

2012



Loughs Agency Annual Report & Accounts

2012

For the period ended December 2012

North/South Body



Foras Thuaídh/Theas

a Cross Border body

Loughs Agency

Annual Report and Accounts

for the period ended 31 December 2012

Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly and both Houses of
the Oireachtas in accordance with the North/South Co-operation
(Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 Schedule 1,
Annex 2, Part 7, Paragraphs 1.3 and 2.6



Loughs Agency Annual Report and Accounts **2012**

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1. Chief Executive's Overview

I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report which details the work the Agency has undertaken over the year.

As a North/South Body the Loughs Agency is accountable to the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC). During 2012 there were three NSMC Sectoral Meetings for the Agency and the Agency gave presentations to Ministers on the work of the Agency and detailed reports on progress as well as the other functions delegated to the Body by legislation.

2012 was an exciting year for the Agency with the rollout of the EU funded IBIS research project and the completion of the INTERREG IVA funded marine event platform (pontoon and quay) in Derry~Londonderry on time and in partnership with Foyle Port. The completion of this played a significant part in the success of the visit to Derry by the Clipper round the world yacht race. I am also pleased to report that many other projects are well under way for example tourism projects at Malin Head and Benone beach.

Looking to the future, I hope to see many new and innovative Angling Development, Marine Tourism and Aquaculture projects coming forward that will help improve the Foyle and Carlingford catchments.

John Pollock

Chief Executive

2. Mission Statement

To provide sustainable, social, economic and environmental benefits to the communities of the catchments through the effective conservation, protection, management, research, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.

3. Objectives

The principal objectives of the Agency in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas are:

- To conserve and protect the salmon and inland fisheries;
- To manage and develop the salmon and inland fisheries;
- To promote the development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes;
- To license and develop aquaculture;
- To develop marine tourism;
- To pursue increased efficiency and continuous improvement in the delivery of services to all customers;
- To ensure the efficient, effective, and economic utilisation of resources available to the Agency.

See Appendix 1 for outturn against objectives and targets.

4. Board Members

Details of the Board membership are as follows:

Mr Winston Patterson	Chairperson
Mr Alan McCulla	Vice Chairperson
Mr Tarlach O'Crosain	(Term ended 12th December 2012)
Mr Joe Miller	
Mr Thomas Sloan	
Mr Jim Wilson	
Mr Andrew Duncan	
Mr Donal Tipping	
Mr Seamus Rodgers	
Mrs Theresa McLaverty	
Mr Laurence Arbuckle	(Appointed 12th December 2012)
Mr Michael J McCormick	
Ms Phil Mahon	

The end of the year brought former Chairpersons, Mr Tarlach O'Crosain, term of appointment to an end. Mr Tarlach O'Crosain had served for 10 years. His vacancy on the Board was filled by Mr Laurence Arbuckle on 12th December 2012.

Mr Thomas Sloan

In January 2013 the Agency was informed of the death of former Board Member Thomas Sloan following a serious illness. Thomas joined the Board of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission in December 2007 and was a man of a quiet disposition and respected by all. He had a keen interest in shellfisheries in Carlingford Lough, was an active member of the Board's Aquaculture and Shellfisheries sub-committee and was a regular attendee at meetings despite his illness.

Board Meetings

72nd	Wednesday	18	January	2012	Armagh City Hotel, Armagh
73rd	Wednesday	21	March	2012	Four Season' Hotel, Carlingford
74th	Wednesday	02	May	2012	Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
75th	Wednesday	27	June	2012	Loughs Agency HQ Prehen
76th	Wednesday	05	September	2012	Whistledown Hotel, Warrenpoint
77th	Wednesday	24	October	2012	Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey
78th	Wednesday	05	December	2012	Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

Minutes of the above meetings are available on the Agency website
www.loughs-agency.org

5. North/South Ministerial Council

North South Ministerial Council

Aquaculture & Marine Meeting

Foyle, Carlingford & Irish Lights Commission (FCILC)

NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh

1 March 2012

1. The nineteenth North South Ministerial Council Aquaculture and Marine meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat offices, Armagh on 1 March 2012. The meeting was attended by Michelle O'Neill, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Minister of State, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Nelson McCausland, MLA, Minister for Social Development. Minister O'Neill chaired the meeting.

Progress Report

2. Ministers welcomed the recently appointed FCILC Chairperson Winston Patterson and Vice Chairperson Alan McCulla to their first NSMC meeting and received a progress report on the work of the Loughs Agency, from the Chairperson and the Chief Executive, Derick Anderson.

3. The Council welcomed the positive effect on Agency field staff morale as a result of meetings with Ministers and the Chief Constable of the PSNI following attacks on the Loughs Agency's enforcement staff and volunteer River Watchers.
4. Ministers welcomed the success of the Agency's enforcement actions under the Oyster Fishing Regulations. The Agency successfully convicted every individual or company that had caused a fish kill by pollution in the Foyle area in 2011. The improvement in the oyster population of Lough Foyle was noted and Ministers encouraged the Agency to continue to develop management strategies to consolidate and refine these improvements.
5. The Council also noted the issuing of a declaration suspending commercial fishing in Lough Foyle and the tidal Foyle to help improve the survival of Atlantic Salmon.

Integrated Aquatic Resource Management Project between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland (IBIS)

6. The Council noted that the Loughs Agency as Lead with partners from the University of Glasgow and Queen's University Belfast was successful in securing funding through INTERREG IVA for the project "Integrated Aquatic Resource Management Project between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland (IBIS)". The overarching aim of this project is the development of a common approach to the delivery of high priority training, research and knowledge sharing, supporting freshwater and marine resource management and policy and the biodiversity that these ecosystems support. The total value of the programme is approximately £8 million which runs from August 2011 to June 2015.

Presentation on Lough Foyle Oyster Fishery

7. Ministers welcomed the presentation by the Loughs Agency on the Lough Foyle Oyster Fishery and Oyster Spawning Assessment. The findings and recommendations from these annual assessments facilitates informed decision making by the Agency in relation to regulation, policy development and enhancement works for the fishery.

St Andrews Review – FCILC Recommendations

8. The Council considered two specific recommendations concerning the Loughs Agency and agreed to refer the following recommendations for endorsement to the June 2012 NSMC Plenary:
 - The Loughs Agency to establish and provide services to producer organisations for the development of marine products with any legislative obstacles identified by the agency to be addressed by the two Sponsor Departments; and
 - An amendment to be sought to the Magistrates' Courts (Costs in Criminal Cases) Rules (Northern Ireland) 1988 to enable costs awarded to better reflect the cost of bringing prosecutions; DARD will keep under review the opportunity to amend the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 to allow for a fixed penalty regime.

Legislation

9. Ministers welcomed the progress on the delivery of the Loughs Agency's Legislation Implementation Plan, approved one set of regulations and noted that further regulations will require NSMC approval later in 2012.

4 JULY 2012

1. The twentieth North South Ministerial Council Aquaculture and Marine meeting was held in Derry City Council offices on 4 July 2012. The meeting was attended by Pat Rabbitte TD, Minister of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Michelle O'Neill MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Minister of State, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Nelson McCausland MLA, Minister for Social Development. Minister Rabbitte chaired the meeting.

Progress Report

2. The Council received a progress report on the work of the Loughs Agency, from the Chairperson, Winston Patterson, and the Chief Executive, Derick Anderson.

3. Ministers welcomed the development of a formal operational plan with the PSNI and An Garda Síochána to deal with assaults on Agency staff and expressed their concern at two recent serious assaults.
4. Ministers noted the position on the survival of Atlantic Salmon which is causing very significant concern with less than five per cent of the juveniles leaving the systems returning as adults.
5. The Council welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Agency and the positive impact this will have on shellfish hygiene and noted the ongoing improvements in the Lough Foyle oyster fishery and the reduction in incidents of Bonamia.
6. The formal launch of the EU funded IBIS project and progress already made was welcomed. Twelve PhD students have taken up their positions, the first cohort of Masters students has been appointed and a full complement of support staff is in place.
7. Ministers noted progress on Marine Tourism and Angling Development particularly the completion of the pontoon at Meadowbank, the Agency's significant contribution to the Clipper Round the World event and preparations for the sea and trout angling events of the 2013 World Fire and Police Games.

Presentation on Water Framework Directive Fish Monitoring in the Foyle and Carlingford areas

8. The Loughs Agency made a presentation on Water Framework Directive Fish Monitoring and Ministers noted the practical use of this information by both the Loughs Agency and other statutory stakeholders.

Loughs Agency Business Plan 2012

9. The Council approved the Loughs Agency's Business Plan 2012 and recommended budget provision for 2012 of €5.0525m (£4.3957m) (these figures do not include EU or other funding).

Annual Report and Financial Statements

10. The Loughs Agency Annual Report and draft Financial Statements for 2011 were noted.

Legislation

11. The Council welcomed progress on the delivery of the Loughs Agency's Legislation Implementation Plan, noted that further regulations will require NSMC approval later in 2012 and approved for a further year, to July 2013, a procedure to support the Loughs Agency in dealing, through regulations, with emergencies such as pollution incidents.

Loughs Agency Pension Arrangements

12. Ministers noted that the Loughs Agency has reviewed pay and pension arrangements for its staff. A draft economic appraisal recommended that the Agency takes the necessary arrangements to join the North/South Pension Scheme. It was noted that following consideration of the legal and financial implications of this, an update will be provided at the next NSMC Aquaculture and Marine meeting.

12 December 2012

1. The twenty first North South Ministerial Council Aquaculture and Marine meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat offices, Armagh on 12 December 2012. The meeting was attended by Michelle O'Neill MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Pat Rabbitte TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Nelson McCausland MLA, Minister for Social Development. Minister O'Neill chaired the meeting.
2. Minister Rabbitte referred to Ireland hosting the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) annual meeting in June 2013 and mentioned that Ministers and colleagues from the sectoral area will be invited to participate in that meeting.

Appointment of interim CEO

3. Ministers approved the appointment of Mr John Pollock as Acting CEO of the Loughs Agency.

Presentation on IBIS Project

4. The Loughs Agency made a presentation on the IBIS projects involved with the native oysters in Lough Foyle and on the impact of river barriers on the migration of Atlantic salmon. Ministers noted the valuable contribution these research projects will make to the management and development of these important fisheries.

Progress Report

5. The Council received a progress report on the work of the Loughs Agency from the Chairperson, Winston Patterson, and the Acting Chief Executive, John Pollock.
6. Ministers welcomed:
 - the reduction of incidents of violence against Fisheries Officers and noted recent custodial offences for such offences
 - the Agency's engagement with the Lough Foyle native oyster fishermen; and
 - that the Agency is working with the City of Culture offices with a view to incorporating the River Foyle into the festivities.
7. The Council also noted the latest position on the survival of Atlantic Salmon in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments and the Agency's ongoing conservation and protection efforts.

Loughs Agency Business Plan 2013

8. The Council noted progress on preparation of the Loughs Agency's Draft Business Plan for 2013.

Loughs Agency Pension Arrangements

9. Ministers noted that the Loughs Agency had finalised, in consultation with Sponsor Departments, an economic appraisal of the options to regularise its pay and pension arrangements. This appraisal recommended that the Agency take the necessary steps to join the North/South Pension Scheme. Sponsor and Finance Departments are considering the legal and financial implications of the Agency joining the Scheme and recommendations will be brought to a future NSMC Aquaculture and Marine meeting for approval.

Legislation

10. The Council approved two sets of regulations, the Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Angling) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and the subsequent Foyle Area (Control of Fishing) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

Aquaculture Management Agreement

11. Ministers welcomed the progress to date on developing an Aquaculture Management Agreement and in particular the aim of the Loughs Agency and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to have an overarching Management Agreement in place during 2013 to enable the progression of aquaculture licensing in Lough Foyle.

Appointment of Board Member

12. Ministers approved the appointment of Laurence Arbuckle to the Board of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission in succession to Tarlach O'Crosain. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the significant contribution that Mr O'Crosain made to the Board.

6. Foyle and Carlingford Area Advisory Forum

The recruitment of the 3rd Foyle Area and Carlingford Area Advisory Forum followed a lengthy application process which included a second call for applications.

The plenary sessions of the new Forum of 34 members representing stakeholders from both the Foyle and Carlingford catchments will meet twice per year.

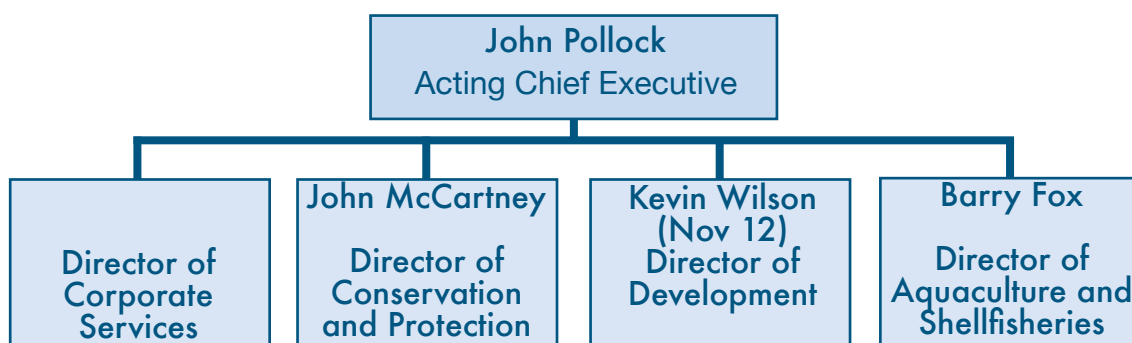
Mr Peter Archdale has been appointed as Chairperson and Mr Paul O'Donovan as Vice Chair. Nominations have also been received for the Focus Groups who will meet approximately six times per year and this is where the main body of work is carried out considering specific topics in greater detail and include the following areas:

- **Salmon and Inland Fisheries;**
- **Environmental;**
- **Marine Tourism and Recreational Angling Development;**
- **Aquaculture and Shellfisheries**

Minutes of the Advisory Forum meetings are available on the Agency website www.loughs-agency.org

7. Staffing

The Agency operates within a four Directorate structure (Corporate Services, Conservation & Protection, Aquaculture & Shellfisheries and Development) with a current approved permanent core staffing level of 53.



8: Staff Development

The Agency recognises the importance of staff development and the delivery of appropriate continuous personal development initiatives for all staff. Throughout the year the Agency addressed the training and development needs of staff, focusing on knowledge and skills retention and motivation appropriate to the achievement of the organisation's objectives and individuals' needs, for example, Sea Survival, Conflict Management, Recruitment and Selection and Equality Awareness.

9. Education and Interpretive Centre “Riverwatch”

The Agency’s Riverwatch Aquarium and Visitor Centre welcomed over 18,000 visitors in 2012 from educational and tourism sectors bringing the total visitor count, since opening in 2002, to nearly 135,000.

We have achieved this level of engagement through a portfolio of outreach programmes, effective marketing and promotional campaigns and a calendar of internal and external events.

We developed educational science projects with Foyle College which were presented at the Intel SciFest held in June in Belfast. Winning first place in the ‘Science’ category was a freshwater and saltwater monitoring project. Pupils had researched and measured salinity levels at different depths at various sites between Prehen and Culmore Point to identify the type of vertical mixing occurring in the River Foyle. Pupils also designed a bridge which won ‘Intel Best Science Project’. A third project monitored biodiversity in the Foyle area and was awarded a ‘Bronze Science Crest Award’. In addition to 3 trophies, the school also won a science show and funds for the school.

In June, the Loughs Agency gave young people the opportunity to learn to sail on the Foyle as part of the build up to the arrival of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. Loughs Agency, in conjunction with Ocean Youth Trust Ireland, provided 6 days of sail training for schools and groups in the city. The new ‘mobile marine touch tank’ was exhibited during the 10 day Clipper visit and was extremely popular with visitors.

We continued our involvement with the Rivers of the World project, partnering with ILEX (the Urban Regeneration Company in Derry~Londonderry), British Council, local artists and 6 local post primary schools. For the 2nd year running their artwork was displayed outside the Tate Modern in London and viewed by around 800,000 visitors to the Thames Festival.

Our Halloween event ‘Ascarium Aquarium’ in October was delivered in partnership with other conservation and environmental groups such as the RSPB, Belfast Zoo, TACT and Derry City Council. The 5 day event attracted around 2,000 visitors.

We continued to develop our range of education programmes with schools

in 2012. We designed and piloted a river study based on the Assessment and Qualification Alliance (AQA) controlled assessment criteria for GCSE Geography coursework. In conjunction with the Immaculate Conception College the programme was delivered to 16 pupils and endorsed by an AQA moderator.

IBIS Project with SCENE University of Glasgow and Queens University Belfast

With the Loughs Agency as Lead along with partners from the University of Glasgow and Queens University Belfast funding was secured through INTERREG IVA for the project 'Integrated Aquatic Resource Management between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland (IBIS)'. The overarching aim of the programme to develop a common approach towards the delivery of high priority training, research and knowledge sharing, supporting freshwater and marine resource management, and policy and the biodiversity that these ecosystems support, across the programme area and supporting economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner. The total value of the programme is approx £8m and runs from August 2011 to June 2015.

There are several key elements:

- Provision of high quality research and training through 12 PhD's and 34 MRes studentships.
- Development of 9 CPD courses and the delivery of 16 CPD courses to be aimed at professionals, policy makers and managers.
- Delivery of Knowledge Transfer workshops which will ensure that the knowledge and information generated by the research is delivered to stakeholders, managers and policy makers in an appropriate manner.
- Provision of a 'state of the art' field training/ research facility at the Scottish Centre for Ecology and Natural Environment at the University of Glasgow on Loch Lomond.

Four PhD students have commenced their studies. They are looking at researching a diverse range of topics:

- **Native oyster**
Develop science-based management strategies for environmental and commercial sustainability of native oysters in the context of local commercial production.

- **Blue mussel**

Investigate mussel production under different management practices and help producers develop points of stock audit to better manage mussel crops and increase returns.

- **Migration of salmon**

Monitor salmon migration in the Foyle to aid in achieving objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive and provide information for effective management.

- **Early life history of eels**

With eel populations in decline the early life history is poorly understood. This study will aim to address this.

10. Conservation and Protection

Salmon and Inland Fisheries

The salmon populations of Ireland and indeed North Atlantic stocks have continued to decline, specifically with regard to their sea survival for a number of years. Marine survival continues to be low for 1 sea winter (SW) salmon also known as grilse. The River Bush which is an ICES index River had a return from the 2010 smolt cohort of 4.96% back to the river, however there was an increase in the return rate of the 2SW smolt cohort of 2009 which was 0.95%. For comparison the average between 1999 – 2008 was 0.51%.

Against this background the Agency has significantly rationalised the harvesting of the returning salmon by suspending commercial salmon fishing by appropriate declaration and reducing recreational angling by limiting carcass tags, issuing protocols and enforcing catch and release on some significant river systems. These harvesting limitations have been underpinned with a significant drive against illegal fishing.

In order to maximise the productivity of salmon during their freshwater phase, which is the main life cycle phase that the Agency can effect, work has been carried out on improving in-stream habitat. Improvements to this habitat are linked to the water quality, the ability of salmon to access the habitat and the control and protection of the adults trying to reach the upper reaches of the rivers from not only legal exploitation and poaching but also predation.

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Like all biological systems, empirical information is difficult to establish and therefore monitoring over a long period is the best approach to management and specifically the evidence based management we strive for.

The Agency has identified a number of “audit points” to establish these data sets some of which now extend for more than 10 years, indeed one goes back to 1952.

This monitoring work compliments the obligations of the EU Water Framework Directive, in the delivery of which we partner Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

As indicated earlier, the in-stream habitat is fundamental to the productivity of salmon and the Agency has detailed GIS records for 5161km of rivers in Foyle and 489km in Carlingford.

The decline in Sea survival of Atlantic Salmon and the subsequent effect on returning adult salmon is demonstrated in the table below, which represents the number of adults recorded at our fish counters over the past six years.

River system	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	*Management target
River Finn	3278	3185	2153	1421	1928	2190	5410
River Mourne	3714	3578	8410	2303	1342	2836	7859
River Faughan	1257	604	831	1825	995	1824	800
River Roe	5375	4927	3064	3837	2652	3526	1833

The Agency has published detailed status reports on all the Foyle and Carlingford River systems which are available from the Agency web site for review, these documents form the basis of ongoing and continuous consultation with fisheries owners, angling clubs and associations.

In addition to this information the Agency also monitors and tests water quality in the smaller watercourses of the catchments which supplements the statutory sampling undertaken by both jurisdictions.

The status reports include recommendations for work to be undertaken and are provided to the fisheries interests (clubs, fishery owners and others) as the basis for discussion on which work should be prioritised. This work generally takes the form of habitat reinstatement and during 2012 significant projects were agreed with the stakeholders and delivered. For example habitat improvement works were undertaken at Cappagh Burn and Fintona River. This work included enhancement of spawning nursery and holding areas as well as bank reinstatement.

Enforcement

Throughout the 2012 season, the levels of violence and intimidation of staff was a significant issue for the Agency. The 2012 season saw a number of individuals convicted for both illegal fishing and assaults on staff including both monetary penalties and periods of custody for serious attacks on fishery officers.

In one case the Judge spoke out against the assault and intimidation of fisheries officers while carrying out the “unpopular” job of trying to prevent the illegal poaching of rivers along the Tyrone-Donegal border. The same Judge jailed two Lifford brothers for assaulting fisheries officers and illegal poaching. He also commented that the job of a fisheries officer is a difficult and unpopular one, especially in the Lifford area, but the officers are entitled to go about their work without being assaulted, intimidated and abused.

The Agency recognises the professionalism of both the PSNI and An Garda Síochana and thanks them for their assistance. The Agency also owes a debt of gratitude to the 70 plus Private River Watchers who have assisted in patrolling the Mourne, Strule, Derg, Roe, Finn, Whitewater, Clanrye and Faughan Rivers.

With the suspension of commercial fishing for salmon and banning of the sale of rod caught salmon, poaching continues to be a major concern for the Agency. The table below shows the seizures that have been made in the last three years

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	2009	2010	2011	2012
Rods	76	84	44	76
Boats and vehicles	7	11	14	18
Nets	127	138	161	136

In 2012 Agency staff also seized the following fish and shellfish;

- 79 Salmon
- 13 Roach
- 2 Rainbow Trout
- 19 bags of Oysters
- 10 Brown Trout
- 1 Pike
- 2 Hybrids
- 6 Sea Trout



Agency staff also seized large amounts of other fishing equipment and the following assorted items;

- 7 hunting type knives
- 4 Assorted weights
- 1 Bicycle
- 7 Pulley Systems
- 2 Hammers
- 1 Baseball bat
- 1 long line



Pollution

There were no fish kills in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments in 2012, however, Agency staff responded to nearly 100 pollution incidents.

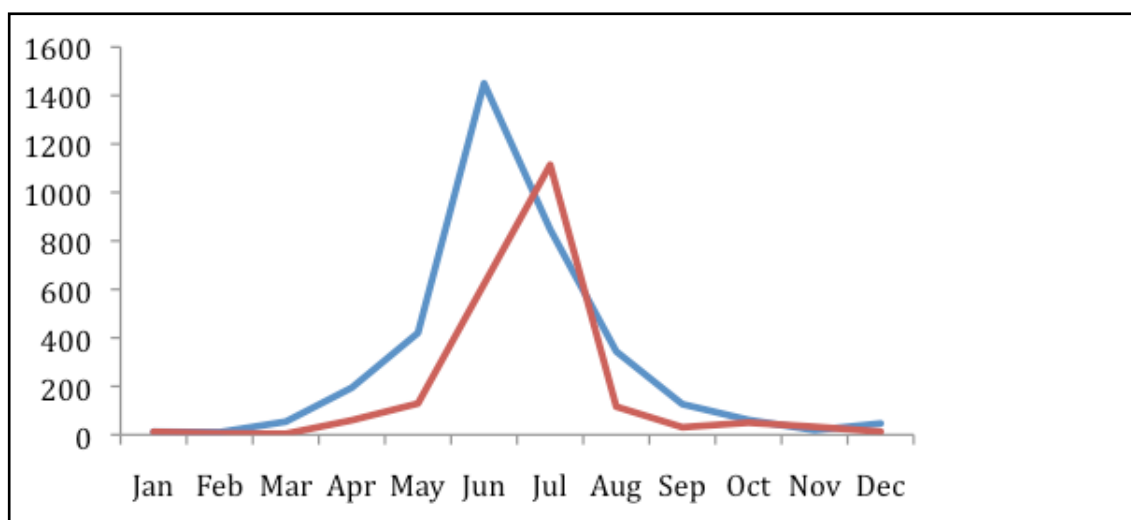
One new development for the Foyle area was that a number of containers suspected to be used in fuel laundering were dumped at Crebarky in the upper Roe catchment. The contents of these are generally highly toxic, corrosive as well as being significant aquatic pollutants.



