

53rd MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

Wednesday 3rd December 2008 @ 11am

Beech Hill Hotel, Londonderry

Attendees

Present

Tarlach O'Crosain (Chairman)
Joe Miller
Thomas Sloan
Jim Wilson
John Mulcahy
Denis Haughey
Winston Patterson
John Byrne
Enda Bonner

In Attendance - Loughs Agency

Derick Anderson – CEO
John Pollock – Director of Corporate Services
Gerard Mills – Director of Development
John McCartney – Director of Conservation and Protection
Laura French (Minutes)

1. Apologies

Jacqui McConville (Vice Chair)
Brendan Byrne
Alan McCulla
Barry Fox – Director of Aquaculture and Shellfisheries

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Proposed Winston Patterson
Seconded Denis Haughey

3. Reserved Minutes

None

4. Matters Arising

Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 53rd meeting of the Board of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission. He added that he would like to mention the recent death of an esteemed employee of the Loughs Agency, Sean Rowe. All Board members extended their sincere sympathy to his wife Nina, son Neasen and new born daughter Faith. The Board spent a few moments in silence reflecting on the life of Sean.

The Board sought an update on the purpose of the Danish trip for the oyster fishermen from the last minutes and asked if a date had been set. CEO explained that Barry Fox, Director of Aquaculture and Shellfisheries was in New Zealand at the moment dealing with the final stage of the monitoring vessel and he would arrange this on his return.

5. CEO Report

CEO thanked Board members and political parties for their condolences and advised that he would pass these to Nina. He added that his sudden death had occurred in court on Thursday 20th November 2008 had affected staff at the Agency a great deal. John McCartney, Tommy McAree, Wallace Kennedy and Jason McCartney were with Sean at the time and staff performed CPR until the ambulance arrived but sadly Sean passed away a short time later at Altnagelvin Hospital. Sean was an employee of the Foyle Fisheries Commission and Loughs Agency for 16 years and was one of our fittest members of staff. Sean was married to Nina and was father to Neasen (4) and his newborn daughter Faith.

CEO reported that the NSMC meeting that was scheduled to take place in November 2008 was postponed. This meant that the Agency did not get the licensing of fishing engines regulations through which meant there would be no increase in licence fees for the 2009 season

and the introduction of a coarse fishing endorsement would be delayed.

CEO advised the Board that there was a delay in the issuing of the financial statement due to a query with the hardship package. He added that DARD were seeking legal advice from Departmental solicitors and hoped to have the financial statement finalised as soon as possible.

6. Directors Report

The Board were provided with updates from the Senior Management Team each giving a brief overview on their respective areas.

Aquaculture and Shellfisheries

CEO advised that Barry Fox, Director of Aquaculture and Shellfisheries was currently in New Zealand at the moment dealing with the procurement of the monitoring vessel and provided the Board with the following short report;

There are currently consultation documents out to the public on wild mussels, this is due to end on Friday 30th January 2008. There will be a meeting of the Board's Aquaculture and Shellfisheries sub group in Armagh on Tuesday 16th December 2008 to discuss these and other matters.

CEO added that the monitoring vessel was currently getting its final coat of paint and should be in Irish waters by March, he added that the boat had come in £40,000 over budget but this was due to transport costs from New Zealand to Liverpool and the exchange rate.

Corporate Services

John Pollock, Director of Corporate Services provided the Board with the following report;

Finance

John Pollock, Director of Corporate Services advised the Board that the Agency had drawn down the final quarter of grant in aid for 2008 and expenditure was on target. The Hardship Package funds held in a separate account were on target and had been paid out in April 2008 with 6 payments still outstanding, 3rd and final tranche due in April 2009.

Audit

Internal audit 2008 is complete and there were no material findings, feedback from auditors was satisfactory. The 2007 Financial Statement is still awaiting sign off by the C&Ags.

Corporate Governance

Risk Management updates provides from all Directors with risk management meeting to be held in December 2008.

NSMC

NSMC Sectoral meeting postponed, awaiting detail of revised date.

Staffing Recruitment / Vacancies

The staffing loading review has commenced with interviews scheduled for all staff. There is 1 Fishery Officer vacancy and recruitment has commenced for a temporary EO2 to cover maternity leave.

Annual Report

2006 Annual Report currently at print stage. The 2007 Annual Report is complete and with Sponsoring Departments for comment and clearance.

Corporate and Business Plan 2008 – 2010

Complete, at print stage.

