



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Anthony Laing Administrator: Clare Walker

Fisheries Office, Logie Steading, Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QN

07501 767801 admin@fnlrt.org.uk www.fnlrt.org.uk/river-findhorn

Minute of the FDSFB Board Meeting

Held on Monday 18th May 2026 at 10:30am in The Long Room, Logie Steading

Present:

Anthony Laing (AnL) (Chairman)
Alec Laing (AL)
Campbell Ross (CR)
Philip Arkell (PA)

Michael Barron (MB)
Robert Hoskin (RH)
Mark Laing (ML)

In attendance:

Elle Adams (EA) (Director,
FNLRT)(Remote)
Clare Walker (CW) (Administrator,
FNLRT)

Sean Mclean (SM) (From item 5)
Alister Taylor (AT) (From item 5)
Ollie Smaje (OS) (FNLRT Ecologist)
(From item 5)

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies: Andrew Howard, Colin Glynne-Percy, Murray Wilson, Alex Leven, Colin Cawdor. AnL welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.	
2.	Minutes of Private Meeting Held on 26th January 2026. Some amendments were requested to the draft minutes, and the minutes were approved subject to these amendments. CW will circulate revised draft over email.	CW
3.	Matters Arising not Covered Below None.	
4.	Budget and Finance <i>a. Budget/Cashflow Update</i> - CW circulated a finance report and accompanying budget and cashflow forecast, including a provisional draft budget for 2027-2028 – based on expenditure to date the deficit should be a bit lower. The Board agreed to open a 30-day notice savings account with two board members and CW being account signatories. Once open, the Board agreed to transfer £50k into the account. <i>b. Draft 2025/2026 Accounts</i> – The draft accounts for financial year 2025 to 2026 were approved. CW will arrange for them to be signed. PA asked for clarity on how the Board plan to handle any severe outbreaks of Saprolegnia on the river on a scale of that seen last year which led to the recommendation to close the river to anglers. The Board agreed a meeting of the Board would be convened, either in person or online, to agree on whether any further action is required.	CW CW
5.	Report on Activities	

	<i>FNLRT Ecologist Report</i> OS gave an update on the Environmental Undertaking (EU) from Balfour Beatty (BB) to SEPA relating to the fishkill on the Dalmagarry Burn last year, this has been submitted and is now being reviewed by SEPA. OS continues to liaise with SEPA and BB, including attending monthly environmental stakeholder meetings. Comments on scoping proposals for several windfarms were submitted. Water quality monitoring carried out by FNLRT is regularly indicating a problem on the Mosset Burn, most likely originating from the Mosset Sewage Works, this has been reported to SEPA. The licence for control of predatory birds expires at the end of the month and plans to submit a licence for next year were confirmed. It was suggested that it would be interesting to collate bird count data from the Nairn and Lossie, unfortunately the Lossie do not currently undertake bird counts, so this data is not available. There is one male goosander left to shoot to fulfil this year's licence. The Board stressed the importance of fulfilling the licence each year so that a case for subsequent applications isn't weakened. OS confirmed that reports of Saprolegnia have started to be received. RH has had some at Lethen and these have been reported. OS has asked SFCC to remove the publicly accessible map on the website. Prof. Pieter van West recommends removing infected fish that are dead to remove a source for the pathogen. The Board agreed that OS could coordinate a network of suitably competent people who could assist, with consideration to training, risk assessment and biosecurity. OS confirmed that no seal control licence application had been submitted for the past few years and highlighted that any subsequent licence applications would have to be supported by evidence of need as required by the Marine Directorate, for example, robust data on results of seal scaring using acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) being ineffective. The Board agreed to set up a regular policy of ADD use as a scare tactic and to apply for a seal control licence next year subject to proposed costs. SM will retrieve the ADD from the Conon and report effectiveness through the SFCC reporting app. <i>Head Bailiff Report</i> There have been 3 incidents resulting in verbal warnings. Spring catch returns are 78. The FDSFB Annual Report was approved subject to a minor word change.	SM CW
6.	River Matters <i>Health & Safety</i> Nothing to report.	
7.	Service Level Agreement AnL thanked the subcommittee for their work on this issue. The new service level agreement is in the final stages of approval.	

8.	AOCB SM raised that the Mundole Caravan Park have applied for planning permission to increase the number of caravans at the site and highlighted historic problems with drainage. OS has not submitted comments, but CR confirmed that the Forres Angling Association have submitted an objection.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting 17th August (APM and AMQP) – The Long Room, Logie Steading	