

Fisheries Management Scotland

Meeting minutes

23 January 2019



Directors present

Richard Sankey (Chairman)
Alison Baker
Roger Brook
Chris Conroy
Douglas Dobie
Brian Doran
Lorraine Hawkins
Peter Landale
Mary Nicholson
David Summers
Bill Whyte

In attendance

Alan Wells, Chief Executive
Brian Davidson, Director of Communications & Administration

Apologies for absence

None

1. Introduction

Richard Sankey welcomed all to the meeting and was pleased to be given the opportunity to chair the Board. He looked forward very much to working with the directors and staff during his term to drive the strategic objectives of Fisheries Management Scotland.

2. Simon McKelvey

The Board were deeply saddened by the recent death of Simon McKelvey, and condolences were expressed by all directors. The Board discussed the scope for a memorial to recognise Simon's contribution, following discussion with Lynn McKelvey. It was agreed that the staff would consider ideas for further discussion with the Board. **ACTION: AW/BD**

3. Financial & administrative

3.1 Scheduling of Board meetings and 2019 AGM

Dates for 28th March and 19th June dates were agreed. It was agreed to circulate date options for the remainder of the year and confirm these. **ACTION: BD**

3.2 Office accommodation

The Board discussed a paper outlining options for office accommodation. The Atlantic Salmon Trust, with whom Fisheries Management Scotland currently share accommodation will relocate to Battleby at the end of February. This move is for operational reasons as AST are in the

process of expanding their staff complement. The Board considered whether to move to Battleby to co-locate with AST, or to remain in Edinburgh. The options for moving to Battleby and remaining in Edinburgh, both from a business case perspective and staff travel logistics, were discussed. It was agreed that an Edinburgh base would continue to best meet the core needs of Fisheries Management Scotland in terms of ongoing business, particularly in light of the need to remain effectively connected with the business of Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament. A smaller room is available in the same office, and there will be no additional costs to Fisheries Management Scotland. Whilst the Board expressed disappointment that the current office share arrangement would not continue, every effort would be made to continue a close working relationship with the AST. The staff were asked to secure the smaller office in Edinburgh. **ACTION: AW/BD**

3.3 Funding Fisheries Management Scotland: member subscriptions and other funding channels

The process of reviewing options for calculating members' subscription and consideration of wider funding options will be initiated shortly. This will include a fundamental look at the rationale for subscriptions, taking into account overlap and local operational relationships between Boards and Trusts. A paper to scope out the approach for the review would be produced for the Board to consider. **ACTION: AW**

3.4 Election of director

It was agreed that the staff should put in place arrangements for the election to fill the director vacancy on the Board, taking into account the rules for eligibility. **ACTION: BD/AW**

3.5 Companies House – confirmation statement

The Board were informed that the confirmation statement (formerly annual company return) is due to be submitted – no input is required by the Board and this will be submitted before the February 2019 deadline. **ACTION: BD**

4. Policy

4.1 Staff update

Alan Wells provided an update on a range of policy priorities for Fisheries Management Scotland:

Aquaculture: Alan Wells and Roger Brook are representing Fisheries Management Scotland on the Interactions Working Group, which has now met on three occasions. Input to the group has been coordinated through the Fisheries Management Scotland Fish Farming Committee. Fisheries Management Scotland are participating in this process with the aim of delivering a world-leading, transparent, regulatory and planning system which protects wild migratory fish and proactively seeks to address any local negative impacts. It was noted that the Scottish Government will soon publish their response to the Committee report and a debate in the Scottish Parliament is scheduled for 6th February.

Offshore Wind: It was noted that the that consent has been granted for the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm in the Forth and Tay area. A condition relating to monitoring of diadromous fish has been included and Fisheries Management Scotland convened a meeting of the east coast boards and trusts to discuss how to engage with this process. Alan Wells and

David Summers sit on the Forth and Tay Regional Advisory Group, which will oversee the discharge of these consent conditions.

Predation: Fisheries Management Scotland, working with our members and a range of public bodies have initiated discussions with SNH on the licensing process for avian predation. This will look at streamlining the application process, recognising the significant resource implications involved in undertaking accurate bird counts. There is also the possibility of a new study to examine the diet composition of these birds, and their impact on salmonids.

SEPA: Alan Wells is in regular contact with SEPA to make progress on developing a sector approach for the fisheries management sector, and on a number of key local issues identified by our members. This is with a view to developing a greater understanding of local management within SEPA.

Pink Salmon: As 2019 is an 'odd' year, it is important to be prepared for a potential pink salmon invasion. Alan Wells has arranged for Fisheries Management Scotland, Ness DSFB and Dee DSFB to join a meeting with Marine Scotland, SEPA and SNH to instigate planning for the summer.

Enforcement: Brian Davidson provided an update on various activities relating to Fisheries Management Scotland enforcement priorities. Recent work covered the identification of legislative priorities to improve enforcement, to be informed and reviewed by the Enforcement Committee. Other priorities include the development and delivery of training for enforcement staff, and further engagement with the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service and Police Scotland on fish crime. A training day for Procurator Fiscals and key Police Scotland personnel is being organised for Spring 2019.

4.2 Reviewing the vision for Fisheries Management Scotland

The Board agreed that it would be useful for Fisheries Management Scotland to review its' vision. The present vision was developed in light of specific circumstances in 2016, and it was agreed that it would be timely for a longer-term and more strategic vision to be considered. Alan Wells and Richard Sankey would discuss this further and a paper will be developed for the Board to consider. **ACTION: AW/RS**

5. Communications

5.1 Annual Conference

Brian Davidson outlined the arrangements for the annual conference and dinner on 29 March at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh. The programme will be structured around 5 workshops. Funding to support the costs of international contributors has been secured and further support is being pursued to help reduce the cost for members of Fisheries Management Scotland. Loop Tackle Design have generously agreed to sponsor the evening reception and dinner. Registration for the event will open in late February.

5.2 Annual Review

Brian Davidson reported that the annual review will be published to coincide with the annual conference, and this will largely follow the format of the 2018 Review. Articles and editorial content are currently being collated, including case studies authored by Fisheries Management Scotland members.

5.3 Membership engagement

It is proposed to convene a number of regional membership meetings to further improve engagement with Fisheries Management Scotland members. These meetings will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into issues which are relevant to members and will allow Fisheries Management Scotland to better understand local/regional issues and reflect these into national thinking and policy. The staff will come back to the Board with a brief plan for delivering these meetings. **ACTION: AW/BD**

5.4 International Year of the Salmon

Brian Davidson outlined a number of projects which will be led by Fisheries Management Scotland to celebrate International Year of the Salmon. These are:

- A project entitled 'What wild salmon mean to me'. This will be a number of short, personal perspectives/stories from a broad range of people who have a connection with salmon. A range of people have agreed to contribute, including anglers, writers, fishery managers and artists. These contributions will be brought into an agreed design and displayed at the conference, as well as digitally on the website and social media.
- A video blog to document the activities of Fisheries Management Scotland members throughout the year. The aim is to deliver this on a monthly basis and advice and guidance is being sought from Richard Davies, a film-maker who is a trustee on the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust.
- A photography competition which will run throughout the year. This is presently being scoped out, and suitable prizes are being explored with some sponsors/suppliers.

6. AOB

None.

7. Dates for 2019 meetings

28 March, 19 June and September (date to be confirmed by doodle poll).