Business Plan 2009

Draft complete awaiting comment from Sponsoring Departments and Departments of Finance.

Pensions

The Agency met with legal advisors and the Department of Finance and Personnel to discuss a way forward in joining the North South pension scheme.

Equality

The Disability Action Plan survey of staff has commenced. The Agency is a member of the Age Equality Forum. Section 75 Screening complete on all regulations.

Accommodation

Architects drawings for redesign of reception area at headquarters are being considered and job is being tendered. Greencastle accommodation partnership with community association target completion end of 2008.

Advisory Forum

The last meeting of the Loughs Agency Advisory Forum took place on 26th November 2008.

Information Technology

Work on IT infrastructure and hardware upgrade with integrated telephone system commenced due for completion end of December 2008.

Conservation and Protection

John McCartney, Director of Conservation and Protection provided the Board with the following report;

Since the last Board meeting the staff of the Loughs Agency have been stunned by the sad sudden death of Sean Rowe. Sean was a Fishery Officer with the Agency who gave 16 years service. He was an extremely hardworking, diligent, honest and reliable member of staff, who in his career with the Agency, made a significant contribution to the Conservation and Protection of the Foyle system. He is sadly missed by all his colleagues.

Sand & Gravel Extraction

In terms of future salmon populations, this time of year when fish are preparing redds is a crucial stage of their life cycle. It is therefore imperative that the Agency protects the valuable spawning gravel beds from damage.

As the Board will be aware the Agency has recently introduced new legislation under the Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries (NI) Order 2007 and The Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Act 2007. This new legislation makes it an offence to remove any material, including sand or gravel from the bed of any freshwater river within the Foyle and Carlingford Areas without the consent of the Loughs Agency. The Agency has recently begun a publicity campaign to highlight the new legislation to the stakeholders of the Foyle And Carlingford catchments.

Enforcement of this new legislation will complement existing statutory rules under the 1952 Foyle Fisheries Acts, which prohibit damage to any spawning areas of rivers and the interference with movements of migratory fish.

Foyle and Finn

The Board has copies of the proposed Regulations, Consultation and Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Permit waters of the Rivers Foyle and Finn. These regulations are designed to protect and conserve salmon stocks in the system by limiting angling exploitation to catch and release methods only.

Health and safety

The Board have had circulated copies of documents relating to Health and safety within the Agency. These documents highlight the new legislative provisions of the Corporate Homicide and Manslaughter legislation, which is active on both sides of the border. The new legislation imposes a duty of care as follows;

- a. a duty owed to its employees or to other persons working for the organisation or performing services for it;
- b. a duty owed as occupier of premises;
- c. a duty owed in connection with—

- (i) the supply by the organisation of goods or services (whether for consideration or not),
- (ii) the carrying on by the organisation of any construction or maintenance operations,
- (iii) the carrying on by the organisation of any other activity on a commercial basis, or
- (iv) the use or keeping by the organisation of any plant, vehicle or other thing.

Additionally the Board have been presented with a health and safety strategy which it is hoped they will endorse.

Proposed Denis Haughey
Seconded John Mulcahy

Fish Counters

The independent review and validation project for the Agency counters continues, a draft interim report has been published which needs to be fully evaluated by Agency technical staff.

Comparative Summary fish counter data

	2005 1 st Jan to 31 st Sept	2006 1 st Jan to 31 st Sept	2007 1 st Jan to 31 st Sept	2008 1 st Jan to 31 st Sept
Faughan	3426	3037	737	496
Finn	8379	5597	3203	2163
Sion Mills	9162	8768	3422	2544
Roe	2607	1193	4238	3513
Corrick	1267	Not available	173	151
Newry	Not available	Not available	Not available	183
Omagh	Not available	Not available	Not available	105

Regulations (Summary of current position)

Completed

<i>Regulatory amendment to allow coarse fishing licence endorsement, remove redundant licence grades, rise in licence fees in line with FCB</i>	Was to be approved at NSMC, however meeting not held. To progress to next NSMC without rise in licence fees in line with FCB as licences need to be printed before 1 st January.
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Out to public consultation;

<i>Regulation to open Greenbraes fishery between Strabane and Lifford</i>	Limited number of responses, with objection from one MLA.
<i>Regulation to introduce a charge for carcass tags</i>	Large number of responses, most of which object to proposal including one Irish Minister.
<i>Regulation to conserve and protect coarse fish</i>	Small number of responses supporting proposal
<i>Regulation to conserve and protect Sea Bass</i>	Small number of responses supporting proposal
<i>Regulation to conserve and protect Tope</i>	Small number of responses supporting proposal
<i>Regulation to amend flood levels at Sion Mills that control fishing</i>	Consultation launched last week

