

## MIGRATORY FISH COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting on Sunday, 26 June 2022, at 10.30am on Zoom

Present:- Messrs Campbell, Picken, Pirie and Walker.

- 1 CHAIRMAN:- CC opened the meeting, welcoming two (John and Andy) and hoping that a third (Ronnie) could hear and in time would be both seen and heard.
- 2 APOLOGIES:- None.
- 3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:- There were none to declare.
- 4 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 March 2022:- proposed CC, seconded AW.
- 5 CURRENT & OUTSTANDING BUSINESS
  - i) Wild Salmon Strategy – The second meeting of the Implementation Plan Advisory Group has taken place. The minutes of the first meeting are not yet in their webpages. A draft plan leaning heavily towards critical pressures is expected in the autumn with publication as a consultative document soon thereafter.
  - ii) Avian predators – A report based on the study of birds culled during three successive months of May is nearly ready for publication by Marine Scotland Science. This report is awaited impatiently not only in migratory fish circles.
  - iii) Policy on stocking – the Scotgov policy on stocking of salmon has been reviewed. SANA had contributed its views some time ago. The document is with the Cabinet Secretary and in time is expected to be released for consultation.
  - iv) SEPA consultation on regulations on sea lice in aquaculture – SEPA are holding three on line meetings on this topic on the next two days. AW will attend all three and CC the first of the three. The meetings address a) Monitoring, b) Modelling and c) Regulation and Compliance. It was noted that Prof Griggs was listed to give evidence to the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee this past week.
  - v) Analysis of the 2021 salmon and sea trout catches – MS released the reported catches for 2021 in early June. These were for each month for each SFD. As widely reported the number of salmon plus grilse reported landed by rod and line in Scotland was the lowest in the run of figures from 1952. This was also the case for sea trout. In the salmon plus grilse case only four significant SFDs reported their lowest yet R&L catch, Awe, Stinchar, Nith and Annan.  
CC updated his table, concentrating on comparing fish killed by anglers and netmen. It is on the SANA website. The associated commentary includes figures for the NE of England net fishery. An opportunity to comment in advance of a review of the NE of England net fishery closed last Friday. Unfortunately, none of us saw anything alerting us to this opportunity. CC has asked MS to take an interest during any consultation with government departments.

6 NASCO

AW was not in a position to attend the NASCO sessions in early June. He advised that quite a number of documents for and from the meeting are not yet on the NASCO website.

7 SANA Ltd

CC attended the recent board meeting. Migratory fish matters did not arise. On their own initiative individual members will have to renew their memberships as outlined on the website.

8 FMS

The talks delivered at the FMS conference on 31 March are available on the FMS website. The FMS 2022 Review is also on their website. In the section on catches during 2021 figures are presented for some rivers which are combined in the MS data for SFDs.

9 CATCHES IN 2022

It seemed that, after an open winter, catches pointed to salmon having moved quickly well upriver.

10 AOCB None.

11 The next MFC meeting was set for Sunday 25 September 2022. Circumstances nearer the date will point to whether on Zoom or at Kinross.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.