

# WRASFB ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

supported by the Fisheries Management Scotland [FMS] and Fish Legal



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAR.....Controlled Activities Regulations  
CL.....Conservation Limit  
DSFB.....District salmon Fishery Board  
FMO.....Fisheries Management Organisation  
IFM.....Institute of Fisheries Management  
INNS.....Invasive Non Native Species  
MH.....Marine Harvest  
MS .....Marine Scotland  
MSS.....Marine Scotland Science  
MSW.....Multi Sea Winter  
NASCO..North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation  
PAW.....Partnership Against Wildlife Crime  
AC.....Special Area of Conservation  
SEPA.....Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
SNH.....Scottish Natural Heritage  
SSSI.....Site of Special Scientific Interest  
THC.....The Highland Council  
TSSC.....The Scottish Salmon Company  
WFR.....Wild Fisheries Reform

## **The Board Role**

The Wester Ross Area Salmon Fisheries Board (WRASFB) is the statutory body responsible for the protection and enhancement of salmon and sea trout fisheries in its designated area. It was constituted under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Act) Scotland 2003. Salmon fishing rights are private heritable titles that are registered separately from land and as such can be bought or sold like any other property.

District salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) finance their work by applying a levy on the salmon fishery proprietors as directed under the 2003 Act. The 2003 Act states that “a district Board shall have the power to impose an assessment, to be known as the fishery assessment, on each salmon fishery in their district. The fishery assessment is assessed at such uniform rate as is determined for all fisheries in the district by the Board and, shall be levied according to the valuation of a fishery as entered into the valuation role”.

A DSFB may do such acts, execute such works and incur such expenses as may appear expedient for:

The protection or improvement of the fisheries within their district;

The increase of salmon (or sea trout); or

The stocking of the waters of the district with salmon (and seatrout).

Elected members of those salmon fishery owners (proprietors) form the core membership of the Board with a requirement for representatives of salmon anglers and tenant netmen being co opted onto the Board.

## **Board Members**

Board members are elected triennially and the last election took place in November 2015. The elected members then elect one of their number as Chairman before considering candidates for co option to the Board. The current Board members are:

### Upper Proprietors

Bill Whyte... (chairman).....mandatory for Jane Maclay, (Gruinard).

Steven Bate

Donald Rice.....mandatory for Regina Anna Properties (Dundonnell)

Hugh Whittle.....mandatory for Inveran Fishings Ltd (Inveran)

Rosie Nichol.....mandatory for Pat Wilson (Kinlochewe)

Gordon Crawford..... mandatory for Nicholas Crawford (Ellean Darrach)

Neil Morrison.....mandatory for Phillip Smith (Coulin)

### Lower Proprietors

Gordon Crawford.....mandatory for Nicholas Crawford (Eilean Darrach)

Johnny Whitteridge.....mandatory for Jane Whitteridge

### Cooptee`s

Colin Blyth..... Anglers` representative

Brian Fraser .....Ghillies` representative

## **Board Staff**

The Board has no full time staff but meets its obligations with part time staff and voluntary positions

Peter Jarosz ..... Clerk to the Board (P/T)

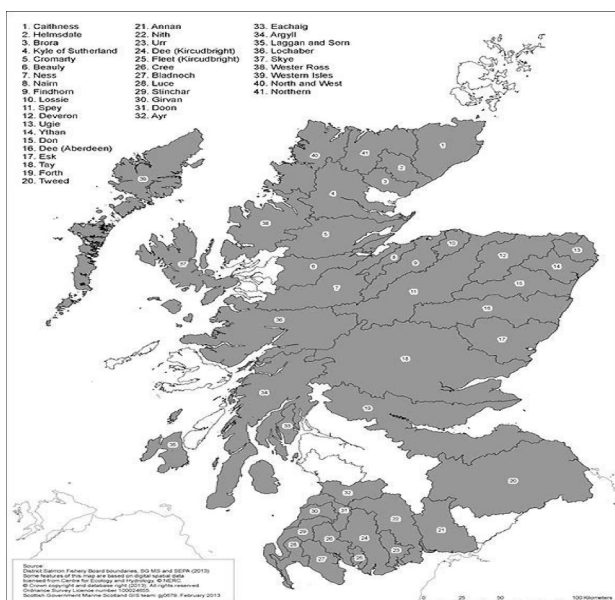
Bill Whyte.....Water Bailiff (v)

Ray Dingwall.....Water Bailiff (v)

Neil Morrison.....Water Bailiff (v)

Duncan Mackenzie.....Water Bailiff (v)

## The Area



## What We Do

Most DSFBs throughout Scotland are responsible for only one river within one catchment and the funding raised by the levies are used to provide protection and enhancement of salmon stocks throughout the whole system where every proprietor sees the benefits.

