

Fisheries Management Scotland Fish Farming Meeting

Minutes

22 April 2017



In attendance:

Roger Brook (Argyll)
Bill Whyte (Wester Ross)
Craig MacIntyre (Argyll)
Alasdair Laing (Findhorn) (Chair)
Peter Jarosz (Skye and Wester Ross)
Shona Marshall (West Sutherland)
Diane Baum (Lochaber)
Alan Wells (Fisheries Management Scotland)
Sarah Bayley Slater (Atlantic Salmon Trust)

Apologies:

Giles Curtis (Western Isles)
Paul Hopper (Western Isles)
Derek Dowsett (Skye)

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Establishment of Fisheries Management Scotland Committee

It was agreed that a formal committee of Fisheries Management Scotland would be established. One representative each from the DSFBs and Fisheries Trusts in the aquaculture zone, and those areas in which there is significant production of freshwater smolts would be sent proposed agendas and invited to attend should they wish to do so (Ness and Kyle of Sutherland were identified in the meeting). Terms of Reference would be developed and agreed by correspondence.

3. Financial support for fisheries management

There was a discussion about financial support from industry for fisheries management in areas in which fish farming occurs. Whilst there was concern about any perception among stakeholders that such funding would compromise the position of wild fisheries in planning or monitoring, there was broad agreement that Fisheries Management Scotland should explore further the principle of financial support on behalf of its members.

4. Update on recent discussions with Marine Scotland

- AW has been in regular discussion with Marine Scotland across a range of issues.
- The revised sea lice policy is in force as of 1st April and a [topic sheet](#) has been published.
- Marine Scotland will convene a meeting/ workshop in May with a view to discussing Environmental Monitoring Plans for wild fish.
- The approach to sweep netting in 2017 was discussed and the same sites as 2016 will be sampled.

5. Development of an updated Salmon Farming Policy/ Strategy

A number of potential policy drivers, relevant to developing the Fisheries Management Scotland strategy on fish farming were discussed, including: Aquaculture Stewardship Council; Independent Consenting Review; and Environmental Monitoring Plans which have formed part of recent planning consents in Highland and Argyll. The importance of taking a consistent and meaningful approach to wild fish monitoring was emphasised. The group members were invited to provide feedback on a range of issues, which Fisheries Management Scotland will use to develop a fish farming strategy.

6. Proposed Workshop on ASC

It was agreed that Fisheries Management Scotland and AST would jointly host a workshop on the Aquaculture Stewardship Council salmon standards. It is proposed that this workshop should take place in late June.