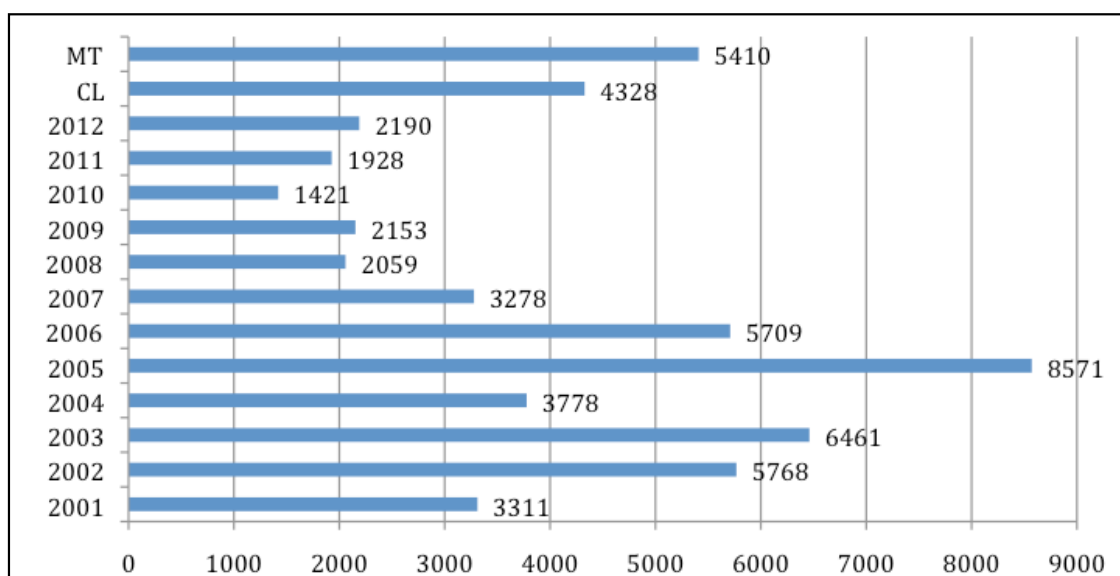
Fish Counters

Summary 2012 Fish Counts from Loughs Agency Fish Counter Programme

River Finn Fish Counter data



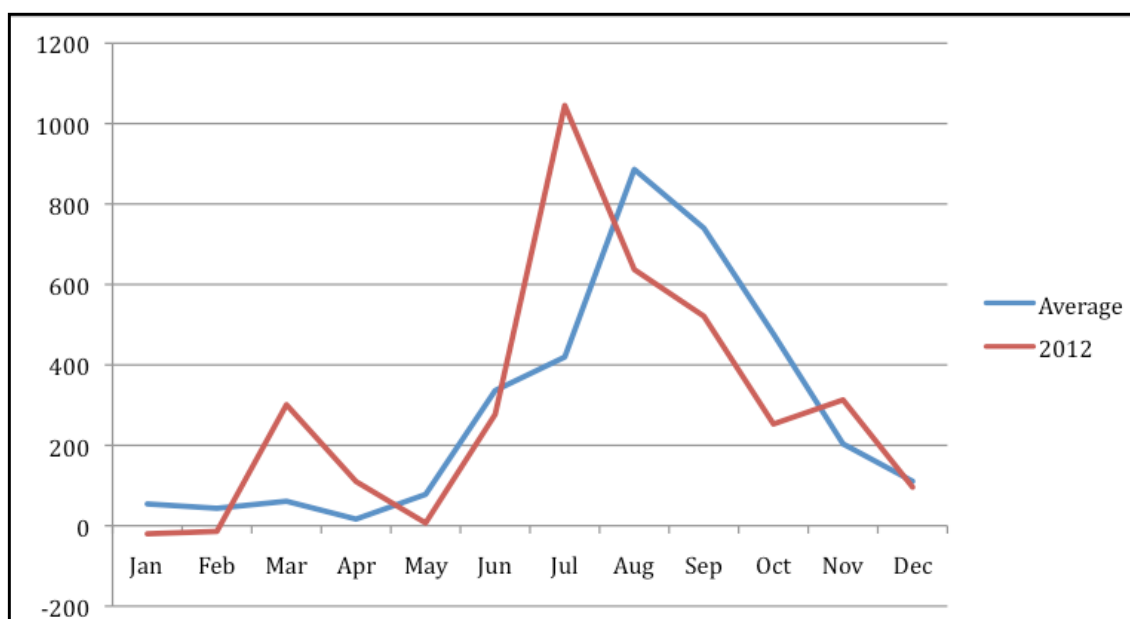
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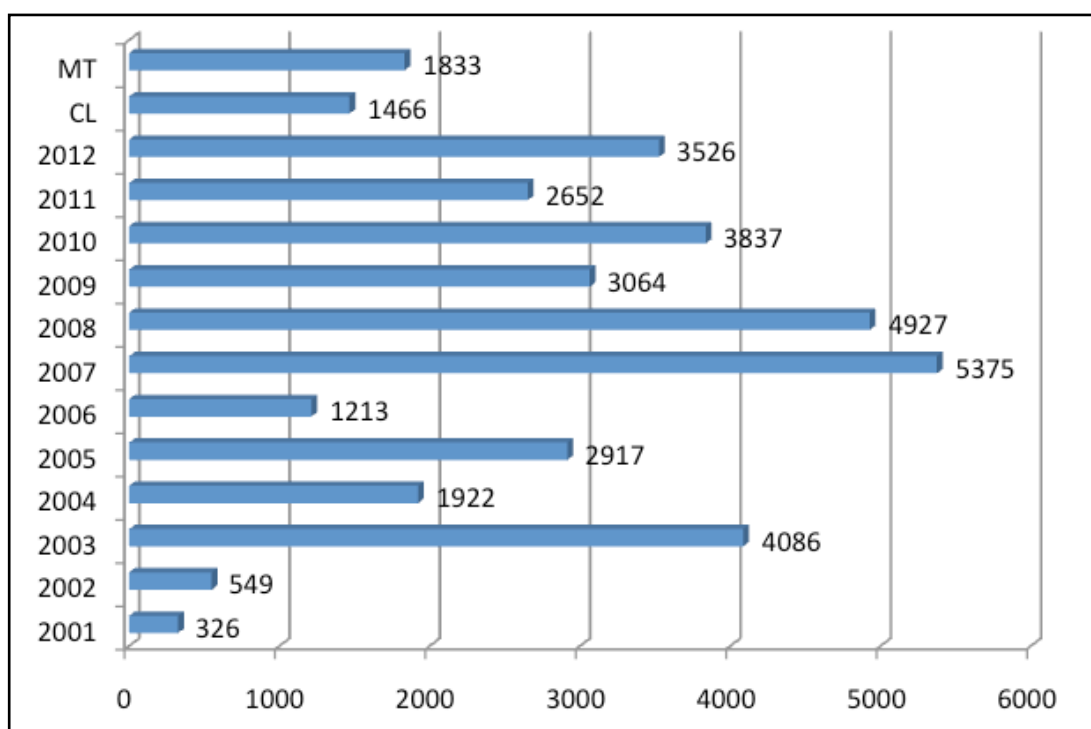
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River Roe Fish Counter data

Run Trend

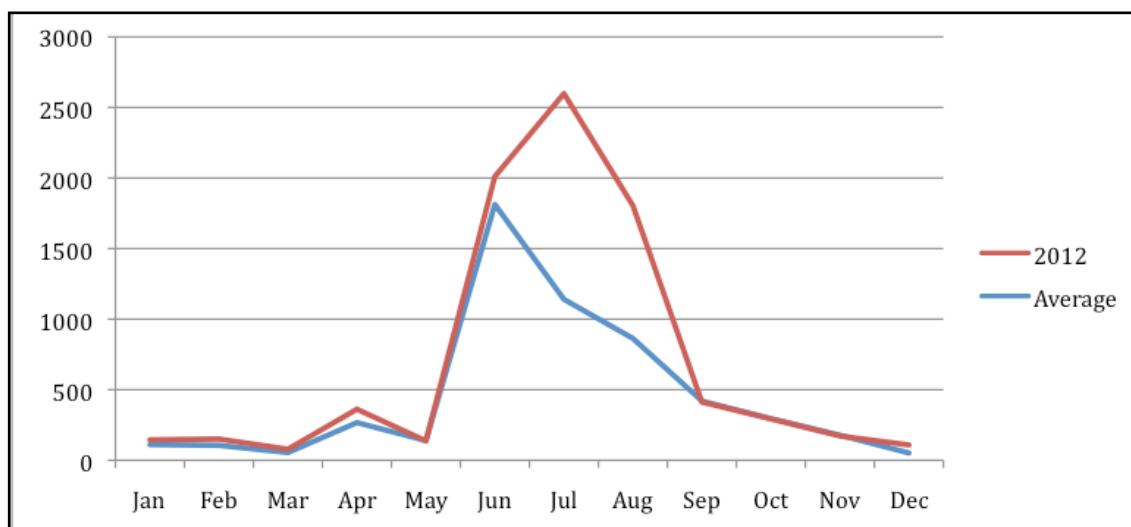


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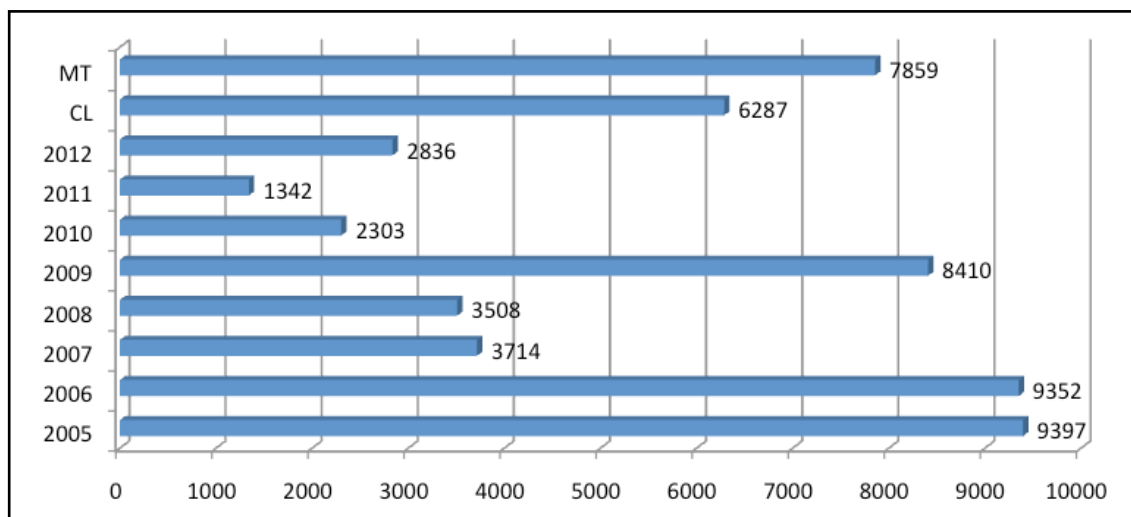


River Mourne Fish Counter data

Run Trend

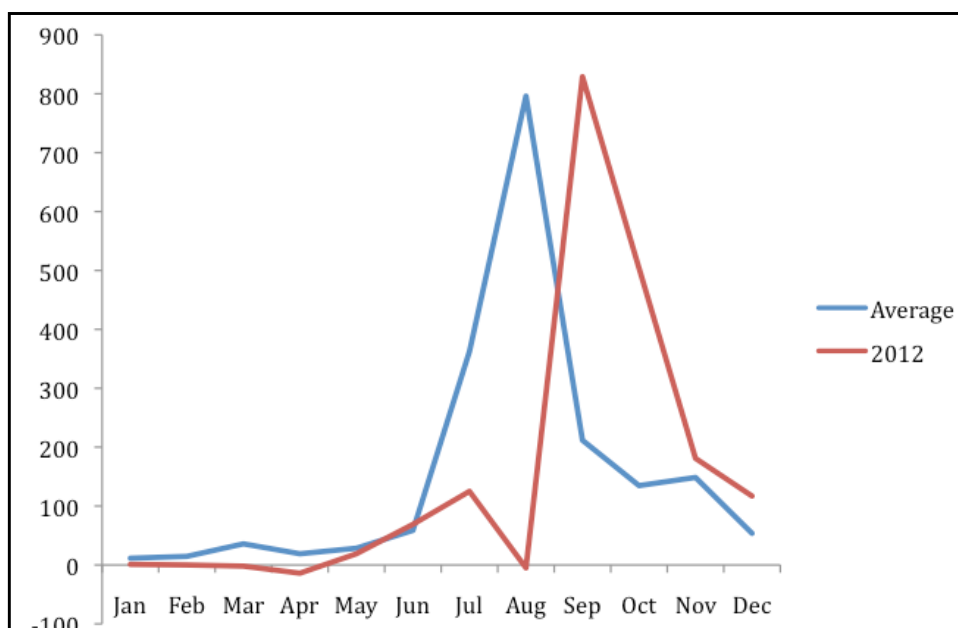


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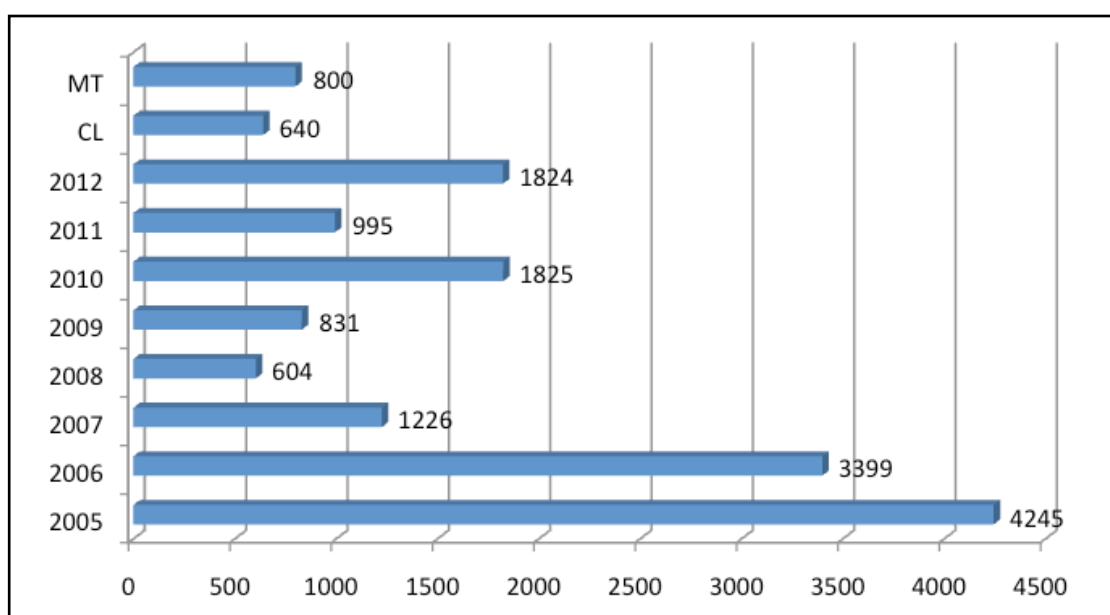


River Faughan Fish Counter data

Run Trend



Run size



Environmental Issues

Environment Agency Wales (EAW) reported on the 27th September that 2012 rainfall had resulted in the wettest UK summer in 100 years, many aspects of the Loughs Agency work have been impacted by this continuing flood water.

The Agency was pleased to report that remote water quality monitoring systems became operational in 2012, continuously regarding chemical and physical parameters including Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature. These are located at our fish counting stations on the Rivers Finn, Roe and Mourne. These systems send alerts to key Agency staff if pollution is detected and operate on a 24 hour basis.

In Partnership with Rivers Agency, Loughs Agency had a voice announcer fitted to the River Roe flow gauging station, the Agency now has access to these devices on the Rivers Roe, Faughan and Mourne. This announcer allows a telephone interrogation of the station data, and delivers flow data in real time.

Issues surrounding hydroelectric generation on the system continues to give cause for concern. In 2012 there were over 20 schemes in various stages of application /development within the Foyle catchment.

The Agency was represented at the annual North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) conference in Edinburgh at the beginning of June.

NASCO is an international organisation established by an inter-governmental Convention to conserve and manage the Atlantic Salmon stocks. Its members are Canada, Denmark (for Greenland and Faroe Islands), EU, Norway, Russia and the United States.

Agency staff gave evidence at an An Bord Pleanála public enquiry into the proposal for a bridge at Narrow Water on Carlingford Lough, and at the Planning Service Public Enquiry in the development of the A6 road scheme. Agency staff identified issues in respect of the statutory obligations of the Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Acts. These related to a number of issues such as protection of fish stocks particularly during their migration periods.

11. Aquaculture and Shellfisheries

Loughs Agency & Food Standards Agency Ireland MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed and signed between the Loughs Agency and Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). This MOU outlines the handover of responsibility for shellfish hygiene sampling on the Republic of Ireland shores of Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle from the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) and the Marine Institute to the Loughs Agency. The completion of the MOU means that Loughs Agency have full responsibility for shellfish hygiene sampling of native oysters, pacific oysters and mussels as well as phytoplankton sampling on both Loughs. It is hoped that this will provide greater continuity in sampling.

The Shellfisheries and Aquaculture directorate of the Loughs Agency scheduled the new sampling responsibilities to coincide with existing sampling regimes in order to best maximise staff and time resources. Sampling on both Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough commenced on the 1st July 2012.

Shellfish Hygiene Sampling

The shellfish hygiene sampling developed throughout 2012 with the implementation of several changes to the methodology as the result of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) visits in 2012. From September water samples taken for phytoplankton sampling are to be taken on alternate weeks to biotoxin flesh samples in order to increase the likelihood of the water samples acting as early warning systems for blooms of biotoxin producing phytoplankton. In addition to this change the audit also requested that co-ordinates are provided with all samples. Sampling officers must now report the co-ordinates of the sample site, sample temperature (for intertidal samples) and storage temperature in addition to the parameters originally documented.

All results from 2012 were good and no closures were incurred on either Lough as the result of biotoxins. Classifications remain either A or B on both Loughs and water quality remains good.

MSC Native Oyster

The Marine Stewardship Council Certification Programme is run by The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). MSC is a global, independent organisation which operates a programme of certification in order to promote well-managed fisheries. This programme of certification is the world's leading, independent, international fishery certification and eco-labelling programme. MSC certification allows fisheries to prove that they fish in a sustainable manner. The essence of the MSC standard is that:

- the stock is harvested sustainably
- the stock is harvested with low impact on the ecosystem
- the stock is harvested using a good management system that is likely to respond to changing circumstances and problems as they occur

Attainment of the MSC certification demonstrates to consumers as well as NGO's and stakeholders that management regimes are sufficiently robust enough to ensure the sustainability of the fishery.

The aims of this project are to:

- Highlight any potential stumbling blocks to full MSC certification
- Gain insight into the MSC process and its worth to the fishery
- Improve the sustainability status of the fishery
- Ultimately prepare the fishery for eventual MSC

The pre-assessment is a confidential exercise which will give an idea as to how the fishery would stand up to the full assessment. It is hoped that the process will eventually lead to a certification which proves the sustainability of the fishery at a global scale based on the management implemented by Loughs Agency.

It is hoped that this project will be completed in early 2013. The results of the pre assessment will help to inform management decisions and, if the results are favourable, may lead to a full assessment being carried out in the near future.

Carrying Capacity

A meeting was held on 19 November 2012 between Loughs Agency and AFBINI to discuss the usability and applicability of the SMILE model as a means of calculating carrying capacity for Carlingford Lough and Lough

Foyle. AFBINI demonstrated the model on Belfast Lough to show how, when furnished with accurate information, the model can be used to inform both management and environmental decisions. It is hoped that the outcomes from this meeting will allow Loughs Agency to make an informed decision on the applicability of this model for Foyle and Carlingford. If this model is deemed useful and justifiable then the Shellfisheries and Aquaculture Directorate will deliver the implementation of SMILE, as a tool to estimate carrying capacity, on both Carlingford and Foyle.

Waterbird Surveys

The first full year of waterbird survey was completed in 2012. The waterbird survey was started in late 2011 in response to the issue that the avian data which exists currently is insufficient for use as an indicator of the interactions between waterbirds and aquaculture activity. Supporting data is needed in order to bring the aquaculture sector into compliance with the Habitats Directive. Additional information is needed on the distribution of waterbirds (with particular attention to protected species), the abundance and assemblage of waterbirds and interactions between aquaculture and waterbirds.

An Appropriate Assessment must be carried out before an aquaculture licence can be granted or renewed, and is required by Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (1992) which defines how Natura 2000 sites are managed and protected. The 1979 Birds Directive must also be complied with. As part of an appropriate assessment of a site, accurate data must be provided on the numbers and species of birds which frequent the area.

In response to the afore mentioned gap in existing data, the Loughs Agency decided to collate bird data from Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle in-house. By comparing data from aquaculture sites with non-cultivated areas, in house collection of this data by Loughs Agency will allow for assessments to be made of how waterbird populations may affect or be affected by aquaculture activity on Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.

The study follows the template laid out in “Waterbird Surveys within Irish Coastal Special Protection Area: Survey Methods and Guidance Notes” (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2011). However, completion of this survey will require surveying of sites in the summer months in addition to the winter months required by NPWS. A few other requirements specific to the needs of Loughs Agency have also been added.

A Masters student was recruited to carry out this work through the IBIS project. This student, completed her project in 2012 and the results from this study period show that significant differences occur in bird assemblages at different sites on Carlingford Lough. The thesis also highlighted the need for continued research. The project will be continued in 2013 with the appointment of a further two new Masters students. The project aims to create a robust avian dataset which can be used in the future for appropriate assessment of aquaculture sites as well as informing management on the likely impacts of waterbirds on aquaculture.

At the end of 2012 DARD and AFBI were provided with the waterbirds and aquaculture data set. The provision of this data was of paramount importance to the completion of the in-combination appropriate assessment.

Shellfish Monitoring Review 2012

Native Oyster Stock Assessments

A dredge survey of the Lough Foyle native oyster fishery was undertaken during the period of February to April 2012. In total 589 dredge samples were taken and 3376 oysters were sampled from these dredges. The total length of all areas dredged was in the region of 117 km with an average tow length of 198m. This represents a sample size of 0.23% of the suitable oyster ground in Lough Foyle. A dredge survey of the Lough Foyle native oyster fishery was undertaken during September and October 2012. In total 260 dredge samples were taken and 2811 oysters were sampled from these dredges. The total length of all areas dredged was in the region of 52km with an average tow length of 203m. This represents a sample size of 0.1% of the total oyster ground in Lough Foyle.

Seed Mussel Stock Assessments

A dredge survey took place on the 28th April and 2nd May 2012 to identify if a seed mussel settlement had taken place at the mouth of Lough Foyle in an area where seed has previously been recorded. No evidence was found of any mussel seed on this bed. 2 dredges out of 67 had small quantities (<75%) of adult mussels in the 50-70mm size class. There was no seed mussel survey carried out in Carlingford Lough in 2012 due to unavailability of the MMV Ostrea to complete this work and priorities in other areas.

Intertidal Surveys

Repeat monitoring took place in Lough Foyle for the presence of feral Pacific oysters and other invasive species. A trial removal project was initiated in 2012 on an intertidal mussel bed to identify future feral Pacific oyster settlement rates. This work was carried out by Loughs Agency Staff and IBIS Project research students.

Underwater Camera Surveys

The Remotely Operated Vehicle was used extensively in 2012 to characterise native oyster beds with a view to developing management recommendations such as conservation areas and experimental sites for habitat improvement. This work was carried out by Loughs Agency Staff and IBIS Project research students.

Ground Discrimination System

The RoxSwath multibeam acoustic system for discriminating seabed types was mounted to the MMV Ostrea in November 2012. Since then the system has been on trial whilst the vessel has been engaged in other work and it is hoped that following training and official set up and calibration by the manufacturer the system can begin to collect valuable seabed type data from shellfish growing areas for habitat restoration/protection works and as a tool for shellfish stock surveys.

Sea Lough Status Reports 2012

The Status Reports for both Foyle and Carlingford are almost complete. We are awaiting data from AFBI who we contract to manage the Environmental Monitoring Systems in the sea loughs. The target date for completion is 31st October 2013.

Oyster Growth Trials

The native oyster growth trial is continuing in Lough Foyle and at present the Marine Scientist is developing a new monitoring programme to expand on the work of 2012. This work will be initiated in 2013, and reported in a future Annual report. The trials will include more sample locations and more intensive monitoring of growth rates and water chemistry to identify the drivers for growth.

Native Oyster Fishery

The Native Oyster fishing Season 2012/13 opened on Wednesday 19th September 2012. In total 55 applications were processed and in total 48 Native Oyster Fishing Licences were issued. The landing figures to the end of 2012 are approximately 135.5 tons; this is a significant increase on the 2011/12 season.

Population statistics from the fishery suggest that the proportion of each length class has changed dramatically since the 2006 baseline survey carried out by CEFAS. There was very poor representation of the length classes above 75mm in the surveys from 2006-2008. However, this has steadily changed over the past 4 years and it is possible that the regulation of fishing activity by the Agency is having a positive impact on the numbers of larger oysters remaining in the fishery and recruiting into the larger size classes.

Many of the reports produced on the Lough Foyle native oyster fishery in the past 19 years have recommendations as listed below, these are yet to be implemented:

- Closure of poor quality beds or areas of good spatfall;
- Construction of spatting ponds for re-stocking of underperforming beds;
- Introduction of shell cultch onto beds to encourage spatfalls.

The introduction of regulations by the Loughs Agency to licence fishermen in Lough Foyle in 2008 was a first step to achieving these recommendations. The decision to declare part of the Southside oyster bed closed to fishing in September 2010 and the increase in minimum landing size from 75mm to 80mm were further steps towards managing this fishery in a sustainable manner with evidence-based decision making.

Management Agreement

The Agency is unable to report any further progress towards the finalisation of a management agreement for Lough Foyle. The Agency has attended meetings with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine during 2012 but to date the issue has not progressed. There has been a commitment from the Department to have a draft agreement in place during 2013. The Agency continues to highlight the urgency of this agreement to allow the Agency to fulfil its legislative responsibilities as laid down in the Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Act and Order 2007.

12. Marine Tourism and Angling Development

In pursuance of the continuing implementation of the Marine Tourism and Angling Development Strategies the Agency is working with stakeholders in developing and promoting Angling and Marine Tourism projects and events. These are reflected in the outputs of the annual business plan.

12.1 Marine Tourism and Angling Development – INTERREG IVa

The Loughs Agency is the lead partner in an INTERREG IVa Project titled Marine Tourism and Angling Development. The programme of works will complete 2015 and brings many strategic partners together in the development and facilitation of necessary marine tourism and angling infrastructure in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments.

The scale of the programme has been reduced because of funding constraints and includes a number of strategic projects which will enhance the offering and experience of marine tourism and angling. A summary of each project follows:

- **Pontoon and Quay**

The marine tourism facility on the Foyle completed in 2012. This is located on the left bank of the river and includes a cruise ship quay and a marine event platform (a 180 metre long pontoon). These two facilities will enhance access to/from the river in Derry, helping build a necklace of access infrastructure along the Foyle. The Port of Londonderry is the project partner for this project;

- **Malin Head**

The project at Malin Head (County Donegal) includes a path for walkers, a viewing platform and passing places on the approach road. The project partner (Donegal County Council) plans to commence the project in 2013;

- **Benone**

Facilities for beach users at Benone (near Limavady) will see the Agency partner with Limavady Borough Council;

- **Backwater**

The Backwater project is an angling development project on the Tyrone side of the upper Foyle (near Ballymagorry, County Tyrone) which aims to improve the angling experience and facilities;

- **Gribben Quay**

The Gribben Quay project will provide boat access at a point midway along the River Foyle (near Bready, County Tyrone).

- **Mellon**

The Mellon project will enhance angling opportunities for tourist anglers at a stretch of the River Strule (near Omagh) with convenient road access and proximity to several accommodation providers.

- **Inishtrahull**

The Inishtrahull project aims to enhance access to this remote island, attracting ecotourists, adventure seekers and others.

- **Derg**

The Derg project is an angling development project and aims to develop a management plan for Lough Derg (Co Donegal).

- **E-licensing**

The e-licensing project aims to facilitate a scoping exercise to define issues and opportunities for innovation in licensing of angling, including exploring options for an all-island licence.

The programme is continuing in the design and delivery stages. From the works undertaken to date, benefits are already beginning to be realised, as are opportunities for further developments.

12.2 Clipper 2012

In addition to the works undertaken within the INTERREG funded programme, the Agency developed and implemented a number of other key marine tourism initiatives. The Clipper Round the World yacht race visited the Foyle in June 2012. The facilities of a large pontoon and city centre non-freight quay (funded by Loughs Agency through Interreg IVA) were fundamental to Derry~Londonderry winning its bid to the race organisers to host the end of one leg and start of another.

As part of Clipper, the Agency offered sailing taster sessions for schools, youth groups, disabled groups and the public in the days leading up to Clipper and on the weekend that Clipper arrived. Another Loughs Agency Clipper event was a full moon paddle by canoe/kayak through the city.

The Loughs Agency played a significant part in preparations for the arrival of the Clipper Round the World yacht race. As well as the marine event platform and cruise ship quay, the Agency made their suite of portable pontoons available for temporary berthage along the river and at Greencastle, County Donegal. The sailing centre at Agency headquarters offered “try sailing” sessions to schools, disability groups and the public during the Clipper festival.

12.3 Sailing Experiences

Ocean Youth Trust Ireland (OYTI) operates a sail training centre on the River Foyle using the Agency’s premises at Prehen. In the absence of another RYA provider in the Foyle area, the Agency has established a public sector / community sector arrangement to fill this gap in sail training provision. Following on from the dinghy sailing courses delivered in 2011, the Agency and OYTI delivered assistant instructor courses in 2012. This has boosted sail training capacity for local clubs. The Agency believes that, in order to attract tourists to discover the marine tourism potential of the Foyle and its sea area, it is important that local people are sailing these same waters – the sail training centre will result in more local people using the river and lough for sailing (with clubs or as individuals). Such use by locals will foster local knowledge of the water, stimulate support and demand for boating infrastructure (pontoons, slipways etc) and inspire development of sail safari and eco-tourism trails. Development of sailing skills and opportunities to qualify on local waters as an instructor should nudge individuals towards development of water based leisure business (such as a sailing centre or yacht charter).

12.4 Paddlefest 2012 – Lough Foyle

Paddlefest is a Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) weekend festival of canoeing and kayaking. In 2012, it was held on the shores of Lough Foyle, at Moville. The festival programme was a blend of training, promotional activity and learning about local ‘paddling’ opportunities. The Loughs Agency supported this weekend marine tourism festival, an opportunity to promote the East Inishowen Sea Kayak Trail and the Foyle Canoe Trail.

12.5 Sustainable Development Fund

The Sustainable Development Fund, known as SDF, operated for a second year in 2012, with a budget of £100,000. The programme fund has been developed using the Financial Assistance Policy (approved by the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) in November 2007) to assist in the implementation of an action plan for the development of angling and marine tourism in consultation with its stakeholders.

This plan has identified 9 elements towards the provision of marine tourism and angling products that will be marketable locally, on an all Island basis and internationally. These are:

- Stock Improvement;
- Infrastructure development;
- Product development;
- Marketing and information;
- Hospitality product development;
- Accommodation and transport;
- Improved access;
- Training; and
- Support services.

The Agency financial assistance policy was revised following completion of an economic appraisal of the Sustainable Development Fund.

Throughout 2012, the programme attracted a high level of interest. Applications were received for 51 project proposals. The focus of these projects centred around Marine Tourism (18 applications from the Foyle Catchment and 13 applications from the Carlingford Catchment) and Angling Development (12 applications from the Foyle Catchment and 8 applications from the Carlingford Catchment).

In total, 27 projects received support and almost two thirds of the budget was spent. The late start of the project in 2012 had an impact on the spend levels of the programme.

12.6 World Wetlands Day 2012

As part of World Wetlands Day, Limavady Borough Council and the Loughs Agency hosted staff and directors from Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust at the Foyle RSPB reserve (near Ballykelly). The importance of Lough Foyle was explained to them - a strategically important area for tourism, aquaculture, ecosystem services, ecosystem products as well as biodiversity. The global importance of the lough was emphasised – wintering birds from the Arctic (Canada, Iceland, Greenland) and breeding birds from the southern hemisphere (including terns from South Africa), as well as sea birds that escape our winter by roaming the South Atlantic.

12.7 Mourne Coastal Route

The Agency partnered Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and Newry and Mourne District Council, on the Mourne Coastal Route project. This included the enhancement of five visitor parking areas along the route between Kilkeel and Newry – Whitewater Bridge, Mill Bay, Ross Monument, Narrow Water and Donaghaguy. These projects form part of the NITB signature project strategy.

12.8 Disabled Access

A number of Loughs Agency projects have a direct benefit for disabled people wishing to access the River Foyle. The new city centre pontoon incorporated a hoist to permit access to boats for disabled people and there is also a DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant toilet and shower block on the pontoon. Disabled parking bays have been marked out at the top of the public slipway and at the top of the ramp to the boathouse at Prehen, as well as close to the new pontoon on the Foyle. The bird hide at Pennyburn incorporates a viewing space for a wheelchair user.

12.9 Other notable projects

In partnership with Louth County Council and Omeath Tidy Towns, the Agency has developed visitor access and enhanced seashore ambience in Omeath, County Louth.

Foyle Civic Trust delivered hedge laying training on the Agency property at the Gribben, near Bready (County Tyrone).

