date of next Annual General Meeting**

The proposed date of the next AGM is 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016. This will be confirmed or amended following discussion at the Board meeting tomorrow.

**Meeting Closed**

<b>ACTION POINTS</b>			
	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed By:</b>
1	KW	Meet Mark Coulson to develop ideas for AS <sup>3</sup> IG case studies in Kyle catchment before presenting to the Board	By Spring meeting
2	KW	Change company secretary.	Immediate
3	AC	Confirm meeting date	As soon as possible