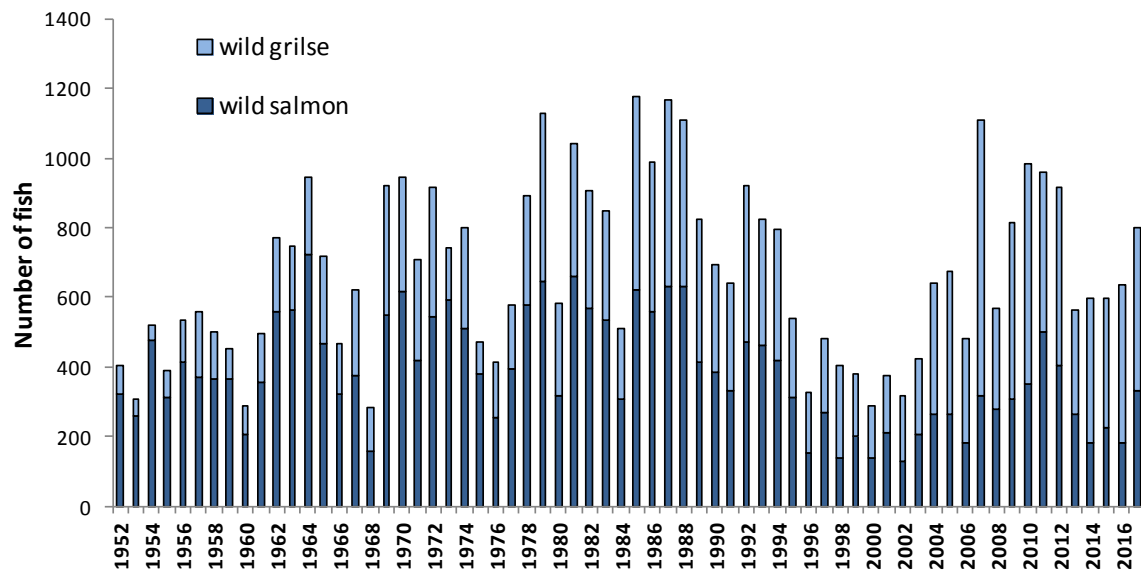
The WRASFB however, has one of the highest numbers of rivers / catchments within its boundaries so, recognising the geographical extent of the Board area (Kanaid to Applecross) and the high numbers of rivers within it, the WRASFB addresses at Board level, only those tasks which are essential or are most effectively handled centrally as part of the Boards statutory remit. All other basic river management aspects remain with the proprietors.