Waiting for opinion from Sponsoring Departments;

<i>Regulations to introduce administrative penalties for angling offences</i>	Agency have requested advice as to the mechanism to introduce this measure, and in particular if it can be done by one regulation or if it requires 30 plus regulatory amendments.
<i>Regulatory amendment to pollution provisions</i>	Agency has asked sponsoring departments to pass papers to Departmental Solicitors for legal opinion on wording of offences.
<i>Regulation to introduce a consent scheme for the removal of river bed materials</i>	Agency has asked sponsoring departments to pass papers to Departmental Solicitors for legal opinion on need for regulation to introduce charging scheme.

Other Regulations

Regulation to prevent obstructions to fish passage	In development, Agency looking at a predictive model to base policy on.
Eel conservation regulations	Ready to go to DARD committee

	to approve consultation.
Regulatory amendment to extend and establish prohibited angling areas around weirs	Ready to go to DARD committee to approve consultation.
Finn and Foyle Angling permit regulations.	Internal consultation with Agency near completion.

Enforcement actions

In 2008 so far, Agency staff have dealt with 141 rod related offences, and 136 rod seizures. Agency protection staff have also seized 92 fish, 2 bags of oysters, 2 eel traps, 3 pairs of chest waders, 1 otter board rig, 4 floats, 114 illegal nets, 12 boats, and 1 car.

Summary of seizures by Agency staff

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 to December
Rods	12	16	10	26	85	136
Boats and vehicles	0	1	1	2	16	13
Nets	198	181	114	97	101	114
Fish	155	130	118	91	58	92

Pollution issues have also been addressed by Agency staff with 21 sets of statutory samples taken with a view to prosecution.

Recent case results

Man charged with polluting tributary of Owenreagh River

A man from Omagh has been fined £300 plus £252.97 costs for allowing farm effluent to pollute a tributary stream of Owenreagh River. In February this year, Fishery Officers of the Loughs Agency traced a pollution discharge back to a farm owned by Mr Trevor Johnston. Mr Johnston from 2 Aghadulla Road, Omagh received the fine from the District Judge at Omagh Magistrates Court on 12th September 2008.

Man charged with polluting tributary of Camowen River

A man from Omagh has been fined £300 plus £249.75 costs for allowing farm effluent to pollute a tributary stream of Camowen River. In January this year, Fishery Officers of the Loughs Agency traced a pollution discharge back to a farm owned by Mr Nigel Kennedy. Mr Kennedy from 30 Glencordial Road, Omagh received the fine from the District Judge at Omagh Magistrates Court on 12th September 2008.

Illegal Fishing on the Fairywater

A man from Omagh appeared in Omagh Magistrates Court on 12th September after he was caught fishing illegally by warranted officers of the Loughs Agency on the Fairywater River, Co Tyrone in February 2008. Mr Graham Young from 8 Meenmore Road, Omagh pleaded guilty and was given ten weeks to pay a fine of £100 plus £91 costs by District Judge McCourt.

Newry man charged with illegal fishing

A man from Newry appeared in Newry Courthouse on 13th November 2008 after he was caught fishing illegally by warranted officers of the Loughs Agency in Loughbrickland in April 2008. Mr Arvydas Baksys from 3 Craigaveen Close, Newry was ordered to pay a fine of £75 plus £91 costs by the District Judge.

Londonderry man charged with illegal fishing and assault

A man from Londonderry has been fined £750 plus £107 costs for fishing illegally and causing obstruction and assault to a Fishery Officer of the Loughs Agency. Mr John Shiels, of 7 Ramore Gardens, Londonderry was also given a 2 month suspended custodial sentence.

The offence, which took place on the River Finn at Carricklee, Co Tyrone in April this year, was dealt with at Strabane Courthouse before District Judge McNally on Thursday 13th November 2008. District Judge McNally stated that the court takes a very serious view of this type of case and described this as a grave incident.

Donemana company charged with pollution

A quarry company in Donemana has been prosecuted by the Loughs Agency under section 41(1) of the Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952 for

polluting the Burn Dennett River. The incident which happened in February this year was presented to District Judge McNally at Strabane Courthouse on 13th November 2008.

The circumstances of the case were fully outlined to the Court and District Judge McNally indicated that in cases where companies cause polluting matter to enter a river of this type of nature then the court would be looking to deal with the matter in the higher range.

