

and an attempt to meet up with them to explain the new FMO system will be sought via BK.

4. BIOLOGIST' REPORT

PC summarized his report (that he had previously emailed out):

- Following the ScotGov's 2017 river Conservation Assessment, there was considerable response to them over their categorization of the rivers within the WR area. The responses brought about a consultation process that resulted in a re-assessment of all rivers. Most rivers have now been categorized as per 2016 though the Kerry and the Badachro rivers are now category 1.
- At this point PC's report was interrupted to allow JC and three students from the Gairloch High School to report the progress they have made in the production of an App for the Angling Information project. The App will be able to report fish catches and Invasive Non Native Species though on different platforms. It will also be capable of supplying information on local weather forecasts and fishing locations. PayPal could be added as a paying feature for license costs. It will be a simple, clear interface allowing user-friendly technology. The next step is to work up data collection template for the transfer of data back to the web site – this will "focus" the information into a standard format for uploading. The meeting was very impressed with the progress the three students have made and commended their work to date.
- PC mentioned that Sea Change has plans for dive surveys in December within the WR MPA area. BW said that, as well as diving the areas around the new proposed fish farm areas within the WR MPA, dives will place in areas of former fish farms – such as the former sites in Loch Ewe.
- PC noted that apart from their problems with sea lice, fish farms are having increasing problems with amoebic gill disease and there is a need for real focus on identifying and undertaking mitigation measures and not just fine words. There is little doubt that WRF Ltd seems to have developed a good regime of sea lice management – is it simply down to biomass size or a positive management approach or a combination of the two? PC will arrange a visit to Ardmair to see at first-hand what is being carried out.
- SELF/Sea Change have applied to the HLF for funding for a marine survey of the south Skye sea lochs. They have links with SNH and Universities for this project that has the main emphasis on collecting data/information. Once collected, the data/information can be used to make informed responses to future aquaculture planning applications.
- There is on-going discussion regarding fishing for sea trout in sea lochs – in particular, how best to inform the public about the law on fishing for sea trout.
- There is still on-going concern relating to ScotGov's Assessment of Salmon Conservation Status despite the fact that input from WRASFB has changed the status on a number of rivers within our area. However the Badachro and the Kerry remain as Category One rivers. There is to be a meeting on 8th December 2016 to discuss/improve methodology.
- PC said that there is a possible project on Loch Maree spawning burns with a view to improving their habitat. PC will progress and set up various workdays.
- There is also a potential project on wrasse – possibly in conjunction with WRF Ltd. PC will work this project up and present it to the WRFT board of trustees.
- DD will undertake Salmon/Trout in the Classroom at his nearby primary school (Carbost).
- It was noted that the River Kishorn (owned by the Applecross Trust) has not been classified under the ScotGov's Assessment of Salmon Conservation Status due to lack of any information and has therefore automatically been classified as Category Three. Some fishing occurs on the lowest beat (Mark Pattinson has the fishing rights here) of the river but there is no management, as such, of the river.

5. Planning Ahead

5.i Telemetry project – see 1.i

5.ii & iii FMO Plans.

Following considerable consultation of both Skye and WRFT trustees and members, there is clear support for the amalgamation of Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trusts' areas as our desired FMO. The resultant proposal document (with input from a number of sources including Barrie Blake) sets out the case clearly and succinctly and will be put to ScotGov as soon as possible. It should be noted that the long awaited "Template" from ScotGov is still unavailable but our document will include

information regarding a robust business and enforcement plans. ScotGov's vision (relayed via FMS) sees FMOs as amalgamations of both boards and trusts with relevant assets going to the new FMOs. But where the existing Fisheries Trusts are charities transfer of assets will not be allowed except to a similar registered charity.

FMS has a role in short to medium term and to that end the amalgamated Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trust should join FMS (for a subscription of £1K annually). Failing to join FMS means that any fisheries trust would be left isolated.

We need to be aware of timescales as well as up to date information on charitable status.

5.iv FMS – do we join?

It was agreed unanimously that the S&WRFT would join FMS.

6. AOB

6.i Angling Information Project

See 4 bullet point two.

6.ii FMS (Board) Member Nomination.

BW stated that he was prepared to be nominated by the WRASFB as a candidate for the FMS Board Member elections in January 2017. The meeting agreed that this nomination was important for West Coast representation on the new FMS Board.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	STATUS
23/03/2017	WRFT Office	11.00	Proposed
22/06/2017	WRFT Office	11.00	Proposed