

SALMON AND TROUT CONSERVATION UK SUSSEX BRANCH

CONSTITUTION

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1 TITLE

- 1.1 **Salmon & Trout Conservation UK – Sussex Branch**, hereinafter to be referred to as the “Branch”
- 1.2 The Branch shall be independent, but affiliated to the National Charity, supporting the work of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK. The Branch is financially independent of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK (STCUK) and will agree to sign the STCUK Branch Agreement.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE BRANCH

- 2.1 The Objectives of the Branch, in support of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK, fall within the Objectives of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK which are:
- 2.2 To promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and sustainable exploitation of salmon, trout and other fish stocks of United Kingdom origin, and the conservation and improvement of the aquatic environment and ecosystems necessary for them to thrive.
- 2.3 The advancement of public education relating to the conservation of the aquatic environment and the interaction between human beings, the environment and fish, whether through angling or otherwise.
- 2.4 To promote for the public benefit, training in water safety, knowledge of the aquatic environment and identification of and respect for its dependent species, including fish, whether through angling or otherwise.
- 2.5 To promote research and to publish the useful results thereof in respect of the factors affecting the natural and artificial regeneration of salmon, trout and other fisheries in the United Kingdom including the general ecology of river catchments and the marine environment and the effect of commercial, industrial and land management practices on aquatic ecosystems.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of the Branch shall be open to those who are members of STCUK. Membership shall be determined by residence within the county of Sussex or by choice, subject to the confirmation of STCUK.

4 BEHAVIOUR

- 4.1 Behaviour of Members.
 - 4.1.1 All members are expected to uphold the normally accepted rules and etiquette of fly fishing.
 - 4.1.2 All members to abide by Branch and Fishery rules at all times.

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- 4.1.3 All members will follow Health and Safety guidelines laid down by the Branch and those of the Fisheries (including boats).
- 4.1.4 The Committee shall have authority to expel any member who deviates from this high standard of expected behaviour and discredits the sport and in particular the Branch. Such member will have reasonable opportunity to personally explain the circumstances.

4.2 **EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

Members of the Branch whose conduct is inappropriate or who decline to abide by any of the Rules or Bylaws shall be referred to STCUK and the decision of the STCUK disciplinary panel shall be final.

Members shall have the right to appeal in person to the disciplinary panel with regard to any decision affecting them, provided that notice of such appeal be submitted to the disciplinary panel, in writing, within seven days of notification of the decision.

5. **OFFICERS**

- 5.1 The Officers of the Branch shall be Chairman, Secretary / Branch Organiser and Treasurer, and should ideally include Vice Chairman and Water Resources Officer (the “Executive Officers”). Any individual, if required, may hold more than one office.
- 5.2 A Committee, in which the management of the Branch shall be vested, shall consist of the Executive Officers of the Branch and other members as required. Any three (3) Committee members, to include two Officers, shall form a quorum. The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt other members on to the Committee between Annual General Meetings, if necessary.

6. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 6.1 The Officers and other members of the Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected annually by members at the Annual General Meeting. Ideally, the Chairman shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years but may be subject to re-election.
- 6.2 The Branch’s year shall end on the 31st December and an Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than the end of May in the subsequent year. At that Meeting the members shall receive the previous years Branch Annual Report together with the Branch’s independently verified accounts for the year. (Appropriate dates to be agreed by the Branch).
- 6.3 An officer of the Branch will be appointed as Child Welfare Officer. The duties of the Child Welfare Officer shall include but not be limited to ensure the Branch:
 - 6.3.1 Fulfils its responsibilities to safeguard children and young people at club level.
 - 6.3.2 Implements the sports Safeguarding & Protecting Children policy & procedures at club level.
 - 6.3.2 Is the first point of contact for volunteers, parents and children / young people where concerns about children’s welfare, poor practice or child abuse are identified.