## **Graphs for salmon and sea trout for WRASFB meeting October 2018**

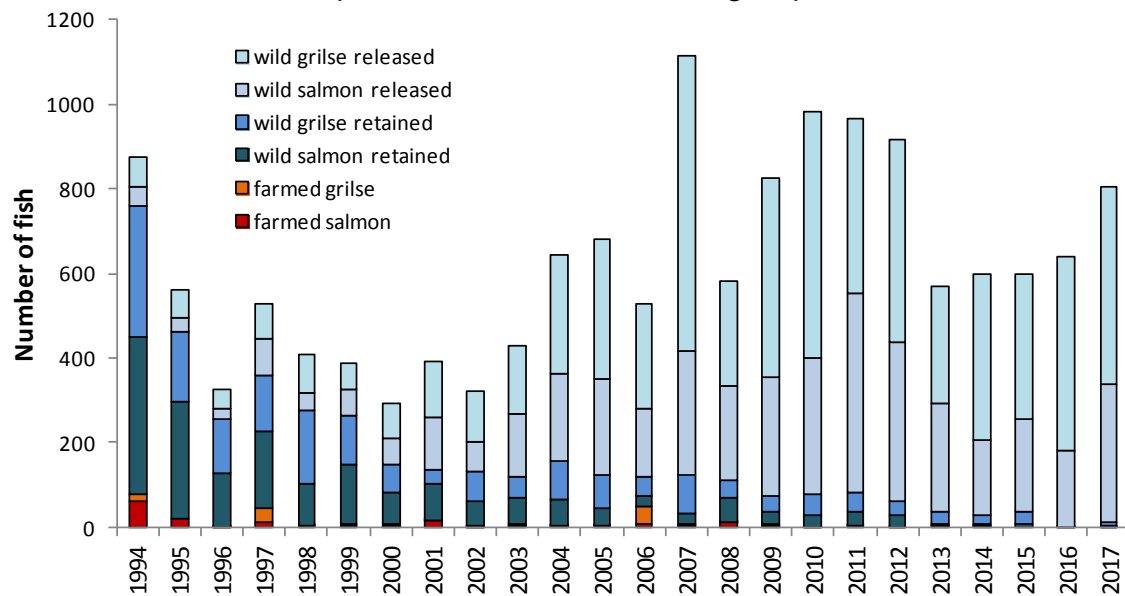
### **Salmon**

Note that the 2016 figures have been corrected from those published based on assumption that all salmon and grilse were released (one fishery reported some in retained table when they should have been in released table in return catch form).

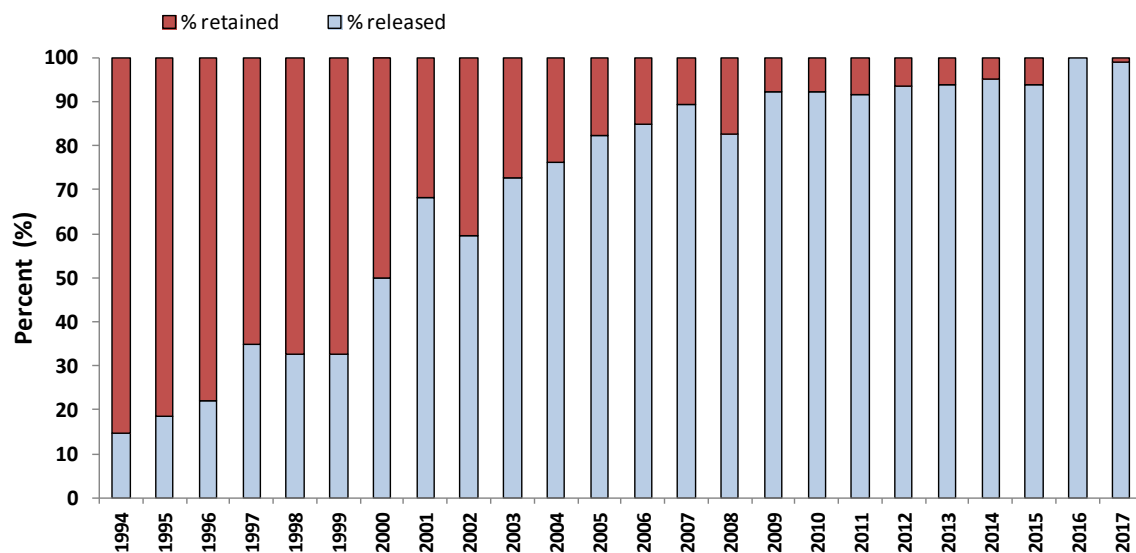
**Rod catches of wild salmon and grilse in WRASFB area 1952-2017**  
(corrected Scottish Government figures)