District Judge McNally had to take into account A.S. Ballantine Ltd clear record and its relatively early plea of guilty which he was satisfied was a sincere expression of remorse.

Nonetheless, District Judge McNally stated that this incident was a serious breach of the legislation with the polluting matter going directly into the river and he warned Ballantines that there should be no further breaches.

District Judge McNally fined Ballantines £1,500 and further ordered the company to pay costs of £75, £25 court costs and the analysis cost of the sample of £155.97 making a total payable of £1,755.97. The defendant company has four weeks within which to pay the total sum due.

John McCartney, Director of Conservation and Protection at the Lough Agency said 'I think it is fair to say that this will hopefully send out a very strong message to companies and individuals who may try to engage in matters of this nature'.

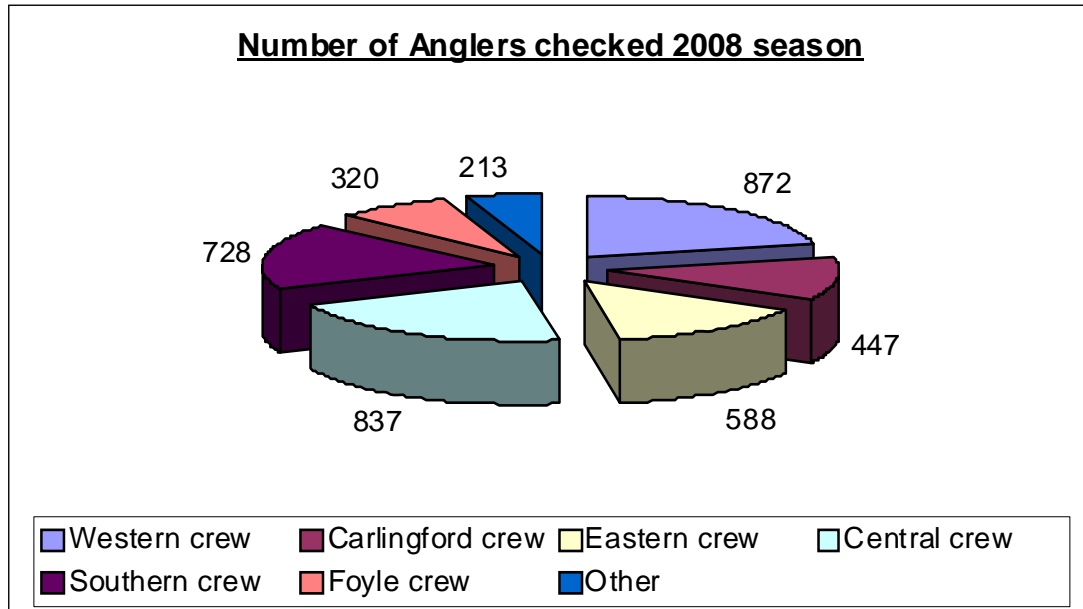
Castlederg man charged with illegal fishing

A man from Castlederg appeared in Strabane Courthouse on 13th November 2008 after he was caught fishing illegally by warranted officers of the Loughs Agency in Lough Bradan in April 2008.

Mr Jozset Parraj from 45 Muckle Hill View, Castlederg was convicted of all three charges and ordered to pay fines as follows: £150 for fishing without a licence, £100 for fishing without a permit and £150 for retaining illegally caught brown trout. He was also ordered £91 costs by the District Judge and given 4 weeks to pay.

Angling checks carried out by staff

Below is a summary of angling checks carried out by staff in the 2008 season.



Development

Gerard Mills, Director of Development made the following report to the Board.

European Funding Bids

1. Marine Tourism and Angling Development (circa €6MEU)
 - a. This bid has been successful subject to final negotiations on the amounts and the resources (staff and overheads) costs and now sits at €4MEU – this was decided by SEUPB and no negotiation occurred.
2. Territorial Cooperation with the Scottish Centre of Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE).
 - a. Call due to take place 3rd December 2008
3. New Game angling promotional literature for Foyle [Coarse and Sea etc to follow].

