

**Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board
Board Meeting at The Thistle Hotel, Inverness
24th January 2013**

Minutes

<p>Present: Bill Whyte (Chairman) Gordon Crawford Hugh Whittle Stephen Bate Ray Dingwall Donald Rice Brian Fraser Frank Buckley</p> <p>Apologies: Jenny Scobie, Jamie Crawford & Pat Wilson</p>	<p>In attendance: Peter Jarosz (Clerk) Andrew Wallace (RAFTS) Callum Sinclair (RAFTS) Donna-Claire Hunter (RAFTS)</p>
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1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jenny Scobie, Jamie Crawford and Pat Wilson.

2. Chairman's Address

BW gave a brief introduction to the itinerary of the meeting and ran through essential health & safety procedures for the venue.

3. MIAPs Presentation (by RAFTS)

- Andrew Wallace gave a short introduction to the presentation.
- Callum Sinclair added a brief overview of the project to date.
- Donna-Claire Hunter then gave a Powerpoint presentation of the project with detailed commentary on each "slide" and the various phases of the project.

4. Questions (Board/RAFTS)

There followed a session of question and answers that established:

- The mechanics of the model are transparent, fully open and available for external scrutiny.
- Rivers will not be scored low because of their catch statistics as catch statistics are not included in the model.
- The criteria that influences the coastal area classification was explained.
- Sweep netting reports for both 2011 and 2012 are on the RAFTS' web site.
- The genetics report will be produced and published within the next few weeks.
- If the board so decides WRASFB could back MIAPs as a unique partner on a conditional basis.
- Questions from three proprietors were also asked by BW and answered by RAFTS.

5. Discussion (Board only)

After lengthy discussion on the presentation and the following question/answer session, the question to be answered remained as: could this model be a useful tool when responding to aquaculture planning applications?

It was considered that further insight into this particular project is required before any decision can be made by the board.

There was a general opinion that a model of this type could be useful, particularly in the absence of any other tool (for use in response to planning applications) and mindful of the presence of the MSS locational document.

6. AOCB

- The minutes of the 3rd January board meeting were not presented for ratification as JS had proposed some amendments but was not present.
- Peter Cunningham has produced an interpretation briefing of the MSS locational document and circulated it to board members.
- WRASFB web site is being looked into by JC.
- RD has put forward a number of ideas for community projects.
- WRASFB has submitted a response document to the Land Reform Consultation.
- DR is looking into the requirements for an RSPCA freedom foods endorsement
- Board/WRFT a meeting will be arranged with JM/BW to discuss any future WRASFB/WRFT relationship
- Crown Estate initiative – SB will delve further for possible outcomes were the board to participate.
- Board finances – proposal by HW (seconded by GC) to increase the board's cash reserves to the equivalent of one year's levy income. DR said that rather than stop payment to WRFT completely, the board should contract specific work for the trust to do. IR said that the board should inform WRFT as early as possible whatever decision it makes regarding finances to the trust. BW said the trust had been informed that the previous method of open funding would not continue but that a "contract" system might be explored, the trust would be notified of the outcome.
- A proposal to set the levy for 2013-14 at £0.90p in the pound and send out invoices on 1st April 2013 (with reminders, where necessary, going out on 1st May 2013) was unanimously passed.
- BW opened a discussion on board confidentiality and in particular, the actions of JS over the past month. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- After what was agreed had been a really interesting meeting, it was decided that there was now a need to produce a statement of the board's view of MIAP. In the absence of JS from the meeting, SB and GC were to assume the lead and prepare a board statement.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of our next meeting will be in May 2013 after the results of a date poll yet to be circulated.