12.10 Angling Development

The Agency delivered three angling fairs across a wider geographical area than in previous years; these targeted the engagement of young people into the sport of angling. The first event was held at Fintona, County Tyrone. This was followed by an introduction to angling weekend at Bessbrook, County Armagh, and then the third and final event was open day at our headquarters Prehen.

The Agency also recognised the need for encouraging young people into angling and during the year a new angling starter pond was established at our HQ in Prehen. This facility was officially opened by the Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister, a keen angler himself. A series of starter events was undertaken after this with school and community groups availing of the facility. It is envisaged that this pond will prove to be a valuable asset for the Agency in the coming years.

12.11 Promotional Shows and Market Development

The Agency continues to attend high profile angling shows throughout the island of Ireland, Great Britain and on the continent. Having attended a show in Holland last year, the Agency reached into the German market attending an angling fair near Munich.

Loughs Agency attending further high profile angling promotional shows, with growing success, in Ireland, Great Britain, Holland and Germany.

The Loughs Agency remains a partner in Cruise North West, a project aimed at raising the profile of the Foyle area to cruise ship operators.

12.12 Licence Sales

The Agency continued to sell angling licences throughout 2012, from our HQ in Prehen and also through our extensive network of distributors throughout the Foyle and Carlingford Catchments and beyond.

The down turn in the economy over the past few years has been wide reaching and the angling sector appears to have been affected also. Some of our distributors have ceased trading during 2012, which has had a knock effect on the level of our licence sales.

Year	Licence Sales
2003	8,518
2004	9,727
2005	10,779
2006	10,564
2007	11,831
2008	11,980
2009	12,579
2010	11,305
2011	11,057
2012	10,847

When our licence sales figures are analysed, a number of factors need to be considered. While our licence sales have risen from 8,518 in 2003 to 12,579 in 2009 the continual drop in 2010, 2011 and 2012 may well be due to the current economic climate. Other factors which may have an effect on these figures could be the weather conditions and the introduction of catch and release on the Rivers Foyle and Finn.

The Agency has a number of initiatives planned for the coming years in order to attempt to counter the downturn in licence sales.

12.13 Carlingford Oyster Festival & Heritage Week

The Agency, with Louth County Council and Failte Ireland have supported the Annual Carlingford Oyster Festival and also Carlingford Heritage week. Shore and hill foraging, medieval arts and crafts were very popular amongst children and young people and reports are that visitor numbers were up on last year.

12.14 Camlough Masterplan

Newry and Mourne District Council in partnership with the Loughs Agency and other stakeholders have completed a draft Masterplan for Camlough Lake, which maps the way forward for the development of the lake for mixed

recreational use. The Plan is a long term one, with community and stakeholder engagement at its core. The Agency will continue to work with the Council and stakeholders in bringing the Plan forward and assist with seeking funds to implement it in the coming years.

12.15 Loughs Agency Support Angling Events

The Agency has again supported angling events in Foyle and Carling from core funds and through Sustainable Development Funding.

- **King of the Canal**

25 anglers from all over Northern Ireland have participated in the 'King of the Canal' competition on Newry Ship Canal. Early reports were that no one caught less than 50 fish with bream numbers well up on previous years which the Agency hopes is reflective of the 3-year stocking policy completed in 2010. All fish were safely returned to the Canal as part of the competition's rules to protect and conserve coarse fish as well as complying with legislation.

12.16 New Angling Clubs

During 2012, the Agency assisted in the formation of two new angling clubs in Co Tyrone. The Finore Angling Club based on the Fintona Rivers and the Dromore Coarse Angling club on nearby lakes.

These new clubs have a positive working relationship with the Agency and all relevant organisations. The Agency will continue to work in partnership with the clubs on future events, which will attract anglers from across the globe, whilst building sustainable fishers for resident anglers supported by the Agency.

12.17 Wheelchair Accessible Boat

Loughs Agency took delivery of a new wheelchair adapted angling boat and this boat was officially launched at our Angling Fair in Fintona the British Disabled Angling Association and the Irish Disabled Fly Fishing Association.

This new boat will be available to clubs and individuals under agreements including planned competitions across Foyle and Carlingford.

12.18 Loughs Agency River Finn Permit Watters

Loughs Agency has completed part one of two access improvements on the Agency's permit waters on the River Finn with the installation of thirty foot-styles and eight foot-bridges in an aid to improving access to anglers.

This work involved many land-owners and was generally well received by them and very well received by anglers, particularly those with mobility problems.

12.19 Loughmacory Anglers Access Improvements

Loughs Agency has, in cooperation with the local angling club, supported access improvements around Loughmacory, outside Omagh in County Tyrone. These works provide improved access for all and in particular anglers with mobility problems. This initiative has helped to build a positive relationship with another budding angling community.

12.20 Partnership Agreement on Loughmacory

Loughs Agency has been instrumental in putting together a management agreement on Loughmacory. This agreement, the first of its kind, is between Northern Ireland Water, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Loughmacory Development Association, and Loughmacory & Murrins Angling Association & Loughs Agency. The agreement has made it possible for limited stocking of Loughmacory, a Lough with special status (ASSI) of non-native fish addressing all the concerns from all.

This agreement is unique in our catchments and ensures all concerns and risks are addressed as much as possible therefore permitting the future developments of the Lough to proceed to the mutual benefit of the local and wider angling community.

12.21 Practice for the European Police and Fire Service

The Agency supported the practice for the European Police and Fire Service Games which took place on Newry Ship Canal in August. The Garda Síochána National Team went on to participate in the European Police and Fire Service Games in Holland which they won amidst strong competition out of 25 teams in total.

12.22 Inland Fisheries Ireland

The Agency recognises the importance of partnership working and in particular the obvious benefits of working with one of our sister organisations – Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). In partnership with IFI, the Agency has delivered a number of angler taster sessions, at two public venues, across County Tyrone. These events were well received and the success of the activity will be built upon in the coming years.

Appendix 1 - Outturn Against Targets

Priorities, Objectives & Targets For 2012

PRIORITY: CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION		
OBJECTIVE		
1	To conserve, protect, manage and improve the fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.	
KEY ACTIVITY		
1.1	Inform	
1.2	Manage	
1.3	Sustain	
PERFORMANCE TARGET		
1.1.1	Freshwater Status - Reports published annually by July of the year following.	
Activity: Audit points, habitat surveys, electro-fishing, etc. will be completed by October each year and undertake consultation with our stakeholders within 2 months of completion.		Update: Achieved – Status reports published in July.
1.1.2	Stock Indices – Initiate research to develop stock indices for each of the sub catchments by January 2012.	
Activity: We will develop an index that utilises egg deposition population surveys and habitat type to establish the conservation status and undertake consultation with our stakeholders within 2 months of completion.		Update: Achieved - This was commenced with the Scientific Advisors by the agreed date of January 2012. It is being carried on by an IBIS student who was appointed in September 2012. This is ongoing and will be completed by 2015.

1.1.3	Still Water Status Reports - Reports published annually by July of the year following	
Activity: We will collect the data required to produce and publish Status Reports on 2 freshwater lakes or other low dynamic water bodies by December 2012 and undertake consultation with our stakeholders within 2 months of completion.		Update: Achieved - Surveys have been completed in 2012 on Loughs Carn and Muck and were published in July 2013. These were surveyed as part of the Agency's commitment to the Water Framework Directive.
1.2.1	Regulation – We will provide appropriate regulation to deliver Statutory obligations.	
Activity: Review effectiveness of Regulations by end of January 2012 and provide draft amendments, revocation or new regulations by end of June 2012		Update: Achieved - Review was completed in January 2012. Regulations are in consultation which ends in January 2013.
1.2.2	Reinstatement - We will undertake the development of at least 2 reinstatement projects by December 2012.	
Activity: We will design and implement at least two reinstatement projects with the agreement of riparian owners and fishery interests by December 2012		Update: Achieved - 3 schemes were completed during 2012 throughout the Foyle and Carlingford catchments, Cappagh Burn, Fintona River and Altnaghree River.
1.2.3	Enforcement – We will continue to carry out enforcement duties in line with the published policy and the principles of better regulation throughout 2012.	
Activity: Following enforcement activities throughout the year, files recommending prosecution will be with the Agency solicitors within six months of any incident		Update: Achieved – All 55 prosecution files in 2012 were submitted within the appropriate time scales.

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1.3.1	Salmon – to achieve compliance with management targets for each of the river systems by December 2012.	
Activity: We will maintain efficient counters and accurately establish catch data to ensure that salmon numbers are recorded.		Update: Partially Achieved – A flood in the Sion Mills counter required repair, Corrick counter channels 2&3 repaired, however due to dangerous water levels Channel 1 remains inactive. All the other 7 counters functioned satisfactorily.
1.3.2	Brown Trout, Sea Trout and Coarse fish - we will establish further baseline data by December 2012.	
Activity: We will initiate the data collection of brown trout and coarse fish population levels in 2 sites by Dec 2012.		Update: Achieved - Under the auspices of the Loughs Agency meeting its Water Framework Directive deliverables Loughs Carn and Muck have been surveyed. In addition through an IBIS funded PhD programme a further 3 lakes have been surveyed for eels in Co Tyrone. Initial baseline data have also been gathered by another IBIS PhD project on Arctic Charr in L Fad and Arctic Charr and trout in L Finn.
1.3.3	Sea Trout- We will conduct annual stock assessments by June 2012.	
Activity: We will continue to deliver methodologies for the accurate monitoring and assessment of sea trout stocks by December 2012.		Update: Achieved - A sea trout index site has been established on the Burn Dennett which is electrofished annually. In addition an IBIS PhD studentship entitled 'Life history strategies in the sea trout' commenced at the end of June 2012 with a target date for completion of 2015. This will aid in addressing some of the fundamental questions with regard to sea trout and in turn aid in the development of methodologies for the monitoring and assessment of stocks.

1.3.3	Pike – we will initiate and introduce annual stock assessments by December 2012.	
Activity: We will initiate and introduce stock assessment on the Newry canal in the period of the current plan.		Update: Partially Achieved – The Agency concentrated on completing a stock assessment survey on Lough Mourne in 2012. An assessment on the Newry Canal will be carried out in the 2013 field season. This will form part of an IBIS project.
PRIORITY: AQUACULTURE AND SHELLFISHERIES		
OBJECTIVE		
2	To Licence and Develop Aquaculture	
KEY ACTIVITY		
2.1	Inform	
2.2	Manage	
2.3	Sustain	
PERFORMANCE TARGET		
2.1.1	Sea Lough Status - Reports published annually by July of the year following.	
Activity: In addition to current data sets, we will evaluate all licensed aquaculture operations annually and audit 10% and undertake consultation with our stakeholders within 2 months of completion.		Update: Update: Achieved - The 2012 report is completed and is on target for publication by July. Consultation with stakeholders completed, meeting took place with the licensed public oyster fishermen on the 11th September 2012. The evaluation and audit of aquaculture operations in the Agency’s areas has not taken place due to the need to develop and finalise the management agreement for Lough Foyle and the delay in the transfer of current licences from DARD and DAFM.

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2.1.2	Carrying Capacity Models – to progress the development for each sea Lough throughout the year.	
Activity: We will deliver an operational model for Lough Foyle by December 2012.		Update: Not Achieved - Contact has been made with the relevant Agencies to progress the terms of reference for the development of the model for Lough Foyle. However this process took longer than anticipated. We envisage this commence early 2014. A further meeting has been held with AFBI to explore avenues open to the Agency to deliver a model for Lough Foyle. The Agency has taken the decision not to progress the delivery of the model until we receive a validation report from AFBI on the accuracy of the model in Belfast Lough.
2.1.3	Consultation with Board, Advisory Forum, Focus Groups and Stakeholders.	
Activity: Undertake a minimum of 12 consultation meetings by December 2012.		Update: Partially Achieved – Meetings with Advisory Forum and Focus groups did not take place due to the delayed Recruitment of new members which was finalised December 2012.
2.2.1	Licensing – we will establish and implement the licensing of Aquaculture in Lough Foyle and review the Aquaculture operation in Carlingford Lough by December 2012.	
Activity: We will process all licence applications within 6 months of receipt and undertake annual evaluations of each licence.		Update: Not Achieved - The Agency working with Sponsor departments to facilitate development of the Management Agreement to progress this issue. It is hoped to progress the Management agreement by December 2014.

2.3.1	Production Report – We will publish baseline generic production of all aquaculture and shellfisheries species and evaluate the sustainability of the sector by April 2012.	
Activity: We will ensure compliance with report and operating conditions of all aquaculture and shellfisheries licences and audit 10% of those returns. We will conduct at least 1 inspection of licensed sites annually.		Update: Partially Achieved - The Native Oyster Fishery survey was completed for Spring and Autumn and the report published on 31st May 2012. The Agency working with Sponsor departments to facilitate development of the Management Agreement to progress aquaculture licensing.
2.3.2	MSC Certification for the Native Oyster fishery in Lough Foyle.	
Activity: We will initiate a scoping exercise on the feasibility of delivering MSC certification for the Lough Foyle oyster fishery in 2012.		Update: Achieved – Scoping exercise completed, tendering exercise initiated for MSC certification December 2012.
2.3.3	Develop a reinstatement/enhancement programme for the Lough Foyle native oyster fishery by December 2012.	
Activity: Identify areas suitable for reinstatement/enhancement and begin work where possible.		Update: Partially Achieved - Areas identified, however funding is not available from the Agency's resource budget to deliver this programme. It is anticipated that funding will be available through the IBIS project to enhance areas within the native oyster fishery for studies during the course of the IBIS project.

2.3.4	Environmental Impact.
<p>Activity: In accordance with the Corporate Plan 2011-2013 (Sections 3 and 4), we will continue the monitoring of the environmental parameters during 2012 to evaluate if they are “fit for purpose” and adjust as necessary. Activities to be undertaken include invasive species and bird surveys. All activities will be completed and evaluated by December 2012.</p>	<p>Update: Achieved - Environmental Monitoring parameters have been agreed with partner organisations.</p> <p>A protocol for bird surveying to update the appropriate assessments for both sea loughs and individual assessments when needed has been developed and will be delivered on an annual basis. Surveying is ongoing in Carlingford Lough (since Dec 2011) and will be rolled out in Lough Foyle in the coming years.</p> <p>C. gigas feral populations were surveyed routinely in Lough Foyle in conjunction with other survey work.</p> <p>The Agency undertook to take a lead role in a UK wide invasive species programme (Pathways Project) aimed at reducing the impacts of invasive species in aquaculture by monitoring pathways. This project is still ongoing. This will be reported in a further annual report.</p>

PRIORITY: DEVELOPMENT	
OBJECTIVE	
3	Develop Marine Tourism and Angling
KEY ACTIVITY	
3.1	Inform
3.2	Manage
3.3	Sustain
PERFORMANCE TARGET	
3.1.1	Status Reports on Marine Tourism and Angling Reports published annually by December 2012.
<p>Activity: We will evaluate the extent of infrastructure available and its usage by locals, visitors and tourists.</p> <p>Update: Partially Achieved - Draft marine tourism status report prepared and will be published in early 2014.</p> <p>Status Reports for Angling are underway with a review of existing fisheries infrastructure, ownership and angling licence sales. A geographic distribution of licence sales has been reviewed. It is expected that this will be developed further in 2014. Due to the large volume of information that will be included in this review a Report is unlikely to be published until the end of December 2013</p>	
3.1.2	Opportunity Identification By July 2012.
<p>Activity: Review current infrastructure against “centre of excellence” or cluster model and identify gaps and publish / share this information.</p> <p>Update: Partially Achieved - Marine tourism status report prepared. This identifies opportunities for development.</p> <p>As reported above, Status Reports for Angling are underway with a review of existing fisheries infrastructure, ownership and angling licence sales. A geographic distribution of licence sales has been reviewed. It is expected that this will be developed further in 2014, due to the large volume of information that be included in this review a Report is unlikely to be published until early 2014.</p>	

3.1.3	Promotion of Marine Tourism and Angling in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.	
<p>Activity: Undertake 12 promotional events by December 2012 focused on both Angling and Marine Tourism where possible in partnership with “cross cutting” Agencies.</p>		<p>Update: Achieved - Loughs Agency gave significant support to the ten day Clipper Round the World festival (support financially, loan of pontoon infrastructure, implementation of marine event platform project, implementation of cruise ship quay project, dedication of staff resource, use of vessels, provision of advice and expertise, in-kind contribution etc).</p> <p>Paddlefest – sea kayaking, surf kayak festival. East Inishowen Sea Kayak Trail launch.</p> <p>Loughs Agency exhibited at angling fairs in Germany (April) and Holland (May). We also attended the British Fly Fair International in Stafford, England – in June.</p> <p>Loughs Agency open days and fairs held at three locations in August 2012 – including the LA Angling Fair in Fintona, Co Tyrone; Introduction to Coarse Angling, Bessbrook Pond, Co Armagh; and Loughs Agency Open Day, Prehen.</p> <p>The Agency has attended Game and Country Fairs in: Sandringham, England in September; Newark, England in October and the Irish International Fly Fair in Galway, Ireland in November.</p>
3.1.4	Consultation with Board, Advisory Forum, Focus Groups and Stakeholders.	
<p>Activity: Undertake a minimum of 12 consultation meetings by December 2012.</p>		<p>Update: Partially Achieved – Meetings with Advisory Forum and Focus groups did not take place due to the delayed recruitment of new members which was finalised December 2012.</p>

3.1.5	Identify Potential Funding.
<p>Activity: Identify opportunities for alternate funding and coordinate, where possible, 3 applications by December 2012.</p>	<p>Update: Achieved - Foyle Basin Project is a heritage and landscape project delivered by Foyle Civic Trust. Funding was contributed by this project to a heritage project at Gribben Quay.</p> <p>A National Trails Day project is match funded by Limavady Borough Council.</p> <p>An Omeath Marine Tourism Environmental Improvement Scheme is match funded by Omeath Tidy Towns.</p> <p>City of Culture has been approached re marine tourism events.</p> <p>Application to Coastal Communities Fund was unsuccessful.</p> <p>A significant project with NI/ROI/Scotland local authorities and a port authority as partners was made to Interreg.</p>
3.2.1	To utilise INTERREG Funding available.
<p>Activity: Progress the delivery of “letter of offer” for tourism projects by December 2012 – including the delivery of 5 projects.</p>	<p>Update: Partially Achieved - Pontoon and cruise ship quay complete and handed over to project partner, Foyle Port in June 2012.</p> <p>NIEA will prepare HRA in connection with planning application for Benone/Magilligan.</p> <p>Planning application submitted re Mellon project.</p> <p>Malin Head in house services proposal being prepared for submission to SEUPB.</p> <p>Internal consultation completed re Mellon, Backwater and Benone projects.</p> <p>All projects are on target for completion in June 2015.</p>

3.2.2	Operate the Sustainable Development Fund.	
Activity: Deliver up to 13 Marine Tourism and Angling projects through equitable, transparent and auditable procedures by December 2012.		Update: Partially Achieved - The Sustainable Development Fund was launched earlier in the year and opened for applications in August. After consideration of the applications, 26 Letters of Offer were issued for: events; capital projects and other projects. 2 of these projects have been completed and have drawn down their grant. The fund has been carried forward through 2013. The remaining applicants were completed in 2013.
3.2.3	Deliver Alternative Funding.	
Activity: Deliver “letters of offer” for alternative funding secured by December 2012.		Update: Achieved - Omeath Tidy Towns have match funded a coastal EI scheme. NITB have match funded the Mourne Coastal Route.
3.3.1	Monitor and report on resources and usage of Marine Tourism and Angling.	
Activity: Maintain the existing resources and where possible, improve availability of Marine Tourism and Angling resources by December 2012.		Update: Achieved - Monitoring equipment requirements being scoped for assessing visitor numbers, it is envisaged recommendations will be brought forward in 2013. Staff are utilising GIS equipment to survey both the Tourism and Angling resources of the Foyle and Carlingford areas.

3.3.2	To establish quantum of leverage by Marine Tourism and Angling Stakeholders.	
Activity: Establish investments made as a result of leverage created by grant aid (INTERREG, SDF or other) by December 2012.		Update: Achieved - Clipper Festival represented a huge investment of central government and local authority funds, matched by the Loughs Agency Interreg project investment (pontoon and quay) and Agency core funds invested in sailing experience sessions, staff resource, use of vessels etc. The Interreg IVA programme represents full funding, being at a level of 100%. There is considerable in kind contribution from partners in the Interreg programme and with other projects such as SDF and core funded projects. 25% minimum match funding from SDF project promoters.
PRIORITY: CORPORATE		
OBJECTIVE		
4	To effectively and efficiently deliver our statutory mandate and responsibilities.	
KEY ACTIVITY		
4.1	Inform	
4.2	Manage	
4.3	Sustain	
PERFORMANCE TARGET		
4.1.1	To publish Annual Reports and Financial Statements.	
Activity: Prepare and present Financial Statements and Annual Reports in line with statutory requirements and deadlines.		Update: Achieved - Financial statements for 2011 have been certified by C&AGs North and South on 09th July 2013.

Loughs Agency Annual Report and Accounts **2012**

4.1.2	Review Staff and Agency Policies.	
Activity: Complete review of all staff and Agency Policies, obtain endorsement of them, publish on the Intranet and implement by September 2012.		Update: Achieved – Revised Policies implemented from January 2012. Future policies will be agreed with TUS and implemented as appropriate.
4.1.3	To Improve Customer Service.	
Activity: Review Customer Charter and publish on website by December 2012.		Update: Achieved - Customer Charter agreed and published on Agency website in December 2012.
4.2.1	To manage resources within the annual agreed budgets	
Activity: Manage resources to ensure availability for business needs and demonstrate efficiency of delivery by cost based measurement.		Update: Achieved - Expenditure within allocated budget.
4.2.2	To measure and manage Performance of the Agency.	
Activity: Develop further our performance measurement and management using appropriate monitoring tools by April 2012.		Update: Achieved - Expenditure within allocated budget. Achieved – Performance Management tools developed and being utilised.
4.2.3	To Train and Develop Staff and supporting partners (such as Private Riverwatchers).	
Activity: We will continue to invest in the development of our staff through the delivery of our training and development policy and progressing personal development plans throughout 2012.		Update: Achieved – The Agency has supported staff throughout the year on a range of training courses for example sea survival, conflict management, recruitment and selection and equality awareness. Also a series of training sessions were provided to over 100 Private Riverwatchers from approximately 30 angling clubs in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.

4.2.4	To increase the public understanding of the resources of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.	
Activity: Throughout 2012 develop Riverwatch and outreach programmes maintaining the 2011 visitor numbers and participants.		Update: Achieved – Programmes continue to be developed and targets met. These include, Adopt a Stream and Hatchery in a Classroom.
4.3.1	To Improve Communication.	
Activity: We will continue to develop effective communication with our stakeholders through our website, outreach activities and Customer Charter and review twice in 2012.		Update: Achieved – Website continues to be updated with current relevant information. Customer Charter reviewed and published on Agency website in December 2012. Ezine quarterly newsletter ‘Catchment’ produced and distributed to all stakeholders.
4.3.2	To maintain good Corporate Governance.	
Activity: We will meet our obligations for the preparation of corporate governance documentation and achieve unqualified financial statements and satisfactory audit reports within agreed timescales.		Update: Achieved – 2011 Annual Report and Accounts approved by NSMC on 4th July 2012. Regular Audit Sub-Committee meetings and Risk Management meetings held throughout the year. Meetings for 2012 held on 29 March 2012, 30 May 2012, 19 September 2012 and 21 November 2012.



Gníomhaireacht Na Lochanna

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

**Ag Cumhdach Thréimhse an 1 Eanáir 2012 go dtí an
31 Nollaig 2012**

Gníomhaireacht Na Lochanna

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais Bhliantúla

Don tréimhse dar críoch an 31 mí na Nollag 2012

Arna chur faoi bhráid Thionól Thuaisceart Éireann agus dhá theach
an Oireachtais de réir Ord Comhoibriú Thuaidh/Theas (Forais
Forfheidhmiúcháin) (Tuaisceart Éireann) 1999 Sceideal 1, larscríbhinn 2,
Cuid 7, Paragraif 1.3 agus 2.6

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1. Léargas Ginearálta an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh

Tá áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2012, ina mionsonraítear obair na gníomhaireachta le linn 2012, a chur in bhur láthair.

Ar chruinniú den Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas i mí na Nollag 2012, cheap Airí mé i mo Phríomh-Fheidhmeannach Gníomhach agus ceapadh mé chomh maith mar Dhuine Cuntasach Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna. Ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thapú le buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le Derick Anderson atá dulta ar scor i ndiaidh gairmréim fhada sa tseirbhís phoiblí. Bhí Derick ina PF ar Choimisiún Iascaigh an Fheabhail ó 1996 go 1999 agus ar Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna ón bhliain 2000 i leith. Ba mhaith liom féin agus leis an Bhord buíochas a ghabháil leis as a fhís, a chuid oibre crua agus a thiomantas don fhoras seo i gcaitheamh na mblianta.

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh Winston Patterson a ceapadh ina Chathaoirleach ar an bhord againn agus buíochas a ghabháil le Tarlach Ó Crosáin, an Cathaoirleach atá ag dul as oifig, as a chuid tacaíochta, díograise agus dúthrachta agus é ag cuidiú liom féin agus leis an Gníomhaireacht thar na blianta.

Mar fhoras Thuaidh/Theas, tá Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna cuntasach don Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas (CATT). Le linn 2012, tionóladh trí Chruinniú Earnála don Gníomhaireacht agus thug an Gníomhaireacht cuir i láthair d'Airí ar obair na Gníomhaireachta agus tuairiscí mionsonraithe ar dhul chun cinn chomh maith leis na feidhmeanna eile a sannadh don Fhoras tríd an reachtaíocht.

Bliain iontach ab ea 2012 don Gníomhaireacht le feidhmiú céimneach thionscadal taighde IBIS, arna mhaoiniú ag AE agus cur i gcrích ardán imeachtaí muirí (pontún agus cé), arna mhaoiniú ag INTERREG IVA, i nDoire in am agus i gcomhpháirt le Calafort an Fheabhail. Bhí ról suntasach ag cur i gcrích an ardáin seo maidir lena fheabhas a d'éirigh le cuairt Dhoire ag Rás Luamh Timpeall na Cruinne na gClipéar. Tá áthas orm a thuairisciú fosta go bhfuil cuid mhór tionscadal eile faoi racht seoil, mar shampla, tionscadail turasóireachta ag Cionn Mhálanna agus Trá Bhun Abhann.

Ag breathnú chun tosaigh dom, tá súil agam go mbeidh go leor tionscadail nuálacha Forbairt Slatiascaireachta, Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Dobharshaothraithe á dtabhairt chun cinn ar cuidiú iad le dobharcheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn a fheabhsú.

2. Ráiteas Misin

Sochair inbhuanaithe, shóisialta agus timpeallachta a sholáthar do phobail na ndobharcheantar trí chaomhnú, cosaint, bainistíocht, taighde, cur chun cinn agus forbairt éifeachtach iascaigh agus acmhainní mara Cheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn.

3. Cuspóirí

Is iad príomhchuspóirí na Gníomhaireachta i gCeantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn:

- Na hiascaigh bradán agus intíre a chaomhnú agus a chosaint;
- Na hiascaigh bradán agus intíre a bhainistiú agus a fhorbairt;
- Forbairt Loch Feabhail agus Loch Chairlinn a chur chun cinn ar chúiseanna tráchtála agus fóillíochta;
- dobharshaothrú a cheadúnú agus a fhorbairt;
- Turasóireacht mhuirí a fhorbairt;
- Tuilleadh éifeachtachta agus feabhsú leanúnach a lorg i soláthar seirbhísí do gach custaiméir;
- Úsáid éifeachtach, éifeachtúil agus tíosach na n-acmhainní atá ar fáil don Gníomhaireacht a chinntiú.

Féach Aguisín 1 maidir le torthaí in éadan cuspóirí agus spriocanna.

4. Comhaltaí Boird

Is iad seo a leanas mionsonraí chomhaltacht an Bhoird:

An tUas. Winston Patterson	Cathaoirleach
An tUas. Alan McCulla	Leas-Chathaoirleach
An tUas. Tarlach Ó Crosáin	(Deireadh le téarma ar 12ú Nollaig 2012)
An tUas. Joe Miller	
An tUas. Thomas Sloan	
An tUas. Jim Wilson	
An tUas. Andrew Duncan	
An tUas. Donal Tipping	
An tUas. Seamus Rodgers	
Theresa Bn. McLaverty	
An tUas. Laurence Arbuckle	(Ceaptha 12ú Nollaig 2012)
An tUas. Michael J McCormick	
Phil Mahon	

Tháinig téarma ceapacháin an iar-Chathaoirligh, Tarlach Ó Crosáin, chun deiridh. Thug Tarlach Ó Crosáin seirbhís deich mbliana. Lón Laurence Arbuckle a fholúntas ar an Bhord ar an 12 ú Nollaig 2012.

