

**A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTTISH FRESHWATER FISHERIES
CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 MARCH 2009
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LOCAL OFFICE STRATHEARN HOUSE BROXDEN
PERTH**

PRESENT: Louise Donnelly, Scottish Government, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries, Chair
Richard Slaski, Epsilon Resource Management Ltd, Secretariat
Manson Wright, Scottish Government, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries
Ian Robertson, Scottish Government, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries
Ross Gardiner, Fisheries Research Services (FRS)
James Orpwood, Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre (SFCC)
Alastair Stephen, Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Colin Bean, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Callum Sinclair, Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS). also reporting to the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB)
Ronald Campbell, the Tweed Foundation
Mark Bilsby, Dee District Salmon Fishery Board
Peter Maitland, Fish Conservation Centre
Ronnie Picken, Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA)
Sam Waddell, SANA (Takes over from Ronnie Picken 22 March 2009)
Gus Brindle, Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling (SFCA)
Willie Shearer, Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland (SNFAS)
Jonathan Swift, Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries (ASSF)

APOLOGIES: Alastair Duguid, Scottish Environment Protection Agency. John Armstrong FRS. George Holdsworth, Salmon and Trout Association. Simon McKelvey, IFM.

Chair's Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees. She stated that the first sub-group meeting had taken place 2 weeks previously. The sub-group had intended to have 2 meetings but due to circumstances the 2 meetings were rolled into 1. The Chair then asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the first plenary meeting previously circulated – there were none.

Update on Subgroup Activity Since Meeting One

2. The Chair outlined the main principles of the code drawn out at the first plenary meeting. The Chair then said that she recognised the progress made on the emerging draft code at the first sub-group meeting and thanked the sub-group for their good work. She also welcomed the sub-groups efforts to draw on existing material and earlier work to minimise the potential for “reinventing wheels”.

Will the general structure of the emerging draft capture the key issues for each sub-sector?

3. There was a general debate on points for inclusion/exclusion. The main points to emerge were:

- The actual point by point “good practice” recommendations part of the process had not yet been reached – these will become obvious as the process continues
- It is important to win over the angling clubs. They should be encouraged by the code to get involved
- The key elements of the underpinning legislation will be incorporated into the code once the drafting has progressed further. This might be in the form of an annex to the code. SEPA, SNH and AFF policy team (with Ronald Campbell for River Tweed aspects) to input. **Action Point** – SEPA, AFF and Ronald Campbell to supply input in due course. (It was noted that a contribution from SNH had been received)
- It was noted though that too much emphasis on the legal aspects may reduce accessibility for the lay user
- The model should be tested
- Biosecurity and fish health issues should be covered possibly as an addition to the guidance on Management Plans.
- Anglers should be asked what they want. Additional separate thread to be considered by the sub-group of “What’s in it for the Angler”. **Action Point** - Ronald Campbell to send sample questionnaire to Richard Slaski
- Fisheries Management cycle is a straightforward circular process. **Action Point** - Alastair Stephen to compile the diagram he referred to and send to Richard Slaski.

Work Through Current Draft

4. The Chair asked if the chapter headings were acceptable and if there were any comments on these. There was a general agreement that these were acceptable.

Action Point - Alastair Stephen agreed to send to Richard Slaski a link to the data on trout stocking he referred to.

The Chair suggested that good practice for Stillwater fisheries/stocking be looked at later in a sub-group. **Action Point** – All members. The Chair asked that feedback on the chapter headings and text issues with any suggested insertions should be sent to Richard Slaski by 1 April.

The use of “historical” in the text was discussed. The Chair suggested that the group should keep a “watch point “ on its use.

Good Practice on Introductions and Biosecurity – A topic sub-group and how it should function

5. The Chair suggested that guidance on introductions and biosecurity should be worked up. **Action Point** – Callum Sinclair agreed to make available the RAFTS paper on introductions/invasive species.

It was agreed that the Fish Health Policy team and Fish Health Inspectorate should be consulted for their input with respect to the Aquatic Animal Health Directive. **Action Point** - The Scottish Government to investigate and report back to plenary.

Identify additional material that could advise the CoGP draft or form annexes

6. **Action Point** - Alastair Stephen agreed to supply a guidance paper looking at similar work already done in England and Wales. **Action Point** – Manson Wright to obtain the index to relevant guidance from the Environment Agency.

The Chair suggested that an annex of “other helpful material” should be compiled on a rolling basis.

Now that there is a draft structure with chapter headings

7. The Chair suggested that there should be a meeting of coarse fish/Stillwater fisheries interests possibly in the form of a one-off session held after the third plenary meeting. **Action Point** – Secretariat to arrange a meeting date after third plenary.

Authorise Secretariat and Sub-Group 2 (Authors of Current Draft) to Collate Additional Sub-Group Contributions to be Ready with a New Draft for Plenary Meeting 3

8. The Group agreed that the sub-group meet to look at additional information and to move the text on. Their meeting will be Friday 1 May at Pitlochry. **Action Point** – FRS FL conference room to be booked and invites to be sent to sub-group members.

AOB

9. There was no AOB

Date and Location of the Next Plenary Meeting

10. The next plenary meeting will be held at the Freshwater laboratory at Faskally Pitlochry on Wednesday 20 May at 10.30.

Action Points

1. Sub-group compiling the annex of underpinning legislation to supply their input - SNH contribution received.
2. Ronald Campbell to send sample angler questionnaire to Richard Slaski.

3. Alastair Stephen to compile the fisheries management cycle diagram and send to Richard Slaski.
4. Alastair Stephen agreed to send to Richard Slaski a link to the data on stocking.
5. All members - feedback on the chapter headings and text issues with any suggested insertions should be sent to Richard Slaski by 1 April.
6. Callum Sinclair to make available to Richard Slaski the paper on introductions/invasive species
7. AFF to investigate with Fish Health policy team and Fish Health Inspectorate an input for code on aquatic animal health.
8. Alastair Stephen to supply a guidance paper looking at similar work already done in England and Wales.
9. Manson Wright to obtain the index to relevant guidance from the Environment Agency and if possible hard copy of suite of guidance.
10. Secretariat to arrange a date for meeting of coarse/Stillwater fisheries interest group after third plenary.
11. FRS FL conference room to be booked for Friday 1 May. (Already booked by John Armstrong). Invites to be sent to sub-group members.