



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 24th March [REDACTED] /Microsoft Teams Hybrid option
Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

- Apologies: [REDACTED]

2. Minutes of last meeting:

- The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on 24th February 2025.

Matters arising/Action points

- None tabled.

3. Presentations to the committee:

Overseas Research application: [REDACTED]

- No mention of assessing the fitness of the animal before the sampling occurs. This needs to be clarified. For example would they ensure the fitness of the animals before the biopsy occurred?
 - We also need to clarify numbers, [REDACTED]?
 - How do we control for differences in locations and how do we ensure that the same animals are being re-caught? The study is being conducted over 2 years and there is a possibility that the same animals will be recaptured?.
 - How are sizes of fish controlled, for example via sizes of nets etc? Can the gill nets cause issue for the animals?
 - There is a clear scientific benefit but there are still many variables to consider. Noted that this was an important study.
 - Can it be clarified that other animals will not be affected by these gill nets?
 - The committee also felt it would be helpful to clarify the amount of time the capture would be for?
 - Who is undertaking the training? This was very unclear how this would be implemented.
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- ACTION: ask applicants to come to next AWERB meeting.

4. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

none

Amendment applications under consideration by the AWERB:

none

5. Updates and Reports

- **BVS Director update:**

- If any other comments on document circulated in relation to fair publication policy, please forward to [REDACTED]
- AWERB training: we would like to implement a formal training policy for AWERBs which would make training necessary, this could also be followed by a refresher. There is some training already available which we could access, we will review this shortly. Noted that ASRU will put more emphasis on the role of the AWERB in the new operating model.
- [REDACTED] workshop for strategic planning: this will be held at [REDACTED] on the pm of the 27th March 2-4pm.

- **NVS update:**

- [REDACTED] study completed successfully
- MHV: this was a false positive.
- SC18: unexpected adverse effects in a laparotomy study. Reported to home office and amendment will be made, no ill effects and animals recovered.
- A training issue reported. No adverse effects to the animals but a reminder given to those involved.
- New NACWOs hoping to be in post, training to be completed.

- **NTCO update:**

- No report tabled

- **PEL Holder update:**

- None tabled

- **Edinburgh AWERB report:**

- AWERB continues to be busy, next meeting will have 5 licences for review.
- Continuing to submit licence applications as early as possible.

- **Reports from Facilities**

- Farms** [REDACTED]

- Some further developments with regards to LARIF phase 2. Amendments made to the original drawings hopeful these will allow us to progress the development.
- March has been extremely busy with studies including:
 - [REDACTED] studies completed
 - [REDACTED] completed their week long study and were delighted with the facility.
 - [REDACTED] studies and Bleomycin model studies completed.
 - One further [REDACTED] study through [REDACTED]
 - Ongoing [REDACTED] work studies.
- **Poultry:** [REDACTED] study has been completed, no issues.

- **Chick embryo room:** no report.
- **Aquaculture Facility:**
 - Staffing level remain good, [REDACTED] aquatics . [REDACTED] aquaria maintenance training implemented.
 - GE (disease resistance study) salmon continues, it is unlikely that the current population will be disease challenged at [REDACTED], however this population will be analysed at RI
 - Wild-type salmon muscle study has been extended with an additional sample timepoint in April. Currently the facility houses a small number of salmon (6g and 60g).
 - New [REDACTED] in comparative immunology, PPL application will follow.

- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:**

- Culture of care week videos sent out about neuro-diversity. Provisional date for 3Rs symposia is the 6th November

6. Project Licences *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

None

Project Licence amendments *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

none

7. A.O.C.B: none

Date of next meeting: 28th April 2025 [REDACTED] Hybrid option via MS teams 1.30pm