

# **Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust**

## **Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, 6.30pm  
Kyle Fisheries Office, Ardgay**

### **Present**

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

### **Trustee Apologies**

John Green  
Tom Inglis

### **Attending**

Alex Hunter  
Keith Williams (KW)

### **Trust Member and Other Apologies**

N Forman Hardy  
John Wightman  
Calvert Stinton  
Lt Col Colin Gilmour  
Hamish MacFarlane  
Nicky Griffiths  
Gary Gruber  
Michael Hasson

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

Michael Baird  
Andrew Graham Stewart  
Philip Blowers  
Ashe Windham  
Robert Elliott - Proxy for John Green  
Iain Gollan - Proxy for Michael Hasson

### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone present, noting apologies.

### **Minutes of AGM held 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Approval and Adoption**

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

### **Matters Arising**

KW has now taken over the role of Company Secretary.

Following on from the AS<sup>3</sup>IG Project (Assessment of Salmon Stocks in Scotland – Integrating Genetics) presentation by Dr Mark Coulson at the 2015 AGM KW had spoken to Dr Coulson in order to investigate potential uses of the project in the Kyle catchment. Some investigative electro-fishing had been undertaken on the Carron but to date the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust are not formally involved in the project.

### **Chairman's Report**

To date 2016 had been a year dominated by politics including Brexit, land reform and ongoing wild fisheries reform. Kyle Fisheries remained involved as much as possible in the wild fisheries reform process but there has been little recent progress from the Scottish Government, particularly in relation to funding and the timing of changes. In terms of the potential inclusion of the Kyle of

Sutherland area in a future Fisheries Management Organisation (FMO), current focus was on a potential Brora, Fleet and Kyle FMO. Kyle Fisheries remains flexible in outlook towards the future.

A new umbrella fishery management organisation, provisionally entitled Fishery Management Scotland was likely to be formed in November which would encompass ASFB and RAFTS. This is largely as a result of the wild fisheries reform process and it is anticipated that the organisation would represent future FMOs. This would obviously have implications for the Trust and the role that it may play alongside an FMO.

Kyle Fisheries continues to operate effectively with the statutory body (Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fisheries Board) managing the rivers with the charitable body (Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust) focussing its objectives on habitat improvement, socio-economic benefit and public education and information. The present financial situation was adequate for the Trust although it was clear that new sources of funding were required.

### **Directors Report**

During 2016 further efforts have been made to improve communications with an annual report for the 2015 calendar year produced in conjunction with the Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board. Editions of the electronic newsletter *Kyle Lines* are also produced periodically to keep interested parties up to date with developments as they occur. It is anticipated that the 2016 edition of the annual report will be available early in 2017. Electronic copies of the 2015 annual report and the newsletter are available on the website.

A number of major projects have continued in 2016 which were started in previous years. These include the ongoing Shin smolt trapping work utilising the rotary screw traps owned by the Trust. As a result of the work undertaken in the spring of 2016, the assessment of options for remedial action to allow improved survival of smolts emanating from Loch Shin tributaries are now focussed on trapping and subsequently transporting smolts downstream of SSE dams. Fish counter figures from Shin Diversion Dam would suggest that more salmon are coming back to spawn in Loch Shin tributaries than has been the case for a number of years, although we believe that there is still considerable room for improvement. The obstacle to fish migration presented by the lochan at Diebidale also continues to receive attention with tenders being prepared for a second phase of the project, aimed at increasing understanding of the sediment types present in the lochan and other associated factors. It is anticipated that the second phase of the project will be completed by spring 2017.

Other projects undertaken under the Trust banner have now been completed, or are close to completion. The Oykel scale reading project which has now been concluded has produced a number of insights into the age structure present in salmon stocks with particular emphasis on the early-running fish which are so economically important to the catchment. The Moray Firth Trout Initiative has been hosted by the Trust since its inception, as was its predecessor the Moray Firth Sea Trout Project. Marcus Walters was the project officer for both incarnations of the trout project which was funded by a number of fishery boards and trusts within the Moray Firth as well as external funders. Sadly the lack of current funding availability has led to the ending of the role of project officer, although we understand that Marcus has been offered employment by the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Trust. We certainly wish him well in his future endeavours.

**Adoption of Draft Accounts to amended year end 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

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

**Election/Re-election of Trustees**

Robbie Douglas Miller and John Green both stood down and offered themselves for re-election subject to approval. RDM proposed they both be re-elected, all agreed.

**Articles of Association**

No changes proposed.

**Reappointment of Auditors**

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

**AOB**

None proposed.

**Date of next Annual General Meeting**

TBA.

**Meeting Closed**

<b>ACTION POINTS</b>			
	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed By:</b>
1	KW	Confirm 2017 AGM date.	As soon as possible