

**SFCC Management Committee Meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**10:00 – 12:00**



## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

#### **In Attendance:**

Marcus Walters – Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (Chair)

James Hunt – The Tweed Foundation

Rowan McCleary – Galloway Fisheries Trust

Sean Robertson – Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre

Alan Wells – Fisheries Management Scotland

Lyndsay Christie – Marine Directorate

Kjersti Birkland – SEPA

#### **Apologies:**

Joanna Girvan – Forth Rivers Trust

John Armstrong – Marine Directorate

Antje Branding – Marine Directorate

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting, review of action points and matters arising**

#### **2.1. Management Committee 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Some discussion was had in regards to the PSGA, and members access to OS basemaps. No updates have been provided on this, but it may be worth bringing other colleagues from the Marine Directorate into that discussion.

### **3. Staff Report from Sean**

#### **3.1. October – December Update**

Sean provided an update on activities since October. Highlights include continuing to contribute towards the Riverwoods Digital Centre for Excellence, and working with Paul Sizeland on the Water Metrics and Standards Working Group. Sean has also been working heavily on two of the Marine Fund Scotland projects – the Fisheries Management Plans and the Electrofishing equipment grants. Sean also presented at a Nature Finance Lunchtime Seminar about the Fisheries Management Plans, and how these could be used to identify actions benefiting the freshwater environment that are in need of investment. Preparation has also been underway for the annual conference in February. Sean also gave an overview of recent training courses, Introduction to GIS, Scale Reading, and a drone users workshop held in Braemar.

## **4. Financial matters**

### **4.1. Cashflow report**

The cashflow report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

## **5. Biologists Conference 2024 Programme**

Sessions for the Biologists Conference were then discussed. It was suggested to invite Iveta Matejusova from the Marine Directorate to speak on the analysis work on pink salmon eDNA undertaken earlier in the year.

Some discussion was also had in regards to a session on Fish Counters – the different types which are available and ways which large amounts of data can be processed. Some speakers and themes were suggested.

It was also felt that it can be challenging to fit in all the member updates. Some discussion was had about how the sessions on day 1 could be structured to make more time for these updates, as they are a key component of the conference.

The format was again confirmed to be hybrid, as this allows speakers from overseas and attendees from remote areas of the country. Some discussion was also had about accommodation for the conference, the Westlands Hotel was one recommendation along with the Hydro.

## **6. SFCC Development Strategy**

Sean went over the draft of the SFCC development strategy for comment. Generally it was agreed that having these long-term objectives is very beneficial for SFCC. There was a good level of detail with not too much text, and this is helpful for the Marine Directorate to show the different strands of work that SFCC is involved in. The strategy shows how SFCC is becoming key to National delivery of projects. Supporting members is key to SFCC's objectives, and perhaps needed to be included in a bit more proactive wording.

The aspirations of having a second member of staff would be great for going out in-person to provide support, as well as being able to deliver the National projects that SFCC is becoming more integral to.

## **7. AOB**