

RESERVED
20th MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS
COMMISSION
held on
WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2003
at
HOLY TRINITY HERITAGE CENTRE CARLINGFORD

Present

Board

Peter Savage (Chairperson)
Lord Cooke of Islandreagh (Vice Chair)
Tarlach O'Crosain
Joseph Martin
Jacqui McConville
Frank Feely
Jack Allen
Pat Griffin
Dick Blakiston-Houston

Loughs Agency

Derick Anderson (CE)
Stanley Thorpe
John Pollock
John Todd

Others

Michelle Lestas (Lestas Consulting)
Damian Toner CBAIT

1. Apologies

Siobhan Logue, Keith Anderson, Andrew Ward

2. Minutes of the 19th Meeting

The minutes were agreed

Proposed Joseph Martin
Seconded Tarlach O'Crosain

3. Reserved Minutes

The reserved minutes were agreed and would be made available to the public through the Agency's web site.

4. Matters Arising

The Board agreed that the Salmon Management Strategy Paper should be considered by the Salmon and Inland Fisheries Sub Committee and report back to the Board.

CE reported that the Interim Procedures Paper for a Study of Marine Tourism had now been signed off and the Agency had been given approval to recruit a consultant through the call off list held by DFP Procurement Agency. Some of the members of the Marine Tourism Sub Committee and NWRCBG and ERCBG may be required to sit on the selection panel.

5. CE Report

5.1 *Salmon and Inland Fisheries*

A table of fish counter figures was provided for the Foyle system however the counters, as reported at previous meetings, were out of action for a period due to the lightening strikes.

In the Carlingford Area and in particular the Whitewater River there are large numbers of Sea Trout waiting for water. These and Sea Bass are being fished for from the shore by anglers with some reported catches of Sea Trout 6-7lb and Sea Bass of 9lb.

The numbers of nets seized was down on 2002 and this is probably as a result of the carcass tagging and the reduction in the number of outlets laundering poached fish.

5.2 *Shellfisheries*

Carlingford

Results for the stock re-laid in Carlingford during October 2002 have been excellent. Some of the mussel seed re-laid at 2100 pieces per Kilo are now between 90-110 pieces per Kilo and excellent meat yields are attracting prices of between €650 and €750 per tonne on the French market.

The outstanding licence applications on the Lough are actively being progressed by DCMNR and we have been advised will be issued within the next week or two.

Foyle

Work is continuing on the relaying of seed from the beds within the area, approximately 1200 tonnes have been re-laid to date but quality is quite poor.

5.3 Riverwatch

Riverwatch continues to be successful with over 3,500 visitors to date. The Loughs Agency is participating in the Festival of Science Week with an estimate of 400 school children expected. Exploris from Portaferry have brought a mobile portable touch tank which has proved to be very popular. The Adopt a Stream has been delayed until risk assessments have been carried out and the hatchery in the classroom programme is well under way.

5.4 Corporate Governance

Following the recent corporate governance seminar it was suggested that future agendas for Board meetings should include update on the Agency's Finances. An example of draft cash flow was provided from Sage detailing expenditure by budget head and it is hoped to bring the full version to the Board commencing January 2004.

CE also reported that commencing January 2004 the Board would be provided with an update on achievement to date against targets as set out in the Business Plan for 2004.

6. Issues Arising out of the Corporate Governance Seminar

CE referred the Board to the recent On Board training provided by CIPFA and IPA. He referred to the cover note provided and in particular the non-attendance at Board meetings rule. It was agreed that these would be discussed at a future Board meeting and the Board requested that a folder of relevant policies and codes of practice would be prepared for each member. The Board also asked the Agency to check the status of insurance cover for Board members.

The Board also considered the Revised draft Financial Memorandum and agreed to proceed on this basis asked that DFP be advised that they would review it again in 1 years time.

7. Legislation

The Agency met recently with both Sponsor Departments and DCMNR has provided additional resources to the finalisation of the Bills. The Depts still target the publication of the Bills in spring 2004.

8. Reserved

9. Advisory Forum Minutes

The Board noted the Advisory Forum Minutes of 19th June 2003.

10. Salmon Workshop

Papers were provided regarding the proposed workshop “Atlantic Salmon Managing for Sustainability” on 26th November 2003. A list of guest speakers and agenda for the workshop along with estimated costings was also considered. The Board gave its approval to proceed on this basis and authorised expenditure up to a maximum of £10k

Proposed Jack Allen
Seconded Frank Feely

11. Wrens Hut

The Board were referred to the letter from the Secretary of Lough Foyle Yacht Club who currently uses the old fishery building at Culmore known as “The Wrens Hut”. The Board gave their approval to lease the premises for a further 25 years at a nominal rent and asked that the Agency take legal advice before finalising.

12. CLAMS

Damien Toner from CBAIT gave a presentation on Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems – CLAMS.

13. Angling Development Plan

Michelle Lestas from Lestas Consulting gave a presentation on the draft development plan and the responses to the initial consultation. The Board gave their approval to proceed on this basis.

Proposed Lord Cooke of Islandreagh
Seconded Frank Feely

14. Angling Development Presentation

John Todd Angling Manager gave a presentation on the Agency’s work to date on the development of alternative recreational fisheries. He advised the Board that this is progressing with the assessment of Tope, Bass and Sea Trout and Sea Angling in the areas being undertaken by expert anglers

in these fields. This work indicates significant potential for the development of these “products” and for the generation of significant economic benefit for the areas from Tourism Angling.

15. AOB

CE reported that the Governor of Maine USA and a trade delegation visited the Headquarters at Prehen and Peter Savage witnessed the signing of an agreement between ICBAN and Maine University.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th December 2003 at Loughs Agency HQ Prehen