UPDATE AT 18 November 2008
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
FUND

PROJECT	Grant STG	€	Grant STG (€ x 0.80)	PROGRESS
51 Greenore Fishing Festival		4,500	3,600	Claim imminent
20 IFSA Sea Angling Events	500		500	Claim imminent
08 Pisces II Equipment	3,134		3,134	Grant paid 28 08 08
23 Kates Cottage	5,000		5,000	Claim imminent
61 R Mourne Fishing Cottage	5,000		5,000	Withdrawn
24 Meadowbrook Disabled Toilet	5,000		5,000	Planning delay now resolved
25 Meadowbrook Shop, Canteen, Shelter	5,000		5,000	Planning delay now resolved
28 Oaks Angling Boats	3,690		3,690	May withdraw
29 Oaks Access Paths And Platforms	5,000		5,000	Withdrawn
67 Danescast Disabled Stands And Path	1,171		1,171	Withdrawn
77 Moyagh Disabled Access	3,750		3,750	Claim imminent
79 Moyagh Information Panels	2,300		2,300	
35 Abercorn Access	5,000		5,000	Claim received
36 Abercorn Steps	3,038		3,038	Claim received
71 Roe Anglers Spawning Units	5,000		5,000	Wet ground remains a problem

				LoO extended.
48 I Curragh Championship	4,980		4,980	Claim imminent
53 National J24s Racing Event		7,500	6,000	Claim imminent
14 Sea Cadet Camp RYA Power Boat Training	1,250		1,250	Claim imminent
18 City of Derry Boat Club	4,875		4,875	Claim received
19 Foyle Hooker	4,950		4,950	Boat due to come out of water for work (01 10 08).
26 Culmore Regatta Water Safety	4,190		4,190	Insurance sorted out. Purchase imminent!
59 Foyle Punt Association Equipment		2,870	2,296	Claim submitted for €2,870
58 Mourne Heritage Trust Shore Footed	3,750		3,750	Separate Board Agenda Item
74 Lough Foyle Schools Ecology Programme	3,900		3,900	TOR sent to consults. AS queried long term plans for FCL. No response as yet.
85 Foyle Ecotourism				Remains a reserve.
Total			87,424	

Update on matter raised by Advisory Forum Sub Group

Some comments were raised at the last meeting around the impact of the current Interreg IV application on projected spend in the Carlingford catchment.

I provide for your information a list below of current actions some which relate to the Agency directly and some which do not; a significant number of these are “commercial and in confidence” and are therefore not common knowledge or in general discussion in the Agency or with Advisory Forum Members.

The Agency is responsible for the financial assistance to Mourne Heritage Trust for the development of their Signature Project Action plan and is currently considering a application from the Trust for financial assistance to move the relevant (to both the Agency and the Trust) parts of this proposal forward in readiness for the drawdown of NITB and hopefully Rural Development funding. MHT is the lead in this project and is supported by the relevant Councils and the Agency.

In reference to other projects in brief:

- Slip at Greenore – this would be unlikely to happen until the fate of the Greenore Port application is decided and was never a project for the Agency.
- Carlingford harbour and village is subject to the Co Development Plan with Louth County Council - they must lead this.
- Omeath slip – this is still subject to maintenance via Interreg III – to do anything to it would make the Agency liable for it.
- Newry Canal – as agreed with Council – we will input to the Middle Bank project as part of an integrated canal project; the council own it.
- Bessbrook Pond – Gerard Mills and David Clarke are working on an agreed access plan with Newry and Mourne District Council/local fishing association.
- Camlough – is part of the East Border Region bid to Interreg– hence it was dropped from ours.
- Summit Level Canal – will be part of EFF bid for eel habitat development (eligibility check under way)
- Loughs Enagh – is a simple bit of remedial works (small grants scheme – if the Lisnalea rod and gun club apply!)

- Derrylekkagh/Grinan – access issues – no angling access allowed (although survey was carried out by Loughs Agency staff).
- Clanrye – counter in place and proposal with Lagan Ferrovial to do in-stream works during the A1 road upgrade (access was an issue) – will depend on cost (David Clarke)
- Donaghaguy/Mill Dam – club do not require any works done.
- Dromantine Lake – is due to be surveyed by the Carlingford crew as (part of their wider survey work).
- Kilbroney River – remedial works to groynes etc carried out by club under supervision (and funds) by Carlingford Crew
- Whitewater – have been encouraged to apply for funding but have said they wouldn't last year – I have asked them again as recently two weeks ago.
- Anaghbog Lake – Crew carried out a brief site survey at the request of me and Louth County Council – confirmed it is not in our area but we are preparing a brief report for the Council anyway.
- There are also two significant upgrades of sailing facilities expected to be announced shortly from Interreg IV (not Loughs Agency Application) for sailing development in the Lough in preparation for the 2012 Olympics.
- The new proposed Marina at Warrenpoint is also subject to an Interreg bid with the Agency as a proposed partner along with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and Newry and Mourne District Council.
- An EOI for the Heritage Lottery Fund has been submitted to appoint two staff members for a period of three years.

