

# Minutes

## Beauly District Fishery Board

Project: Board Meeting  
Venue: Lovat Arms Hotel, Beauly  
Date: 6 June 2013  
Present: J Miller (Chair), M Spencer Nairn, F Spencer Nairn, P Pacey,

In attendance: M Fraser, K Williams (Ness & Beauly Fisheries Trust);  
A Campbell (Clerk)

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Description	Action
<b>1 Apologies</b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from Michael Bennett, Jane Whitbread and Suzie Swift.	
<b>2 Minutes of the Board Meeting 6 December 2011</b>	
2.1 The Minutes of the Board Meeting of 4 December 2012 were approved as an accurate record.	
<b>3 Matters Arising</b>	
3.1 It was agreed that the Clerk and Keith Williams would liaise to ensure that in future catch statistics were analysed using the NASCO assessment tool. It was noted that Marine Scotland deemed spring catches to be prior to 30 April in any year.	Clerk/KW
3.2 It was agreed that there was no pressing need to use powers available to the Board under The Conservation of Salmon (Collection of Statistics) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, but it was noted that one proprietor had failed to provide an annual catch return to the Board in 2012 and that this should be monitored.	
3.3 The Clerk was asked to obtain an indication of spring catch and release rates for the next meeting in December.	Clerk
<b>4 Report from Ness and Beauly Fisheries Trust (NBFT)</b>	
4.1 Further to comments in the previous Minutes, Keith Williams confirmed that NBFT had now submitted its consolidated report on three years of electro-fishing in the headwaters of the Belladrum, Bruaich, Culburnie and Abhainn Deabhag burns to the Lower Beauly Fishing Syndicate Working Party. It was noted that any decision to re-commence artificial stocking would ultimately rest with the Board, should an approach be made by the	

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Syndicate.	
<b>4.2</b> A report had also been provided to the Syndicate on the fin-clipping experiment using parr from the Corff hatchery released into the main stem Lower Beaully in 2009. Only 1 returning fish had been indentified as re-captured, however using results form other experiments elsewhere, the indications are that any additional return from this method of stocking is likely to be very small.	
<b>4.3</b> NBFT was still to distribute the standard annual electro-fishing report for 2012, covering the Beaully catchment. Keith Williams to arrange this.	KW
<b>4.4</b> Beaully Burns Project	
Keith Williams confirmed that: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Japanese knotweed at Bridgend had been treated by stem-injection. Follow-up treatment will be required.</li><li>• Discussions were ongoing with Beaully Angling Club to arrange volunteer assistance with clearing/tidying the Beaully burns</li><li>• A demonstration project was being discussed with one landowner in the higher reaches of the Bridgend burn. This would involve fencing off banks, reinstating drains and planting riparian trees. It was agreed that the Board might consider a contribution to the cost of this.</li></ul>	KW
Keith Williams was asked to forward photographs etc. to enable a news item to be placed on the Board web-site.	
<b>4.5</b> The proposed clearance of artificial barriers in the Bridgend and Culburnie burns had made little progress, with both RAFTS and SEPA seemingly unable to progress this.	
<b>4.6</b> It was acknowledged that there were advantages of carrying out these works using the SEPA's restoration fund; both in financial terms and liability risk, should consequential damage be caused to third party property. However it was agreed that a letter should be sent to SEPA and RAFTS on behalf of the Board expressing concern at the continual delays. Keith Williams undertook to draft this.	KW/Clerk
<b>4.7</b> NBFT is planning a project to enhance the riparian environment around the Abhainn Deabhag at Tomich.	KW
<b>4.8</b> The long-awaited report on genetic structure in the Beaully system is now expected imminently, though results are likely to be 'unsatisfactory' and may indicate residual genetics from Norwegian farmed fish.	
<b>4.9</b> Keith Williams was asked if he felt able to allocate an appropriate proportion of his time to the Beaully catchment, rather than the Ness. The Chairman stated that, provided agreed actions were being undertaken,	

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which personnel were involved was less critical.

