

SFCC Member's Meeting Draft Minutes

Wednesday 22nd February 2023,
10:00 – 11:15

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies:

Al Reeve	River Dee Trust
Alexa MacAuslan	Northern District Salmon Fishery Board
Lorraine Hawkins	River Dee Trust
Peter Jarosz	Wester Ross Fisheries Trust

*Denotes members of SFCC Management Committee

Attendees:

Alan Wells	Fisheries Management Scotland*
Antje Branding	Marine Directorate*
Atticus Albright	Spey Fishery Board
Steve Burns	Spey Fishery Board
Sunny Bradbury	Cromarty Firth Fishery Board
Robert Laughton	Findhorn, Nairn, Lossie Rivers Trust
Brian Shaw	Ness District Salmon Fishery Board
Chris Daphne	Ness District Salmon Fishery Board
Charlotte Small	Skye & Lochalsh Rivers Trust
Debbie Parke	Nith Catchment Fisheries Trust
Graeme Anderson	Argyll Fisheries Trust
Isabel Moore	Skye & Lochalsh Rivers Trust
James Hunt	Tweed Foundation*
Jamie Ribbens	Galloway Fisheries Trust
Jackie Rennie	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Joanna Girvan	Forth Rivers Trust*
John Armstrong	Marine Directorate*
Keith Williams	Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust
Kjersti Birkeland	Scottish Environment Protection Agency*
Leanne Munro	Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries trust
Marcus Walters	Deveron, Bogie, Isla Fisheries Trust (Chair)*
Pamela Esson	River Dee Trust
Rowan McLeary	Galloway Fisheries Trust*
Ruth Watts	Beaully District Salmon Fishery Board*
Sean Dugan	Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust
Sean Robertson	Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre*
Shona Marshall	West Sutherland Fisheries Trust
Stuart Brabbs	Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Peter Cunningham	Wester Ross Fisheries Trust

Lyndsay Christie
Morven Mackenzie

Marine Directorate
West Sutherland Fisheries Trust

2. Minutes of March 2022 meeting & matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate and were approved. Most of the action points from the previous meeting had been resolved, however creating drone guidance was outstanding and to be carried forward. As the database situation is now stable there is no need for a working group, and one of the conference sessions is on the capabilities of the database which will also allow for any feedback to take to the developers as they are able to update and make changes to the database if requested.

3. Election of Management Committee

MW agreed to continue as chair with the appointment proposed by AW and seconded by SB.

There were no members wishing to step down from the management committee. Since Sean used to be on the committee before joining a place was available to be filled. Ruth Watts from the Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust was nominated for election, proposed by BS and seconded by SM. Some discussion was had about maximum terms for sitting committee members, however, it was felt that this could become problematic if it became difficult to fill the committee due to low turnover.

4. Achievements during the past year - Sean Robertson

SR gave an overview of SFCC's achievements during the past year. This included supporting all SFCC member organisations, alongside SEPA and the Marine Directorate.

In 2022-2023 SFCC delivered a large number of training programs, which included two introductory and team leader electrofishing courses, a team leader refresher course, Freshwater Pearl Mussel Surveying, Otolith Reading, introduction to GIS, introduction to Scale reading and River Invertebrate sampling. Special thanks was given to the trainers, particularly the electrofishing trainers and the Cromarty DSFB for hosting the Inverness Course.

Early Discussions had begun with the Rivers Trust about working more closely with FMS and SFCC. This could have two-way benefits, for example the Rivers Trust may be interested in using the SFCC database, and SFC Members may benefit from the GIS capabilities of the Rivers Trust, and possibly come under their organisational account – although this needs further discussion. SFCC have also been asked to feed into the Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCO) survey.

SFCC has continued to support the National Adult Sampling project led by the Marine Directorate by providing the platform for mobile and desktop data collection. Nearly 600 samples were obtained in 2022, a massive effort from members.

SFCC has also continued to maintain apps for recording escaped farmed fish, seal sightings, diseased fish and pink salmon. Dashboards are now on the website which display submitted data in real time for all apps, and the website has been reconfigured so these apps can be found easier.

5. Financial statement

MW reviewed the cash flow report to the end of January with projections for February and arch. As agreed in the previous year, SFCC had planned to run a deficit of 10k and that was intended to secure the secondment position which was then extended to the end of 2022, and ended up roughly in the intended position.

6. Proposed SFCC budget for 2023-24

The budget was drafted in September and agreed at the Fisheries Management Scotland AGM was presented by MW. A deficit of 5,000 was planned to further reduce reserves in order to align with the reserves policy.

7. Priorities for the coming year – Marcus Walters

MW then reviewed the priorities for the upcoming year. This included supporting members during the Fishery Management Planning project, and integrating data from the pressures mapping. The FMP project is providing an interface between local biologists and National science and policy developments. Creating a digital habitat data collection tool to support surveys as well as investigating updating the habitat survey protocol being mindful of developments in biodiversity net gain. Continuing to deliver the annual training program, including electrofishing training. Invertebrate training to be created as an online storymap to act as a refresher for the in-person course, and to work with Charlotte Middleton from FMS to update the SFCC Sea Lice sampling protocol where necessary.

8. AOB

No other business was raised.