Additionally projects supported under the Sustainable fund:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

PROJECT	Grant STG	€	Grant STG (€ x 0.80)
51 Greenore Fishing Festival		4,500	3,600
20 IFSA Sea Angling Events	500		500
08 Pisces II Equipment	3,134		3,134
67 Danescast Disabled Stands And Path	1,171		1,171
48 I Curragh Championship	4,980		4,980

53 National J24s Racing Event		7,500	6,000
58 Mourne Heritage Trust Shore Footed	3,750		3,750

LOUGHS AGENCY: EVENT / PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

NOTES

Information submitted about an event / project will be used by the Loughs Agency to assess economic and civic impact, contribution to the Agency's aims and objectives and the value for money obtained.

You should study this form before you deliver the event or implement the project - it may help you or your group members if you evaluate as you progress.

Further Information

Angling projects / events: If you have any questions contact the Angling Development Manager on telephone 028 7134 2100

[ROI 048 7134 2100] or lionel.knobbs@loughs-agency.org

Educational projects / events: if you have any questions contact the Information Services Officer on telephone 028 7134 2100

[ROI 048 7134 2100] or gillian.simpson@loughs-agency.org

Marine Tourism projects / events: if you have any questions contact the Development Officer on telephone 028 7134 2100

[ROI 048 7134 2100] or andrew.sides@loughs-agency.org

Event or Project Title: Carlingford Saltwater Fishing Festival

Project reference number: N/A

Name of Individual or Organisation: L Knobbs, A Sides.

Date of Event or Timescales of Project: 9thth – 10th August 2008

Report prepared by (supply name and address): L Knobbs, A Sides, S Moates, C McGonigle, J Pollock, K Wilson L French, S McCarron

AIMS / OBJECTIVES

Did the event / project achieve its stated aims and objectives – explain how?

	Aim / objective of event or project	State briefly how this aim or objective was met?	Remarks
Obj 1	Promote angling in Loughs Agency areas to potential angling tourists and locals.	Many serious enquiries were made at the LA stand. There is a lot of interest in the LA catchments – even from anglers who had a strong loyalty towards other areas.	Good potential for anglers from outside Agency area to try the fishing in Foyle/Carlingford
Obj 2	Enable anglers to fish in a sustainable manner.	Delivered various workshops on catch and release, fish diet, fish reproduction seasons, legalisation and best practice.	Good feedback from participants they clearly learned the skills required to fish for many species of fish on a sustainable basis.
Obj 3	Encourage local uptake on managing events such as the Fishing Festival	Local community group ran competitions over the same weekend. Joint marketing on events and regular meetings during the management of all the events over the Festival weekend	First time local group delivered Angling event and we saw this as perhaps the first step in locals self managing promoting events/ Angling in the location.

ORGANISATION OF THE EVENT

What was the highlight – or highlights - of this event / project?

Competitors fishing and catch and release safely, Bass caught and released safely back to the water with the anglers happy not having to kill any fish.
 Juniors and adults learning how to catch and release fish safely, including one of Irelands, top Game angling personalities. Good numbers of visitors at the LA stand making genuine inquiries

What problems did you incur in delivering this event / project (including health and safety issues)?

Difficult at times to organise two separate competitions during the same weekend, this often caused confusion among competitors, mainly during registrations leading up to the event.

If you were to run this event / project again, would you do anything differently?

Move the event to a different location on the opposite side of Carlingford Lough to a location with larger population of people and one that has more facilities.
Deliver the workshops only and encourage others to deliver the competitions.

What would you recommend as best practice to others running a similar event?

Set time aside for positive networking.
An informed and enthusiastic staff team is vital.
Uniformed staff made the Loughs Agency stand out from other exhibitors.
A good display using combination of pop ups and banner display.
A package offer - angling, accommodation etc offered to anglers.

Summarise the publicity and media coverage you achieved for this event. Include copies of any advertisements and other literature, including event leaflet, programme, poster and flyer.

Angling Guide booklets and leaflets issued from the LA stand.
Pop ups and Banner display. Promotions on local radio.

