



Trustees' Annual Report

for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the Independent Financial Examiner's report for the above mentioned period.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name: Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum

Charity No: SCO40820

Address of Principal Office: Tigh A'chiobair, Ord, Teangue, Isle Of Skye IV44 8RN.

Currently the Trustees are:

Eileen Armstrong
Roger Cottis
James Merryweather
Lindsay Thatcher
Robert David Ware
Melanie Watt

All served as Trustees throughout the period.

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution:

The Charity became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 4th September 2013. It is governed by its SCIO Constitution which was adopted on 18th November 2013.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, which normally meets at least thrice annually, consists of the charity's Trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual Members' Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and not more than nine elected Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt a further three Trustees if they consider it would be in the interests of the charity to do so. Membership of the Board is open to all Members of the charity.

Management:

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, whilst day-to-day running is delegated to the Secretary.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes:

To be a forum for members of the public and organisations in or associated with Skye and Lochalsh in order to promote and care for the landscape and biological diversity of natural and cultural habitats throughout for the benefit of present and future generations and to

promote awareness, enjoyment, research, understanding and sustainable use of the Area's natural and cultural environment and biodiversity.

Activities:

SLEF.

Following on from the previous year's mammal instruction courses the badger element continued to reveal interesting observations, which were recorded as video and still images on trail cameras. Various other mammal species were also recorded. As previously reported further modules will be added from Winter 2023.

Following our Annual Members' Meeting on 28th March 2023, guest speaker Dr. Tom Stanton, a research fellow in Loughborough Universities' Division of Geography and Environment outlined his beach litter project, stimulated by Gerald Scott, who, in the early 1970's was one of the first people to highlight the problem. Tom is due to visit Skye during late July to early August to assess how the beach litter problem has changed in the interim period.

South Skye Seas initiative (SSSi).

A Member, proficient in kayaking and the use of drop-down GoPro cameras visited seagrass beds to assess the health of this important Priority Marine Feature. Following this exercise Project Seagrass was consulted and from the video and still images submitted, they advised there might be a link to high nutrient levels in the water.

Two PhD students were supported locally in their efforts to identify species living in a seagrass bed using the novel technique of taking water samples for e-DNA analyses to determine species and recording the biodiversity of the seagrass bed using baited underwater cameras, checking for invertebrates in sampled sediments and visual observations from shore, respectively.

An important project monitoring sea temperature using Robolimpets stalled when international deliveries of the units became problematic with customs, then technical issues prevented deployment. It is hoped to start the project within the next reporting period.

Continuing membership and contact have been maintained through SSSi in the Coastal Communities Network (CCN), currently administered by Fauna & Flora International, which has involved input into various projects and consultations.

SST-T Report

Scottish Salmon Think-Tank (SST-T) members have continued to engage in interaction with other coastal community groups via information exchange/discussion groups, namely the Salmon Aquaculture Reform Network, Scotland (SARNS), the Coastal Communities Network and WildFish.

Such activity has included sharing knowledge, providing advice, engaging with public consultations, reporting and exposing first-hand observations of suspicious activity, and continually building our knowledge of the salmon aquaculture industry in Scotland and the numerous problems associated with it.

During past months of 2022-2023 reporting period, one of our number, Dr James Merryweather, has continued sharing his knowledge and experience through YouTube videos at a channel bearing the SST-T name:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGEoQH0KRzsTK2NOC97oVsA/videos>

Not only can the increasing collection of SST-T videos be viewed universally, but also, they may be downloaded, copied and shared, even shown in public, without any © claims from the creator.

Approved by the Trustees on ## ##### 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

R. Cottis

Roger Cottis
Chairman.