

Minute of Quarterly Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
 Location: The Business Hub, Falkirk

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies:</b>
Tony Cameron (Leny) (TC)	
Fiona Simpson (Mandated Crown Estates) (FS) (part)	Scott Nisbet (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (SN)
Craig Gardner (Mandated Stirling Council) (CG)	Fen Howieson (Mandated Cambusmore) – Chairman (FH)
George McIntosh (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (GMC)	Joe McGarvie (Netsmen Rep) (JM)
Roy Robertson (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (RR)	<b>Not Present:</b>
	Aly Dickson (Lanrick) (AD)
<b>In attendance:</b> Alison Baker – Clerk to the Board (AB) Scott Mason – Stirling Council Fisheries Officer (SM) Lee Fisher – Forth District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent (LF) William Anderson (WA) – Managed Estates Tommy McDermott (TMcD) – River Forth Fisheries Trust	
<b>1 member of the public</b>	

The meeting opened at 4.00pm

Ref	Item	Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
	Apologies were received from FH, SN, JMcG	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	
2.1	The last meeting was held Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015, minutes proposed by CG, seconded by GM and accepted as a true record.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Actions from the previous minutes</b>	
3.1	4.1 It was confirmed that the FDSFB response to the consultation was not yet up on the website. (AB to action) – <i>Done and closed</i> 4.5 The Board agreed to the conservation policy levels, AB to issue as and when SG regulations are agreed. <i>Discussed later in the meeting.</i> 4.6 2017 re valuations AB was in the process of responding in relation to the nets held by the Board. <i>Completed and returned.</i> 5.11 The Clerk to progress requirements for to progress the new superintendent's post to make it full time. <i>To be discussed and agreed with 1026/17 budgets.</i>	
	<b>Agenda items</b>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Governance</b>	
4.1	Register of interests was circulated and updated	
4.2	Register of Complaints – None received	
4.3	Register of Code of Good Practice – no changes to the code and all confirmed accepted.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Chairman's update</b>	
5.1	In chairman's absence no report was given.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Clerks update</b>	
6.1	AB presented the Clerk's report.	
6.2	AB outlined the management of killing salmon regulations and how this affected the District as a whole (which has been categorised as grade 3 with the exception of the Teith SAC which was grade category 1). There were ongoing issues on how the methodology had been applied to the Forth District. The Board has registered with Marine Scotland (MS) both the issues with the methodology which is based on catch returns (in line with other Trusts and Boards) and also the particular issues relating to the netting and lower Forth part of the Teith SAC and impact on other rivers (most noticeably the Allan Water).	
6.3	The issues were discussed. AB to follow up for further clarification from MS.	<b>AB</b>

