

**A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTTISH FRESHWATER FISHERIES
CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE WORKING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2009
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LOCAL OFFICE 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
John Armstrong, Fisheries Research Services (FRS)
James Orpwood, Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre (SFCC)
Simon McKelvey, Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Alastair Stephen, IFM
Colin Bean, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Alistair Duguid, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
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)
George Holdsworth, Salmon and Trout Association (S&TA)
Jonathan Swift, Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries (ASSF)

APOLOGIES: Callum Sinclair, Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS), also reporting to the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB)

A contact list of the group members is shown at Annex A

Secretarial note: members to please confirm details are correct and if appropriate provide a direct telephone number.

Chair's Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees to the first meeting of the Group. She stated that she had taken over from David Dunkley as Head of Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries at the end of 2008. She said that she envisaged the code as significant drawing in the practical knowledge and expertise of this Group and the sector more generally

Those in attendance then briefly introduced themselves and stated the organisations they represent and their own particular area of expertise. The Chair thanked them for their commitment to supporting the all species freshwater fisheries management development code.

Paper COGPWG/08/01 – Terms of Reference

2. The Chair reminded the meeting that the paper was intended to stimulate discussion.

There was open discussion. The following points were made:

- The code should draw on the available literature.
- Intended to cover all species although consideration would need to be given to how that should be handled
- The code will be science based and practitioner focussed
- No “reinvention of the wheel”
- The Group noted the duty on all Scottish public bodies to promote biodiversity
- The ornamental fish trade is not included
- Fisheries must strive to be sustainable
- Biosecurity is important and in certain circumstances may be critical
- Not just a biosecurity issue – also fish health etc.
- Other position papers e. g. that of the Tweed Foundation - Chair requested any to be sent to Richard Slaski for distribution to the Group
- A short note on the overarching legislation to be circulated by the secretariat
- There was general agreement from the Group that the code should be accessible to a non-technical audience
- It was recognised that there may be gaps in the knowledge base
- Put and take fisheries operate differently from wild fisheries
- The sub-group will consider and make proposals for revised terms of reference

Paper COGPWG/08/02 – Working Methodology

3. As much of the subject matter behind the topics in this paper had already been discussed there was only a brief discussion on this paper. The points to emerge were:

- The work is to be done in sub-groups reporting to the plenary group
- Co-opted experts to be used when thought necessary
- The Environment Agency (EA) already published a lot of relevant material – sub-groups may wish to consider its relevance to their areas of work
- The IFM in England have a wealth of coarse fish expertise which could be drawn on

Paper COGPWG/08/03 – Timetable for the Group’s Work

4. It was agreed that the plenary group will meet at roughly 8-weekly intervals ideally on Wednesday mornings at Broxden or other central Scotland locations. The meetings to commence at 10.30. The second meeting is scheduled for 18 March. It was recognised that some of the more complex topics at sub-group level may take longer than 8 weeks to draft. The Secretariat will be on hand to offer advice and assistance.

5. It was decided that the first sub-group should aim to meet before the next plenary meeting.

The first sub-group would report on the aims and objectives and who the code is aimed at. The first meeting will be held on 3 February at Aboyne commencing 10.30. The sub-group will be:

Simon McKelvey
Mark Bilsby
Callum Sinclair
Ronald Campbell
John Armstrong
James Orpwood
Richard Slaski, Secretariat
Manson Wright, Secretariat

6. The first sub-group will also report on Planning and gathering of the evidence supporting planning, The FMP cycle: evidence gathering, planning, delivery and monitoring.

7. The reporting back to the plenary group will be in the form of short papers. Existing codes of good practice, e.g. from the Environment Agency, should be sent to Richard Slaski, in electronic format if possible.

8. Paper COGPWG/08/04 was not discussed at the meeting as the topics will be developed through the working of the sub-groups.

9. There was no other competent business and the Chair closed the meeting with thanks to all attending.

10 The date of the next meeting will be 18 March at Broxden commencing 10.30.