

NESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Register of Relevant Financial Interests

Introduction

The Code of Good Practice for DSFBs sets out a number of provisions relating to the general conduct of District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB) members. All members **must** first and foremost act in the interest of the Board's remit and any personal or professional conflict of interest **must** be declared at the outset.

Section 20 of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 amends the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 to place a number of additional duties on DSFBs relating to openness and accountability.

The new section 46E requires a DSFB to maintain and review arrangements for registering and declaring the relevant financial interests of board members. The register of member's relevant financial interests must be made available for public inspection, ideally on the Board's website.

In line with these new obligations and our policy to be as open as possible about the way we conduct our business, the latest version of the Ness Board's Procedures and Register of Interests is presented below.

Declaration of Interests

- Relevant financial interests should be defined as including (but not necessarily limited to): interest in a salmon fishery (but due to the nature of DSFBs, this would not normally preclude a member from participating/voting); gifts or hospitality received in connection with a Board function; an interest in a development with the potential to impact upon migratory salmonids within the district; the provision of financial, management or consultancy services to the board.
- Board members and staff must declare their interests and any gifts or hospitality received in connection with their role. A declaration and register of interests must be kept and maintained for this purpose by the Clerk.
- The register of interests is reviewed regularly and updated when any changes occur. Declaration of interests are included as a short standing item at each Board meeting inviting Board members to declare new/amend existing interests.
- The register of interest should also be used to record all gifts of a value over £100 received by Board members and staff. The register will be made available to the public via the Board website.
- A strict policy of conflict of interest avoidance must be adopted by the Board with all interests being declared by the board member and a minuted requirement that they absent themselves from any decision making which could involve that interest.

- A board member shall not vote at a board meeting on any resolution concerning a matter in which he/she has a personal interest which conflicts (or may conflict) with the interests of the board; he/she must withdraw from the meeting while an item of that nature is being dealt with.
- A board member shall be deemed to have a personal interest in a particular matter if any partner or other close relative of his/hers or any firm of which he/she is a partner or any limited company of which he/she is a substantial shareholder or director, has a personal interest in that matter.
- Where a board member provides services to the board or might benefit from any remuneration paid to a connected party for such services, then
 - (a) the maximum amount of the remuneration must be specified in a written agreement and must be reasonable
 - (b) the board members must be satisfied that it would be in the interests of the board to enter into the arrangement (taking account of that maximum amount); and
 - (c) less than half of the board members must benefit from remuneration of that nature.

Gifts and Hospitality

- Board members should never canvas or seek gifts or hospitality.
- Members are responsible for decisions connected with the offer or acceptance of gifts or hospitality and for avoiding the risk of damage to public confidence in the Board. As a general rule, it is usually appropriate to refuse offers except:
 - isolated gifts of a trivial character;
 - normal hospitality associated with your duties and which would reasonably be regarded as inappropriate to refuse;
 - gifts received on behalf of the Board.
- Board members should not accept any offer by way of gift or hospitality which could give rise to a reasonable suspicion of influence on your part to show favour, or disadvantage, to any individual or organisation. Board members should also consider whether there may be any reasonable perception that any gift received by a spouse or co-habitee or by any company in which the board member has a controlling interest, or by a partnership of which you are a partner, can or would influence your judgement. The terms “gift” includes benefits such as relief from indebtedness, loan concessions, or provision of services at a cost below that generally charged to members of the public.
- Board members should not accept repeated hospitality from the same source.
- Members should not accept any offer of a gift or hospitality from any individual or organisation which stands to gain or benefit from a decision the Board may be involved in determining.

Ness District Salmon Fishery Board Register of Relevant Financial Interest 11 th Jan 2023		
Name	Interest	Date Declared
Neil Cameron (Chairman)	Representative Ness Castle Lodges Limited, which owns the 'Ness Castle' fishings on the River Ness. Member of Dochfour syndicate and member of Beaully District Salmon Fishery Board.	11/03/21
Angus Macgruer	I am a proprietor of the fishing's on the River Oich (South). I also hold a current licence for fishing on Loch Ness. I can confirm I have received no gifts or inducements as a consequence of my role as a member of the Fishery Board.	17/09/20
Paul Williamson	Proprietor of the Lower River Garry fishings.	17/09/20
Thomas MacDonnell	Wildlands Ltd Conservation Director. I hereby declare that I have no relevant financial interests pursuant to Section 46E of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003.	17/03/22
Steven Gray	Representative of Glenmoriston Estate.	17/09/20
Chris Bruce	Representative of Inverness Angling Club. I can confirm I don't have any relevant financial interest that could potentially be relevant to the business of the Board.	11/05/22
Graham Mackenzie	Representative of Ness system anglers. An angler who pays for and fishes for salmon on many of the beats throughout the Ness system. I am not a proprietor of any fishing's, nor do I have a financial interest in any of the estates that own fishings.	17/09/20
Graeme Sutherland	Owner of Sea Park (Longman) salmon net fishery and representative of netsmen.	17/09/20
Cllr Chris Ballance	Councillor for Aird and Loch Ness and representative of the Inverness Common Good Fund's interests in the River Ness. I am a member of the Highland Council South Planning Applications Committee, but apart from that I can confirm I don't have any relevant financial interest that could potentially be relevant to the business of the Board.	
Brian Shaw (Director)	I am employed as Director of the Ness DSFB. I am also a member of the Dochfour Syndicate. I can confirm that I have no financial interests, nor personal or business relationships, that could conflict with the role of Director of Ness DSFB.	10/03/22