



# River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Anthony Laing Administrator: Clare Walker  
 Fisheries Office, Logie Steading, Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QN  
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## Minute of the Board Meeting

Held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 10.30am  
 In The Long Room at Logie Steading.

### Present:

Anthony Laing -AnL (Chairman)	Colin Glynn-Percy - CGP
Alasdair Laing - AL	Mark Laing – ML
Colin Cawdor - CC	Rob Hoskin - RH
Andrew Howard (AH)	

### In attendance:

Alister Taylor (AT) (Bailiff)	Elle Adams (EA) (Living Alive)
Sean Mclean (SM) (Head Bailiff)	Guy Harris (GH) (FWI PO)
Robert Loughton (RL) – Director, FNLRT	Colin Morrison (Forres AA)
Clare Walker (CW) (Administrator)	

A	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Alex Leven, Campbell Ross, Michael Barron, Murray Wilson, David Paton</p> <p>AnL opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Approved</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved subject to correction of spelling of Dalmigavie in item 7. CW to amend and publish Board minutes to the FNLRT website.</p>	<b>CW</b>
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising not Covered Below</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AnL, RL, SM and AT had a follow up meeting at Tomatin Distillery with Fiona Birkinshaw to discuss the distillery’s progress toward improving the temperature of their discharge into the burn. They have installed a second cooling tower which has, unfortunately, been beset with operational issues. They hope that these are now resolved and AnL proposed to continue monitoring temperature within the burn and reviewing progress at the distillery.</li> <li>- RL had recently received information from Scottish Government that the preferred bidder for the A9 dualling for Tomatin to Moy was Balfour Beatty and he will contact them shortly regarding construction design including the proposed new bridge across the Dalmagarry burn.</li> </ul>	<b>RL</b>
4.	<p><b>Budget and Finance</b></p> <p>CW circulated an updated budget and cashflow forecast. AnL updated the Board outlining that the budget is indicating a surplus of around £8k which is due to the influx of income from the sub-contracting of the FDSFB Fisheries Officers to the FNLRT. Some of this income is for a multi-year contract and can be accurately included in the budget for the next financial year to be approved in November. The assessment income is more than expected due to late payment from the previous year.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Health and Safety</b></p>	

	There were no health and safety issues or incidents to discuss.	
6.	<p><b>Communications Strategy</b></p> <p>CW circulated a proposal to change the way in which social media is managed by the FDSFB to address some of the issues being experienced with the current set up, including confusion over what work is being undertaken by which organisation and directing relevant information to the target audience. Concerns were raised by the Board about the potential increase in workload the change might create as well as the need to ensure that engagement with comments on social media are not entertained. CW confirmed that there may be some additional time required to set up new accounts but after this the workload should be much the same. CW also confirmed that the platforms are used to upload content and disseminate information, and staff are briefed not to engage in conflict on official channels. The Board agreed to adopt the proposal and CW will action the next steps outlined with care taken not to make significant impacts on workload.</p>	<b>CW</b>
7.	<p><b>Hatchery</b></p> <p>RL is still reviewing the work that Campbell Ross did last year on hatchery viability in order to draw together a policy. There have been recent developments in smolt raising and release. It was agreed that the Board should keep reviewing ongoing developments and keep the issue as a regular agenda item.</p> <p>CM asked whether there was a correlation with parr numbers and invertebrates. EA confirmed that baseline data for invertebrate numbers is being gathered and there will be an ongoing invertebrate monitoring program built into the FWI which could provide data if the Board wanted to use this data.</p> <p>AH commented that as a grade 1 river, the Findhorn is in good health. The Board can legitimately reconsider the proposal of a hatchery in the face of strong scientific evidence.</p> <p>RL confirmed that science and theory behind hatcheries is moving on and he will be attending a seminar hosted by Stirling University on the subject.</p>	
8.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>None raised.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Dates of 2024 Meetings</b></p> <p>November 18<sup>th</sup> – FDSFB Board Meeting in The Long Room, Logie Steading.</p>	

The meeting closed at 11:15am