**Rod catches of salmon and grilse in WRASFB area 1994 - 2017**  
(corrected Scottish Government figures)

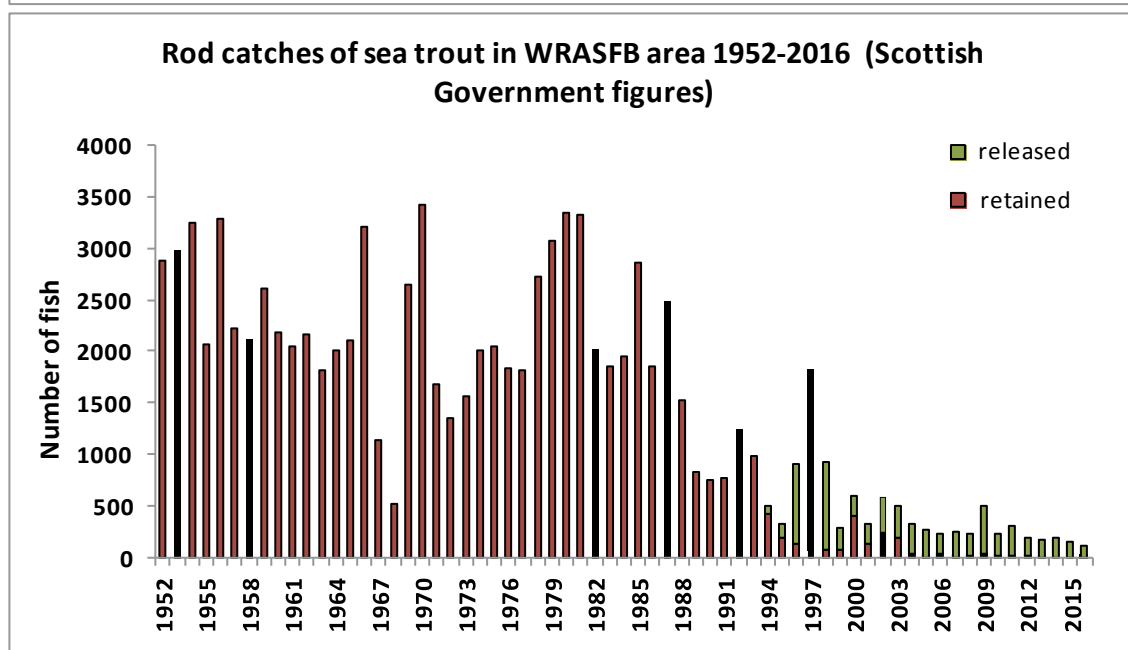
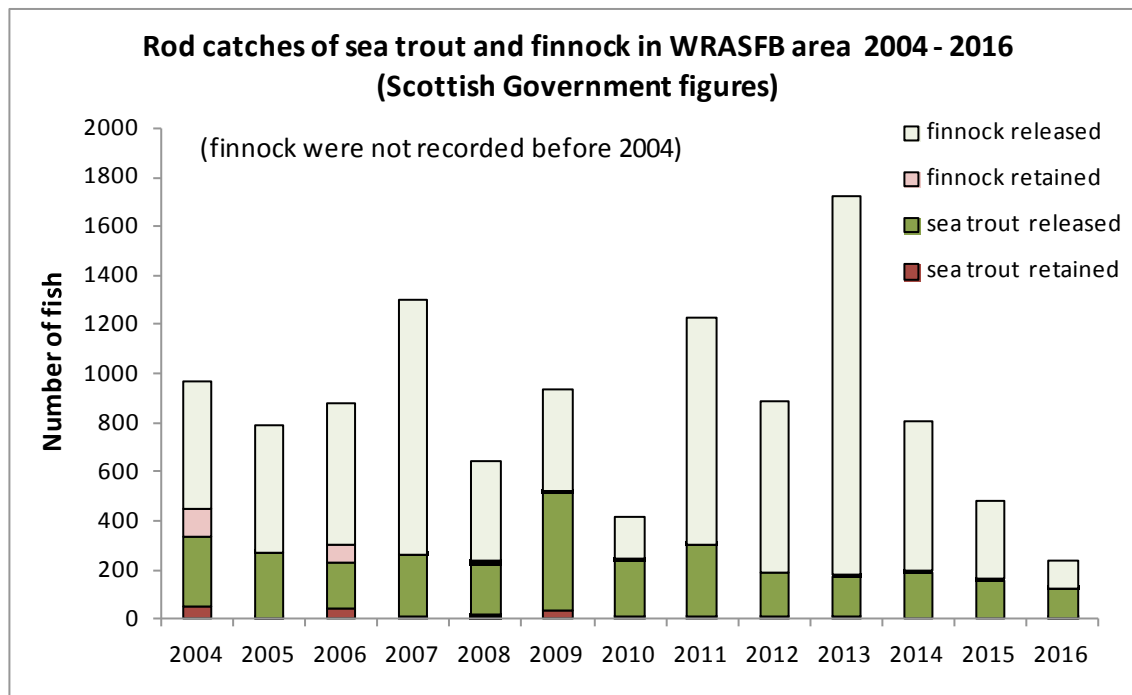