An tUas. Thomas Sloan

In Eanáir 2013, cuireadh in iúl don Gníomhaireacht go bhfuair Thomas Sloan, iar-Chomhalta Boird, bás i ndiaidh tinneas tromchúiseach. Ceapadh Thomas ar Bhord Choimisiún Shoilse an Fheabhail, Chairlinn agus na hÉireann i mí na Nollag 2007. Fear ciúin a bhí ann a raibh meas ag gach duine air. Bhí an dúspéis aige in iascaigh sliogéisc i Loch Cairlinn, bhí sé ina bhall gníomhach d'fhochoiste Dobharshaothraithe agus Iascaigh Sliogéisc an Bhoird agus bhíodh sé i láthair ar chruinnithe ar bhonn rialta d'ainneoin an tinnis.

Cruinnithe Boird

Uimh:	Dáta		Ionad
72ú	Céad 18 ú	Ean 2012	Óstán Armagh City, Ard Mhacha
73ú	Céad 21 ú	Már 2012	Óstán Four Seasons , Cairlinn
74ú	Céad 2 ú	Beal 2012	Óstán Silverbirch, An Ómaigh
75ú	Céad 27 ú	Meith 2012	Ceanncheathrú Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna, Préachán
76ú	Céad 5 ú	M.F. 2012	Óstán Whistledown, An Pointe
77ú	Céad 24 ú	D.F. 2012	Óstán Villa Rose, Bealach Féich
78ú	Céad 5 ú	Noll 2012	Óstán Silverbirch, An Ómaigh

Tá miontuairiscí na gcruinnithe thuas le fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na Gníomhaireachta www.loughs-agency.org

5. Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh/Theas

Cruinniú Dobharshaothraithe agus Mara den Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh/Theas

Coimisiún Shoilse an Fheabhail, Chairlinn agus na Héireann (FCILC)

Oifigí Chomh-Rúnaireachta Catt, Ard Mhacha

1 Márta 2012

1. Tionóladh naoú cruinniú déag Dobharshaothraithe agus Mara na Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas in Oifigí Chomh-Rúnaireacht CATT, Ard Mhacha ar an 1 Márta 2012. I láthair ar an chruinniú bhí: Michelle O'Neill, CTR, Aire Talmhaíochta agus Forbartha Tuaithe, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Aire Stáit, An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha agus Nelson McCausland, CTR, Aire Forbartha Sóisialta. An tAire O'Neill a bhí ina cathaoirleach ar an chruinniú.

Tuairisc ar Dhul Chun Cinn

2. Chuir na hAirí fáilte roimh Winston Patterson agus roimh Alan McCulla, a ceapadh ina Chathaoirleach agus ina Leas-Chathaoirleach ar FCILC

faoi seach ar na mallaibh, chuig an chéad chruinniú s'acu. Chuir an Cathaoirleach agus Derick Anderson, príomhfheidhmeannach, tuairisc ar dhul chun cinn obair Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna i láthair na nAirí.

3. Chuir an Chomhairle fáilte roimh an tionchar dearfach ar mheanma fhoireann allamuigh na Gníomhaireachta mar gheall ar chruinnithe le hAirí agus Ard-Chonstábla an PSNI i ndiaidh ionsaithe ar fhoireann forfheidhmiúcháin Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus ar fhairtheoirí abhann deonacha.
4. Chuir na hAirí fáilte roimh an rath a bhí ar bhearta forfheidhmiúcháin na Gníomhaireachta faoi na Rialacháin Iascaireacht Oisrí. D'éirigh leis an Gníomhaireacht gach duine nó comhlacht ba chúis le slad ar éisc mar gheall ar thruailliú i gceantar an Fheabhail in 2011 a chiontú. Nótáladh an feabhsú ar líon na n-oisrí i Loch Feabhail agus d'áitigh Airí ar an Gníomhaireacht leanúint d'fhorbairt straitéisí bainistíochta leis na feabhsúcháin seo a dhaingniú agus a bheachtú.
5. Nótáil an Chomhairle chomh maith an cheist a bhaineann le fógairt a chuireann iascaireacht tráchtála ar ceal i Loch Feabhail agus san Fheabhal taoide le go gcuideofar le marthanas an Bhradáin Atlantaigh.

Tionscadal Comhtháite Bainistíocht Acmhainní Mara Idir Éirinn, Tuaisceart Éireann Agus Albain (IBIS)

6. Nótáil an Chomhairle gur éirigh le Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna mar Cheanneagras i gcomhpháirt le hOllscoil Ghlaschú agus Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste, maoiniú a fháil trí INTERREG IVA do “Tionscadal comhtháite bainistíocht acmhainní mara idir Éirinn, Tuaisceart Éireann agus Albain (IBIS)”. Is é aidhm fhoriomlán an tionscadail seo comhchur chuige a fhorbairt maidir le soláthar oiliúint ardtosaíochta, comhroinnt taighde agus eolais, tacú le bainistíocht acmhainní agus polasaí mara agus fionnuisce agus an bhithéagsúlacht a dtacaíonn na héiceachórais seo leo. Is é tuairim £8 milliún luach iomlán an chláir a bheas á reáchtáil ó Lúnasa 2011 go Meitheamh 2015.

Cur I Láthair ar Iascach Oisrí ar Loch Feabhail

7. Chuir na hAirí fáilte roimh an chur i láthair ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna ar Mheasúnú Iascach Oisrí Loch Feabhail agus Sceith Oisrí. Éascaíonn

torthaí agus moltaí na measúnuithe bliantúla seo cinntí bunaithe ar eolas ag an Gníomhaireacht maidir le rialáil, forbairt polasaí agus oibreacha feabhsúcháin ar an iascach.

Athbhreithniú Chill Rímhinn – Moltaí FCILC

8. Bhreithnigh an Chomhairle dhá mholadh shainiúla a bhaineann le Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus aontaíodh na moltaí seo a leanas a chur ar aghaidh chuig Cruinniú Iomlánach CATT Mheitheamh 2012 le go gceadófaí iad:
 - Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna seirbhísí a bhunú agus a sholáthar d'eagrais táirgthe chun táirgí mara a fhorbairt agus go dtabharfaidh an dá Roinn Coimircíochta aghaidh ar aon chonstaic reachtaíochta a shainaithneoidh an Gníomhaireacht; agus
 - Leasú a lorg ar Rialacha (Tuaisceart Éireann) na gCúirteanna Giúistís (Costais i gCásanna Coiriúla) 1988 le gur féidir costais a bhronnadh ar dhóigh a léiríonn an costas a bhaineann le hionchúisimh; Coinneoidh RTFT faoi athbhreithniú an deis chun an tAcht um lascaigh an Fheabhail (Tuaisceart Éireann) 1952 a leasú le gur féidir córas pionós socraithe a fheidhmiú.

Reachtaíocht

9. Chuir na hAirí fáilte roimh an dul chun cinn i soláthar Phlean Feidhmiúcháin Reachtaíochta Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna, rinne siad tacar amháin rialachán a fhaomhadh agus nótaíl gur gá do CATT tuilleadh rialachán a fhaomhadh níos moille in 2012.

An 4 Iúil 2012

1. Tionóladh fichiú cruinniú Dobharshaothraithe agus Mara na Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas in oifigí Chomhairle Cathrach Dhoire ar an 4 Iúil 2012. I láthair ar an chruinniú bhí: Pat Rabbitte TD, Aire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha, Michelle O'Neill, CTR, Aire Talmhaíochta agus Forbartha Tuaithe, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Aire Stáit, An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha agus Nelson McCausland, CTR, Aire Forbartha Sóisialta. An tAire Rabbitte a bhí ina chathaoirleach ar an chruinniú.

Tuairisc ar Dhul Chun Cinn

2. Fuair an Chomhairle tuairisc ar dhul chun cinn obair Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna ó Winston Patterson, Cathaoirleach agus Derick Anderson, Príomhfheidhmeannach.
3. Chuir na Airí fáilte roimh fhorbairt plean oibríochta foirmiúil leis an PSNI agus An Garda Síochána le dul i ngleic le hionsaithe ar bhaill foirne na Gníomhaireachta agus chuir a n-imní in iúl faoi dhá ionsaí thromchúiseacha a tharla le déanaí.
4. Nótáil Airí an seasamh ar mharthanais an Bhradáin Atlantaigh ar cúis shuntasach imní í agus níos lú ná cúig faoin chéad de na héisc óga a fhágann an córas ag teacht ar ais ina n-éisc fhásta.
5. Chuir an Chomhairle fáilte roimh an Mheamram Tuisceana idir Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann agus an Ghníomhaireacht agus an tionchar dearfach a bheas aige ar shláinteachas sliogéisc agus nótáil na feabhsúcháin leanúnacha in iascach oisrí Loch Feabhail agus an laghdú i gcásanna Bonamia.
6. Cuireadh fáilte roimh sheoladh oifigiúil thionscadal IBIS, arna mhaoiniú ag AE, agus roimh an dul chun cinn atá déanta cheana. Tá poist glactha ag dáréag mac léinn PhD, tá an chéad chohórt de mhic léinn Chéim an Mháistir ceaptha agus tá líon iomlán foireann tacaíochta ag feidhmiú.
7. Nótáil na hAirí an dul chun cinn i bhForbairt Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta, go háirithe cur i gcrích an phontúin ag Meadowbank, an t-ionchur suntasach a bhí ag an Ghníomhaireacht in ócáid Timpeall na Cruinne na gClipéar agus sna hullmhúcháin i gcomhair na n-imeachtaí slatiascaireacht breac agus mara ag Cluichí Domhanda Dóiteáin agus Póilíní 2013.

Cur I Láthair ar Mhonatóireacht Éisc na Treorach Creat Uisce I Gceantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn

8. Rinne Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna cur i láthair ar Threoir Chreat Uisce ar Mhonatóireacht Éisc agus nótáil na hAirí úsáid phraiticiúil an eolais seo ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna chomh maith le páirtithe leasmhara reachtúla eile.

Plean Gnó Ghníomhaireacht Na Lochanna 2012

9. D'fhaomh an Chomhairle Plean Gnó Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna 2012 agus mhol soláthar buiséid dar suim €5.0525m (£4.3957m) in 2012 (níl maoiniú AE nó eile san áireamh sna figiúirí seo).

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Ráitis Airgeadais

10. Nótáladh Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Dréacht-Ráitis Airgeadais 2011 Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna

Reachtaíocht

11. Chuir an Chomhairle fáilte roimh dhul chun tosaigh ar sholáthar Phlean Feidhmiúcháin Reachtaíochta Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna, nótáil go mbeidh gá le faomhadh CATT i leith tuilleadh rialachán níos moille in 2012 agus d'fhaomh go ceann bliana eile, go mí Iúil 2013, gnás chun tacú le Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus iad ag plé, trí rialacháin, le héigeandálaí amhail teagmhais truaillithe.

Socruithe Pinsin Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna

12. Nótáil na hAirí go bhfuil socruithe pá agus pinsin dá cuid ball foirne athbhreithnithe ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna. I ndréacht-bhreithmheas eacnamaíochta, moladh go ndéanadh an Gníomhaireacht na socruithe cuí chun clárú leis an Scéim Pinsin Thuaidh/Theas. Nótáladh go gcuirfear uasdátú ar fáil ar an chéad chruinniú eile Dobharshaothraithe agus Mara CATT, i ndiaidh na himpleachtaí dlí agus airgeadais a bhreithniú.

An 12 Nollaig 2012

1. Tionóladh aonú cruinniú Dobharshaothraithe agus Mara na Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas is fiche in oifigí Chomh-Rúnaireacht CATT, Ard Mhacha ar an 12 Nollaig 2012. I láthair ar an chruinniú bhí: Michelle O'Neill, CTR, Aire Talmhaíochta agus Forbartha Tuaithe, Pat Rabbitte TD, Aire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Náidúrtha agus Nelson McCausland, CTR, Aire Forbartha Sóisialta. An tAire O'Neill a bhí ina cathaoirleach ar an chruinniú.

2. Thagair an tAire Rabbitte d'Éirinn a bheith ag óstáil chruinniú bliantúil Eagrais Caomhnaithe Bhradán an Atlantaigh Thuaidh (NASCO) i Meitheamh 2013 agus luaigh go mbeidh cuireadh ar Airí agus ar a gcomhghleacaithe ón réimse earnála bheith páirteach sa chruinniú sin.

Ceapachán Pf Eatramhach

3. D'fhaomh na hAirí ceapachán an Uas. John Pollock mar PF Gníomhach ar Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna.

Cur I Láthair ar Thionscadal IBIS

4. Rinne Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna cur i láthair ar thionscadail IBIS a bhaineann le hoisrí dúchais i Loch Feabhail agus ar thionchar bacainní abhann ar imirce an bhradáin Atlantaigh. Nótáil na hAirí an cion luachmhar a dhéanfaidh na tionscadail taighde seo i mbainistíocht agus i bhforbairt na n-iascach tábhachtach seo.

Tuairisc ar Dhul Chun Cinn

5. Fuair an Chomhairle tuairisc ar dhul chun cinn obair Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna ó Winston Patterson, Cathaoirleach, agus John Pollock, Príomhfheidhmeannach Gníomhach.
6. Chuir na hAirí fáilte roimh:
 - laghdú i dteagmhais foréigin in éadan Oifigigh lascach agus nótáil pianbhreitheanna coinneála as cionta den sórt ar na mallaibh;
 - teagmháil na Gníomhaireachta le hiascairí oisrí dúchais Loch Feabhail; agus
 - go bhfuil an Ghníomhaireacht ag comhoibriú le hoifigigh Chathair an Chultúir le go mbeidh Abhainn an Fheabhail mar chuid den fhéile.
7. Nótáil an Chomhairle fosta an seasamh is deireanaí ar mharthanas an Bhradáin Atlantaigh i ndobharcheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn agus iarrachtaí leantacha caomhnaithe agus cosanta na Gníomhaireachta.

Plean Gnó Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna 2013

8. Nótáil an Chomhairle dul chun cinn ar réiteach Dhréacht-Phlean Gnó Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna 2013.

Socruithe Pinsin Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna

9. Nótáil na hAirí go bhfuil breithmheas eacnamaíochta, i gcomhairle leis na Ranna Coimircíochta, comhlánaithe ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna ar na roghanna lena socruithe pá agus pinsin a rialáil. Moladh sa bhreithmheas seo go ndéanfaidh an Ghníomhaireacht na bearta cuí le clárú leis an Scéim Pinsin Thuaidh/Theas. Tá na Ranna Coimircíochta agus Airgeadais ag breithniú na n-impleachtaí dlí agus airgeadais a bhaineann leis an Ghníomhaireacht bheith mar chuid den Scéim agus cuirfear moltaí os comhair chruinniú Dobharshaothraithe agus Mara na Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas amach anseo le go bhfaomhfar iad.

Reachtaíocht

10. D'fhaomh an Chomhairle dhá thacar rialachán, Rialacháin (Leasú) Cheantar an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn (Slatiascaireacht) 2012 agus Rialacháin (Leasú) Cheantar an Fheabhail (Rialú Iascaireachta) 2012 a tháinig dá éis.

Comhaontú Bainistíocht Dobharshaothraithe

11. Chuir na hAirí fáilte roimh an dul chun cinn go dtí seo ar fhorbairt Comhaontú Bainistíocht Dobharshaothraithe agus go háirithe aidhm Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Comhaontú Bainistíochta foriomlán a bheith ar bun le linn 2013 le gur féidir ceadúnú dobharshaothraithe i Loch Feabhail a thabhairt chun cinn.

Ceapachán Comhalta Boird

12. D'fhaomh na hAirí ceapachán Laurence Arbuckle ar Bhord Choimisiún Soilse an Fheabhail, Chairlinn agus na hÉireann i gcomharbacht ar Tharlach Ó Crosáin. Ghabh na hAirí a mbuíochas leis an Uas. Ó Crosáin as an chion shuntasach oibre a thug an tUas. Ó Crosáin don Bhord.

6. Fóram Comhairleach Cheantar an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn

Rinneadh 3^ú Fóram Comhairleach Cheantar an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn a earcú i ndiaidh próiseas fada iarratais, dara glaoch chun agallaimh san áireamh.

Tiocfaidh na seisiúin iomlánacha den Fhóram nua 34 comhalta, a dhéanann ionadaíocht thar ceann dhobharcheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn araon, i gceann a chéile dhá uair sa bhliain.

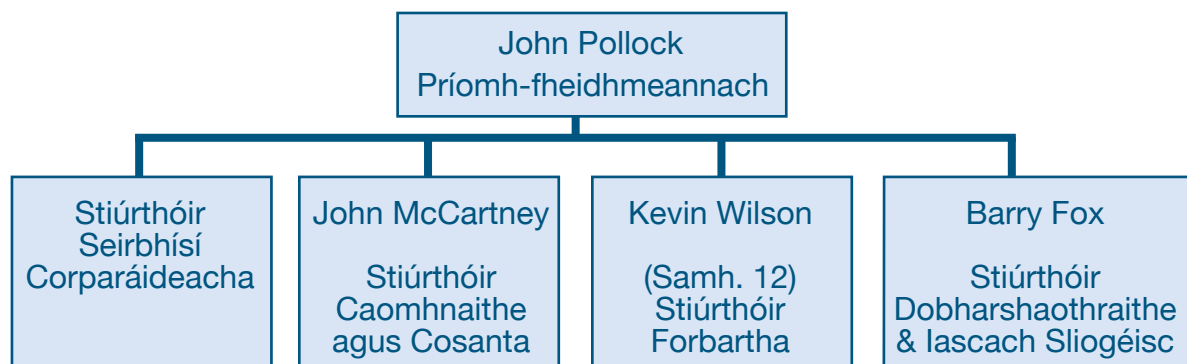
Ceapadh an tUas. Peter Archdale ina Chathaoirleach agus an tUas. Paul O'Donovan ina Leas-Chathaoirleach. Tá ainmniúcháin faighte do na Fócasghrúpaí a thiocfaidh le chéile thart faoi shé huaire sa bhliain agus is anseo a dhéanfar bunús na hoibre. Breithneofar ar ábhair shainiúla níos mine agus beidh na réimsí seo a leanas san áireamh:

- lascaigh Bradán agus Intíre;
- Timpeallacht;
- Forbairt Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireacht Fóillíochta;
- Dobharshaothrú agus lascaigh Sliogéisc

Tá miontuairiscí an Fhórait Chomhairligh ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na Gníomhaireachta www.loughs-agency.org

7. Soláthar Foirne

Feidhmíonn an Ghníomhaireacht taobh istigh de struchtúr ceithre Stiúrthóireacht (Seirbhísí Corparáideacha, Caomhnú agus Cosaint, Dobharshaothrú agus lascaigh Sliogéisc agus Forbairt) agus is é 53 an leibhéal reatha croífhóireann faofa.



8. Forbairt Foirne

Aithníonn an Gníomhaireacht an tábhacht atá le forbairt foirne agus soláthar tionscnaimh chuí forbairt phearsanta leanúnach don fhoireann ar fad. I rith na bliana ar fad, thug an Gníomhaireacht faoi riachtanais oiliúna agus forbartha na foirne, ag díriú ar choinneáil eolais agus scileanna agus ar spreagadh atá ag cur le freastal ar chuspóirí an eagrais agus ar riachtanais daoine aonair, mar shampla, Teacht Slán i bhFarraige, Bainistíocht na Coimhlinte, Earcaíocht agus Roghnú agus Feasacht ar Chomhionannais.

9: Ionad Oideachais agus Léirithe “Riverwatch”

Cuireadh fáilte roimh bhreis agus 18,000 cuairteoir in Uisceadán agus Ionad Cuairteoirí “Riverwatch” na Gníomhaireachta in 2012. Is ón earnáil oideachais agus turasóireachta araon a tháinig siad agus is é beagnach 135,000 an líon iomlán cuairteoirí a bhí againn ó osclaíodh é in 2002.

Bhain muid an leibhéal teagmhála seo amach trí shraith de chláir for-rochtana, feachtais éifeachtacha margáíochta agus poiblíochta agus sraith imeachtaí, idir inmheánach agus sheachtrach.

D’fhorbair muid tionscadail oideachasúla eolaíochta i gcomhar le Foyle College a cuireadh i láthair ar an *Intel SciFest* i mBéal Feirste i mí an Mheithimh. Sa chatagóir ‘Eolaíocht’, bhuaigh tionscadal monatóireachta fionnuisce agus sáile. Rinne daltaí taighde ar agus thomhais siad leibhéil salandachta ag doimhneachtaí éagsúla in áiteanna éagsúla idir Prehen agus Rinn na Cúile Móire leis an chineál meascadh ingearach a tharlaíonn san Fheabhal a shainaithint.

Rinne daltaí droichead a dhearadh fosta agus bhuaigh sé ‘Intel Best Science Project’. Rinne tionscadal eile monatóireacht ar an bhithéagsúlacht i gceantar an Fheabhail agus bronnadh ‘Bronze Science Crest Award’ air. Le cois trí chorn, bhuaigh sí seó eolaíochta agus duais airgid don scoil fosta.

I mí an Mheithimh, thug Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna deis do dhaoine óga an tseoltóireacht a fhoghlaim ar an Fheabhal mar chuid de na réamhimeachtaí a bhain le Rás Luamh Timpeall na Cruinne na gClipéar. Chuir Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna, i gcomhar le *Ocean Youth Trust Ireland*, 6 lá oiliúint seoltóireachta ar fáil do scoileanna agus grúpaí eile sa chathair. Cuireadh an ‘mobile marine

touch tank' nua ar taispeáint le linn chuairt 10 lá na gClipéar agus bhí an-tóir go deo ag cuairteoirí air.

Lean muid den bhaint atá againn le tionscadal Aibhneacha an Domhain, i gcomhpháirt le ILEX (an Comhlacht Athnuachan Uirbeach i nDoire), Comhairle na Breataine, ealaíontóirí áitiúla agus 6 iar-bhunscoil áitiúla. Don dara bliain i ndiaidh a chéile, cuireadh an ealaín s'acu ar taispeáint taobh amuigh den Tate Modern i Londain agus bhreathnaigh timpeall 800,000 duine a bhí ar cuairt ar an *Thames Festival* í.

Chuir muid ár n-ócáid Oíche Shamhna 'Ascarium Aquarium' i mí Dheireadh Fómhair ar fáil i gcomhpháirt le grúpaí eile caomhantais agus timpeallachta ar nós RSPB, Zú Bhéal Feirste, TACT agus Comhairle Cathrach Dhoire. Mheall an ócáid 5 lá thart faoi 2,000 cuairteoir.

Lean muid d'fhorbairt ár réimse de chlár oideachais le scoileanna in 2012. Rinne muid staidéar abhann a dhearadh agus a réachtáil ar bhonn píolótach bunaithe ar chritéir mheasúnú rialaithe obair chúrsa *Assessment and Qualification Alliance* (AQA) TGMO Tíreolaíochta. I gcomhpháirt le Coláiste Mhuire Gan Smál, tugadh an cúrsa do 16 dhalta agus rinne modhnóir de chuid AQA é a údarú.

Tionscadal IBIS le SCENE Ollscoil Ghlaschú agus Ollscoil na Banríona Béal Feirste

Le Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna mar Cheanneagras i gcomhpháirt le hOllscoil Ghlaschú agus Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste, fuarthas maoiniú trí INTERREG IVA do "Tionscadal Comhtháite Bainistíocht Acmhainní Mara idir Éirinn, Tuaisceart Éireann agus Albain (IBIS)". Is é aidhm fhoriomlán an tionscadail seo comhchur chuige a fhorbairt maidir le soláthar oiliúint ardtosaíochta, comhroinnt taighde agus eolais, tacú le bainistíocht acmhainní agus polasaí mara agus fionnuisce agus an bhithéagsúlacht a dtacaíonn na héiceachórais seo leo ar fud cheantar an chláir agus tacú le forbairt eacnamaíochta ar bhonn inbhuanaithe ó thaobh na timpeallachta de. Is é tuairim is £8 milliún luach iomlán an chláir a bheas á réachtáil ó Lúnasa 2011 go Meitheamh 2015.

Tá a lán croí-eilimintí ann :

- Soláthar taighde agus oiliúint ardcháilíochta trí 12 PhD agus 34 scoláireacht MRes.
- Forbairt 9 gcúrsa FGL agus soláthar 16 chúrsa FGL dírithe ar ghairmithe, lucht déanta polasaí agus bainisteoirí.
- Soláthar ceardlanna Aistriú Eolais a chinnteoidh go dtabharfar an t-eolas agus an fhaisnéis a eascróidh as an taighde do pháirtithe leasmhara, bainisteoirí agus lucht déanta polasaí mar is cuí.
- Soláthar áis allamuigh oiliúna/taighde úrscothach in Ionad Éiceolaíochta agus Timpeallacht Nádurtha Alban ag Ollscoil Ghlaschú ar Loch Lomainn.

Tá tús curtha lena gcuid staidéir ag ceathrar mac léinn PhD. Tá siad ag breithniú ar thaighde a dhéanamh ar réimse topaicí:

- **An t-oisre dúchais**

Straitéisí bainistíochta atá bunaithe ar eolaíocht a fhorbairt le haghaidh inbhuanaitheacht timpeallachta agus tráchtála oisrí dúchais i gcomhthéacs táirgeadh áitiúil tráchtála.

- **Diúilicín gorm**

Táirgeadh diúilicíní faoi chleachtais éagsúla bainistíochta a fhiosrú agus cuidiú le táirgeoirí pointí iniúchta stoic a fhorbairt le gur fearr a thig leo barra diúilicíní a bhainistiú agus torthaí a mhéadú.

- **Imirce bradán**

Imirce bradán san Fheabhal a mhonatóiriú mar áis chun cuspóirí Threoir Chreat an Uisce agus Threoir na nGnáthóg a bhaint amach agus eolas a chur ar fáil le haghaidh bainistíocht éifeachtach.

- **Luathchéim saolré eascann**

Tá líon na n-eascann ag laghdú agus is beag tuiscint atá ar a luathchéim saolré. Tabharfaidh an staidéar seo aghaidh air seo.

10. Caomhnú agus Cosaint

Iascaigh Bhradán agus Intíre

Tá líon na mbradán in Éirinn, agus leoga san Aigéan Atlantach Thuaidh, ag laghdú leis, go háirithe maidir le marthanas mara ar feadh roinnt blianta. Tá marthanas mara íseal go fóill maidir le bradán 1 gheimhreadh mara (SW/GM) ar a dtugtar blátháin fosta. Bhí ráta fillte 4.96% ar ais chun na habhann ó chohórt gealóg 2010 ag Abhainn na Baoise, ar abhainn de chuid innéacs ICES í. Bhí méadú, áfach, ar ráta fillte chohórt gealóg 2 GM/SW 2009 go dtí 0.95%. Ar mhaithe le comparáid, ba é 0.51% an meán idir 1999 – 2008.

Is mar gheall ar an chúlra seo atá buaint bradán atá ag filleadh cuíchóirithe go mór ag an Ghníomhaireacht trí fheirmeoireacht tráchtála bradán a chur ar fionraí trí fhógairt chuí agus slatiascaireacht fóillíochta a laghdú trí shrianta a chur ar chilbeanna conablaigh, prótacail a eisiúint agus ‘ceap agus scaoil saor’ a chur i bhfeidhm ar chuid de na córais shuntasacha abhann. Cuireadh bonn agus taca faoi na srianta buainte seo le feachtas nach beag in éadan iascaireacht mhídhleathach.

Sa dóigh go ndéanfar táirgiúlacht bradán a uasmhéadú le linn na céime fionnuisce, arb í an phríomhchéim í sa tsaoir a dtig leis an Ghníomhaireacht dul i bhfeidhm uirthi, tá obair déanta ar ghnáthóga ionsrutháin a fheabhsú. Baineann feabhsúcháin na ngnáthóg seo le cáilíocht an uisce, na bradán a bheith ábalta na gnáthóga a bhaint amach agus rialú agus cosaint na n-iasc fásta, a bhíonn ag iarraidh na codanna uachtair de na haibhneacha a bhaint amach, ar shaothrú dleathach agus póitseáil agus ar an chreachóireacht chomh maith.

Dála gach córas bitheolaíochta, is doiligh bheith cinnte d’eolas eimpíreach agus, mar sin de, monatóireacht thar thréimhse fhada an cur chuige is fearr i leith na bainistíochta go háirithe an bhainistíocht bunaithe ar eolas a bhíonn á lorg againn.

Tá roinnt “pointí iniúchta” sainaitheanta ag an Ghníomhaireacht leis na tacair sonraí seo a chinntiú. Téann cuid acu seo siar breis agus 10 mbliana agus go dearfa, ceann amháin acu siar go dtí 1952.

Comhlánaíonn an obair mhonatóireachta oibleagáidí Threoir Chreat Uisce an AE, agus soláthraímid é i bpáirt le hlascach Intíre Éireann (IFI), Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann (NIEA) agus an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA).

Mar a léiríodh cheana, is den ríthábhacht an ghnáthóg ionsrutháin i dtaca le táirgiúlacht an bhradáin de agus tá miontaifid GIS ag an Gníomhaireacht a bhaineann le 5161km d'aibhneacha san Fheabhal agus 489km i gCairlinn.

Tá an meath ar mharthanas mara an Bhradáin Atlantaigh, agus an tionchar a tháinig dá bharr ar bhradáin fhásta ag filleadh, léirithe sa tábla thíos ina dtaispeántar líon na mbradán fásta a taifeadadh ag ár n-áiritheoirí éisc le sé bliana anuas.

