

MINUTES OF A MANAGEMENT MEETING	
WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICE	PRESENT: Barry Blake (BB) David Barclay (DB) Richard Greene (RG)
PURPOSE: MANAGEMENT MEETING	
DATE: 7 December 2011	
OPENED AT: 1030	
CLOSED AT: 1330	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Peter Cunningham (PC) Mary Gibson (MG) Veronica Mullaney (VM)	APOLOGIES John Mackenzie Nigel Pearson Ian Fergusson Angus Morrison Ben Hadfield Richard Wilson Mark Williams Bob Kindness Graeme Wilson

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were not available due to unavoidable circumstances.

2. FINANCE

2.1 The overall financial position remains very healthy, although it is still likely that there will be a small shortfall between income and expenditure at the year end. It is important that the financial implications of the second biologist are factored in to clarify the true end of year position - **PJ/VM**.

2.2 Outstanding revenue from RAFTS, Marine Harvest, southern rivers proprietors, contracts and other sources need to be followed up promptly. Outstanding invoices for services provided also require expediting - **PJ/VM**.

2.3 The funds remaining from the sweep-netting budget (ca £6,500) will allow a further three netting sessions and a proposed Sea Trout scale reading workshop. This is subject to agreement of TWG.

2.4 The Herring Rediscovery Project will have to be rolled over to the next FY – **PJ**.

2.5 The Lochan Life Project spend has over-run income by around £1500, but it was agreed that this should remain a high priority activity for the Trust in 2011/12.

2.6 VM pointed out that the amount of time PC commits to reviewing fish farming and hydro scheme applications appears to be increasing, and suggested a new time recording heading of "planning consultation". In the context of applications for Torridon RG and MG highlighted the Highland Council Draft Aquaculture Framework (September 2010) as a useful planning support tool.

3. FORWARD PLANNING AND KEY ISSUES

3.1 Dr Jonah Tosney has been appointed by Inverness College and will, for 50% of his time, serve as the WRFT second biologist. Jonah has already taken up residence in the Strathcarron area and will work out of the Strathcarron Centre. During his first 3 months he will focus on his work with Bob Kindness. A WRFT work programme for Jonah will be developed in early 2011 – **BB/PJ**.

3.2 RAFTS are pursuing the TWG follow-up project initiated by the Fisheries Trusts. It seems that the Scottish Government (SG) might be willing to consider funding an aquaculture location risk assessment modelling project, and perhaps further sweep netting. As yet unconfirmed.

3.3 RAFTS have asked the SG to provide in the region of £500,000 per year for three years to permit new Trusts to develop management plans, and for the implementation of existing FMPs.

4. BIOLOGISTS REPORT AND RELATED ISSUES

4.1 PC provided a very helpful summary of the sweep-netting and electro-fishing work carried out in 2009/2010. It was agreed that there was a case for preparing a "river report" for the Ullapool, Dundonnell, Ewe and Torridon Rivers, subject to the preparation of an outline for each, specifying clear objectives and proposed content – **PC/DB/ BB**.

4.2 It was agreed that PC should prepare a report on the Tournaig trap data, keeping in view the possibility of a peer-reviewed paper in the scientific literature.

4.3 It was agreed that the Trust should provide some support to the Gairloch Business Association's Wildlife Festival in June 2011. PC was asked to provide a list of potential activities that can be costed and put to the Trustees.

4.4 MG reported on progress with respect to the River Basin Management Plan and the Flood Risk Management Act. The former is moving to implementation and SEPA will set up small task groups for this purpose. Local groups will also be set up for flood management activities, and there is potential scope for Trust involvement in both these initiatives. Watching brief.

4.5 The Little Gruinard FMP remains in draft format. There is need of a concerted drive to complete the document in the format that the target audience requires – **PC**.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 It was agreed that WRFT should continue to subscribe to the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (SFCC).

5.2 It may be possible to overhaul and update the Trust's two old electro-fishing sets rather than purchase a new, third, kit – **PJ/PC**.

5.3 PJ will seek funding for the purchase of a new office computer, although RG emphasized that funds are tight everywhere at present.

5.4 MG reported that SNH is to reorganize, forming a new South Highland unit that will deal with an area stretching from the Cairngorms up to and including north Wester Ross.

6. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

6.1 Next management meeting 1 February 2011.

6.2 AGM 1 June 2011.