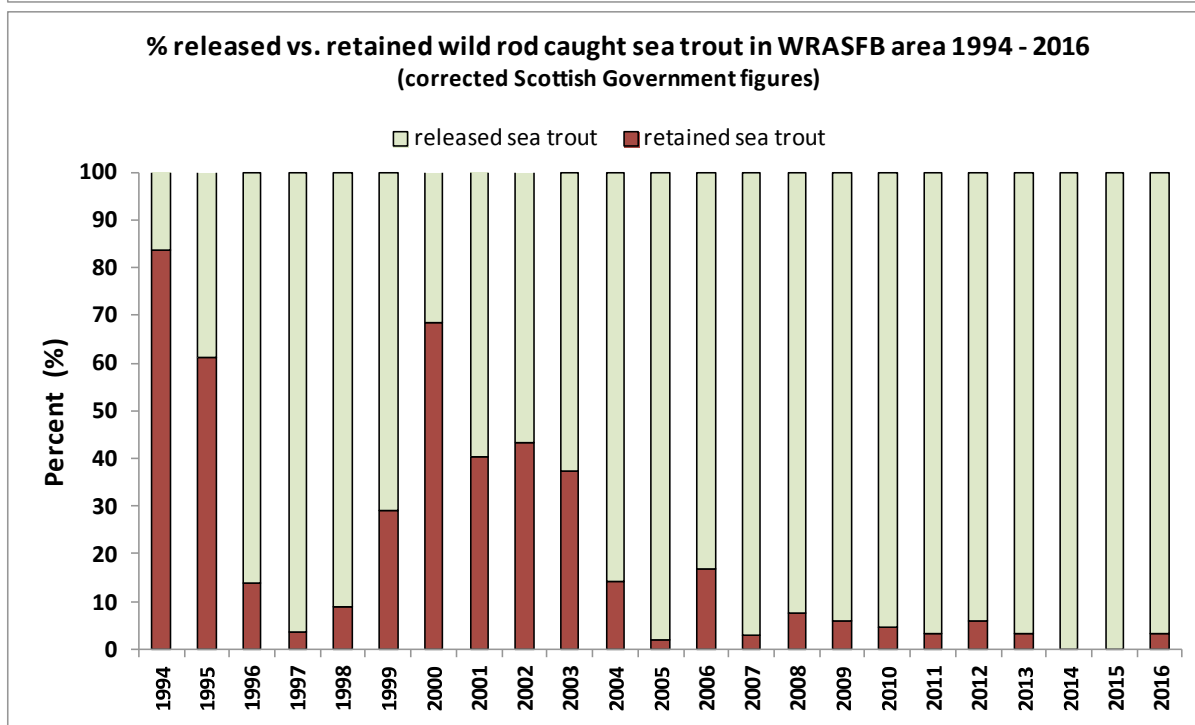
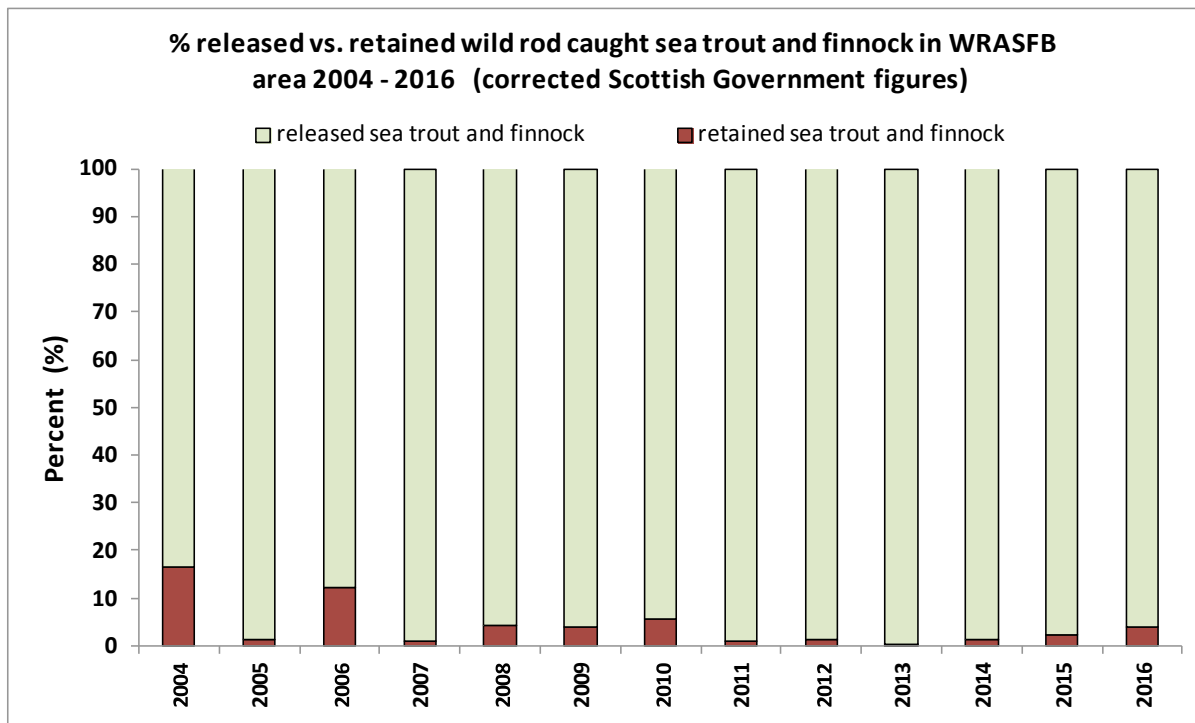
**% released vs. retained wild rod caught salmon & grilse in WRASFB area 1994 - 2017**  
(corrected Scottish Government figures)