Córas Abhann	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	*Sprioc bainistíochta
Abhainn na Finne	3278	3185	2153	1421	1928	2190	5410
An Mughdhorn	3714	3578	8410	2360	1342	2836	7859
An Fhochaine	1257	604	831	1825	995	1824	800
An Ró	5375	4927	3064	3837	2652	3526	1833

Tá tuairiscí mionsonracha stádais foilsithe ag an Gníomhaireacht ar gach córas abhann de chuid an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn agus tá siad ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na Gníomhaireachta lena mbreathnú. Is iad na doiciméid seo an bonn ar a ndéantar comhairliúchán reatha leanúnach le húinéirí iascach agus le clubanna agus cumainn slatiascaireachta.

Le cois an eolais seo, déanann an Gníomhaireacht fosta monatóireacht agus tástálacha ar cháilíocht an uisce i sruthchúrsaí beaga na ndobharcheantar a fhorlíonann an tsampláil reachtúil a dhéanann an dá dhlínse.

Áirítear leis na tuairiscí stádais moltaí i leith oibre atá le déanamh agus tugtar iad do pháirtithe leasmhara na n-iascach (clubanna, úinéirí iascach agus eile) mar ábhar plé maidir le cén obair a dtabharfar tús áite di. Is iondúil gur athchóiriú gnáthóige an obair a dhéantar agus le linn 2012 comhaontaíodh agus comhlánaíodh tionscadail shuntasacha leis na páirtithe leasmhara. Mar shampla, rinneadh oibreacha feabhsúcháin ag Sruthán na Ceapaí agus ag Abhainn Fhionntamhnaí. San áireamh san obair seo bhí feabhsúchán ar iasclann sceathraí agus láithreacha coinneála chomh maith le hathchóiriú bruach.

Forfheidhmiú

Le linn shéasúr 2012, ba cheist mhór don Ghníomhaireacht é an leibhéal foréigin agus imeagla ar bhaill foirne. Ciontaíodh roinnt daoine le linn shéasúr 2012 as iascaireacht mhídhleathach agus ionsaithe ar bhaill foirne araon, lenar áiríodh idir phionóis airgid agus thréimhsí príosúnachta as ionsaithe tromchúiseacha ar oifigigh iascaigh.

I gcás amháin, labhair an Breitheamh go tréan in éadan ionsaí agus imeagla oifigigh iascaigh agus iad i mbun a gcuid oibre “nach bhfuil gnaoi uirthi” ag iarraidh cosc a chur ar phóitseáil mhídhleathach ar aibhneacha feadh theorainn Thír Eoghain-Dhún na nGall. Chuir an Breitheamh céanna beirt deartháireacha as Leifear chun an phríosúin as ionsaí a dhéanamh ar oifigigh iascaigh agus as póitseáil mhídhleathach. Mhaígh sé fosta gur post deacair nach bhfuil tóir air bheith i d'oifigeach iascaigh, i gceantar Leifir go háirithe, ach go bhfuil oifigigh i dteideal dul i mbun a gcuid oibre gan ionsaí, imeagla ná mí-úsáid.

Aithníonn an Ghníomhaireacht gairmiúlacht an PSNI agus an Gharda Síochána araon agus gabhann buíochas leo as a gcúnamh. Tá an Ghníomhaireacht buíoch den bhreis agus 70 Fairtheoir Abhann Príobháideach a thug cuidiú agus muid ag patrólú ag an Mughdhorn, an tSruthail, Abhainn na Deirge, an Ró, Abhainn na Finne, An Abhainn Bhán, An Rí agus an Abhainn na Fochaine.

Le hiascaireacht tráchtála bradán ar fionraí agus an cosc ar dhíolachán bradán a maraíodh de shlat, is an-ábhar imní go fóill í an phóitseáil ag an Ghníomhaireacht. Sa tábla thíos tá líon na n-urghabhálacha a rinneadh le trí bliana anuas.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Slata	76	84	44	44
Báid agus Feithiclí	7	11	14	18
Eangacha	127	138	161	136

In 2012, rinne foireann na Gníomhaireachta na héisc agus sliogéisc seo a leanas a urghabháil;

- 79 Bradán
- 10 mBreac Dhonna
- 6 Bhreac Gheala
- 2 Bhreac Dhea-dhathacha
- 13 Róiste
- 1 Liús
- 2 Hibrid
- 19 mála Oisrí



Rinne foireann na Gníomhaireachta lear mór trealamh i urghabháil fosta chomh maith leis an hearraí seo a leanas;

- 7 Scian seilge
- 4 Mheáchan éagsúla
- 1 Rothar
- 7 gCóras Ulóige
- 2 Chasúr
- 1 Bhata daorchluiche
- 1 Líne fhada



Truailliú

Ní raibh aon slad ar éisc i ndobharcheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn in 2012 ach phléigh an Ghníomhaireacht le beagnach 100 teagmhas truaillithe.

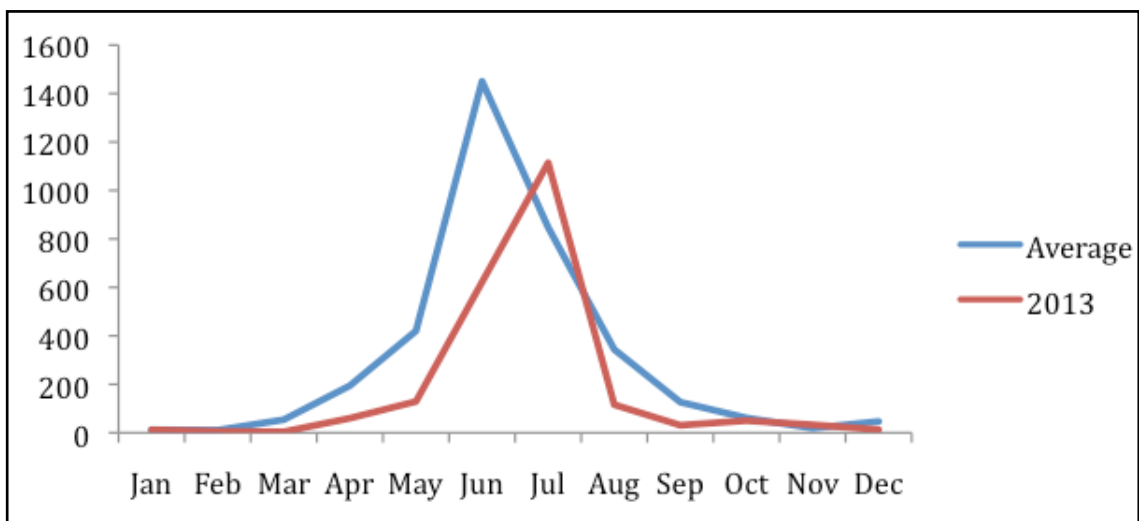
Forbairt úr i gceantar an Fheabhail gur dumpáladh roinnt coimeádán ag Crebarky a bhfuiltear den tuairim fúthu gur úsáideadh iad i sciúradh breosla i ndobharcheantar na Ró uachtair. Is iondúil go mbíonn a leithéid thar a bheith tocsaineach, creimneach agus an-díobhálach ó thaobh truailliú uisce de.



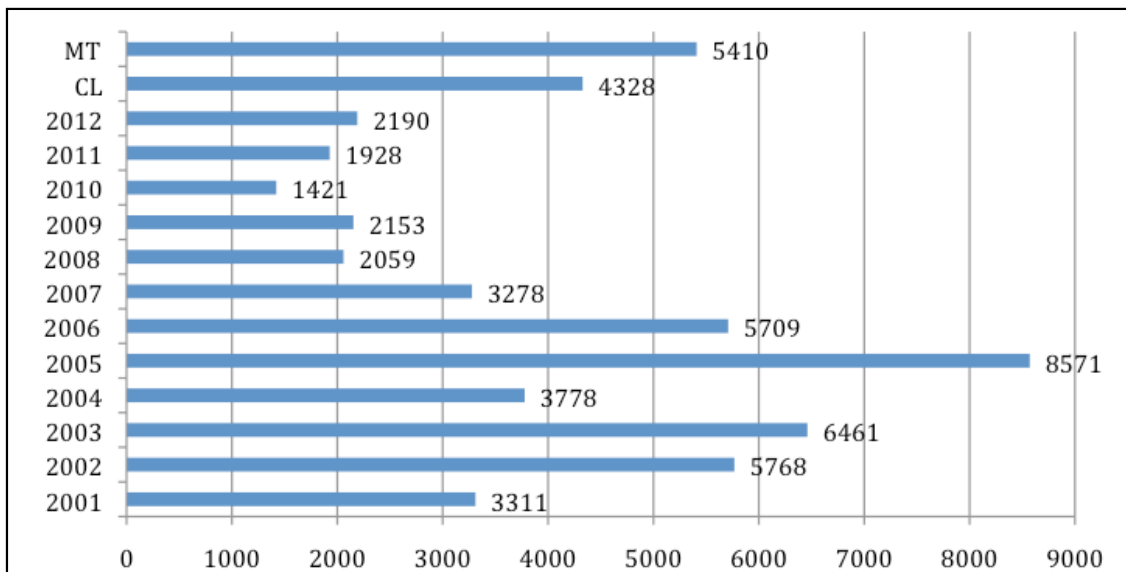
Áiritheoirí Éisc

Cuntais Achoimre Éisc 2012 ó Chlár Áiritheoirí Éisc Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna

Sonraí Áiritheoir Éisc Abhainn na Finne

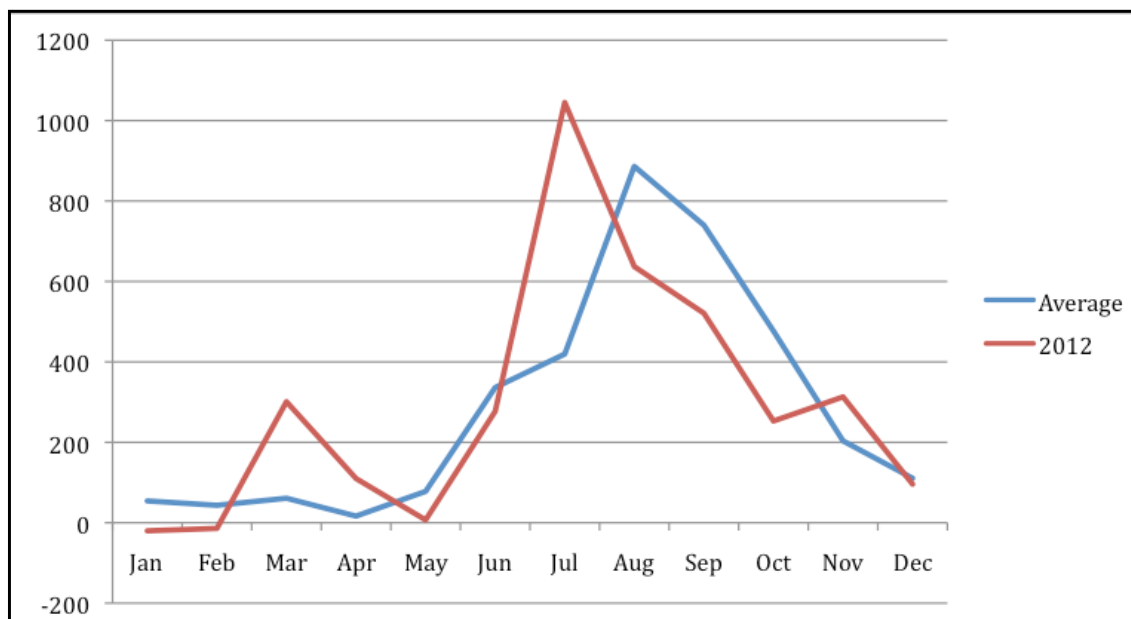


Méid reatha

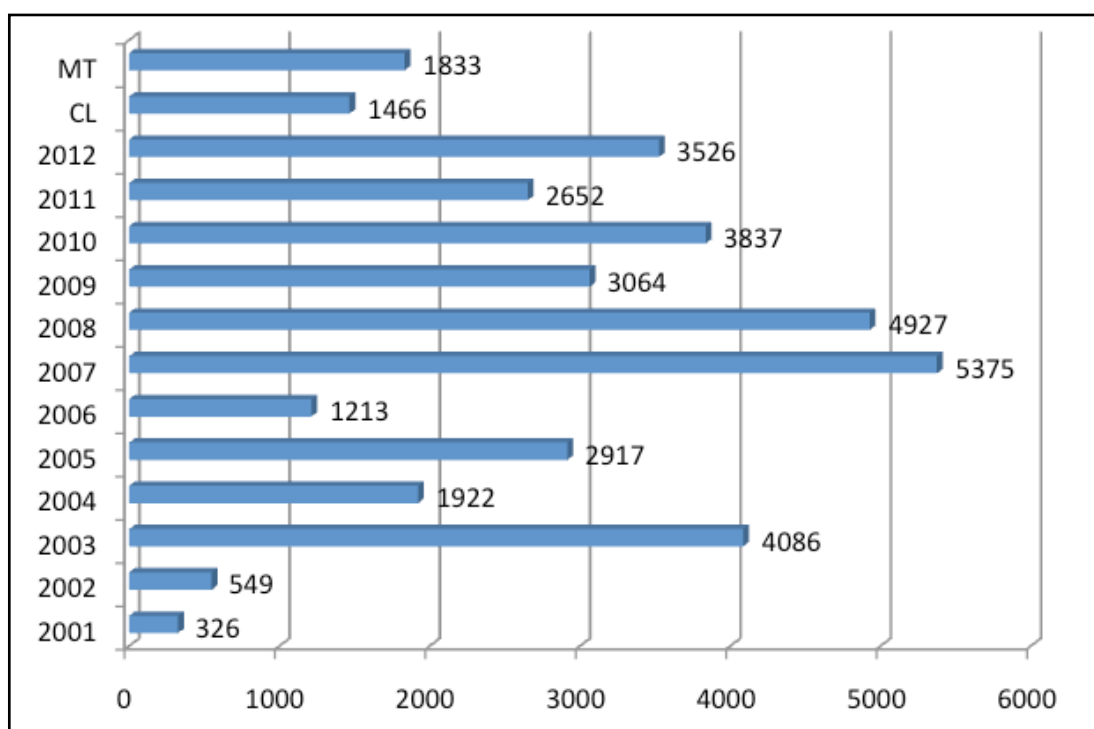


Sonraí Áiritheoir Éisc Abhainn na Ró

Treocht Reatha

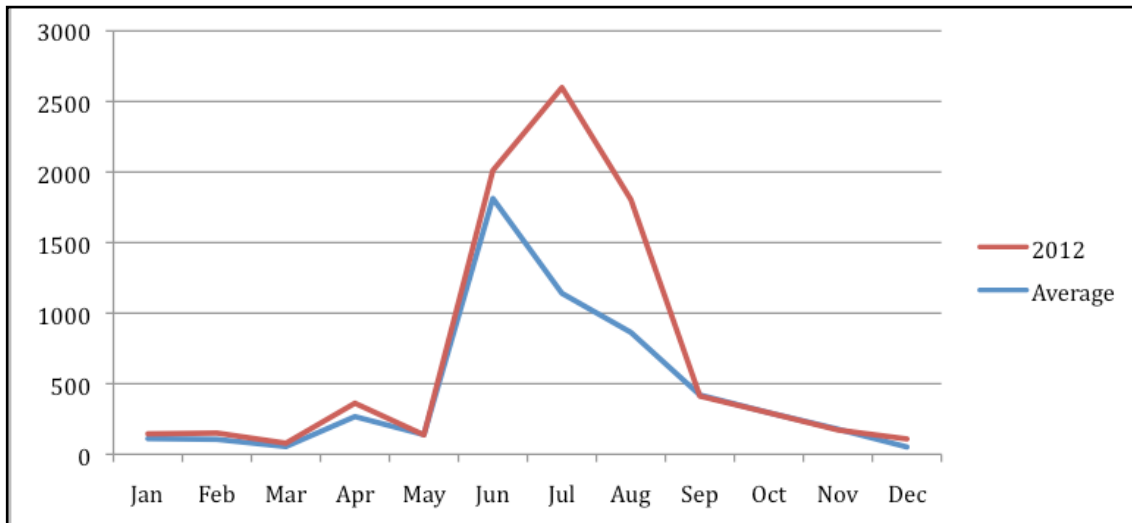


Méid reatha

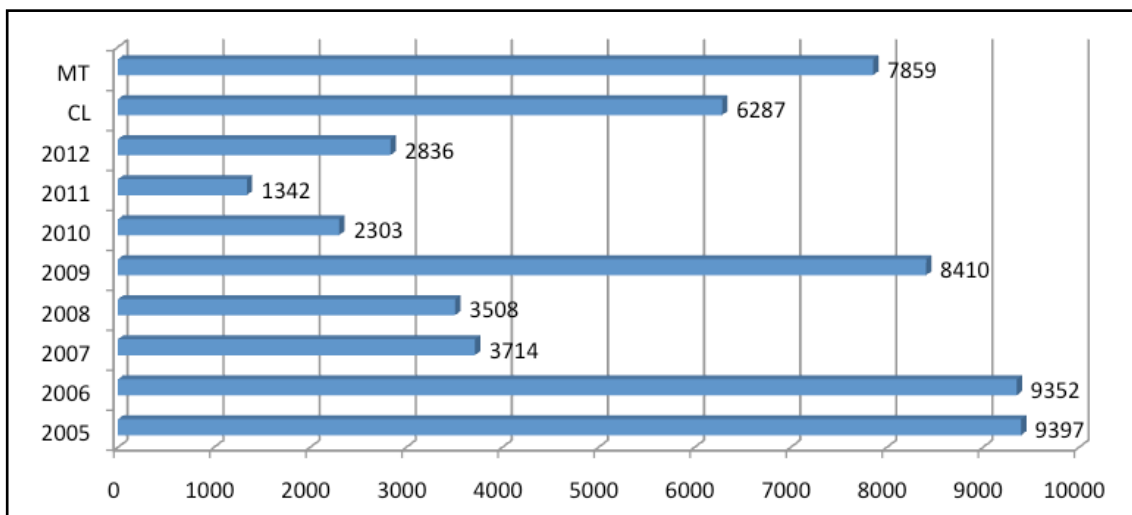


Sonraí Áiritheoir Éisc Abhainn na Moirne

Treocht Reatha

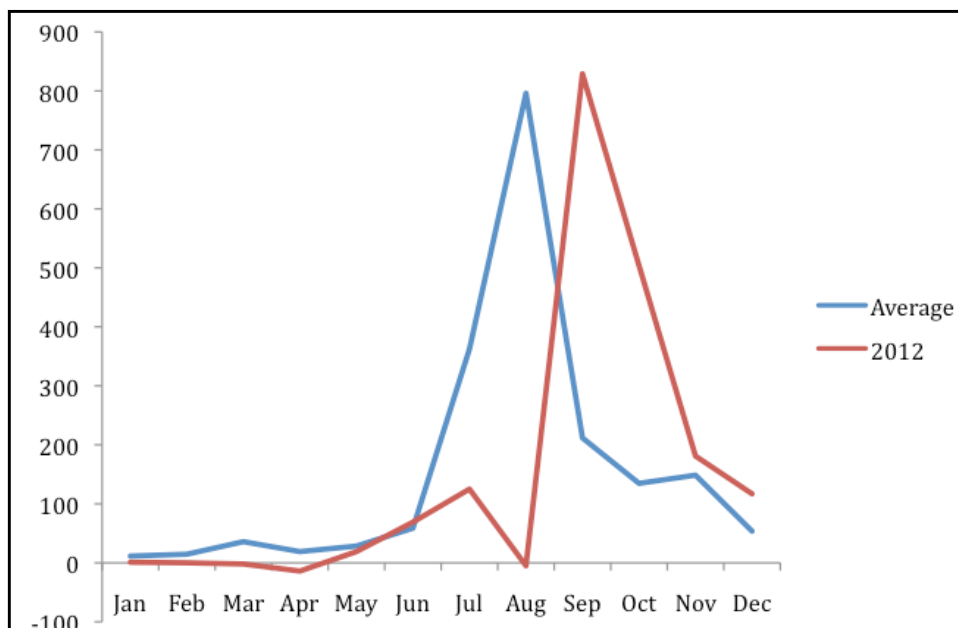


Méid reatha

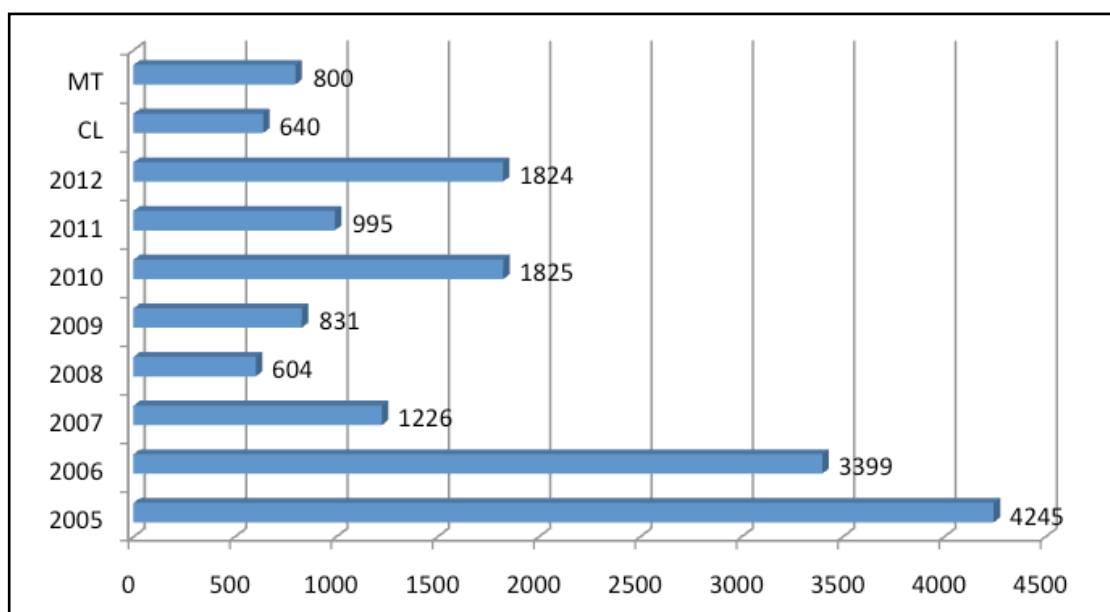


Sonraí Áiritheoir Éisc Abhainn na Fochaine

Treocht Reatha



Méid reatha



Ceisteanna Timpeallachta

Thuiriscigh Gníomhaireacht Timpeallachta na Breataine Bige (EAW) ar an 27ú Meán Fómhair gurbh é ba thoradh do bháisteach 2012 an samhradh is fliche sa RA le céad bliain. Bhí tionchar ag an uisce leanúnach tuile seo ar chuid mhór gnéithe d'obair Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna.

Bhí áthas ar an Ghníomhaireacht a thuairisciú gur cuireadh córais chianrialaithe monatóireacht cáilíocht uisce i bhfeidhm in 2012 agus iad ag síorbhreathnú paraiméadair cheimiceacha agus fisiciúla, lena n-áirítear Ocsaigin Thuaslagtha agus Teocht. Tá siad seo suite ag ár n-ionaid comhaireamh éisc ar Abhainn na Finne, na Ró agus an Mhughdhoirn. Cuireann na córais seo foláirimh chuig croíbhaill foirne Gníomhaireachta má bhraitear truilliú agus feidhmíonn siad ar bhonn 24 uair.

I gcomhpháirt le Gníomhaireacht na nAibhneacha, d'fheistigh Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna fógróir gutha le hionad rianaithe sreafa Abhainn na Ró. Tá fáil anois ag an Ghníomhaireacht ar na fearais sin ar Abhainn na Ró, na Fochaine agus an Mhughdhoirn. Cumasaíonn an fógróir seo ceistiú teileafóin ar shonraí an ionaid agus seachadann sonraí sreafa i bhfíor-am.

Is ábhar imní go fóill é ceisteanna a bhaineann le giniúint hidrileictreach ar an chóras. In 2012 bhí breis agus 20 scéim ag céimeanna éagsúla iarratais/forbartha laistigh de dhobharcheantar an Fheabhail.

Bhí ionadaíocht ag an Ghníomhaireacht ar Chomhdháil bhliantúil Eagrais Chaomhnú Bhradáin an Atlantaigh Thuaidh (NASCO) i nDún Éideann ag tús mhí an Mheithimh.

Is eagrais idirnáisiúnta é NASCO a bunaíodh trí Choinbhinsiún idir-rialtasach le stoic Bhradáin an Atlantaigh a chaomhnú agus a bhainistiú. Is iad Ceanada, an Danmhairg (ar son na Graonlainne agus Oileáin Fharó), an AE, an Iorua, an Rúis agus na Stáit Aontaithe na baill.

Thug baill foirne de chuid na Gníomhaireachta fianaise ag fiosrúchán poiblí de chuid an Bhoird Pleanála ar an mholadh chun droichead a thógáil ag an Chaoluisce ar Loch Chairlinn agus ag Fiosrúchán Poiblí na Seirbhíse Pleanála ar fhorbairt scéim bhóthar A6. Shainaithin baill foirne de chuid na Gníomhaireachta ceisteanna maidir le hoibleagáidí reachtúla an Achta um

lascaigh an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn. Bhain siad seo le roinnt ceisteanna amhail cosaint stoic éisc go háirithe le linn a dtréimhsí imirce.

11. Dobharshaothrú Agus lascaigh Sliogéisc

Meabhrán Tuisceana (MOU) Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus Gníomhaireacht Caighdeáin Bia Éireann

Comhaontaíodh agus síníodh Meamram Tuisceana idir Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus Gníomhaireacht Caighdeáin Bia Éireann (FSAI). Leagtar amach sa MOU seo aistriú na freagrachta as sampláil sláinteachas sliogéisc ar chladaí Phoblacht na hÉireann Loch Cairlinn agus Loch Feabhail ón Údarás um Chosaint lascaigh Mhara (SFPA) agus ón Institiúid Mhara do Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna. Ciallaíonn comhlánú an MOU go bhfuil freagracht iomlán ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna as sampláil sláinteachas sliogéisc amhail oisrí dúchais, oisrí an Aigéin Chiúin agus diúilicíní chomh maith le sampláil fíteaplanctón ar an dá Loch. Tá súil gur mó an leanúnachas sa tsampláil a thiocfaidh dá bharr.

Rinne stiúrthoireacht lascaigh Sliogéisc agus Dobharshaothraithe Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna na freagrachtaí úra samplála a sceidealú i gcomhthráth le córais reatha samplála le húsáid acmhainní foirne agus ama a uasmhéadú. Cuireadh tús le sampláil ar Loch Feabhail agus ar Loch Chairlinn araon ar an 1 Iúil 2012.

Sampláil Sláinteachas Sliogéisc

Forbraíodh sampláil sláinteachas sliogéisc i rith 2012 agus feidhmíodh cuid mhór athruithe ar an mhodheolaíocht de thoradh chuaipteanna na hOifige Bia agus Tréidliachta (FVO) in 2012. Ó Mheán Fómhair, tógfar samplaí uisce a thógtar le haghaidh sampláil fíteaplanctón gach re seachtain chuig samplaí feoil bhiotocsainí le dóchúlacht samplaí uisce ag feidhmiú mar chórais réamhrabhaidh maidir le blás fíteaplanctóin a tháirgeann biotocsain a mhéadú. Le cois an athraithe seo, iarradh fosta san iniúchadh go dtabharfar comhordanáidí le gach sampla. Caithfidh oifigigh samplála comhordanáidí an tsuímh samplála, teocht an tsampla (i gcás samplaí idirthaoideacha) agus teocht stórais a thuairisciú anois chomh maith leis na paraiméadair atá sa cháipéisíocht bhunaidh.

Bhí gach toradh de chuid 2012 go maith agus ní raibh aon druidim i gceist ar cheachtar den dá Loch mar gheall ar bhiotocsainí. Is iad A nó B na ranguithe go fóill ar an dá Loch agus tá cáilíocht an uisce go maith fós.

Oisre Dúchais MSC

Eagraíonn an Chomhairle Mhaoriseacht Mhara (MSC) Clár Deimhniúcháin. Is eagrais domhanda, neamhspleách é MSC a fheidhmíonn clár deimhniúcháin chun iascaigh dhea-bhainistithe a chur chun cinn. Is é an clár deimhniúcháin seo an príomhchlár domhanda, neamhspleách, idirnáisiúnta deimhniúcháin iascaigh agus éicea-lipéadaithe. Cuireann deimhniúchán MSC ar chumas iascach a chruthú go mbíonn siad ag iascaireacht ar dhóigh inbhuanaithe. Ag croí chaighdeán MSC tá:

- go mbuaintear an stoc go hinbhuanaithe
- go mbuaintear an stoc gan ach beagán tionchair ar an éiceachóras
- go mbuaintear an stoc trí úsáid córas dea-bhainistíochta ar dócha go bhfreagróidh sé do chúinsí a athraíonn agus d'fhadhbanna a thagann aníos de réir mar a tharlaíonn siad.

Le gnóthú dheimhniúcháin MSC, léirítear do thomhaltóirí chomh maith le NGOanna agus páirtithe leasmhara go bhfuil córais bainistíochta daingean go leor le hinbhuanaitheacht an iascaigh a chinntiú.

