

COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 30th September 2019, 10:30-13:00

Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory, Pitlochry

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Attendees:

Jo Girvan (JG)	Forth Rivers Trust (Chair)
James Hunt (JH)	Tweed Foundation
John Armstrong (JA)	Marine Scotland Science
Anjite Branding (AB)	Marine Scotland
Jackie Graham (JG)	Galloway Fisheries Trust
Alan Wells (AW)	Marine Scotland
Sean Dugan (SD)	SFCC
Kjersti Birkeland	SEPA
Marcus Walters (MW)	Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Trust

Apologies

Pamela Esson* (PE)	River Dee Trust
--------------------	-----------------

JG welcomed AB to committee and SD provided an introduction to SFCC.

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

The minute of the June meeting was agreed as accurate and was approved.

Matters arising:

ACTION: JG and AW to discuss fish guidance document for developers.

ACTION: SD to re-issue Forth Rivers Trust intro course certificates.

JA questioned whether the SFCC electrofishing training system was fit for purpose. JG explained that all aspects of the training programme are being revised and updated and that this work is nearing completion. Marine Scotland are contributing to this process through Iain Malcolm's input to the updated SFCC electrofishing training manuals.

Several additional discussion points arose around the training requirements upon which the Marine Scotland electrofishing licensing system is based. There is a need to define these and also to consider equivalent qualifications undertaken in other countries.

ACTION: JG/SD/IM to meet to discuss updates to Team Leader manual.

Committee discussed future electrofishing database options such as wider use of FishObs. At present Marine Scotland IT development time is not available as the salmon catch database development is taking priority. Members reported on successful use of FishObs this summer. It was also suggested that future database options should be discussed at the biologists meeting.

ACTION: JG to nominate National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland to the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards.

ACTION: KB to contact Karen Millidine about barrier information sharing.

3. Manager's report

SD reported on the previous 3 months of work including:
Visiting SFCC members

FMS Regional members meetings
Training delivery
Fish Counters Working Group
Atlantic salmon pressure mapping tool
National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland
“Wild Salmon Watch” initiative
Social Media

ACTION: SD to consider running additional training courses where demand is exceeded.
ACTION: SD/JA to circulate message on fish counter network development to all Boards and Trusts.

4. **SFCC Strategic Review**

JG outlined the current SFCC vision statement which applies to the period 2014-2019. FMS are also carrying out a strategic review. Committee agreed to strengthen reference to supporting/facilitating major data collection projects. It was also agreed that the statement on mapping support to members should be strengthened, and the ‘all species’ scope of the vision was to be made explicit.

ACTION: AW,SD and JG to meet to progress vision and strategic review.

ACTION: JG to apply minor updates as agreed during the discussion and circulate to committee.

ACTION: Review of current objectives and planning for next year’s objectives to be discussed at December meeting.

5. **SFCC Finances**

SD presented the latest cash flow report for August. All 25 SFCC members (including SEPA) have paid subscriptions of £1000. SFCC’s account balance at year-end in April 2020 is projected to be the same as at year-end in April 2019.

The proposed budget for 2020-21 was reviewed. The proposal to spend up to £5000 of reserve on protocol development and additional training courses was approved. SD put forward a new CEH “Evidence Synthesis” training course for inclusion in next years’ programme.

ACTION: SD to circulate full details of the Evidence Synthesis course to committee for consideration.

ACTION: Draft budget to be circulated to SFCC membership well in advance of Biologists’ meeting.

6. **2020 Biologists’ Meeting**

Committee members contributed a range of session suggestions before the meeting as can be viewed [here](#).

It was agreed that the topic of predation should be afforded a full day separate to the biologists’ meeting. Nutrient enrichment will be covered in a full workshop as a 3rd day after the meeting.

ACTION: SD to produce a draft programme and circulate before the December committee meeting.

7. **AOB**

Date of next meeting: T.B.C.