

**The
5th
Scottish Freshwater
Fisheries Forum**

30 April 2009

**MacRobert Pavilion,
Royal Highland Centre,
Ingliston
Edinburgh
EH28 8NB**

Programme

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Representing: The members may be owners of individual houses, large estates, one-man businesses or companies. Members of the Association are represented at National and Regional levels. At the National level there are elected Board Members who manage the Association. The 5 core regions of the South East, South West, Central, North East and Highland each have an elected Regional committee.

Scottish Government – Marine Scotland - Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Team

Role: This team's main purpose is to ensure that Scotland maintains populations of salmon and freshwater fish species that will support sustainable fisheries for the enjoyment of current and future generations of both Scots and visitors to Scotland.

Representing: The Scottish Government.

Representing: Member clubs cover the full spectrum of coarse angling pursuits. These include specialist groups whose attention centres on, for example, a single species such as, Pike or Carp; “general” clubs with a diverse range of interests and membership; and competitive clubs which engage exclusively in match angling. Some, but not all, SFCA member clubs lease and manage fisheries.

Scottish Natural Heritage

Role: To promote the protection and wise use of Scotland's natural heritage, including the conservation of Scotland's precious landscapes, flora, fauna and geological features, and the enjoyment of the countryside through informal recreation. To advise Scottish Ministers and others on all of these issues, and more generally on how they relate to sustainable development.

Representing: Funded directly by the Scottish Government. Its activities are overseen by a Chief Executive and Directors, reporting directly to the SNH Board, whose members are appointed by Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Rural Property and Business Association

Role: To represent the interests of the Association members who are involved with all aspects of rural properties and businesses connected with the land. The Association embodies a proactive approach to the formulation of rural policy on emerging economic, environmental and legislative matters.

1. The Freshwater Fisheries Forum

The Freshwater Fisheries Forum is intended to provide the public arena at which attendees can be kept up to date with developments and be able to express views.

Information about the Freshwater Fisheries Forum can be accessed on the ‘Salmon, Trout and Coarse fishing’ web pages of the Scottish Government’s website at the following address: www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/fisheries Forum Papers and Steering Group minutes will be posted here.

2. Steering Group Members

The following organisations are represented on the Forum's Steering Group:

- Association of Salmon Fishery Boards;
- Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries;
- Atlantic Salmon Trust;
- British Trout Association;
- Consultative Committee on Protection Orders;
- Disabled Angling Interests;
- Fish Conservation Centre;
- Fisheries Research Services;
- Institute of Fisheries Management;
- NFU Scotland;
- Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland;
- Salmon and Trout Association;
- Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland;
- Scottish Anglers National Association;
- Scottish Campaign for Public Angling;
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling;
- Scottish Natural Heritage;
- Scottish Rural Property and Business Association;
- Scottish Government (Chair and Secretariat)

The Steering Group is involved in the drafting of policy proposals and meets at regular intervals.

Members of this group have undertaken to provide feedback to their constituents so that the legitimate

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Role: To provide an efficient and integrated environmental protection system for Scotland that will both improve the environment and contribute to the Scottish Ministers goal of sustainable development. To monitor potential pollution to land, air and water, the storage, transport and disposal of controlled waste and safe keeping and disposal of radioactive materials. To provide environmental advice and information and works in partnership with many public, voluntary and private sector organisations.

Representing: Is accountable to the Scottish Ministers and, through them, to the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling

Role: To represent the interests of coarse anglers and Scottish coarse angling in dialogue with other stakeholders at local, catchment, and National level in Scotland. To develop model policy guidelines for member clubs on matters such as child protection. To promote the coaching of young and inexperienced anglers in Scotland. To organise competitive coarse fishing in Scotland. To manage the Scottish International match angling team. To collaborate with British Waterways in the Lowland Canals Angling Partnership Scotland (LCAPS) which co-ordinates the management of the fisheries in the Forth & Clyde and Union canals.

Scottish Anglers National Association

Role: Recognised by SportsScotland as the Governing Body for Game Angling in Scotland. Works and consults with other related bodies, environmental interests and the Scottish Government to protect and enhance the aquatic environment and sustainable game fishing for all ages and genders. Organises coaching, youth development, National and Scottish National Club Competitions and the adult and youth International teams.

Representing: 320 Angling Clubs and 30,000 Anglers, including disabled, throughout Scotland.

Scottish Campaign for Public Angling (SCAPA)

Role: Aims to bring all angling rights in Scotland into public ownership under a democratically elected Scottish Anglers Trust. The Trust would ensure that all anglers have access to our rivers and lochs for freshwater fish and salmon at reasonable cost allied to conservation. Believes that love of angling and not money or social connections should determine who gets access to our fisheries.

Representing: All those who are presently denied access to our rivers and lochs and who wish to see conservation given top priority.

concerns of all are able to be considered, insofar as this is possible.

3. Descriptions of the Groups

Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

Role: Association of Salmon Fishery Boards represent the 42 District Salmon Fishery Boards in Scotland which are the statutory bodies charged with the management and conservation of salmon and sea-trout stocks.

Representing: 42 District Salmon Fishery Boards.

Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries

Role: To promote and represent member interests at all levels throughout the UK.

Representing: The commercial freshwater fisheries in Scotland.

Atlantic Salmon Trust

Role: The Atlantic Salmon Trust is an Atlantic wide, UK based organisation which works for the restoration of wild salmon and sea trout stocks to sustainable levels. It champions the fish themselves. It conducts and supports marine and freshwater research and gives practical, independent advice to all from governments to gillies.