Is iad aidhmeanna an tionscadail seo:

- Aird a tharraingt ar chonstaicí féideartha ar dheimhniúchán iomlán MSC
- Léargas a fháil ar an phróiseas MSC agus an méid ar fiú don iascach é
- Stádas inbhuanaitheachta an iascaigh a fheabhsú
- An t-iascach a ullmhú faoi choinne MSC sa deireadh thiar

Is beart faoi chuing rúin é an réamh-mheasúnú a thabharfaidh tuairim dá fheabhas a d'éireodh leis an iascach sa mheasúnú iomlán. Bíonn súil gur deimhniúchán a chruthaíonn inbhuanaitheacht an iascaigh ar scála domhanda, bunaithe ar an bhainistíocht a fheidhmíonn Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna, an toradh a bhíonn ar an phróiseas ar deireadh.

Tá súil go gcuirfear an tionscadal seo i gcrích go luath in 2013. Is cuidiú iad torthaí an réamh-mheasúnaithe le bonn eolais a chur faoi chinntí bainistíochta agus, más fabhrach na torthaí, d'fhéadfaí go ndéanfaí measúnú iomlán sa neastodhchaí.

Cumas Iompair

Tionóladh cruinniú ar an 19 Samhain 2012 idir Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus AFBINI le hinúsáidteacht agus infheidhmeacht mhionsamhail SMILE mar ghléas chun cumas iompair a ríomh do Loch Chairlinn agus Loch Feabhail a phlé. Léirigh AFBINI an mhionsamhail ar Loch Lao lena léiriú conas, nuair a thugtar eolas beacht, is féidir an mhionsamhail a úsáid le bonn eolais a chur faoi chinntí bainistíochta agus timpeallachta araon. Táthar ag súil go gcuirfidh torthaí an chruinnithe seo ar chumas Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna cinneadh a dhéanamh bunaithe ar eolas ar infheidhmeacht na mionsamhla seo don Fheabhal agus Cairlinn. Má mheastar go bhfuil an mhionsamhail seo úsáideach agus inchosanta, déanfaidh an Stiúrthóireacht Iascach Sliogéisc agus Dobharshaothraithe SMILE a fheidhmiú mar uirlis le cumas iompair a mheas ar Chairlinn agus ar an Fheabhal araon.

Suirbhéanna Éin Uisce

Comhlánaíodh an chéad bhliain iomlán de shuirbhé éin uisce in 2012. Cuireadh tús leis an suirbhé éin uisce go mall in 2011 mar fhreagra ar an cheist nach leor na sonraí éanúla reatha lena n-úsáid mar tháscaire de na hidirghníomhuithe idir éin uisce agus gníomhaíocht dobharshaothraithe. Tá sonraí tacaíochta de dhíth le go mbeidh earnáil an dobharshaothraithe ag comhlíonadh na Treorach Gnáthóg. Tá eolas breise de dhíth ar dháileadh éin uisce (agus aird ar leith ar speicis chosanta) flúirse agus cluichreán éin uisce agus idirghníomhuithe idir éin uisce agus dobharshaothrú.

Caithfear Measúnú Oiriúnachta a dhéanamh sular féidir ceadúnas dobharshaothraithe a thabhairt nó a athnuachan agus tá gá leis faoi Airteagal 6 de Threoir AE ar Ghnáthóga (1992) ina sainmhínítear mar a bhainistítear agus a chosnaítear suíomhanna Natura 2000. Caithfear Treoir na nÉan 1979 a chomhlíonadh fosta. Mar chuid de mheasúnú oiriúnachta ar shuíomh, caithfear sonraí beachta a thabhairt ar líon agus ar speicis na n-éan a mhaireann sa cheantar.

Mar fhreagairt don bhearna sna sonraí reatha a luadh thuas, chinn Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna ar shonraí éan a chomhordú ó Loch Chairlinn agus Loch Feabhail ar bhonn inmheánach. Trí shonraí ó shuíomhanna dobharshaothraithe a chur i gcomparáid leo siúd as limistéir neamhshaothraithe, cuirfidh bailiú inmheánach na sonraí seo ar chumas

Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna measúnú a dhéanamh ar an dóigh a bhféadfadh tionchar a bheith ag éin uisce ar ghníomhaíocht dobharshaothraithe, nó tionchar a bheith ag an dobharshaothrú, i Loch Chairlinn agus i Loch Feabhail.

Cloíonn an staidéar seo leis an teimpléad atá leagtha amach in “Waterbird Surveys within Irish Coastal Special Protection Area: Survey Methods and Guidance Notes” (Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra, 2011). Beidh gá, áfach, le suirbhé a dhéanamh ar shuíomhanna i míonna an tsamhraidh le cois mhíonna an gheimhridh mar a iarrann SPNF leis an suirbhé a chomhlánú. Cuireadh leis fosta roinnt ceanglas eile a bhaineann go sainiúil le riachtanais Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna.

Earcaíodh mac léinn chéim an mháistir leis an obair seo a dhéanamh trí thionscadal IBIS. Chuir an mac léinn seo a tionscadal i gcrích in 2012 agus léirítear sna torthaí ón tréimhse staidéir seo go mbíonn difríochtaí suntasacha i gcluichreáin éan ag suíomhanna difriúla ar Loch Chairlinn. Tarraingíodh aird sa tráchtas fosta ar an ghá atá le taighde leanúnach. Leanfar den tionscadal in 2013 nuair a cheapfar beirt mhac léinn eile ag leibhéal chéim an mháistir. Is é is aidhm don tionscadal tacar sonraí daingean ar éin ar féidir é a úsáid amach anseo le haghaidh measúnú oiriúnachta suíomhanna dobharshaothraithe chomh maith le heolas a sholáthar do lucht bainistíochta ar an tionchar ar dócha é a bheith ag éin uisce ar an dobharshaothrú.

Ag deireadh 2012, tugadh an tacar sonraí ar éin uisce agus dobharshaothrú do RTFT agus d’AFBI. Ba ríthábhachtach soláthar na sonraí seo maidir le comhlánú an mheasúnaithe chuí teaglaim.

Athbhreithniú Monatóireacht Sliogéisc 2012

Measúnuithe Stoc Oisrí Dúchais

Rinneadh suirbhé dreideála ar iascach oisrí dúchais Loch Feabhail idir Feabhra agus Aibreán 2012. Tógadh 598 sampla dreideála san iomlán agus sampláladh 3376 oisre ó na dreideálacha seo. Tuairim ar 117km a bhí fad iomlán na ndreideálacha seo agus meánfhad tarraingthe 198m. Is ionann seo agus méid shamplach de 0.23% de thalamh fóirsteanach oisrí i Loch Feabhail. Rinneadh suirbhé dreideála ar iascach oisrí dúchais Loch Feabhail le linn Mheán Fómhair agus Dheireadh Fómhair 2012. Tógadh 260 sampla dreideála san iomlán agus sampláladh 2811 oisre ó na dreideálacha seo. Tuairim ar 52km a bhí fad iomlán na ndreideálacha seo agus meánfhad tarraingthe 203m. Is ionann seo agus méid shamplach de 0.1% de thalamh iomlán oisrí Loch Feabhail.

Measúnuithe Stoc Síol Diúilicíní

Rinneadh suirbhé dreideála ar an 28 Aibreán agus an 2 Bealtaine 2012 lena shainaithint ar tharla lonnaíocht síol diúilicíní ag béal Loch Feabhail i limistéar inar taifeadadh síolta roimhe. Ní bhfuarthas fianaise ar bith de shíol diúilicíní ar an bheirtreach seo. Bhí líonta beaga de dhiúilicíní fásta dar méid 50-70mm in dhá dhreideáil as 67. Ní dhearnadh suirbhé ar bith síol diúilicíní i Loch Chairlinn in 2012 toisc nach raibh MMV Ostrea ar fáil leis an obair seo a dhéanamh mar gheall ar thosaíochtaí i réimsí eile.

Suirbhéanna Idirthaoideacha

Rinneadh athmhonatóireacht i Loch Feabhail a lorg fia-oisrí an Aigéin Chiúin agus speicis ionracha eile. Cuireadh tús le tionscadal trialach bainte in 2012 ar bheirtreach idirthaoideach diúilicíní le rátaí lonnaithe fia-oisrí an Aigéin Chiúin san am atá le teacht a shainaithint. Foireann Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus mic léinn taighde Thionscadal IBIS a rinne an obair seo.

Suirbhéanna Ceamara Faoi Uisce

Baineadh cuid mhór feidhme as an Fheithicil Chian-Rialaithe i 2012 le beirtreacha oisrí dúchais a mheas ionas go bhforbraítear moltaí bainistíochta ar nós limistéir chaomhantais agus suíomhanna turgnamhacha le haghaidh feabhsúchán gnáthóige. Foireann Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus mic léinn taighde Thionscadal IBIS a rinne an obair seo.

Córas Idirhealaithe Talún

Gléasadh córas fuaimiúil il-léasacha acústach RoxSwath, a idirdhealaíonn idir cineálacha grinnill, ar an MMV Ostrea i mí na Samhna 2012. Tá an córas ar triail ó shin agus an soitheach i mbun oibre eile agus táthar ag súil, i ndiaidh oiliúint agus suiteáil oifigiúil agus calabrú ag an déantúsóir, go dtig leis an chóras tosú a bhailiú sonraí luachmhara ar chineálacha grinnill ó limistéir fáis sliogéisc le haghaidh oibreacha athchóiriú/cosaint gnáthóige agus mar uirlis suirbhéanna stoc sliogéisc.

Tuarascálacha Stádais Loch Mara 2012

Tá Tuarascálacha Stádais Loch Mara an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn beagnach réidh. Táimid ag fanacht le sonraí ó AFBI a dtugaimid conradh dóibh leis na Córais Monatóireacht Timpeallachta sna lochanna mara a bhainistiú. Is é an 31ú Deireadh Fómhair 2013 an spriocdháta lena gcur i gcrích.

Trialacha Fáis Oisrí

Tá an triail oisrí dúchais ag leanúint ar aghaidh i Loch Feabhail agus san am i láthair tá an tEolaí Mara ag forbairt clár úr monatóireachta le cur le hobair 2012. Cuirfear tús leis an obair in 2013 agus déanfar tuairisc fúithi i dTuarascáil Bhliantúil amach anseo. Áireofar leis na trialacha níos mó láithreacha samplála agus monatóireacht níos déine ar rátaí fáis agus ar cheimic uisce le tiomántóirí fáis a shainaithint.

Iascach Oisrí Dúchais

Osclaíodh Séasúr na hiascaireachta Oisrí Dúchais 2012/13 Dé Céadaoin an 19ú Meán Fómhair 2012. Próiseáladh 55 iarratas san iomlán agus eisíodh 48 Ceadúnas Oisrí Dúchais san iomlán. Tuairim ar 135.5 tonna na figiúirí cur i dtír go deireadh 2012; is méadú suntasach é seo ar shéasúr 2011/12.

Tá fianaise sna staitisticí ón iascach gur tháinig athrú an-mhór ar chion gach aicme faid ó rinne CEFAS suirbhé bonnlíne 2006. Bhí líon an-bheag d'aicmí faid os cionn 75mm i suirbhéanna 2006-2008. D'athraigh sé seo de réir a chéile, áfach, le ceithre bliana anuas agus is féidir go bhfuil tionchar dearfach ag rialacháin gníomhaíocht iascaireachta ag an Ghníomhaireacht ar líon na n-oisrí móra atá ag fanacht san iascach agus ag bogadh ar aghaidh go dtí aicmí méide níos mó.

Tá moltaí mar atá sa liosta thíos i gcuid mhór de na tuarascálacha a rinneadh le 19 mbliana anuas ar iascach oisrí dúchais Loch Feabhail. Tá siad seo le feidhmiú fós:

- Druidim drochbheirtreacha nó limistéir mhaithe titim síolta;
- Tógáil lócháin síolta le beirtreacha tearcghnóthachtála a athstocáil;
- Tabhairt isteach ál sliogán ar bheirtreacha le titim síolta a chur chun cinn.

Ba chéad chéim í tabhairt isteach rialachán le hiascairí a cheadúnú i Loch Feabhail in 2008 leis na moltaí seo a bhaint amach. Ba chéimeanna eile iad an cinneadh le beirtreach an Taoibh Theas a dhruidim i Meán Fómhair 2010 agus an íosmhéid cur i dtír a mhéadú ó 75mm go 80mm i dtreo an t-iascach seo a bhainistiú ar dhóigh inbhuanaithe le cinntí bunaithe ar fhianaise.

Cinneadh Bainistíochta

Níl aon dul chun cinn eile le tuairisciú ag an Ghníomhaireacht maidir le cur i gcrích comhaontú bainistíochta faoi choinne Loch Feabhail. D'fhreastail an Ghníomhaireacht ar chruinnithe leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

le linn 2012 ach go dtí seo níl aon dul chun cinn déanta ar an cheist. Bhí tiomantas ann ón Roinn dréacht-chomhaontú a bheith acu le linn 2013. Tá an Gníomhaireacht ag leanúint d'aird a tharraingt ar phráinn an chomhaontaithe seo lena chur ar chumas na Gníomhaireachta a bhfreagrachtaí reachtúla a chomhlíonadh faoi mar atá siad leagtha síos san Acht um lascaigh an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn agus in Ordú 2007.

12. Turasóireacht Mhuirí Agus Forbairt Slatiascaireachta

De bhun fheidhmiú leanúnach na Straitéisí Turasóireachta Muirí agus Forbairt Slatiascaireachta, tá an Gníomhaireacht ag obair i gcomhpháirt le páirtithe leasmhara le tionscadail agus imeachtaí Slatiascaireachta agus Turasóireachta Muirí a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn. Tá siad seo le feiceáil i dtorthaí an phlean bhliantúil ghnó.

12.1 Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Forbairt Slatiascaireachta – INTERREG IVA

Is é Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna an ceannpháirtí i dTionscadal INTERREG IVA dar teideal Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Forbairt Slatiascaireachta. Tá an clár oibre le Comhlánú in 2015 agus tugtar le chéile ann go leor páirtithe straitéiseacha leis an turasóireacht mhuirí agus an t-infreastruchtúr slatiascaireachta atá de dhíth i ndobharcheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn a fhorbairt agus a éascú.

Tá laghdú tagtha ar scála an chláir as siocair srianta maoiniúcháin agus áirítear leis roinnt tionscadail straitéiseacha a chuirfidh le tairiscint agus taithí na turasóireachta mhuirí agus na Slatiascaireachta. Tá achoimre ar gach tionscadal thíos:

• Pontún agus Cé

Cuireadh an tsaoráid turasóireacht mhuirí ar an Fheabhal i gcrích in 2012. Tá sé seo suite ar bhruach clé na habhann agus san áireamh tá cé long chúrsála agus ardán imeachtaí mara (pontún 190 méadar ar fad). Feabhsóidh an dá áis seo rochtain go dtí/ón abhainn i nDoire agus is cuidiú iad le sraith infreastruchtúr rochtana a thógáil ar bhruach an Fheabhail. Is é Calafort Dhoire, an páirtí tionscadail maidir leis an tionscadal seo;

• Cionn Mhálanna

Áirítear leis an tionscadal ag Cionn Mhálanna (Contae Dhún na nGall) cosán do shiúlóirí, ardán breathnóireachta agus leataobhanna ar an bhóthar isteach.

Tá an páirtí tionscadail (Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall) ag beartú tosú ar an tionscadal in 2013;

- **Bun Abhann**

Beidh an Ghníomhaireacht i gcomhpháirt le Comhairle Buirge Léim an Mhadaidh maidir le háiseanna d'úsáideoirí thrá Bhun Abhann (in aice le Léim an Mhadaidh);

- **Uisce Cúil**

Is tionscadal forbartha slatiascaireachta é tionscadal Uisce Cúil ar thaobh Thír Eoghain den Fheabhal Uachtair (in aice le Baile Mhic Gofraidh, Contae Thír Eoghain) arb aidhm dó an taithí agus na háiseanna slatiascaireachta a fheabhsú;

- **Cé Uí Ghribín**

Le tionscadal Ché Uí Ghribín, beidh rochtain ag báid ar phointe leath bealaigh feadh an Fheabhail (in aice leis an Bhréadaigh, Contae Thír Eoghain).

- **Mellon**

Feabhsóidh tionscadal Mellon deiseanna slatiascaireachta do thurasóirí slatiascaireachta ag stráice den tSruthail (in aice leis an Ómaigh) le rochtain áisiúil bhóthair agus bheith gar do go leor soláthraithe lóistín.

- **Inis Trá Tholl**

Is é aidhm thionscadal Inis Trá Tholl rochtain ar an oileán iargúlta seo a fheabhsú ag dúil go meallfar éicea-thurasóirí, lucht eachtraíochta agus eile.

- **Loch Dearg**

Is tionscadal forbartha slatiascaireachta é arb aidhm dó plean bainistíochta a fhorbairt do Loch Dearg (Co Dhún na nGall).

- **R-theadúnú**

Is é aidhm an tionscadail r-theadúnaithe ná beart scóipe a éascú le ceisteanna agus deiseanna nuála a shainmhíniú i gceadúnú slatiascaireachta, lena n-áirítear roghanna ceadúnas uile-oileáin a fhiosrú.

Tá an clár ag dul trí na céimeanna deartha agus soláthair. As an obair atá déanta go dtí seo, tá buntáistí á mbaint as cheana le cois deiseanna le haghaidh tuilleadh forbairtí.

12.2 Clipéir 2012

Chomh maith leis an obair a rinneadh mar chuid de chlár maoinithe INTERREG, d'fhorbair agus d'fheidhmigh an Ghníomhaireacht roinnt croithionscnaimh turasóireacht mhuirí eile. Thug rás luamh Timpeall na Cruinne na gClipéar cuairt ar an Fheabhal i Meitheamh 2012. Bhí an-tábhacht ag baint le háiseanna pontún mór agus cé lár cathrach neamhlasta (arna mhaoiniú ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna trí Interreg IVA) maidir le Doire a dtairiscint a ghnóthú ó lucht eagraithe an ráis chun deireadh céim amháin agus tús céim eile den rás a óstáil.

Mar chuid d'Fhéile na gClipéar, thairg an Ghníomhaireacht seisiúin bhlasta seoltóireachta do scoileanna, grúpaí óige, grúpaí míchumais agus don phobal sna laethanta go díreach roimh theacht na gClipéar agus ag an deireadh seachtaine féin. Imeacht Féile Clipéar eile de chuid Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna ab ea céaslóireacht i gcurach/cadhac tríd an chathair.

Bhí páirt shuntasach ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna sna hullmhúcháin a bhain le rás luamh Timpeall na Cruinne na gClipéar. Chomh maith leis an ardán imeachtaí mara agus cé na long cúrsála, chuir an Ghníomhaireacht a tacar de phontúin iniompair ar fail le haghaidh beartlann shealadach feadh na hAbhann agus ag an Chaisleán Nua, Contae Dhún na nGall. Thairg an t-ionad seoltóireachta ag ceanncheathrú na Gníomhaireachta seisiúin “bain triail as seoltóireacht” do scoileanna, grúpaí míchumais agus don phobal le linn fhéile na gClipéar.

12.3 Eispéiris Seoltóireachta

Tá ionad oiliúna seoltóireachta á fheidhmiú ag Iontaobhas Aigéin Óige Éireann (OYTI) ar an Fheabhal mar a n-úsáideann siad áitreabh na Gníomhaireachta ag Prehen. Ós rud é nach bhfuil an dara soláthraí RYA i gceantar an Fheabhail, tá socrú earnáil phoiblí/phobail ag an Ghníomhaireacht leis an bhearna seo i soláthar oiliúint seoltóireachta a líonadh. Ag leanúint ar aghaidh ó na cúrsaí seolta dingí a cuireadh ar fáil in 2011, sholáthair an Ghníomhaireacht agus OYTI cúrsaí d'oiliúnóirí cunta in 2012. Chuir sé seo go mór le cumas oiliúint seoltóireachta clubanna áitiúla.

Is é a chreideann an Ghníomhaireacht, le turasóirí a mhealladh go bhfeice siad a fheabhas atá an turasóireacht mhuirí cois Feabhail agus san fharraige máguaird, is tábhachtach go mbíonn bunadh na háite ag seoladh abhus fosta – is é an toradh a bheas ar an ionad oiliúint seoltóireachta níos mó de bhunadh

na háite ag seoladh san abhainn agus sa loch (le clubanna nó astu féin). Trí úsáid den chineál seo ag muintir na háite, cothófar eolas áitiúil ar an uisce, spreagfar tacaíocht agus éileamh ar infreastruchtúr bádóireachta (pontúin, fánáin srl.) agus forbairt conairí safari seoltóireachta agus éicea-thurasóireachta. Ba chóir go dtreoródh forbairt scileanna seoltóireachta agus deiseanna chun cáiliú mar oiliúnóir ar uiscí áitiúla daoine i dtreo forbairt gnó fóillíochta uiscebhunaithe (ar nós ionad seoltóireachta nó cairtghostú luamh).

12.4 Paddlefest 2012 – Loch Feabhail

Is féile deireadh seachtaine curachóireachta agus cadhcála de chuid Cumann Curachóireachta Thuaisceart Éireann (CANI) é Paddlefest. In 2012 tionóladh é ar bhruach Loch Feabhail, ag Bun an Phobail. Meascán d'oiliúint, gníomhaíocht phoiblíochta agus foghlaim faoi dheiseanna áitiúla 'céaslóireachta' a bhí ar chlár na féile. Thacaigh Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna leis an fhéile deireadh seachtaine turasóireacht mhuirí seo. Deis a bhí ann le Conair Cadhc Mara Inis Eoghain Thoir agus Conair Churachóireachta an Fheabhail a chur chun cinn.

12.5 Ciste Forbartha Inbhuanaithe

Bhí an Ciste Forbartha inbhuanaithe, ar a dtugtar SDF, ag feidhmiú don dara bliain in 2012 le buiséad £100,000. Forbraíodh ciste an chlár trí úsáid an Pholasaí Cúnamh Airgeadais (arna fhaomhadh ag an Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas [CATT] i mí na Samhna 2007) mar chuidiú le plean gnímh a fheidhmiú le haghaidh forbairt turasóireacht slatiascaireachta agus mhuirí i gcomhairle lena pháirtithe leasmhara.

Tá naoi ngné sainaitheanta sa phlean i leith soláthar táirgí turasóireacht mhuirí agus slatiascaireachta a bheas indíolta go háitiúil, ar bhonn uile-oileáin agus go hidirnáisiúnta. Is iad sin:

- Feabhsú Stoic;
- Forbairt Infreastruchtúir;
- Forbairt Táirgí;
- Margaíocht agus Eolas;
- Forbairt Táirgí Fáilteachais;
- Lóistín agus Iompar ;
- Rochtain Fheabhsaithe;
- Oiliúint; agus
- Seirbhísí Tacaíochta.

Athbhreithníodh polasaí cúnamh airgeadais na Gníomhaireachta i ndiaidh chomhlánú bhreithmheas eacnamaíochta an Chiste Forbartha Inbhuanaithe.

I rith 2012 ar fad cuireadh an-spéis sa chlár. Fuarthas iarratas ar 51 moladh tionscadail. Bhí fócas na dtionscadal seo ar an Turasóireacht Mhuirí (18 n-iarratas ó Dhobharcheantar an Fheabhail agus 13 iarratas ó Dhobharcheantar Chairlinn) agus Forbairt na Slatiascaireachta (12 iarratas ó Dhobharcheantar an Fheabhail agus 8 n-iarratas ó Dhobharcheantar Chairlinn).

San iomlán, fuair 27 tionscadal tacaíocht agus caitheadh beagnach dhá thrian den bhuiséad. Bhí tionchar ag tús mall an tionscadail in 2012 ar na leibhéil caiteachais.

12.6 Lá Domhanda na mBogach 2012

Mar chuid de Lá Domhanda na mBogach, d'óstáil Comhairle Buirge Léim an Mhadaidh agus Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna baill foirne agus stiúrthóirí as Iontaobhas oidhreacht Chósta Chlochán an Aifir agus na nGlinntí ag Tearmann RSPB na Fheabhail (in aice le Baile Uí Cheallaigh). Míníodh tábhacht Loch Feabhail dóibh – ceantar tábhachtach straitéiseach turasóireachta, dobharshaothraithe, seirbhísí agus táirgí éicea-chórais chomh maith le bithéagsúlacht. Cuireadh béim ar thábhacht dhomhanda an locha – éin geimhrithe ón Artach (Ceanada, an Íoslainn, an Ghraonlainn) agus éin ghoir ón leathsféar theas (geabhróga as an Afraic Theas san áireamh), chomh maith le héin mhara a éalaíonn ón gheimhreadh abhus le dul ag fánaíocht san Aigéan Atlantach Theas.

12.7 Bealach Cósta Mhúrna

Chuaigh an Gníomhaireacht i bpáirt le Bord Turasóireachta Thuaisceart Éireann (NITB) agus Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir agus Mhúrn ar thionscadal Bhealach Cósta Mhúrn. San áireamh leis seo bhí feabhsúchán ar chúig láthair páirceála feadh an bhealaigh idir Cill Chaoil agus an tlúr – Droichead an Fhionnuisce, Bá an Mhuilinn, Caoluisce agus Donaghaguy. Is cuid de straitéis aitheantais tionscadail NITB na tionscadail seo.

12.8 Rochtain do Lucht Míchumais

Is le leas díreach daoine a bhfuil míchumas acu ar mian leo an Feabhal a rochtain atá roinnt tionscadal de chuid Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna. Tá ardaitheoir mar chuid den phontún nua lár cathrach le gur féidir le lucht

míchumais dul ar bord báid agus tá leithreas agus ionad cithfholctha a chomhlíonann an DDA (An tAcht in Aghaidh Idirhealaithe Ar Bhonn Míchumais) ar an phontún. Tá cuasa páirceála do dhaoine a bhfuil míchumas acu ar fáil ag barr na bhfánán poiblí, ag barr fhánán theach na mbád ag Prehen agus gar don phontún úr ar an Fheabhal. San fholachán éanbhreathnóireachta ag Sruthán na Pingine, tá spás breathnóireachta d'úsáideoirí cathaoireacha rothaí.

12.9 Tionscadail shuntasacha eile

I gcomhpháirt le Comhairle Contae Lú agus Coiste Bailte Slachtmhara Ó Méith, tá rochtain cuairteoirí agus comhthimpeallacht fheabhsaithe chladaigh forbartha ag an Ghníomhaireacht in Ó Méith, Contae Lú.

Sholáthair Iontaobhas Cathartha an Fheabhail oiliúint ar fhálú ar áitreabh na Gníomhaireachta ag an Ghribín, in aice leis an Bhréadaigh (Contae Thír Eoghain).

12.10 Forbairt Slatiascaireachta

Sholáthair an Ghníomhaireacht trí aonach slatiascaireachta i limistéar níos leithne ná mar a rinneadh i mblianta eile; dhírigh siad seo ar theagmháil le daoine óga lena mealladh i dtreo na slatiascaireachta. Tionóladh an chéad aonach ag Fionntamhnach, Contae Thír Eoghain. Ina dhiaidh sin bhí deireadh seachtaine intreoir slatiascaireachta ag an Sruthán, Contae Ard Mhacha agus ansin an tríú hócáid den triúr ag ár gceanncheathrú in Prehen.

D'aithin an Ghníomhaireacht fosta an gá ata le daoine óga a spreagadh le dul i mbun na slatiascaireachta agus le linn na bliana, forbraíodh lochán d'ábhair slatiascairí ag ár gceanncheathrú in Prehen. An LeasChéad-Aire Martin McGuinness, a bhfuil an-suim aige féin sa tslatiascaireacht, a d'oscail an áis seo go hoifigiúil. Ina dhiaidh seo, cuireadh sraith imeachtaí d'ábhair slatiascairí ar fáil le scoileanna agus grúpaí pobail ag baint feidhm as an áis. Táthar ag dúil gur sócmhainn luachmhar ag an Ghníomhaireacht é an lochán seo sna blianta atá romhainn.

12.11 Seónna Poiblíochta agus Forbairt an Mhargaidh

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht ag leanúint de fhreastal ar sheónna slatiascaireachta ardphróifíle ar fud oileán na hÉireann, na Breataine Móire agus ar an Mhór-Roinn. I ndiaidh freastal ar sheó san Ísiltír anuraidh, chuir an Ghníomhaireacht

suim i margadh na Gearmáine i mbliana agus d'fhreastail ar aonach slatiascaireachta in aice le München.

Tá Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna ag freastal ar thuilleadh seónna poiblíochta slatiascaireachta ardphróifíle in Éirinn, an Bhreatain Mhór, an Ísiltír agus an Ghearmáin agus tá ag éirí níos fearr leo i rith ama.

Is comhpháirtí fós iad Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna in *Cruise North West*, tionscadal a dhíríonn ar phróifíl cheantar an Fheabhail a ardú maidir le hoibritheoirí longa cúrsála.

12.12 Díolacháin Ceadúnas

Lean an Gníomhaireacht de dhíol ceadúnais slatiascaireachta i rith 2012 ónár gceanncheathrú in Prehen chomh maith lenár ngréasán leitheadach dáileoirí ar fud dhobharcheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn agus níos faide i gcéin.