## Sea trout

Notes: the relatively large number of finnock released in 2013 include high numbers of River Ewe fish (mostly early returned fish) and Torridon river fish. As for salmon, the corrected figures for the Gruinard river are based on the assumption that all sea trout and finnock were released in 2016.





## **Fisheries Monitoring**

The Board authorises and funds the SWRFT to conduct the electro fishing surveys that are carried out on a bi-annual, rolling programme basis. The Board also authorises and funds the SWRFT in the collation and interpretation of the annual catch returns which along with the electro fishing data is fed into a Marine Scotland model which when interpreted correctly, can assist in determining the health of the juvenile salmon stocks of rivers within the Board area. The Board also authorises and funds the SWRFT in the collation and interpretation of sea-lice data for Board responses to aquaculture planning.

## **Fisheries Management**

Whilst the physical day to day fisheries management aspects are left to the proprietors discretion, the Board, with assistance from SWRFT, deals with all aquaculture and hydro planning applications. These are taking up a lot more time than might seem possible as there are currently no full planning applications in the system. There is a screening and scoping request for the TSSC farm at Aird in Loch Torridon.

Skye, again, has had an influx of applications, some of which are on Skye's east coast so have the potential to directly impact on the Applecross area. We have therefore been assisting the Skye Board with their responses in an attempt to help manage any impacts that could affect Wester Ross.

## **2017/2018 Conservation Limits**

Mainland rivers	Grade for 2016	Final Grade for 2017	Final Grade for 2018
Kanaird	3	3	3
Ullapool	3	2	3
Broom	3	3	3
Dundonnell	3	2	3
Gruinard	3	2	3
Little Gruinard		2	3
Ewe	3	2	3
Kerry & Badachro		1	3
Torridon	2	3	3
Balgy		2	3
Applecross	3	3	3

## **Catch and Release Best Practice Guidance**

The most current and up to date guidance on catch and release is on the Board's website.  
<http://wrasfb.dsfb.org.uk/files/2013/06/Catch-and-Release-leaflet-2017.pdf>

## **Fisheries Protection**

The WRASFB levy income means it is not financially possible to employ any full time water bailiffs but it authorises those who have passed the IFM bailiff qualification course. Although directly employed by individual fisheries, combined operations within the Board area have been carried out. The Scottish Government moratorium on coastal / mixed stock netting operations throughout Scotland, continues to be in force. This, along with all rivers in Wester Ross falling under a category 3 status, makes the killing of wild salmon within Wester Ross.....an offence.

