

# **NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

## **ABBREVIATED MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

14 members were present.

In attendance was J Henderson: Fishery Director (FD) and Dr Nigel Milner

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members raised 3 separate issues relating to C.A.R. (controlled activities Regulations) FD provided his opinion and stated that guidance should be sought directly from SEPA prior to embarking on any engineering works.

### **CELTIC SEA TROUT PROJECT (CSTP)**

FD briefed members about the proposed Celtic Sea trout Project. Dr Nigel Milner, representing the project was introduced and invited to give a presentation to the members.

Dr Milner explained that this research project aimed to reveal more about the life cycle of sea trout in the marine environment specifically. European funds in the form of grants are being sought and, whilst the River Nith estuary is outside the boundaries of the specific grant which has been applied for. This area could be included in the research project if alternative funds could be found. CSTP will look at where sea trout go at sea, what they eat, and establish genetic finger printing for individual river stocks.

Board Members asked many questions about the CSTP and Dr Milner gave full and frank answers. Dr Milner left the meeting and members were given the opportunity to discuss the CSTP and their support for such research. FD appraised the members regarding current finances and planned expenditure then the Chairman proposed the NDSFB should support the CSTP with a sum of £40,000 plus resources i.e. some man power and electrofishing data etc. This proposal was acceptable to the members.

### **AOB**

FD informed members that disappointingly not all proprietors had sent in their catch returns yet. Complete catch data could only be published when all returns are received. Discussion ensued about the sensitivity of catch data. FD reminded members that the Board were registered under the Data Protection Act to handle the information and therefore had legal responsibilities to do so appropriately.

Membership of SRPBA was considered by the members. The decision was taken not to join this organisation.

The issue of NDSFB supplying guns to staff was raised and the decision was that staff should use their own guns but that they should have an annual check over by a competent gunsmith.

Concern was raised regarding an Atlantic Salmon Trust paper which designated Haaf nets as “mixed stock” fisheries. The Chairman gave assurance that he had been present at a recent seminar where this subject was raised. He was assured that the River Nith haaf nets were not classified as mixed stock fisheries.

Thereafter the meeting closed.