Chuaigh an cúlú eacnamaíochta le blianta beaga anuas i bhfeidhm ar gach cuid den phobal agus ní taise d'earnáil na slatiascaireachta, is cosúil. Chuaigh cuid dár ndáileoirí as gnó le linn 2012 agus chuaigh sé seo i bhfeidhm, dá réir, ar leibhéal díolacháin ár gcuid ceadúnas.

Bliain	Díolacháin Ceadúnas
2003	8,518
2004	9,727
2005	10,779
2006	10,564
2007	11,831
2008	11,980
2009	12,579
2010	11,305
2011	11,057
2012	10,847

Nuair a dhéantar anailís ar ár gcuid figiúirí díolachán ceadúnais, tá roinnt tosca i gceist ar gá iad a bhreithniú. D'ainneoin gur ardaigh ár gcuid díolachán ceadúnais ó 8,518 in 2003 go 12,579 in 2009, d'fhéadfaí gur cúinsí eacnamaíochta na linne is cúis leis an titim leanúnach in 2010, 2011 agus 2012. Ar na tosca eile a bhféadfadh tionchar a bheith acu ar na figiúirí seo, tá na

dálaí aimsire agus tabhairt isteach bearta ‘gabháil agus scaoileadh saor’ ar an Fheabhal agus ar Abhainn na Finne.

Tá roinnt tionscnamh beartaithe ag an Ghníomhaireacht sna blianta atá romhainn le dul i ngleic leis an laghdú ar dhíolacháin ceadúnas.

12.13 Féile Oisrí agus Seachtain Oidhreachta Chairlinn

I gcomhar le Comhairle Contae Lú agus Fáilte Éireann, tá tacaíocht tugtha ag an Ghníomhaireacht d’Fhéile Oisrí Chairlinn agus Seachtain Oidhreachta Chairlinn. Bhí an-tóir ag páistí agus daoine óga ar fhoráiste cladaigh agus cnoic, ealaíona agus ceardaíocht na meánaoiseanna agus táthar ag tuairisciú go raibh méadú ar líon na gcuariteoirí i mbliana.

12.14 Máistirphlean Chamlocha

Tá dréacht-Mháistirphlean don Chamloch curtha i gcrích ag Comhairle Ceantair an Lúir agus Mhúrn i gcomhpháirt le Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile. Mapáiltear ann an bealach chun cinn leis an loch a fhorbairt le haghaidh réimse d’úsáid fóillíochta. Is Plean fadtéarmach é a bhfuil teagmháil agus ionchur pobail agus páirtithe leasmhara ina chroílár. Leanfaidh an Ghníomhaireacht den chomhoibriú leis an Chomhairle agus le páirtithe leasmhara leis an Phlean a thabhairt chun tosaigh agus cuidiú leo maoiniú a lorg lena chur i bhfeidhm san blianta atá romhainn.

12.15 Thacaigh Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna le hImeachtaí Slatiascaireachta

Thacaigh an Ghníomhaireacht arís le himeachtaí slatiascaireachta san Fheabhal agus Cairlinn ó chroíchistí agus trí Mhaoiniú Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe.

• Rí na Canála

Bhí 25 slatiascaire as gach cearn de Thuaisceart Éireann páirteach i gcomórtas ‘Rí na Canála’ ar Chanáil Long an Lúir. De réir na dtuairiscí is luaithe, cheap gach duine ar a laghad 50 iasc agus b’airde i bhfad líon na mbran ná blianta eile. Tá súil ag an Ghníomhaireacht gur fianaise é seo den pholasaí stocála trí bliana a cuireadh i gcrích in 2010. Cuireadh gach iasc ar ais sa Chanáil go sábháilte mar chuid de rialacha an chomórtais chun éisc gharbha a chosaint agus a chaomhnú chomh maith le reachtaíocht a chomhlíonadh.

12.16 Clubanna Nua Slatiascaireachta

Le linn 2012, chuidigh an Ghníomhaireacht le dhá chlub nua slatiascaireachta a bhunú i gContae Thír Eoghain. Tá Club Slatiascaireachta Finore lonnaithe ar Abhainn Fhionntamhnaí agus Club Slatiascaireachta éisc gharbha an Droma Mhóir ar lochanna ar na gaobhair.

Tá caidreamh dearfach oibre ag na clubanna úra seo leis an Ghníomhaireacht agus le gach eagras bainteach. Leanfaidh an Ghníomhaireacht d'obair i gcomhpháirt leis na clubanna ar imeachtaí sa todhchaí a mheallfaidh slatiascairí as gach cearn den domhan chomh maith le hiascaigh inbhuanaithe a chothú do shlatiascairí na háite le tacaíocht na Gníomhaireachta.

12.17 Bád Oiriúnach do Chathaoir Rothaí

Seachadadh bád iascaireachta nua atá oiriúnach do chathaoir rothaí chuig Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna agus seoladh an bád seo go hoifigiúil ag ár nAonach slatiascaireachta i bhFionntamhnach de chuid an British Disabled Angling Association agus Irish Disabled Fly Fishing Association.

Beidh an bád nua ar fáil do chlubanna agus do dhaoine aonair faoi chomhaontuithe lena n-áirítear comórtais ata beartaithe ar fud an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn.

12.18 Uiscí Ceada de chuid Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna ar Abhainn na Finne

Tá cuid a haon de dhá fheabhsúchán rochtana ar uiscí ceada na Gníomhaireachta ar Abhainn na Finne curtha i gcrích trí shuiteáil tríocha stíl coise agus ocht ndroichead coise chun rochtain ag iascairí a fheabhsú.

Bhí baint ag an iomad úinéirí talún leis an obair seo agus ghlac siad go maith léi, den chuid is mó. Ghlac slatiascairí go han-mhaith léi, go háirithe iad siúd a bhfuil fadhbanna soghluaisteachta acu.

12.19 Feabhsúcháin Rochtana do Shlatiascairí ar Loch Mhic Ruairí

Thug Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna, i gcomhar leis an chlub áitiúil slatiascaireachta, tacaíocht d'fheabhsúcháin rochtana thart ar Loch Mhic Ruairí

taobh amuigh den Ómaigh i Contae Thír Eoghain. D'fheabhsaigh na hoibreacha seo rochtain do chách agus go háirithe do shlatiascairí a bhfuil fadhbanna soghluaisteachta acu. Ba chuidiú é an tionscnamh seo le caidreamh dearfach a chothú le pobal eile slatiascaireachta a bhfuil borradh faoi.

12.20 Comhaontú Páirtíochta ar Loch Mhic Ruairí

Bhí Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna rannpháirteach i gcomhaontú bainistíochta ar Loch Mhic Ruairí a chur i dtoll a chéile. Seo an chéad chomhaontú den chineál seo riamh agus is idir Uisce Thuaisceart Éireann, Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann, Cumann Forbartha Loch Mhic Ruairí agus Cumann Slatiascaireachta Loch Mhic Ruairí agus Murrins agus Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna a rinneadh é. Mar gheall ar an chomhaontú, is féidir stocáil theoranta a dhéanamh ar Loch Mhic Ruairí. Tá stádas ar leith (ASSI) ag an Loch de thairbhe éisc neamhdhúchasacha agus tugtar faoi gach ábhar imní atá ag gach páirtí.

Níl a leithéid de chomhaontú aon áit eile inár ndobharcheantar agus cinntíonn sé go dtugtar aghaidh ar gach ábhar imní agus riosca a oiread agus is féidir agus, mar sin de, gur féidir dul i gceann forbairtí amach anseo atá ar chomhleas an phobail slatiascaireachta, idir áitiúil agus níos faide i gcéin.

12.21 Cleachtadh le haghaidh cluichí Póilíní agus Dóiteáin na hEorpa

Thacaigh an Ghníomhaireacht leis an chleachtadh le haghaidh Cluichí Póilíní agus Dóiteáin na hEorpa ar Chanáil Long an Iúir i Lúnasa. Chuaigh Foireann Náisiúnta an Gharda Síochána ar aghaidh le páirt a ghlacadh i gCluichí Póilíní agus Dóiteáin na hEorpa san Ísiltír agus d'ainneoin dianiomaíochta ó 25 foireann san iomlán, thug siad leo an chraobh.

12.22 Iascaigh Intíre Éireann

Aithníonn an Ghníomhaireacht an tábhacht atá le bheith ag obair i gcomhpháirt agus go háirithe na buntáistí ar léir go mbaineann siad le comheagras dár gcuid - lascach Intíre Éireann (IFI). I gcomhpháirt le IFI, sholáthair an Ghníomhaireacht roinnt seisiúin bhlasta slatiascaireachta ag dhá ionad phoiblí i dTír Eoghain. Glacadh go maith leis na himeachtaí seo agus táthar ag súil gur fearr arís a éireoidh leo san blianta atá romhainn.

Aguisín 1 – Torthaí in Éadan Spriocanna

Tosaíochtaí, Cuspóirí agus Spriocanna 2012

TOSAÍOCHT: CAOMHNÚ agus COSAINT	
CUSPÓIR	
1	lascaigh Cheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn a chaomhnú, a chosaint, a bhainistiú agus a fheabhsú.
CROÍ-GHNÍOMHAÍOCHT	
1.1	Cur in iúl
1.2	Bainistiú
1.3	Coinneáil
SPRIOC FEIDHMÍOCHTA	
1.1.1	Stádas Fionnuisce - Tuairiscí foilsithe go bliantúil faoi mhí Iúil na bliana dar gcionn.
Gníomhaíocht: Pointí Iniúchta, suirbhéanna gnáthóg, leictriascaireacht, srl. le comhlánú faoi Dheireadh Fómhair gach bliain agus comhairliúchán a dhéanamh lenár bpáirtithe leasmhara laistigh de dhá mhí i ndiaidh a chomhlánaithe.	Stádas: Bainte amach -Tuairiscí stádais foilsithe i mí Iúil.
1.1.2	Innéacsanna Stoic –Taighde a thionscnamh chun innéacsanna stoic a fhorbairt i leith gach fo-dhobharcheantair faoi Eanáir 2012.
Gníomhaíocht: Forbróimid innéacs a úsáideann suirbhéanna líon sil-leagan eochraí agus cineál gnáthóige leis an stádas caomhnaithe a dheimhniú agus rachaimid i gcomhairle lenár bpáirtithe leasmhara laistigh de dhá mhí i ndiaidh a chomhlánaithe.	Stádas: Bainte amach -Cuireadh tús leis seo i gcomhar leis na Comhairleoirí Eolaíochta faoi dháta comhaontaithe Eanáir 2012. Tá mac léinn IBIS, a ceapadh i Meán Fómhair 2012, ag leanúint ar aghaidh leis. Is obair idir lámha é seo a chuirfear i gcrích faoi 2015.

1.1.3	Tuiriscí Stádais Uisce Ciúin - Tuiriscí le foilsiú go bliantúil faoi mhí lúil na bliana dar gcionn.	
Gníomhaíocht: Baileoimid na sonraí atá de dhíth le Tuiriscí Stádais ar 2 loch fionnuisce, nó ar limistéir uisce ciúin eile, a chur le chéile agus a fhoilsiú faoi mhí na Nollag 2012 agus rachaimid i gcomhairle lenár bpáirtithe leasmhara laistigh de 2 mhí i ndiaidh a chomhlánaithe.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Comhlánaíodh suirbhéanna in 2012 ar Loch Cairn agus Loch Muc agus foilsíodh iad in 2013. Rinneadh suirbhé orthu seo mar chuid de thiomantas na Gníomhaireachta don Treoir Chreata Uisce.
1.2.1	Rialachán – Soláthróimid rialachán cuí le hoibleagáidí reachtúla a sholáthar.	
Gníomhaíocht: Éifeachtúlacht Rialachán a athbhreithniú faoi dheireadh Eanáir 2012 agus dréachtleasuithe, cúlghairm nó rialacháin nua a chur ar fáil faoi dheireadh Mheithimh 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Comhlánaíodh an t-athbhreithniú in Eanáir 2012. Tá na rialacháin faoi chomhairliúchán a mbeidh deireadh leis in Eanáir 2013.
1.2.2	Athchóiriú - Rachaimid i mbun forbairt 2 thionscadal athchóiriúcháin ar a laghad faoi dheireadh mhí na Nollag 2012	
Gníomhaíocht: Dearfaimid agus feidhmeoimid 2 thionscadal athchóiriúcháin ar a laghad faoi chomhaontú bruachúinéirí agus suimeanna leasaithe iascach faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Cuireadh 3 scéim i gcrích le linn 2012 ar fud dhobhaircheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn: Sruthán na Ceapaí, Abhainn Fhionntamhnaí agus Abhainn Altnaghree.

1.2.3	Forfheidhmiú –Leanfaimid de dhualgais forfheidimiúcháin a dhéanamh ar aon dul le polasaí agus prionsabail fhoilsithe a bhaineann le dea-rialachas le linn 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht: Indiaidh gníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmiúcháin ó cheann ceann na bliana, tabharfar comhaid ina moltar ionchúiseamh do dhlíodóirí na Gníomhaireachta faoi 6 mhí d’aon teagmhas.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Cuireadh na 55 comhad ionchúisimh uile in 2012 isteach laistigh de na scálaí ama cuí.
1.3.1	Bradáin – spriocanna bainistíochta i leith an dá chóras abhann a chomhlíonadh faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht: Coinneoimid an líon cuí áiritheoirí agus coinneoimid sonraí gabhála go cruinn lena chinntiú go dtaifeadfar líon na mbradán.		Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach – Bhí áiritheoir Mhuileann an tSiáin le cóiriú mar gheall ar thuile, cóiríodh cainéil áirimh 2 agus 3 ag Corrick ach de dheasca leibhéil chontúirteacha uisce, níl Cáinéal 1 ag feidhmiú fós. Bhí na 7 n-áiritheoir uilig eile ag feidhmiú go sásúil.
1.3.2	Breac Donn, Breac Geal agus iasc garbh - cinnteoidimid tuilleadh sonraí bonnlíne faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht: Tionscnóimid bailiú sonraí ar leibhéal líon na mbreac dhonn agus iasc garbh ar dhá láthair faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach – Faoi choimirce Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna a mbunspríocanna a chomhlíonadh, rinneadh suirbhé ar Loch Cairn agus Loch Muc. Lena chois sin, trí chlár PhD a mhaoinigh IBIS, rinneadh suirbhé ar 3 loch eile i gCo. Thír Eoghain le haghaidh eascann. Bailíodh chomh maith sonraí bonnlíne trí thionscadal PhD IBIS eile ar Ruabhric Artacha i Loch Fad agus ar Ruabhric Artacha agus bric i Loch Finne.

1.3.3	Breac Geal - Déanfaimid measúnuithe bliantúla stoic faoi Mheitheamh 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht		<p>Stádas: Bainte amach - Bunaíodh suíomh innéacs breac geal ar Shruthán Dennett ar a ndéantar leictriascaireacht gach bliain.</p> <p>Lena chois sin, cuireadh tús le staidéar mic léinn PhD IBIS dar teideal 'Life history strategies in the sea trout' ag deireadh Mheithimh 2012 faoi spriocdháta comhlánaithe 2015. Is cuidiú a bheas ann seo le tabhairt faoi chuid de na buncheisteanna a bhaineann leis an bhreac gheal chomh maith le forbairt modheolaíochtaí mhonatóireacht agus mheasúnú na stoc.</p>
1.3.4	Liús – Tionscnóimid agus tabharfaimid isteach measúnuithe bliantúla stoic faoi Mhí na Nollag 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht: Tionscnóimid agus tabharfaimid isteach measúnuithe stoic ar Chanáil an Lúir le linn tréimhse an phlean reatha.		<p>Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach – Dhírigh an Gníomhaireacht ar chomhlánú suirbhé measúnaithe stoic ar Loch Mourne in 2012. Rinneadh measúnú ar Chanáil an Lúir le linn séasúr iascaireachta 2013. Cuid de thionscadal IBIS a bheas ann.</p>

TOSAÍOCHT: DOBHARSHAOTHRÚ AGUS IASCAIGH SLIOGÉISC	
CUSPÓIR	
2	Dobharshaothrú a Cheadúnú agus a Fhorbairt
CROÍ-GHNÍOMHAÍOCHT	
2.1	Cur in iúl
2.2	Bainistiú
2.3	Coinneáil
SPRIOC FEIDHMÍOCHTA	
2.1.1	Stádas Loch Mara - Tuiriscí le foilsiú go bliantúil faoi mhí lúil na bliana dar gcionn.
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Chomh maith le tacair reatha sonraí, déanfaimid gach oibríocht dobharshaothraithe cheadúnaithe a luacháil go bliantúil agus déanfar iniúchadh ar 10% agus comhairliúchán lenár bpáirtithe leasmhara laistigh de 2 mhí ó chomhlánófar é.</p> <p>Stádas: Bainte amach - Tá tuairisc 2012 comhlánaithe agus súil lena foilsiú faoi mhí lúil.</p> <p>Comhairliúchán leis na páirtithe leasmhara curtha i gcrích, bhí cruinniú againn leis na hiascairí oisrí a bhfuil ceadúnas poiblí acu ar 11ú Meán Fómhair 2012.</p> <p>Ní dhearnadh breithmheas agus iniúchadh ar oibríochtaí réimsí na Gníomhaireachta as siocair gur gá comhaontú bhainistíocht Loch Feabhail a fhorbairt agus a thabhairt chun críche agus go raibh moill ar aistriú ceadúnais reatha ó RTFT agus ó RTBM.</p>	

2.1.2	Samhlacha Cumas Iompair – forbairt an dá Loch Mara a thabhairt chun cinn tríd an bhliain.	
	Gníomhaíocht: Soláthróimid samhail oibríochta do Loch Feabhail faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	Stádas: Níor baineadh amach - Rinneadh teagmháil leis na gníomhaireachtaí bainteacha le téarmaí tagartha fhorbairt samhail Loch Feabhail a thabhairt chun cinn. Ghlac an próiseas seo, áfach, níos faide ná mar a measadh. Is dóigh linn go gcuirfear tús leis seo go luath in 2014. Tionóladh cruinniú eile le AFBI leis na dóigheanna a dtiocfadh leis an Gníomhaireacht samhail a sholáthar do Loch Feabhail a fhiosrú. Is é an cinneadh atá déanta ag an Gníomhaireacht gan soláthar na samhla a thabhairt chun cinn go dtí go bhfaighimid tuairisc bhailíochtaithe ó AFBI ar bheacht na samhla i Loch Lao.
2.1.3	Dul i gComhairle le Bord, Fóram Comhairleach agus le Páirtithe Leasmhara.	
	Gníomhaíocht: 12 chruinniú comhairliúcháin ar a laghad a eagrú faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach – Níor tionóladh cruinnithe leis an Fhóram Chomhairleach agus Fócasghrúpaí ar an ábhar gur cuireadh moill ar earcú comhaltaí nua, rud a cuireadh i gcrích i mí na Nollag 2012.
2.2.1	Ceadúnú – bunóimid agus feidhmeoimid ceadúnú an dobharshaothraithe i Loch Feabhail agus athbhreithneoimid oibríocht an dobharshaothraithe i Loch Chairlinn faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	
	Gníomhaíocht: Próiseálfaimid gach iarratas ar cheadúnas laistigh de 6 mhí ón am a bhfaighfear iad agus déanfar breithmheas bliantúil ar gach cheadúnas.	Stádas: Níor baineadh amach - Tá an Gníomhaireacht ag obair i gcomhar leis na Ranna Coimircíochta le forbairt an Chomhaontaithe Bhainistíochta a éascú chun an cheist seo a thabhairt chun cinn. Táthar ag súil leis an Chomhaontú Bainistíochta a thabhairt chun cinn faoi mhí na Nollag 2014.

2.3.1	Tuirisc Táirgeachta – foilseoimid táirgeadh bonnlíne ilchineálach gach speiceas dobharshaothraithe agus iascach sliogéisc agus measfaidh inbhuanaitheacht na hearnála faoi mhí Aibreáin 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht: Cinnteoimid comhlíonadh coinníollacha tuairisce agus oibríochta gach ceadúnas dobharshaothraithe agus iascach sliogéisc agus déanfar iniúchadh ar 10% de na torthaí úd. Déanfaimid ar a laghad 1 chigireacht sa bhliain ar shuíomhanna ceadúnaithe.		Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach - Comhlánaíodh suirbhé lascaigh Oisrí Dúchais an Earraigh agus an Fhómhair agus foilsíodh an tuairisc ar an 31 Bealtaine 2012. Tá an Ghníomhaireacht ag obair i gcomhar leis na Ranna Coimircíochta le forbairt an Chomhaontaithe Bhainistíochta a éascú chun ceadúnú an dobharshaothraithe a thabhairt chun cinn.
2.3.2	Deimhniú MSC an iascaigh Oisrí Dúchais i Loch Feabhail	
Gníomhaíocht: Tionscnóimid beart scóipe ar fhéidearthacht dheimhniú MSC a ghnóthú d'iascach Oisrí Dúchais Loch Feabhail i 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach – Beart scóipe curtha i gcrích, tús curtha le beart tairisceana dheimhniú MSC i mí na Nollag 2012.
2.3.3	Clár athchóiriúcháin/feabhsúcháin d'iascach Oisrí Dúchais Loch Feabhail a fhorbairt faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	
Gníomhaíocht: Limistéir atá fóirsteanach d'athchóiriúchán / feabhsúchán a shainaithint agus tús a chur le hobair mar ar féidir.		Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach - Limistéir sainaitheanta ach níl maoiniú ar fáil ó bhuiséad acmhainní na Gníomhaireachta leis an chlár seo a sholáthar. Táthar ag dúil go mbeidh maoiniú ar fáil trí thionscadal IBIS le limistéir laistigh den iascach oisrí dúchais a fheabhsú le go ndéanfar staidéar orthu le linn tionscadal IBIS.

2.3.4	Tionchar Timpeallachta
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Ar aon dul le Plean Corparáideach 2011-13 (Rannáin 3 agus 4), leanfaimid de na paraiméadair timpeallachta a mhonatóiriú le linn 2012 lena mheas an bhfuil siad “oiriúnach don fheidhm” agus iad a choigeartú dá réir. Áirítear leis na gníomhaíochtaí suirbhéanna ar speicis ionracha agus ar éin. Déanfar gach gníomhaíocht a chomhlánú agus a mheas faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.</p>	<p>Stádas: Bainte amach - Aontaíodh paraiméadair timpeallachta le heagrais páirtíochta.</p> <p>Forbraíodh prótacal suirbhé éan le measúnachtaí oiriúnachta a uasdátú don dá loch mara agus measúnachtaí aonair nuair is gá agus soláthrófar é ar bhonn bliantúil. Tá suirbhéanna idir lámha ar Loch Chairlinn (ó Noll. 2011) agus cuirfear a leithéid i bhfeidhm go céimneach ar Loch Feabhail sna blianta atá romhainn. Rinneadh suirbhé ar an líon C. gigas fiáine ar bhonn rialta i Loch Feabhail i gcomhar le hobair suirbhé eile.</p> <p>Thoiligh an Ghníomhaireacht ról ceannasaíochta a bheith aici i gclár speicis ionracha ar fud na RA (<i>Pathways Project</i>) arb aidhm dó tionchar speicis ionracha sa do Bharshaothrú a laghdú trí chonairí monatóireachta. Tá an tionscadal seo ag leanúint ar aghaidh agus tuairisceofar air i dtuarascáil bhliantúil amach anseo.</p>
TOSAÍOCHT: FORBAIRT	
CUSPÓIR	
3	Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireacht a Fhorbairt.
CROÍ-GHNÍOMHAÍOCHT	
3.1	Cur in iúl
3.2	Bainistiú
3.3	Coinneáil
SPRIOC FEIDHMÍOCHTA	
3.1.1	Tuairiscí Stádais ar Thurasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireacht le foilsiú go bliantúil faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.

<p>Gníomhaíocht: Measfaimid an méid infreastruchtúir atá ar fáil agus mar a úsáideann muintir na háite, cuairteoirí agus turasóirí é.</p>	<p>Stádas: Réitíodh dréacht-tuairisc stádais ar thurasóireacht mhuirí agus foilseofar í go luath in 2014.</p> <p>Tá Tuairiscí Stádais don tSlatiascaireacht idir lámha maille le hathbhreithniú ar infreastruchtúr, úinéireacht agus díolacháin ceadúnais slatiascaireachta iascaigh reatha. Athbhreithníodh dáileadh geografach díolacháin ceadúnas. Táthar ag súil tuilleadh forbartha a dhéanamh air seo in 2014. Mar gheall ar an mhéid mhór eolais a chuimseofar san athbhreithniú seo ní dócha go bhfoilseofar Tuairisc go dtí deireadh mhí na Nollag 2013.</p>
3.1.2	Aithint Deise faoi Iúil 2012.
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Infreastruchtúr reatha a athbhreithniú in éadan samhail “ionad feabhais” nó cnuasach agus bearnaí a aithint agus an t-eolas seo a fhoilsiú / roinnt.</p>	<p>Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach - Tuairisc stádais ar an turasóireacht mhuirí ullmhaithe. Aithnítear inti seo deiseanna forbartha.</p> <p>Mar a thuairiscítear thuas, tá Tuairiscí Stádais don tSlatiascaireacht idir lámha maille le hathbhreithniú ar infreastruchtúr, úinéireacht agus díolacháin ceadúnais slatiascaireachta iascaigh reatha. Athbhreithníodh dáileadh geografach díolacháin ceadúnas. Táthar ag súil tuilleadh forbartha a dheanamh air seo in 2014. Mar gheall ar an mhéid mhór eolais a chuimseofar san athbhreithniú seo ní dócha go bhfoilseofar Tuairisc go dtí go luath in 2014.</p>

3.1.3	Cur chun cinn Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta i gceantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn.
<p>Gníomhaíocht: 12 d'imeachtaí poiblíochta a reáchtáil faoi mhí na Nollag 2012, ag díriú ar an Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireacht agus, más féidir, i gcomhpháirt le Gníomhaireachtaí “trasghearrtha”.</p>	<p>Stádas: Bainte amach - Thug Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna tacaíocht shuntasach d'Fhéile Timpeall na Cruinne na gClipéar (tacaíocht airgeadais, iasacht infreastruchtúr pontúin, feidhmiú tionscadal ardán imeachtaí mara, feidhmiú tionscadal cé longa cúrsála, sainiú acmhainní foirne, úsáid árthaí, soláthar comhairle agus saineolais, ionchur comhchineáil srl).</p> <p>Paddlefest –Féile cadhcáil mhara, cadhcáil toinne.</p> <p>Seoladh Chonair Cadhc Mara Inis Eoghain Thoir.</p> <p>Bhí taispeántas ag Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna ar aontaí slatiascaireachta sa Ghearmáin (Aibreán) agus san Ísiltír (Bealtaine). D'fhreastail muid fosta ar Aonach idirnáisiúnta Flaidireachta na Breataine in Stafford, Sasana i Meitheamh.</p> <p>Tionóladh laethanta oscailte agus aontaí Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna i dtrí áit i Lúnasa 2012 – lena n-áirítear Aonach Slatiascaireachta GL i bhFionntamhnach, Co Thír Eoghain: Intreoir don Gharbhascaireacht, Lochán an tSrutháin, Co Ard Mhacha; agus Lá Oscailte Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna, Prehen.</p> <p>D'fhreastail an Gníomhaireacht ar Aontaí Géim agus Tuaithe in: Sandringham i Sasana i Meán Fómhair; Newark, Sasana i nDeireadh Fómhair agus ar Aonach Idirnáisiúnta na Flaidireachta i nGaillimh, Éire i mí na Samhna.</p>

3.1.4	Comhairliúchán le Bord, Fóram Comhairleach, Fócasghrúpaí agus Páirtithe Leasmhara.
Gníomhaíocht: 12 chruinniú comhairliúcháin ar a laghad a eagrú faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach – Níor tionóladh cruinnithe leis an Fhóram Chomhairleach agus Fócasghrúpaí ar an ábhar gur cuireadh moill ar earcú comhaltaí nua, rud a cuireadh i gcrích i mí na Nollag 2012.
3.1.5	Maoiniú Féideartha a Shainaithint.
Gníomhaíocht: Deiseanna eile maoinithe a shainaithint agus 3 iarratas a chomhordú más féidir faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.	<p>Stádas: Bainte amach - Is tionscadal oidhreacht agus tírdhreacha é an Foyle Basin Project atá á sholáthar ag lontaobhas Cathartha an Fheabhail. Tugadh tríd an tionscadal seo maoiniú do thionscadal oidhreacht ag Cé Uí Ghribín.</p> <p>Meaitseálann Comhairle Buirge Léim an Mhadaidh an maoiniú a thugtar do thionscadal Lá Náisiúnta na gConairí.</p> <p>Meaitseálann Bailte Slachtmhara Ó Méith Scéim Feabhsúchán Timpeallachta Turasóireacht Mhuirí in Ó Méith.</p> <p>Rinneadh teagmháil le Cathair an Chultúir faoi imeachtaí turasóireacht mhuirí.</p> <p>Níor éirigh leis an iarratas ar an Chiste Pobail Cois Farraige.</p> <p>Cuireadh iarratas ar thionscadal suntasach le húdaráis áitiúla agus údarás calafoirt de chuid TÉ/PÉ/Albain chuig Interreg.</p>

3.2.1	Úsáid a bhaint as an Mhaoiniú INTERREG atá ar fáil.	
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Soláthar “litir thairisceana” do thionscadail turasóireachta a thabhairt chun cinn faoi mhí na Nollag 2012 – lena n-áirítear soláthar 5 thionscadal.</p>		<p>Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach - Pontún agus cé longa cúrsála comhlánaithe agus tugtha do Chalafort Feabhail, comhpháirtí tionscadail, i Meitheamh 2012.</p> <p>Déanfaidh NIEA HRA a ullmhú maidir le hiarratas pleanála do Bhun Abhann/Aird Mhic Giollagáin.</p> <p>Iarratas pleanála istigh i leith tionscadal Mellon.</p> <p>Moladh seirbhísí inmheánacha Chionn Mhálanna á ullmhú le cur faoi bhráid SEUPB.</p> <p>Comhairliúchán inmheánach i leith tionscadal Mellon comhlánaithe.</p> <p>Tá gach tionscadal ar sprioc lena gcur i gcrích i Meitheamh 2015.</p>
3.2.2	An Ciste Forbartha Inbhuanaithe a fheidhmiú	
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Suas le 13 thionscadal Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta a sholáthar trí ghnásanna cothroma, trédhearcacha agus iniúchta faoi mhí na Nollag 2012</p>		<p>Stádas: Páirt-Bhainte amach - Seoladh an Ciste Forbartha Inbhuanaithe níos luaithe sa bhliain agus d’oscail le haghaidh iarratas i Lúnasa. I ndiaidh bhreithniú na n-iarratas, eisíodh 26 Litir Thairisceana faoi choinne: imeachtaí; tionscadail chaipitil agus tionscadail eile. Cuireadh 2 de na tionscadail seo i gcrích agus tá a ndeontas íostarraingthe acu. Tugadh an ciste ar aghaidh trí 2013. Cuireadh na hiarrthóirí deiridh i gcrích i 2013.</p>

3.2.3	Maoiniú Eile a Sholáthar.	
Gníomhaíocht: “litreacha tairisceana” i leith maoiniú eile a fuarthas a sheachadadh faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Mheaitseáil Bailte Slachtmhara Ó Méith maoiniú scéim chósta EI. Mheaitseáil NITB maoiniú bhóthar chósta Mhúrn.
3.3.1	Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú ar acmhainní agus úsáid Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta.	
Gníomhaíocht: Na hacmhainní reatha a chothabháil agus, nuair is féidir, fáil ar acmhainní Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta a fheabhsú faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Riachtanais trealamh monatóireachta á scóipeáil le líon cuairteoirí a mheas. Táthar ag dúil go dtabharfar moltaí chun cinn in 2013. Tá baill foirne ag úsáid threalamh GIS le suirbhé a dhéanamh ar acmhainní Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta cheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn.
3.3.2	Candam gearáil chaipitiúil a bhunú ag Páirtithe Leasmhara Turasóireacht Mhuirí agus Slatiascaireachta.	
Gníomhaíocht: Infheistíochtaí a bhunú a dhéantar mar gheall ar gearáil chaipitiúil arna chruthú ag cúnamh deontais (INTERREG, SDF nó eile faoi mhí na Nollag 2012).		Stádas: Bainte amach - B’infheistíocht ollmhór cistí rialtas láir agus údaráis áitiúla a bhí i gceist le Féile na gClipéar, a mheaitseáil Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna le hinfheistíocht tionscadail Interreg (pontún agus cé) agus croíchiste na Gníomhaireachta a infheistíodh i seisiúin taithí seoltóireachta, acmhainní foirne, úsáid árthaí srl. Is lánmhaoiniú atá i gceist le clár Interreg IVA, ag leibhéal 100%. Tá go leor ionchur comhchineáil ó pháirtithe i gclár Interreg agus le tionscadail eile ar nós SDF agus tionscadail bunmhaoinithe. Íosmhéid 25% de mhaoiniú meaitseála ó lucht cur chun cinn tionscadail SDF.