Additional Comments (as required)

This was the Loughs Agency's fourth Saltwater festival in Carlingford and this year like the previous we have continued to change the delivery and content, we believe this year more than ever we discovered what is required to deliver the event in a sustainable, safe and professional manner to our stakeholders.

Event or Project Title: Birr Castle Game and Country Fair

Project reference number: N/A

Name of Individual or Organisation: L Knobbs, A Sides, S Moates, C McGonigle

Date of Event or Timescales of Project: 30th – 31 August 2008

Report prepared by (supply name and address): L Knobbs, A Sides, S Moates, C McGonigle

AIMS / OBJECTIVES

Did the event / project achieve its stated aims and objectives – explain how?

	Aim / objective of event or project	State briefly how this aim or objective was met?	Remarks
Obj 1	Promote angling in Loughs Agency areas to potential angling tourists	Many serious enquiries were made at the LA stand. There is a lot of interest in the Foyle system in particular – even from anglers who had a strong loyalty towards Mayo and other “good” areas.	Good potential for anglers from outside Agency area to try the fishing in Foyle/Carlingford
Obj 2	Visits to infrastructure, Best practice sites	Visit to local river – the Brosna. Purchased rod licence and fished the river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very good information panels along river explaining the fish life to be found.• A wonderfully simple licence that was very clearly worded and therefore easy to understand.• No carcass

			tags were involved! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One form of licence was applicable for six classes of licence – a tick box is completed by the licence distributor to indicate the class.
Obj 3	Research into marketing best practice	Discussions with local and regional fishery staff	Discussions with local tourist office also

ORGANISATION OF THE EVENT

What was the highlight – or highlights - of this event / project?

Good rod licensing available with no unnecessary tags, simple tick box code formula.
Very good numbers of visitors at the LA stand making genuine inquiries

What problems did you incur in delivering this event / project (including health and safety issues)?

Time was very limited. With the additional staff, a limited amount of time was available to visit one local river (in the evening after the show was over) and network with other key agencies and stakeholders.

If you were to run this event / project again, would you do anything differently?

It would be useful to carryout best practice visits at a separate time than the fair or at least stay for an additional day for instance and include members of the LA science and Inspectors team.

What would you recommend as best practice to others running a similar event?

Set time aside for positive networking. If time permits include a fishing experience / case study.

An informed and enthusiastic staff team is vital.

Uniformed staff made the Loughs Agency stand out from other exhibitors.

A good display using combination of pop ups and banner display.

A package offer - angling, accommodation etc offered to anglers.

Summarise the publicity and media coverage you achieved for this event. Include copies of any advertisements and other literature, including event leaflet, programme, poster and flyer.

Angling Guide booklets and leaflets issued from the LA stand.

Pop ups and Banner display.

The promotional newspaper for the event published editorial on LA.

Additional Comments (as required)

This was the Loughs Agency's second year attending the show at Birr castle and was the most productive to date in many ways, this can be put down to many reason but to list a few, we had the best staff available working- very keen and professional, an improved location within the show, we managed to build in a limited visit to the local river, good numbers attending the LA stand, (no tyre kickers)

Visitor Count

Our target up to October was 8,950. Total visitors received at the end October of was 12,947.

Visitor Centre

The visitor centre continues to be busy. The visitor book records comments by people from Inishowen, Buncrana, Coleraine, Omagh, Belfast, Drogheda, Waterford, Scotland, Leicester, Nottingham, London, Kent, India, Australia and New Zealand

Very informative. Great to see live anemones, lobsters, etc. Kids loved it!

C Crawford, Inishowen.

*It was superb. Loved it!
Aaron Doherty, Leicester*

*I really enjoyed the aquarium, it was really cool. I would definitely
come back.
John Goodman*

A-scarium Aquarium

At Halloween we have over 1,100 visitors in 2 days. Comments from the ghouls and bouys that visited included:

*'Weird scary sounds and the black spider web was all over me'
Cathy O'Neill*

*'Fantastic decorating'
Ciara Dunne*

*Very well put together. Kids loved it. I fish the Faughan myself
and I found it very interesting' Michael McFadden*

*'Fab time, great to get up so close to owls. Great staff and FREE!
Thanks'
Gillespie family (Derry and London)*



We had over 173 entries in the pumpkin colouring in competition. Our winners were Melissa McGrotty and Jack Hutton from Derry. They both won a £10 book voucher for Bookworm. It was also great to see involvement from the staff with a few dressing up and

around 10 staff bringing their families along to the event. BBC and UTV both visited and captured some footage for the news.

