

Minutes

RAFTS/ASFB Joint Working Group

5th Meeting: Battleby Conference Centre, Perth

28th April 2015

Present:

Alasdair Laing, Chair
Andrew Wallace
Chris Horrill
Jamie Ribbens
Craig MacIntyre
Nick Yonge
Simon McKelvie
Roger Knight
Mark Bilsby
Alison Baker
Jim Henderson

Apologies: Brian Davidson

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2015 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

A general discussion ensued on the subject of proprietor's representation in regards to the WFR. It was agreed that it was essential to ensure that fisheries proprietors were properly represented in discussion about the WFR and in any future structures.

It was acknowledged by the JWG that the Tweed have specific concerns with the WFR and it was understood that the Tweed will be expressing their own views to Scottish Government accordingly

Action: AL to discuss with Scottish Government, the importance of including proprietorial representation on the Stakeholder Group to ensure that fisheries proprietor's views and concerns had an appropriate voice in the discussions.

Action: AL + BD will ensure that the responses from the membership to the ASFB consultation on the WFR report (circulated by Alan Wells), would be written and analysed.

3. Terms of Reference

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would reflect what was agreed at the previous meeting with respect to the issue of representation from RAFTS and ASFB boards. **Action: AW**

4. Licensed Killing of Salmon – update / discussion

It was reported that a wide range of views/responses have been received and it was reported that there was a potential for an extension to the consultation process. It was agreed that this matter would be dealt with by RAFTS and ASFB respectively and did not fall within the remit of the JWG.

5. Stakeholder Reference Group

MB reported that the SRG was to meet on the 21st May 2015 and approximately every 6 weeks thereafter. Officials made it clear that the WFR was not considering modifying the existing system but was charged with bringing about wholesale reform of the existing management structures. That said it was acknowledged that any new system needed to build on the strengths of the current system as well as address its weaknesses.

A potential timetable for new legislation was discussed. It was decided that the JWG should meet just after the Stakeholders' Group then report back to ASFB and RAFTS – both committees and members.

Concerns were raised regarding the time table for responding to all issues pertaining to WFR and that we were working to a tight timeline.

6. Update on Progress

- i) **Consultation:** ASFB and RAFTS will co-ordinate a response to the Scottish Governments consultation on WFR by the end of June with full consultation with both groups of members.
- ii) **FMO Structures and Function** - It was agreed that the “structures paper” drafted by the working group was a good start and a good attempt at describing what an “average” Scottish FMO might look like. It was recognised that the roles and employees would vary to take account of local issues and circumstances. There was general agreement about the staffing roles in the proposed FMO. The group would do further work on the sort of budget that might be required to support a functional FMO though it recognised the difficulty of so doing given the variability of circumstance that is likely to be found within an FMO network. Some further work to establish some ‘core costs’ was required. To run an average FMO it was agreed that further finance would be required to operate FMOs throughout Scotland.

It was agreed that the group should commission some GIS modelling to look at potential areas throughout Scotland based on geographical logic in order that areas can be considered with regard to financial critical mass. It was agreed to report that JWG are looking at various options for workable FMO areas. **Action: AB**

- iii) It was reported that AL and AW met with Mr Tom Murray, senior partner with Gillespie Macandrew. Mr Murray was a specialist in charities law and had been asked to look at future

FMO structures and their potential constitutional status. Mr Murray stressed that it was important to define clearly the objectives of the FMO and then look for the best constitutional model based on the roles and responsibilities agreed. It was agreed that once these had been established Mr Murray would be instructed to do some work on what vehicles might best deliver these roles and responsibilities. It was also agreed that, as stated in previous minutes, the JWG would seek legal advice on TUPE agreements for current employees within the fisheries sector.

- iv) SM outlined training courses for various levels of employees involved throughout the sector. SM is considering training materials and courses provided by Lantra and IFM. SM stressed the importance of not going too far too soon with this work until the form and function of the FMOs had been further discussed.
- vi) **SFCC** – It was agreed that the effective management of data by any future management system was essential and it was agreed that discussions should be had with the SFCC about this matter. **Action: Group to contact SFCC.**
- vii) There was some discussion about the need for an umbrella organisation that might be required to represent the network of FMO's evolving from and developing the current role of ASFB/RAFTS. It was agreed that this was a matter for further discussion when the form and function of FMOs had been developed. **Action: Future agenda.**
- vii) It was agreed that a positive engagement with the Scottish Government was essential to ensure that the work of the JWG and the Stakeholder Group and that of the Government were complementary and that good communication existed between all parties. **Action: It was agreed to invite Alan Wells to part of the next JWG meeting for discussion.**

7. Communications

- i) It was agreed to get the minutes of the recent meeting on the website and also to list the subject matter being discussed by the JWG at their meetings. **Action: BD.**
- ii) It was agreed that a monthly bulletin would be produced on the WFR programme to ensure all members were properly appraised of developments. This, with the relevant minutes, would be placed on the joint WFR part of the RAFTS/ASFB website. **Action: BD / CH**
- iii) It was agreed that the RAFTS' Regional meetings could be used to help discuss these matters with the membership – these were held twice a year. This was considered to be a useful mechanism to engage with the sector on WFR. Dates would be advertised on the WFR part of the RAFTS and ASFB website.

8. AOB. None

9. Date of Next Meeting. 10th June 2015 in Edinburgh.