The Board has access to a fully compliant and MCA coded vessel and coastal net patrols are being carried out in various locations throughout the Board area. The number of coastal patrols fell slightly during 2018 due to higher fuel and running costs. These costs will need to be discussed, agreed and budgeted for if these operations are to continue.

## **Predator Monitoring/Management**

There were reports of increased numbers of piscivorous duck sightings throughout the board area last year. The Board instigated a monitoring system which relied on numbers of sightings being reported to the Board in order for them to collate the data and apply for an annual control licence. Report forms were sent out by email to all proprietors, no returns have been made.



## **Fisheries Development**

This buzz phrase is still being driven by a perception that there is any amount of fishing available, but not let. Here on the west the bigger rivers are usually fully booked during their normal fishing season. For others that are fully dependant on rain, anglers are still not keen to buy any days on rivers that may or may not have water.....or fish.

## **Wild Fisheries Reform**

As reported to you all in last year's Annual report, there are many parts of the WFR that are not being taken forward by the Scottish Government due to a lack of funding on their part. There will still be changes in 2018/2019 but these will be greatly reduced and will rely on "voluntary" actions by Boards with the potential for a one off funding package to facilitate the merging of one or more contiguous Boards.

Having now looked at all of the aspects in merging with the Skye DSFB, when the one off funding package to facilitate the merger is used up, we can see no viable economy of scale benefits over such a wide spread area. At this time, without any continuous funding from the Scottish Government to maintain the necessary administrative burden, we see no benefit in an amalgamation.

<http://news.gov.scot/news/wild-fisheries>

## **Compliance with Good Governance Requirements**

### **Governance**

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 requires all District Salmon Fishery Boards to operate in a transparent manner. As part of this the WRASFB follows the Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) Code of Good Practice. A copy of the code can be found at the FMS web site:

[www.asfb.org.uk/publications](http://www.asfb.org.uk/publications)

This section of the report details how the WRASFB meets the terms of the reporting requirements of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013.

### **Meetings**

The WRASFB holds local meetings on an approximately quarterly basis at the Harbour Centre, Gairloch. All meetings are open to the public and are advertised on our web site ([www.wrasfb.dsfb.org.uk](http://www.wrasfb.dsfb.org.uk)), along with a draft and final agenda. The minutes of these meetings, once approved, are also published on our web site.

### **Complaints**

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 requires all District Salmon Fishery Boards to establish a formal complaints procedure. A copy of the WRASFB complaints procedure is available at [WRASFB Complaints Procedure](#)

In the period of the financial year 2017-18 there were no complaints made to the Board.

### **Declaration of Interests**

All members of the WRASFB are required to complete and keep up-to-date a declaration of interests relevant to their position on the Board. The most up to date register is available at the WRASFB office.

**WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD**  
**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

## **WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

### **COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

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#### **Committee members**

**01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018**

Bill Whyte  
Donald Rice  
Gordon Crawford  
Hugh Whittle  
John Whitteridge  
Neil Morrison  
Rosie Nicoll  
Stephen Bate  
Brian Fraser  
Colin Blyth

#### **Clerk to board**

Peter Jarosz

#### **Accountants**

ED Capital Limited  
1 IFC  
St Helier  
Jersey  
JE2 3BX

#### **Business address**

Skye & Wester Ross Fisheries Trust Office  
Harbour Centre  
Gairloch  
Ross – shire  
IV21 2BQ

#### **Bankers**

Bank of Scotland  
Inverness City Branch  
PO Box 1000  
BX2 1LB

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## WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD

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## **WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

### **COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

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The Committee presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017.