Christmas at Riverwatch

Due to the success of Halloween we are now planning a Christmas event at Riverwatch with a Jack Frost theme. Derry City Council are promoting Christmas values – both traditional Christmas values and value for money this year. We intend to put an environmental slant on this with winter workshops in conjunction with the Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland and the RSPB. The workshops will be 'make it and take it' where the kids will make Yule logs, Christmas cards from recycled materials and bird feeders.

A vertical poster for a Christmas event at Riverwatch. The background is dark blue with white snowflake and icicle graphics. The title 'Riverwatch' is at the top in a large, stylized, blue-outlined font. Below it, the phrase 'WATCH OUT WATCH OUT JACK FROST IS ABOUT' is written in a bold, white, blocky font with icicles hanging from the letters. The main text describes Jack Frost's visit and the workshops. The workshop schedule is listed in two columns. Opening times and contact information are at the bottom, along with the website URL.

Riverwatch

**WATCH OUT WATCH OUT
JACK FROST IS ABOUT**

Jack Frost will be visiting Riverwatch Aquarium in Prehen at Christmas leaving frosted windows and icicles as he dashes about.... Come and see the fish swimming in the icy waters of the aquarium tanks and follow Jack's trail around the centre.

WINTER WORKSHOPS

Friday 19th Dec	Making environmental friendly Christmas decorations with CVNI
Saturday 20th Dec	Making Christmas cards from recycled materials
Monday 22nd Dec	Making bird feeders with the RSPB

**Opening Times: Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm
22 Victoria Road, Prehen, BT47 2AB**

**Children must be accompanied at all times
For further information contact:
+44 (0) 28 7134 2100**

www.loughs-agency.org

Fundraising

The Loughs Agency hosted a chest waxing and pink at work day in aid of Action Cancer's Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.

The event took place on 17th October with the help of beauticians from Beauty Rooms at the White Horse Hotel who donated their time and equipment for free. Loughs Agency staff raised around £600 and will donating all the money raised to the Breast Cancer Awareness appeal.



Lucy Latewood from Action Cancer said 'This is a brilliant fundraising initiative and Action Cancer are delighted to be a beneficiary of all the donations. Well done to the Loughs Agency for organising this event'.

7. Health and Safety

This item was covered in the Director of Conservation and Protection's report.

8. Onboard Training

John Pollock, Director of Corporate Services advised the Board that although some of them had attended the above training that it was an audit requirement that all Board members took part in this course. John added that he would get Laura French to arrange this.

9. Audit Sub Committee

John Pollock, Director of Corporate Services advised that Laura French would be in touch with the Board members from the above subcommittee with reference to setting up a meeting.

10. Attendance Policies

John Pollock, Director of Corporate Services provided the Board with a number of attendance and sickness policies for their consideration. He advised that it was the aim of the Agency to reduce sick leave in 2009. He added that these policies were currently with the Unions for their comments.

11. Consultations

This item was covered in the Director of Conservation and Protection's report.

12. Mourne Signature Projects

Gerard Mills, Director of Development provided the Board with a paper on the above for their consideration and advised them in short that Mourne Heritage Trust required technical assistance and required small funding which would be match funded.

Proposed Denis Haughey
Seconded Thomas Sloan

13. Mourne Heritage Trust Claim

Gerard Mills, Director of Development provided the Board with a paper on the above for their consideration and advised them in short that Mourne Heritage Trust did not deliver on the letter of offer that they were issued in relation to monies given to them by the Agency through the sustainable grant funding. A lengthy discussion ensued and Gerard also advised that there were two others that had done similar things and these all had to be considered. It was agreed by all that Gerard should flag this with internal audit, get their view and report back at the next Board meeting.

14. King of the Canal

Gerard Mills, Director of Development provided the Board with a short report on the above event which took place on Newry Canal. Laura French sold licences at the event and David Clarke and Damien O'Malley from the Carlingford crew were on hand to check licences.

15. Sub Group Dates for Assessment Panel for 2009

Gerard Mills, Director of Development advised that Laura French would be in touch with the Board members from the above subcommittee with reference to setting up a meeting.

16. Genetics Presentation

Dr Walter Crozier and Denis Ensing provided the Board with a detailed report on genetics and the SALSEA project.

17. A.O.B

Halloween Event

Winston Patterson advised the Board that he and his family had attended the Halloween event at Loughs Agency Headquarters and was very impressed with the organisation and the professionalism of all staff.

18. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 28th January 2009 at Loughs Agency Offices, Carlingford.