## Forth District Salmon Fishery Board

6.4	The Teith SAC is now the only fisheries within the Central Belt where a salmon can be killed and therefore all proprietors must ensure that they abide by the FDSFB recommendations and ensure that fishery is protected from over exploitation.	
6.5	GM raised the concern that the full catch and release regulations would lead to loss of membership of some clubs. This issue was acknowledged and the Board to review regularly.	
6.6	FS and AB stated that many rivers have been on full C&R for some years and therefore the regulations would not bring in any changes. GM stated that there was a difference between recommendation and regulation. FS reconfirmed that those fisheries with Crown lease should be applying the recommendation fully.	
6.7	AB confirmed that the regulation still had to be confirmed and therefore it could still be delayed. AB confirmed that the changes only really applied to the Forth and Allan as all other rivers were C&R for 2016 by negotiation.	
6.8	AB confirmed that the regulation would place additional burdens on the enforcement team and she had highlighted this to Scottish Government.	
6.9	AB reiterated that the conservation limits were based on catch returns – if these were not accurate then this will affect the calculations. GM stated that currently clubs may return lower returns to prevent an increase in the levy. AB stated that it was a legal duty for proprietors to return accurate returns.	
6.10	AB confirmed that salmon netting below the Forth Rail Bridge (coastal waters) were to be prohibited for 3 years and netting above this point was catch and release. The issue of sea trout netting, salmon by-catch and how C&R would work in the netting context had been highlighted to MS – awaiting response. AB to follow up.	<b>AB</b>
6.11	The new Wild Fisheries Reform was discussed. Feedback from the consultation was still awaited, including likelihood or not for an angling licence. FDSFB should to continue to support the process in principle as it should help underfunded areas.	
6.12	The collection of the revaluation information for 2017 was still ongoing. Only area still to be issued is Lothian.	
6.13	Assessment Update The outstanding assessments were discussed which totaled £3,006 (8 assessments). WA to pursue Fife Council, BP, Scottish Water and Blackford Farms. Tullis Russel and Deacon Industrial are either in administration or do not acknowledge ownership. WA to continue to pursue and update AB.	<b>WA/AB</b>
6.14	Recovery of interest was discussed. AB to contact ASFB/MS to find out the rate of interest which could be levied and to work with WA to ensure this is stated on the 2016 assessments with a clear date from which this would start. And that the legislation would be clearly stated.	<b>WA/AB</b>
6.15	AB queried what happens to fisheries where owner go into receivership or do not acknowledge ownership. FS confirmed that this was dealt with a different section of the Crown and was not Crown Estates. FS to provide further information. Otherwise the last owner had to be traced.	<b>FS</b>
7.0	<b>Bailiff's update</b>	
7.1	AB/LF presented the Bailiff's report. LF introduced himself. He had been spending time learning the District and assessing the poaching potential.	
7.2	The new strategic approach was discussed and LF confirmed that whilst a number of volunteer bailiffs had left at the same time as Bill Cunningham, new recruits had been found focusing initially on the East Lothian area. The hub strategy would be rolled out to Avon/Almond (with existing bailiff Davy Graham) and then the Leven. This would then allow more time from the Superintendent to focus on the estuary and Forth/Teith/Allan systems.	
7.3	ELAA had agreed to pay some expenses to assist the volunteer bailiff on the Tyne and this was gratefully acknowledged.	
8.0	<b>Trust update</b>	
8.1	AB presented a report from RFFT.	
8.2	AB confirmed that the bigger projects had enabled the Trust to diversify and off set management and admin costs to the projects and therefore it was able to do more core fisheries management (e.g. 190 electrofishing sites (with more quantitative surveys) than 120 for the previous year), as well as being able to undertake more small works e.g. Dollar Weir, Fankerton Fish Counter, Inveresk Weir fish pass works. This means that the FDSFB donation goes further.	
8.3	SM asked whether Fish in the Class could be extended to Stirling Area. AB confirmed yes, in principle but subject to resources required.	

## Forth District Salmon Fishery Board

<b>9.0</b>	<b>Financial Update</b>	
9.1	AB confirmed that there was a possibility of a shortfall for 2015/17. This was mainly due to the assessment collection being lower due to adjustments for the Allan and late payment penalties having to be returned.	
9.2	TC asked whether the Trust would be requesting a donation to the Trust for 2016/17. AB confirmed that the Trust would be asking for the same amount.	
9.3	AB confirmed that the operational reserves were stable.	
9.4	SM asked why the Allan Water had been revalued. AB confirmed that the AWAIA had appealed against the ratable value. AB reiterated that if the value of the fisheries across the district all were lowered that FDSFB would have to consider increasing the poundage to enable it to operate at the level it currently does.	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
10.1	AB confirmed that she would set the dates for the meetings for the forthcoming year	<b>AB</b>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
11.1	No other business.	
<b>12.0</b>	<b>AOB open to the floor</b>	
12.1	No other business.	

Meeting closed at 6.00pm

This meeting was not followed by a closed session of the Meeting as there were no members of the public in attendance and no sensitive matter raised.