

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT: Johnie Parry – Chairman (JP) Colonel A Lindsay (AL) Peter Voy (PV)
PURPOSE:	TRUSTEE MEETING	
DATE:	27 August 2008	
OPENED AT:	10.30	
CLOSED AT:	16.00	
APOLOGIES:	Ian Fergusson (IF) Ben Hadfield (BH) Nigel Pearson (NP) Angus Morrison (AM) John Mackenzie (JM) Bob Kindness (BK) Richard Wilson (RW) Richard Greene (RG)	IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Gibson (MG) Peter Cunningham (PC) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Peter Jarosz (PJ)

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i The minutes of the 29th July meeting were passed as read. These were the first minutes of WRFT's meetings to be published on the web site.

1.ii **JP** has received a reply to his letter to Andrew Wallace re the publication of sea lice figures/data from the sweep netting surveys – TWG intend (via the RDOs) to publish the data on sea lice as a report in October 2008 - until then no data is to be made available. There is a seminar in November that will discuss sweep netting protocols/methods but not general sea lice issues.

1.iii The letter from Crown Estate detailing the renewal of the Corry Fish Farms was discussed. WRSDFB, SNH and WRFT (after a meeting in Dundonnell with the Northern River Proprietors when it was agreed NOT to object) did not make objections to the application but rather sought to have conditions/ recommendations implanted in the renewal approval. Once conditions are imposed, we need to ask Highland Council for clarification of the monitoring methods to be employed. It is undeniable that objections should be evidence based but there does need to be a more defined approach (in the wording of letters) to the Highland Council so that they transcribe any concerns/recommendations from responses to a planning application into actual conditions (with monitoring processes spelt out) on the planning approval. There was also concern that neither the Board nor the Trust were being contacted by the Highland Council on these planning applications and that the Council were simply "gazetteing" the various applications in a similar way to any planning application, thereby inferring that it is up to interested parties to read about such applications in the local press. WRFT will write to the Council in order to clarify this.

1.iv This discussion led onto the Torridon FF CAR application to which the AMA will, probably, not object. Should WRFT (through WRSDFB) take a precautionary approach and object to this application or respond asking for conditions? No notification has yet been received from HC. **Peter C** and **Tracy** to liaise

2. TRUSTEES

2.i **PJ** will email all the Trustees for their suggestions of nomination for a new trustee after **PV** stated the Two Broom proprietors did not wish him to take up the offer of becoming a Trustee. However, **PV** stressed that he wished to continue to attend meetings as a representative of the Northern River Proprietors.

2.ii WRFT has approached the secretary of the Gairloch Angling Club in order to seek a nominated representative from within their ranks to become a Trustee – but heard nothing, **PV** offered to personally approach Ullapool Angling Club as he felt there were a couple of their members who may consider becoming a WRFT trustee.

3. FINANCE

3.i All outstanding invoices to the Crown Estate have now been paid by them.

3.ii Money is available to produce the fisheries plan that should be prepared by end Sept for consultation.

3.iii There is a possibility that some money from Whitley Animal Trust may be available this year – need to check.

3.iv Sweep netting continues to be monitored with the purpose of ensuring that all the available grant money is drawn down. To that end, and if necessary, we could claim for attendance of relevant meetings by Peter C and possibly use any surplus to train ghillies?

4. PLANNING AHEAD

4.i The Salmon & Trout in the classroom is a project (funded equally by SE and SNH) to be run this year. **PJ** to write a letter to go to Lorna Brown enquiring whether or not she would like to take on this project.

4.ii Loch Maree Open Day is to go ahead focusing on the work of the Trust - again with joint funding from SE and SNH.

4.iii Artic Charr Seminar can also be funded with matched funding from both SE and SNH.

4.iv All three grant applications should be finally costed by **VM/PJ**. With regard to the charr week, I think we mentioned the fact that most attendees can probably recover their travel and accommodation costs so these should not be funded by the Trust.

4.v Progress on the production of the FMP is slow and needs the Trustees to comment etc on the draft by PC. **JP/AL** will meet for preparation of the Trusts' aims/objectives for the FMP.

4.vi As a general principle, the Fisheries Plan is reflecting a broader role with broader projects being developed. To this end the Trust's constitution may need changing to reflect this fact but, at the same time, prioritising of projects should ensure that core projects do not suffer – that work on salmon continues.

4.vii There followed discussion on a number of items:

- Some money had been offered for Bruachaig Restocking Programme and with further contribution from other river proprietors could then be funded – WRFT involvement should be limited to making the recommendations.
- Genetic sampling project – could be LFTC/SEPA funded?
- A Habitat Demonstration of Riparian Restoration could be conducted in the Coulin area – again funded by SEPA/LFTC? **PV** suggested a day seminar with interested parties by way of testing their enthusiasm for implementing WRFT's recommendations for the improvement of the habitat area.
- WRFT's newsletter is issued in November (this year with a number of e-mail versions) and this issue usually contains the electro fishing results.
- **PV** questioned "Is sweep netting the most efficient method of collecting sea lice information" and asked if WRFT can consider a core programme for sea lice monitoring?

5. BIOLOGIST'S PROGRESS REPORT

6. AOB

- It was decided to publish on WRFT's web site the past ten years results of the Dundonnell fyke net.
- It was also decided to publish on WRFT's website the Trust's letter on the Corry Planning Application and the resultant response letter from the Crown Estate.
- Currently there are three SEPA consultations with WRFT – documents should go back to SEPA stating we are unfamiliar with the water courses in question and asking did they wish us to do a survey at their expense.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management Group meeting	25 Sept 2008	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustee meeting	12 Nov 2008	WRFT Office	10.30