#### **Committee members**

The following members have held office from 1 April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018:

Bill Whyte (Mandatory for Jane Maclay)  
Donald Rice (Mandatory for Regina Anna Properties)  
Gordon Crawford (Mandatory for Nicholas Crawford)  
Hugh Whittle (Mandatory for Inveran Fishings Ltd)  
Neil Morrison (Mandatory for Philip Smith)  
Rosie Nicoll (Mandatory for Pat Wilson)  
Stephen Bate  
John Whitteridge (Mandatory for Jane Whitteridge)  
Colin Blyth (Co-opted on 24/11/2015)  
Brian Fraser (Co-opted on 29/03/2016)

#### **Clerk to the board**

Peter Jarosz

#### **Construction and objectives**

The board was created on 19 February 2004 by the formation of an association of proprietors of the Wester Ross Salmon Fishery District, and the election of a committee, under the terms of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003.

The purposes of the Board are to do such acts, execute such works and incur such expenses as may appear to them expedient for the protection or improvement of the fisheries within their district, the increase of salmon, or the stocking of the waters of the district with salmon.

The board is empowered by statute to raise an annual levy on the proprietors to allow it to meet its expenses.

#### **Results for the period**

The Deficit for the year was £2,006 (2017: Deficit £371) as shown on the revenue account.

## **WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

### **COMMITTEE REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

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#### **Committee's responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The Committee is responsible for preparing the financial statements each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Board and of the surplus or deficit of the Board for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The Committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Board and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD

### APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS' REPORT

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We approve the financial statements set out on pages 4 to 7. We acknowledge our responsibility for the financial statements, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis as set out in note 1 to the financial statements, and for providing ED Capital Limited with all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.



.....

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018

I have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board for the year, set out on pages 4 to 7 from the entity's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given to me.

This report is made solely to you. My work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report in accordance with the guidance of ACCA as detailed at <http://www.accaglobal.co.uk>. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you, for my work or for this report.

You have approved the financial statements for the year and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

I have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.



Graham Bell

ED Capital Limited

1 IFC  
St Helier  
Jersey  
JE2 3BX  
Channel Islands

**WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD****REVENUE ACCOUNT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

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	<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Statutory assessment		30,873		41,250
Other Income		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
		30,873		41,250
 <b>Expenditure</b>				
Meeting Expense	180		-	
Administrator's salary	5,237		5,359	
Computer running costs	746		955	
Travelling expenses	2,084		1,739	
Legal and professional fees	212		8,629	
Subscriptions	<u>1,820</u>		<u>2,339</u>	
		(10,279)		(19,021)
		20,594		22,229
 <b>Research and improvements</b>				
Grant to Wester Ross Fisheries Trust		(22,600)		(22,600)
 <b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<u>(2,006)</u>		<u>(371)</u>



**WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2018**

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		<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>	
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	<b>2</b>		-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Trade debtors		-		735	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>20,177</u>		<u>20,801</u>	
		<u>20,177</u>		<u>21,536</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade creditors		<u>8,659</u>		<u>8,012</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>11,518</u>		<u>13,524</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>11,518</u>		<u>13,524</u>
<b>Accumulation fund</b>					
At 1 April 2017/2016			13,524		15,895
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			<u>(2006)</u>		<u>(371)</u>
			<u>11,518</u>		<u>13,524</u>

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## WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### 1.2 Turnover

Turnover represents amounts receivable for all fishing levies issued in the year.

##### 1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% per annum straight line basis
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#### 2 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2017	1,242
At 31 March 2018	<u>1,242</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 April 2017	1,242
Charge for the year	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>1,242</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 March 2018	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2017	<u>-</u>

## WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

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#### 3 Related party transactions

During the year, a donation of £22,600 (2016: £22,600) was paid to Wester Ross Fisheries Trust. The following committee members are proprietors, or mandatories for proprietors, within the Wester Ross area, and the proprietors' annual assessments are as noted below:

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Rosie Nicoll (Mandatory for Pat Wilson)	788	1,050
Stephen Bate	496	660
Bill Whyte (Mandatory for Jane Maclay)	3,150	4,200
Donald Rice (Mandatory for Regina Anna Properties)	810	1,080
Gordon Crawford (Mandatory for Nicholas Crawford)	9,900	13,920
Hugh Whittle (Mandatory for Inveran Fishings Ltd)	6,399	9,000
Neil Morrison (Mandatory for Philip Smith)	405	540
John Whitteridge (Mandatory for Jane Whitteridge)	248	330