7. **BRANCH COMMITTEE**

- 7.1 The affairs of the Branch shall be controlled by a Committee comprising of the Executive Officers of the Branch and six (6) other Members elected from, and by, the Members of the Branch at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than four (4) times per year.
- 7.2 The Branch Committee shall be:
 - 7.2.1 Empowered to act as they see fit in the interests of the Branch including the raising of monies in pursuit of the Objectives of the Branch and such powers shall include the investment of monies not required for the immediate purpose of the Branch in instruments which trust monies, by law, may be invested with powers from time to time to transfer, pay away or otherwise dispose of such monies.
 - 7.2.2 To control the affairs of the Branch on behalf of the Members.
 - 7.2.3 Approve payment from Branch funds on Branch business

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- 7.2.4 To co-opt additional members on to the Committee, until the next AGM, as the Committee feels is necessary. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to a vote on the Committee.
- 7.2.6 To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional vote.
- 7.2.7 Each member of the General Committee will take on a role in the management and operation of the Branch to assist the Secretary.
- 7.3 The Treasurer shall keep account of all the income and expenditure of the Branch and shall submit accounts, duly independently verified, for the approval at the Annual General Meeting. The banking accounts shall be operated under the signature of the Treasurer and the Chairman. Any monies held in a Trust Fund by the Branch shall be controlled by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and any one of the other Officers.
- 7.3.1 An independent suitably qualified professional, not being a member of the Committee, shall be appointed to verify the books and accounts of the Branch. The appointment shall be made at each Annual General Meeting

8. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 8.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be called by giving at least 21 days notice in writing to the members. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by at least ten members, by giving at least 21 days notice in writing to the members together with a copy of the resolution(s) to be put before the Meeting. An email to a registered email address shall be considered to be a notice in writing.
 - 8.2 Business of the Branch conducted at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be passed by a simple majority of those present at the Meeting and voting.
 - 8.3 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
 - 8.3.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting.
 - 8.3.2 Receive the Audited accounts for the year from the Treasurer.
 - 8.3.3 Receive the annual report of the Committee from the Secretary.
 - 8.3.4 Elect an independent suitably qualified professional, not being a member of the Committee, to verify the books and accounts of the Branch
 - 8.3.5 Elect the Officers of the Branch (i.e. President; Chairperson, Secretary / Branch Organiser; Treasurer and other Branch Committee Members).
 - 8.3.6 Transact such other business received in writing by the Secretary from Members Seven (7) days prior to the meeting and included in the agenda.
- Note: The agenda can provide for "Any Other Business" but Members should be encouraged to refer other items to the General Committee and give the required notice for important Annual General Meeting.*
- 8.4 Nomination of candidates for election of Officers should be made in writing to the Secretary at least seven (7) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting date. Nominations can only be made by members and must be seconded by another Member.
 - 8.5 At all General Meetings, the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or, in his /her absence, by a deputy appointed by the Branch Officers or by Members attending the meeting.
 - 8.6 Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by simple majority of votes from those Members attending the meeting. In event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.
 - 8.7 A quorum for a General Meeting and /or Special Meeting shall be 25 Members and six (6) Committee Members of the Branch including two (2) from the Chairperson, Secretary / Branch Organiser or Treasurer.
 - 8.8 Each Full Member of the Branch shall be entitled to one (1) vote at a General Meeting.

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8.9 On all questions of procedure the decision of the Chairperson shall be final and decisions at General Meetings shall be binding on all members.

8.10 Minutes of General meetings will be taken and approved by the Members present at the next Annual General Meeting and signed by the Chairperson at the next Annual General Meeting.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

9.1 The National Charity, supporting the work of the Salmon & Trout Conservation UK will set the subscription level from time to time.

10. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

10.1 Any additions or amendments to the Branch's Constitution can only be made with Salmon & Trout Conservation UK's agreement. The Branch may make its own set of Rules for the conduct of the Branch affairs, which may be amended at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting, with the consent of two thirds of the members present at the meeting and voting, but shall not contradict the Branch Constitution or Branch Agreement

11. DISSOLUTION

11.1 A motion to dissolve the Branch may only be made at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Branch and to be carried shall have the support of three quarters of the members present at the meeting and voting. If carried, then the Branch will assess any funds and assets due to Salmon & Trout Conservation UK, after settlement of outstanding debts, and unless otherwise resolved by Branch members, shall donate such funds and/or assets to Salmon & Trout Conservation UK. The Branch Chief Executive at that time shall provide a full and sufficient discharge.

12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION DOCUMENT

Date	Amendment	Who By
4 Sept 2014	Version 1.0	G Taylor
9 Feb 2018	Version 1.0.1 (STA changed to STCUK)	M Richardson

This document replaces the version dated 4th September 2014.

Dated

Chairperson:

Secretary / Branch Organiser:

Treasurer