

# Spey Scientific Committee

## Terms of Reference

### Background

Further to the Scottish Government's decision in February 2017 to change the focus of its programme of Wild Fisheries Reform and dispense with proposals to merge District Salmon Fishery Boards and Trusts/Foundations into Fishery Management Organisations, the Spey Fishery Board has been reviewing its structures for the effective management of the river. In so doing, the Board's aim is to:

- Create a management system for wild fisheries which is consistent with existing fisheries legislation and yet which adopts a more modern approach, appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and capable of responding to our changing environment.
- Promote the evidence-based management of fisheries throughout the River Spey catchment by ensuring that the Spey Fishery Board is provided with enhanced and more robust scientific advice on which to base its fishery management decisions.

### Remit

The Spey Scientific Committee has the remit to:

- Compile a medium-term (5-year) and long-term (ten-year) strategy for scientific research and monitoring throughout the River Spey catchment, for the consideration and approval of the Spey Fishery Board.
- Identify areas of concern or areas that may require scientific research or monitoring.
- Produce papers for the Board as directed by the Board or as the Committee members may deem to be appropriate.
- Interrogate and peer-review the scientific work that is being undertaken by the Spey Fishery Board's Biologist and Assistant Biologist(s).
- Report to the Spey Fishery Board as required.

### Membership

Membership of the Spey Scientific Committee will be appointed/approved by the Spey Fishery Board. It shall consist of at least five members.

In addition to scientific representatives, there shall be one representative of the ghillies who shall be elected by their peers to ensure that citizen science is reflected in the work of the Committee and there shall be at least one representative of the proprietors who is also a member of the Board.

The Chair will be appointed by the Spey Fishery Board and should be from outside the scientific community.

Subject to the Agenda, the Committee may invite or co-opt other temporary members who are specialists in relevant fields, or create sub-groups to consider specific issues.

### **Quorum**

A Quorum shall exist when there are at least three attendees, with at least one from a non-scientific background.

In the event that the Chair is unable to attend a meeting then he/she will nominate a Temporary Chair for that meeting.

### **How the Committee Will Work**

The working methods of the Committee will be as follows:

- The Spey Fishery Board may set objectives or tasks which it requests the Committee to undertake in order to advise the fishery management decisions for the River Spey catchment.
- The Spey Scientific Committee may also refer issues to the Spey Fishery Board with a recommendation that the Board considers them.
- The organisations and individuals represented on the Spey Scientific Committee will bring their expertise to inform the development of proposals for scientific research and ongoing monitoring of Atlantic salmon and sea trout stocks throughout the River Spey catchment. Such proposals will also require the consideration of how they will be funded, including any requirement to facilitate applications for external grants or any other means by which funds may be appropriately raised.
- The Committee may discuss issues relating to all aquatic species in so far as they may pertain to the River Spey catchment.
- Members of the Committee will constructively challenge and bring support, advice and guidance to the work of the Spey Fishery Board's Biologist and Assistant Biologist(s).

- It is anticipated that recommendations or decisions of the Committee will be by consensus. If, however, it is necessary to undertake a vote, each member shall hold one vote with the exception of the Chairman who, in the event of a tie, shall hold a casting vote in addition to an ordinary vote.

## **Meetings**

The Committee will initially meet four times per year, although this may be reviewed by the Committee in due course. If it is decided that the number of meetings each year should be reduced, no less than two meetings will be held per year.

## **Communications and Confidentiality**

The membership and remit of the Spey Scientific Committee will be published on the Spey Fishery Board's website.

The Spey Fishery Board secretariat will produce a regular written report of the work of the Committee for referral to and consideration by the Spey Fishery Board, after which it will be published on the Spey Fishery Board website. Notwithstanding this, there may be circumstances where the need for confidentiality may be justified, particularly where work is ongoing and incomplete. There will, however, be a presumption against confidentiality and the case for it will need to be approved by the Spey Fishery Board.

## **Financial Authority**

All financial authority for expenditure of funds held by the Spey Fishery Board is at the discretion of the Spey Fishery Board. Any expenditure of funds held by the Spey Foundation shall be at the discretion of the Directors/Trustees of the Spey Foundation.

## **Review of Terms of Reference**

The Committee will review its membership and Terms of Reference from time to time and may make recommendations to the Spey Fishery Board for changes to be made.

The Spey Fishery Board may from time to time consider and, if deemed appropriate, make changes to the membership and Terms of Reference of the Spey Scientific Committee.