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| <p><b>4.10</b> It was noted that the NBFT Action Plan for the Beauly catchment was due for review. NBFT was asked to bring forward a draft plan for 2014 onwards to the next Board meeting in December.</p> <p><b>4.11</b> NBFT is proposing a further investigation into non-native plant invasion on the system. This will require an outside researcher. It was agreed that the Board would contribute £1,000 towards this, £350 to research and £650 to subsequent work.</p> <p><b>4.12</b> Keith Williams was asked to forward a summary of proposed projects and potential contributions sought from the Board.</p> <p><b>4.13</b> It was reported that the Lower Beauly Fishing Syndicate intended to undertake clearance of a blockage on the Breakachy burn, caused by fallen trees in the gorge below Teanassie, during this summer. The Chairman and Clerk both declared an interest due to involvement with the Syndicate. It was agreed the Board would contribute £1,000 to the cost of this work.</p> <p><b>5 SSE Liaison Committee</b></p> <p><b>5.1</b> The draft Minutes of the Liaison Committee meeting of 15 May 2013 were not yet available. The Clerk to chase this up with SSE.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> It has been reported that the River Glass was likely to run low during June 2013, due to works at Fasnakyle power station.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> The proposed drum-gate testing on Aigas and Kilmorack dams had not taken place. No specific new dates had been proposed.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> It had been confirmed that the operation of the fish passes commenced in spring (1 April for Kilmorack and Aigas), based upon the fact that fish would have been unlikely to climb the original falls when temperatures were lower.</p> <p><b>5.5</b> The Clerk was asked to confirm with SSE how often the turbines were running at optimum load (speed) during the smolt run.</p> <p><b>6 Bailiffs</b></p> <p><b>6.1</b> REMOVED - CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p><b>6.2</b> The Chairman emphasised that, although bailiffs are not employed by the Board, but by proprietors and that they have other responsibilities, it is important that the Board ensures adequate coverage of the River to prevent poaching.</p> | <p>KW</p> <p>KW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
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<b>6.3</b>	The Clerk was asked to ensure that warranted bailiffs were supplied with each other's contact details.	Clerk
<b>6.4</b>	Keith Williams confirmed that he would coordinate a meeting with the various bailiffs and ghillies on the Beauly system later in the month.	KW
<b>6.5</b>	REMOVED - CONFIDENTIAL	
<b>6.6</b>	REMOVED - CONFIDENTIAL	
<b>6.7</b>	REMOVED - CONFIDENTIAL	
<b>7</b>	<b>Financial Report to date</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	The Clerk confirmed that expenditure for the year to date was £3,421 from a total budget of £35,702. Expenditure to date was predominantly made up of a contribution to the Cromarty District Fishery Board for boat patrols and annual subscription to ASFB.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Association of Salmon Fishery Boards /Code of Good Governance</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	The Chairman reported that the obligations on the Board to provide public reports and demonstrate compliance with the Code were only likely to be enhanced by the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill currently going through Scottish Parliament. A copy of the ASFB briefing on this Bill and the ASFB Chairman's letter had been circulated to Board members.	
<b>8.2</b>	It was agreed a link to ASFB's affordable fishings page should be placed on the Board' website.	Clerk
<b>8.3</b>	The Clerk confirmed he has written to the Chairmen of the Community Councils in the Board catchment, highlighting the Board's website and published Minutes.	
<b>8.4</b>	It was agreed an approach should be made to the Ness Board to consider launching a buy-out bid for the remaining net fisheries in the Inner Moray Firth.	Chair
<b>9</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	REMOVED - CONFIDENTIAL	
<b>9.2</b>	Mr Pacey updated the Board on discussions between the Beauly Angling Club and SSE concerning the underground cabling under the River Beauly at Beauly village. Works were planned for June/July and likely to take 6 weeks. The contractors had provided assurances that previous projects had indicated very little vibration impact at ground level and no interruption to fish passage was envisaged. Mr Pacey and Keith Williams were asked to confirm that the works would not be undertaken 24 hours per day.	PP/KW

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- 9.3** Mr Pacey stated that reports had been received recently of a bad sewage type smell in the Teaweg burn. It was agreed that SEPA should be informed if pollution was suspected.
- 9.4** Following a query from Michael Spencer-Nairn, Keith Williams confirmed that he expected that the quota for shooting Sawbill Birds under License would be met during 2013. He further reported that he was continuing to liaise with SNH to bring about a research project to establish the movement of birds between the river system and the Firth, with the intention of obtaining an enhanced licence for the river. In the meantime, the Beaully Firth SPA was reported as being in unfavourable condition, although this could be down to the time of year the RSPB carried out bird counts.
- 9.5** The Clerk confirmed that a meeting had been held with the nominated marksmen at the time the licence was received. The purpose of this meeting was to outline the responsibilities under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 and the reporting procedure to ensure licence conditions were met. Keith Williams emphasised to the meeting that the purpose of the license was as an additional measure to traditional scaring tactics which should also be used wherever possible.
- 10 Date of Next Meeting**
- 10.1** It was agreed that the next Board meeting will be held in December 2013. The date to be confirmed.

Clerk

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