It publishes reports and booklets to inform and educate. It is a registered charity and its Headquarters are in Perth.

British Trout Association

Role: The BTA acts as representative trade association for the UK trout farming industry both in relation to table production and restocking fish for sport angling. BTA have five main aims: ensuring industry has a reasonable legislative framework within which to operate, in terms of both EU and domestic legislation; maintaining a structured and relevant programme of R & D concerning fish health and welfare; promoting best practice in farming husbandry; running generic promotion activity for the table and restocking industry and the administration of the independently accredited industry quality assurance scheme, Quality Trout UK Ltd. BTA also administers the British Trout Farmers Restocking Association, founded in 1932.

Representing: The BTA represents 85% of trout production in the UK covering both restocking and table fish. Membership comprises farmers producing brown and rainbow trout eggs, fry, fingerling, portion and “Jarge” (marine rainbow) trout, large (marine) trout and restocked fish at all stages. The most long established member began restocking in 1876.

Consultative Committee on Protection Orders

Role: To operate under the terms of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act

support of measures introduced for the protection and development of commercial salmon fisheries and the stock of salmon in Scotland.

(b) meetings to discuss subjects of importance to the industry and applications or representations from individual members of the Association.

(c) the acting as a centre for mutual communication and support, including the defence of the members of the Association in test cases and actions of importance tending to prejudice the right of property in salmon net fishings in Scotland, and the exercise thereof.

(d) to promote the interest of salmon net fishing and the encouragement of scientific research on salmon problems and the rendering of assistance to those engaged in this work.

Membership of the Association is open to all owners or lessees of salmon net fishings in Scotland, including the District of the River Tweed, whether individuals or firms, or their duly authorised mandatories, including trustees curators, commissioners or factors. The Association is also open to Associate Members, being any individual firm, company or other body who would further the objects of the Association and the interests of salmon net fishing in Scotland.

The Salmon and Trout Association

Role: As a registered charity the Salmon and Trout Association uses sound scientific evidence to influence national decision makers over the management and protection of salmon, trout and other species of UK origin, as well as the conservation of water and the diverse environments upon which all aquatic life depends. It also actively promotes training/education initiatives relating to angling and Scottish salmon and trout issues, as well as throughout the rest of the UK. It works closely (and often in partnership) with all the main fisheries, environmental and training organisations in Scotland.

Membership: 100,000 individuals and club based anglers, owners and fishery managers UK-wide, a significant number of whom either reside in Scotland or are visiting anglers.

The Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland

Role: The objects of the Association are the defence, protection and advancement of the interests of salmon net fishing in Scotland. The means by which these objects may be attained include the following:-

(a) the opposition, by means of memorials, public appeals, deputations and communications with Members of the Westminster Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament and Government Officials of measures that may be introduced in Parliament which might be injurious to the interests of the net industry and the

2003 giving advice to the Scottish Ministers on Protection Orders. The Committee contains representatives of game anglers and coarse anglers, and includes an environmental scientist. By virtue of the background of its members and as a result of its operation, the Committee has, in addition to knowledge of fisheries matters in general, significant knowledge of the uses and abuses of Protection Orders.

Representing: Represents the interests of the Scottish Ministers on matters of Protection Orders.

Disabled Angling Interests

The interests of disabled anglers are also represented on the group.

Fish Conservation Centre

Role: Established in 1986 its main objective is the conservation of fish species through their sustainable use based on a full understanding of their geographic distribution, conservation status and ecological requirements. The Fish Conservation Centre is based near Haddington.

Marine Scotland Science – formerly Fisheries Research Services Freshwater Laboratory

Role: To conduct research into and monitor the freshwater and anadromous fishes and fisheries in

Scotland and their environment. To provide expert scientific and technical advice to Government.

Institute of Fisheries Management

Role: The advancement of fisheries management in all forms.

Representing: An international organisation of persons sharing common interest in the modern management of recreational and commercial fisheries. Members are drawn from professional fisheries managers, research bodies, fishing and angling organisations, water companies, fish farms and private individuals whose interest in fisheries are represented at many levels within government and conservation bodies.

NFU Scotland

Role: NFU Scotland, formed in 1913, is Scotland's lead agricultural organisation representing 10,000 farmers, crofters and growers the length and breadth of the country. NFU Scotland works alongside its sister organisations in England, Wales and Ulster as well as other rural organisations to promote and protect the interests of Scottish agriculture.

Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS)

Role: The Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) is registered as a Charity, and represents and supports its member River and Fisheries Trusts and

Foundations in Scotland. It is open to River and Fisheries Trusts and Foundations in Scotland that are registered as charities with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator and which share its objectives. RAFTS' prime objective is "the conservation and enhancement of all native species of freshwater fish and their environment in Scotland."

In support of its Primary objective RAFTS undertakes a range of activities on behalf, for and with its members. Among the most significant are:

- The raising and distribution of funds for members to support their work;
- The development of collaborative project or other activities;
- Representing its members in national and other initiatives as required;
- Supporting the ongoing development of its members through the provision of support advice and guidance and the sharing of good practice.

Representing: RAFTS employs 3 staff in support of its general and project based activities. Its membership now numbers 22 individual River and Fisheries Trusts and Foundations covering 80% of Scotland's rivers and freshwater catchments. RAFTS members employ approximately 60 FTE posts. (at end 2007) in support of their scientific and fisheries management activities.