TOSAÍOCHT: CORPARÁIDEACH		
CUSPÓIR		
4	Ár n-údarás agus freagrachtaí reachtúla a sholáthar go héifeachtúil agus go héifeachtach.	
CROÍ-GHNÍOMHAÍOCHT		
4.1	Cur in iúl	
4.2	Bainistiú	
4.3	Coinneáil	
SPRIOC FEIDHMÍOCHTA		
4.1.1	Tuiriscí agus Ráitis Airgeadais Bhliantúla a Fhoilsiú.	
Gníomhaíocht: Tuiriscí agus Ráitis Airgeadais Bhliantúla a réiteach mar is gá de réir ceanglais reachtúla agus spriocdhátaí.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Ráitis Airgeadais 2011 deimhnithe ag C&Aganna Thuaidh agus Theas ar an 09 Iúil 2013.
4.1.2	Polasaithe Foirne agus Gníomhaireachta a athbhreithniú.	
Gníomhaíocht: Athbhreithniú Polasaithe Foirne agus Gníomhaireachta a chomhlánú, formhuiniú a ghnóthú orthu, iad a fhoilsiú ar an inlín agus a gcur i bhfeidhm faoi Mheán Fómhair 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach – Polasaithe athbhreithnithe i bhfeidhm ó Eanáir 2012. Comhaontófar polasaithe amach anseo le TUS agus feidhmeofar de réir mar is cuí.
4.1.3	Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí a Fheabhsú.	
Gníomhaíocht: Cairt na gCustaiméirí a athbhreithniú agus a fhoilsiú ar an suíomh gréasáin faoi mhí na Nollag 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Cairt na gCustaiméirí comhaontaithe agus foilsithe ar shuíomh gréasáin na Gníomhaireachta i mí na Nollag 2012.

4.2.1	Acmhainní a bhainistiú laistigh de na buiséid bhliantúla chomhaontaithe.	
Gníomhaíocht: Acmhainní a bhainistiú le hinfhaighteacht a chinntiú i leith riachtanais ghnó agus éifeachtúlacht soláthair a léiriú trí thomhas costasbhunaithe.		Stádas: Bainte amach - Caiteachas laistigh de bhuiséad leithdháilte.
4.2.2	Feidhmíocht na Gníomhaireachta a thomhas agus a bhainistiú.	
Gníomhaíocht: Ár dtomhas agus bainistíocht feidhmíochta a fhorbairt a thuilleadh trí úsáid uirlisí cuí monatóireachta faoi Aibreán 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach – Uirlisí Bainistíocht Feidhmíochta forbartha agus in úsáid.
4.2.3	Foireann agus páirtithe tacaíochta a thraenáil agus a fhorbairt (ar nós Fairtheoirí Abhann Príobháideacha).	
Gníomhaíocht: Leanfaimid d'infheistiú i bhforbairt ár bhfoirne trí sholáthar ár bpolasaí oiliúna agus forbartha agus pleananna pearsanta forbartha a thabhairt chun cinn le linn 2012.		Stádas: Bainte amach – Thacaigh an Ghníomhaireacht le baill foirne ó cheann ceann na bliana ar réimse de chúrsaí oiliúna, mar shampla, marthanas i bhfarraige, bainistíocht na coimhlinte, earcaíocht agus roghnú agus feasacht chomhionannais. Lena chois sin, tugadh sraith seisiúin oiliúna do bhreis agus 100 Fairtheoir Abhann Príobháideach ó thart ar 30 club slatiascaireachta i gceantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn.
4.2.4	Tuisceant an phobail ar acmhainní Cheantair an Fheabhail agus Chairlinn a mhéadú.	
Gníomhaíocht: Le linn 2012, cláir Riverwatch agus for-rochtana a fhorbairt, ag coinneáil líon cuairteoirí agus rannpháirtithe 2011.		Stádas: Bainte amach – Leantar de chlár a fhorbairt agus de spriocanna a chomhlíonadh. Áirítear leo Adopt a Stream and Hatchery in a Classroom.

4.3.1	Cumarsáid a Fheabhsú.
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Leanfaimid de chumarsáid éifeachtach a fhorbairt lenár bpáirtithe leasmhara trínár suíomh gréasáin, gníomhaíochtaí for-rochtana agus Cairt Chustaiméirí agus iad a athbhreithniú faoi dhó in 2012.</p>	<p>Stádas: Bainte amach – Leantar de nuashonrú an tsuímh gréasáin le heolas ábhartha na linne. Cairt Chustaiméirí athbhreithnithe agus foilsithe ar shuíomh gréasáin na Gníomhaireachta i mí na Nollag 2012.</p> <p>Nuachtlitir ráithiúil r-irise ‘Catchment’ curtha le chéile agus dailte ar gach páirtí leasmhar.</p>
4.3.2	Dea-rialachas Corparáideach a choinneáil.
<p>Gníomhaíocht: Comhlíonfaimid ár n-oibleagáidí i leith réiteach cáipéisíocht rialachas corparáideach agus ráitis airgeadais gan choinníoll agus tuairiscí sásúla iniúchóireachta a bhaint amach laistigh d’amscálaí comhaontaithe.</p>	<p>Stádas: Bainte amach – Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Cuntais 2011 faofa ag CATT ar an 4 Iúil 2012.</p> <p>Eagraíodh cruinnithe rialta den Fho-Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Bainistíocht Riosca le linn na bliana. Eagraíodh cruinnithe 2012 ar an 29 Márta 2012, an 30 Bealtaine 2012, an 19 Meán Fómhair 2012 agus an 21 Samhain 2012.</p>



Foyle, Carlingford And Irish Lights Commission

Loughs Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December

2012



Loughs Agency Annual Report and Accounts **2012**

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Foreword

The Board presents the financial accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012.

Brief History

The Foyle Fisheries Commission was established in 1952 under legislation enacted in both jurisdictions with the primary objective of the conservation of the Foyle waterway system. Following the Good Friday Agreement, the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) was created to continue the work done by the Foyle Fisheries Commission and to achieve similar objectives in Carlingford Lough and its waterways.

The FCILC became operational on 2 December 1999 at which time the assets and liabilities of the Foyle Fisheries Commission were transferred to the Loughs Agency.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- A form directed by and approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of Finance as provided for in the Body's Financial Memorandum.
- The North/South annual reports and accounts guidance provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel, and the Department of Finance.

Statutory Background

The British/Irish Agreement Act 1999 and the North/South (Implementation Bodies) (N.I.) Order 1999 provided for the transfer of the powers of the Foyle Fisheries Commission to a new body, The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC). The board of the FCILC, in exercising the functions of the body, are required to act in accordance with any directions given by the North/South Ministerial Council, to which it also reports. The FCILC was to be composed of two agencies, the Loughs Agency and the Lights Agency. The functions of the Irish Lights Commission have not yet transferred to the Lights Agency of the FCILC, as this requires amendment to the current United Kingdom legislation. This situation is currently being considered under the St

Andrews Review. These accounts deal with the Loughs Agency of the FCILC. The Lights Agency is not in operational existence.

Result for the Year

The Loughs Agency is jointly funded by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (the Departments). The Loughs Agency incurred a Deficit of Stg (£5,878) / (€14,604) for the year ended 31 December 2012 (2011: Surplus of £343,708 Stg / €396,021).

Changes in Fixed Assets

Details of the movement in fixed assets are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Research and Development

Total expenditure on Research and Development in 2012 was Nil (2011 - £812 / €936)

Post Balance Sheet Events

There were no post balance sheet events in the period ending 31 December 2012.

Charitable Donations

The Loughs Agency made no charitable donations during the year.

Performance Targets

The Annual Reports and Accounts guidance for North/South Implementation Bodies requires the reporting of financial performance against key targets. In July 2011 the Agency prepared and obtained the approval from the North/South Ministerial Council, of a corporate plan for 2011-2013. The business plan for 2012 was approved by Ministers on 4 July 2012. As the activities of the Loughs Agency do not correlate with measuring its performance against financial targets, the Agency has not reported performance targets in these accounts. On an on-going basis the Agency monitors its performance against the objectives and targets as set out in its business plan.

Principal Activities

The strategic priorities of the Loughs Agency, within the Corporate Plan, can be grouped into 6 major areas:

- 1) To conserve, protect, manage and improve the Fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford areas ;
- 2) To develop the recreational fisheries areas of the Foyle and Carlingford areas;
- 3) To develop Marine Tourism;
- 4) To license, manage and develop aquaculture and shellfisheries;
- 5) To pursue increased efficiency and continuous improvement in the transparent and equitable delivery of services to all our customers;
- 6) To ensure the efficient, effective and economic utilisation of resources available to the Agency.

The Annual Report provides further detail of the Loughs Agency's work on these areas during the year.

Charitable Donations

The Loughs Agency made no charitable donations during the year.

Board Members

Mr Winston Patterson	Chairperson
Mr Alan McCulla	Vice Chairperson
Mr Tarlach O'Crosain	Term Ended 12/12/12
Mr Joe Miller	Member
Mr Thomas Sloan	Member Deceased 21/01/13
Mr Jim Wilson	Member
Mrs Teresa McLaverty	Member
Mr Don Tipping	Member
Mr Michael McCormick	Member
Mr Andrew Duncan	Member
Mr Seamus Rodgers	Member
Mrs Phil Mahon	Member
Mr Laurence Arbuckle	Appointed Member 13/12/12

Since the year end, Michael Murphy was appointed to the Board on 13/11/13.

Board Members' Responsibilities

The board monitors and directs the work of the Loughs Agency towards the achievement of the objectives approved by the North/South Ministerial Council. These objectives are fully detailed in the Agency's corporate and business plans. They require the Agency to provide sustainable benefits to the economy, the environment and to society in the Foyle and Carlingford areas through the conservation, protection, development, and management of water based resources. They also require the Agency to raise public awareness of the resources of the waterways of the area and deliver these improvements through the development of partnerships with the users of the catchments.

Employment Objectives

The Loughs Agency is committed to providing information to employees and to consulting them on appropriate matters. The Loughs Agency follows the Northern Ireland Civil Service Code of Practice on Employment of Disabled People. This code of practice is to help the Agency achieve equality of opportunity for people with disabilities and to make full use of the skills and abilities that people with disabilities possess, through career development, training, opportunities for flexible working and the provision, of adaptations to premises, equipment or support.

Equal Opportunities

The Agency follows the NI Civil Service Equal Opportunity Policy that aims to foster a culture that rewards achievement and encourages every member of staff to develop his or her potential. We are committed to providing employment equality to all, irrespective of:-

- Gender, marital or family status;
- Religious belief or political opinion;
- Disability;
- Race or ethnic origin;
- Nationality;
- Sexual orientation.

We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. Our building is fully compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Payment to Suppliers

The Loughs Agency is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the UK Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, as amended and supplemented by the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulations 2002 and the Irish Late Payments in Commercial Transactions Regulations 2002. As appropriate the Loughs Agency will also be bound by any EU Directives on late payment. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services, or upon presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later. During the year (2012:98%) (2011: 98%) of bills were paid within this standard.

Health and Safety

The Loughs Agency is committed to complying with the Health & Safety at work (NI) Order 1978, the Safety, Health and Welfare at work Act 1989 and to all relevant legislation. It will continue to strive to provide and maintain a working environment that is safe, without undue risk to health and with adequate facilities and arrangements for welfare of staff at work. A Health and Safety Committee has been in place since 2006.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act 1998

The Agency is currently exempt from the Freedom of Information Acts in UK and Ireland however a Code of Practice has been developed and implemented for all the Cross Border Bodies.

The Agency is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 with the Office of the Information Commissioners and will fully comply with its obligations under this Act and its equivalent in Ireland.

Environmental Regulations

The Agency also follows its obligations under the UK Environmental Regulations 2004 and the legislation governing Access to Information on the Environment in Ireland.

Future Developments

The most significant development that will impact on the work of the Loughs Agency will be following the commencement of the amended Foyle Fisheries Acts, which will fully roll out the responsibilities of the Agency in the areas of Aquaculture, Shellfisheries and Marine Tourism through a suite of regulations.

Audit

As Chief Executive and Accountable Person I am required to ensure that all relevant audit information is provided to the auditors. I have taken all reasonable steps to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and have ensured that all such information is made available. I would also confirm that there is no relevant audit information of which I am aware that the auditors have not been informed about. These accounts have been subject to a formal audit by the Comptrollers and Auditors General. The certificate and report of the Comptrollers and Auditors General to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and the House of the Oireachtas are included at pages 12 and 13.

Accounting Officer

Mr John Pollock was appointed Acting Chief Executive by Ministers at their meeting of the North South Ministerial Council on 5 December 2012 and he is the accountable person of the Loughs Agency.

Subsequently Mr John Pollock was appointed Chief Executive by Ministers of the North South Ministerial Council on 2 April 2014.

J Pollock
Chief Executive and Accountable Person
3 July 2014

Statement of Accountable Person's Responsibilities

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources have directed the Loughs Agency to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form and on the basis set out in the accounts direction on page 36. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Agency's state of affairs at its year end and of its income and expenditure, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Loughs Agency is required to:

- Observe the accounts direction issued by the sponsor departments, including the relevant accounting disclosure requirements, and apply accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Agency will continue in operation.

The Chief Executive's responsibilities as the accountable person of the Loughs Agency, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the Agency's Financial Memorandum.

Statement on Internal Control

1: Scope of Responsibility

I was appointed Acting Chief Executive by Ministers at their December 2012 meeting of the North South Ministerial Council and have also been appointed the Accountable Person of the Loughs Agency. Mr Derick Anderson the Chief Executive and Accounting officer has subsequently retired on 25/04/13.

As Accountable Person, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control, that supports the achievement of the Loughs Agency's policies, aims and objectives, as set out by the Departments' Ministers whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI), North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Report & Accounts Guidance 2009 and "Public Financial Procedures". A Policy and Resource Framework is in place which sets out the role and aims of the Loughs Agency, its duties and powers, the responsibilities of the Chairman, Board and Chief Executive, and the relationship with the Ministers and Sponsor Departments. The Agency also operates within its Financial Memorandum guidelines which have been under review since 2010 by the Finance Departments North and South. In the interim since March 2013 the Sponsor Departments have agreed that the Agency should follow the tendering thresholds used by Central Procurement Directorate (CPD).

The functions of the Loughs Agency are set out in North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (NI) Order 1999, the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and the Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952 (as amended). The Agency formulates its Corporate Plan and objectives after it has taken full cognisance of the following:- primary legislation in both jurisdictions, the Board, its Sponsor Departments, the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) and the Foyle Area and Carlingford Area Advisory Forum.

The Corporate Plan sets out the objectives over a three year period (2011-13) and an annual Business Plan which details the business objectives together with appropriate targets and performance measures. Results against targets and performance measures are reported monthly and in the annual report at the year end. The fundamental objective is to promote the development of

the resources of the Foyle and Carlingford catchments for commercial and recreational purposes.

The Accounting Officer must ensure that the Agency adheres to the conditions attached to the public funds provided to it.

The Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI), the 2005 Financial Memorandum, North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Report & Accounts Guidance 2009, relevant Dear Accounting Officer (DAO's) and Finance Director (FD) letters set out the controls to be exercised over the different areas of activity, either by the Departments directly or by the Loughs Agency, through its Board under delegated authority.

2: The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Agency's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Loughs Agency for the year ended 31 December 2012 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and it accords with the Finance Departments' guidance.

3: Capacity to handle risk

The Agency has established a risk management committee, to direct the risk management process within the Loughs Agency. The risk management committee provides regular updates to the Board and is a standing agenda item for Board and Audit Sub Committee meetings. The risk management committee reviews and updates the Agency's strategic risks and has responsibility for the implementation of the risk management policy of the Agency. All staff have been issued with the Loughs Agency risk management policy. This document clearly explains the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of all staff and the various boards and committees which are in place as part of the corporate governance framework within the Agency. A programme to regularly train staff in fraud awareness and risk management is in place. This programme is managed by

the risk management committee who will initiate training where the need is identified.

The senior management takes responsibility for applying and overseeing the risk management process primarily to ensure that it is operating as intended, to challenge content of the risk register and enable the Chief Executive to report on the process to the Board of the FCILC. In addition to reviewing the risk framework, all recommendations received from both the internal and external auditors are reviewed, with controls being enhanced or introduced as necessary.

All staff are expected to work within the Loughs Agency policies on risk management, alert management to emerging risks or control weaknesses, participate fully in the risk management process and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own areas of work.

4: The risk and control framework

The Loughs Agency Risk Management Committee continued to update its risk register during 2012 and quarterly reviews and ownership of risks by Directorates have been on-going. The register identifies the key risks facing the Loughs Agency and these have been identified and evaluated and graded in relation to their significance. The grading exercise uses a combination of impact and likelihood assessments and was reviewed during the year. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources in order to ensure that risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register further details management's associated controls and actions required to mitigate these risks.

The Agency recognises that risk management is an evolving process within the Agency and has continued to embed, within the organisation, in 2012 the following:-

- Quarterly reviews of objectives and assessment of risks undertaken by each Directorate. Risk Register distributed to the key owners of risks within the Agency and action points delivered from this process;
- Completion of standard risk assessment forms to ensure risks are recorded in a structured way and the use of defined criteria to ensure that risks are evaluated consistently;

- Inclusion of risk management as an agenda item on each Senior Management Team (SMT) monthly management meeting, to enable reporting and review of new risks, the effectiveness of controls over risks identified, the progress of action plans, and to facilitate early corrective action;
- The Agency's Board operates an Audit and Finance subcommittee which meets on a quarterly basis and risk management is included as a standing agenda item;
- Update of Strategic and Fraud Risk Profiles and independent facilitation of risk management workshops.

5: Review of effectiveness

As accountable person, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal audit units of the departments, and the executive managers within the Loughs Agency who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised of the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Board, the Audit Committee and Risk Management Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

As accountable person, I also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of internal control. The Loughs Agency has established the following processes:

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with quarterly review of budgets against actual and agreement by the (SMT) and audit committee;
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) monitors reports on procurement variances identified when comparing the purchase orders to the invoice payments;
- Regular reviews by management of financial reports including bank reconciliations, payment schedules, grant in aid and other income;
- Clearly defined capital investment control guidelines;
- Improved Procurement procedures and guidelines and appropriate formal project management disciplines in place;
- Formal business cases in place for expenditure >£1k;

- The risk management committee continues to update the risks previously identified and update the Agency's Risk Register. In addition actions have been identified and allocated to relevant Loughs Agency staff;
- Senior Managers within the Loughs Agency have been given a timetable in support of the performance of the respective reviews of effectiveness;
- Following the reviews of effectiveness I am provided with annual stewardship certificates for all four operational management areas within the Agency. These certificates provide me with a number of assurances that I require to support the comments I make in the Statement on Internal Control. These statements provide assurance over the systems that make up the operating environment of the Loughs Agency;
- 3 meetings of the Audit and Finance and Personnel Committee took place in 2012 at which the progress of the risk management process was reviewed, and all Internal Audit reports and NIAO Management Letters points were addressed.

6: Internal Control Issues

1. Internal Audit

The Loughs Agency has an agreement with the Internal Audit Units of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) to carry out joint internal audit testing of the Agency. The work of the internal audit units is informed by analysis of the risk to which the Loughs Agency is exposed and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis.

For the year ended the 31/12/2012 both Internal Audit departments gave a "Limited" opinion as to the adequacy of the internal control environment operating within the Agency. (The definition of "Limited" being there is an inadequate and/or effective system of governance, risk management and control in place. Therefore there is significant risk that the system will fail to meets its objectives). However the Agency promptly took corrective action to address the weaknesses raised and the October 2013 follow up report by the Internal Audit Departments concluded that a satisfactory opinion was now appropriate as the majority of previous recommendations have been implemented effectively.

The **Category 1** issues originally identified by internal audit in 2012 which have now all been remedied included:-

- Oyster fishing – compliance with prescribed procedures, record keeping, verification of applicants, segregation of enforcement activities and prosecution processes.
- Salmon Fishing - the lack of information provided to anglers for permits and ensuring that anglers are restricted to holding only one licence and for identification checks of applicants.
- Financial Management - a contract for HR Services was extended for 1 year however the original contract contained no option to extend. Salmon carcass tags were purchased from one supplier without single tender action being approved. No tendering / quotations were obtained for the supply of heating oil, and documentation in relation to quotations for the purchase of laptops had been mislaid.
- Contract hours - no checks carried out to ensure their employees are working in accordance with the Working Time Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998. Also there was a recommendation in relation to exchange rates used to calculate payments to Employees who reside in the Republic of Ireland. Also overtime payments policy guidelines were not being correctly applied.
- Vehicle Costs - a number of issues in relation to fleet management, completion of logbooks and fuel management.
- MMV Ostrea - the 2012 Year plan for operations was incomplete and showed no planned activity after 17th September 2012 and the summary of actual activities undertaken by the Ostrea also did not agree with the annual plan. The Post Project Evaluation (PPE) in relation to the purchase of the Ostrea has not yet been completed.

The definition of **Category 1** is an issue which requires urgent management decision and action without which there is a substantial risk to the achievement of key business/system objectives, to the reputation of the organisation, or to the regularity and propriety of public funds.

II. Funding of Monitoring Vessel

As highlighted in the 2011 Statement of Internal Control, the internal audit report on the MMV Ostrea noted a number of significant areas of concern in respect of the procurement of this vessel. Control issues included weaknesses in the specification and management of the refit works and an undeclared

conflict of interest. In order to address procurement weaknesses identified from the MMV transaction, the Agency has trained key staff in project management and also all staff involved in procurement have received training from Central Procurement Directorate.

Details of the final funding position of the MMV Ostrea and a £36,137 financial penalty levied on the Loughs Agency are highlighted in Note 19 to the Accounts.

III. Audits conducted by SEUPB

During 2013, an audit conducted by SEUPB identified weaknesses in the control over a project funded by SEUPB where the Agency was the lead partner. Expenditure on the project in 2012 totalled £949,658. Despite being the lead partner, the Agency did not have a full detailed audit trail of claims submitted and did not perform 100% verification checks of all transactions making up the grant claims, as required, in the letter of offer for the relevant grant. The Agency has responded to the weaknesses identified by performing 100% verification checks on the claims before they are submitted including asking for claims to be adjusted for ineligible expenditure. Further the Agency now keeps a record of the submitted claims and retains appropriate back up.

J Pollock

Chief Executive and Accountable Person

3 July 2014

The Certificate of the Comptrollers and Auditors General to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas

We have audited the accounts of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission Loughs Agency ('the Body') for the year ended 31 December 2012 pursuant to the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 which require us to audit and certify, in co-operation, the accounts presented to us by the Body. The accounts comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes and appendices. These accounts have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

Respective responsibilities of the Body, the Chief Executive and the Auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Body is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, is responsible for ensuring propriety and regularity in relation to the use of public funds. Our responsibility is to audit and certify the accounts in accordance with the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us and our staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounts sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment: of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Body's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Body; and the overall presentation of the accounts. In addition we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounts. If we become aware of

any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our certificate.

In addition, we are required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income reported in the accounts have been applied for the purposes intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly and Dáil Éireann and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on Regularity

In our opinion, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied for the purposes intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly and Dáil Éireann and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on the accounts

In our opinion:

- the accounts give a true and fair view, of the state of the Body's affairs as at 31 December 2012, and of its surplus, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion the information in the Foreword for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report by exception if:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all of the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Statement on Internal Control does not reflect compliance with applicable guidance on corporate governance.

We have nothing to report in respect of those matters upon which reporting is by exception.

KJ Donnelly
Comptroller and Auditor General
for Northern Ireland,
Northern Ireland Audit Office,
106 University Street,
Belfast.
BT7 1EU

July 2014

John Buckley
Irish Comptroller and Auditor General
Dublin Castle,
Dublin 2,
Ireland.

July 2014

Income and Expenditure Account

		2012	2011	2012	2011
Income	Note	£ Stg	£ Stg	€	€
Revenue grants from departments	4	3,748,867	4,213,491	4,622,352	4,854,784
Net deferred funding for pensions	15	652,184	695,667	804,143	801,548
Marine & Tourism INT IV Grant	5	1,301,495	36,497	1,604,743	42,052
IBIS Grants	6	949,658	28,000	1,170,928	32,261
Ordinary income	7	94,609	138,018	116,653	159,024
EU and government grants released	13	501,236	519,006	618,024	597,999
Profit on disposal of grant assets		13,403	31,936	16,439	36,797
Bailiffing		9,000	10,341	11,097	11,915
		7,270,452	5,672,956	8,964,379	6,536,380
Expenditure					
Staff and Board costs	3	2,898,824	2,983,084	3,574,250	3,437,109
Marine & Tourism INT IV grant disbursements	5	1,301,495	36,497	1,604,743	42,052
IBIS expenditure	6	949,658	28,000	1,170,928	32,261
Programme expenses	8	420,130	515,051	518,021	593,442
Administrative expenses	9	1,201,782	1,224,344	1,489,065	1,410,689
Currency exchange		25,425	10,616	31,349	12,232

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(Gain)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets		(35,585)	13,115	(43,876)	15,111
Depreciation	10	514,601	518,541	634,503	597,463
		7,276,330	5,329,248	8,978,983	6,140,359
Operating (Deficit) /surplus taken to reserves		(5,878)	343,708	(14,604)	396,021

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 138 to 163 form part of these accounts.

**Statement of Total Recognised Gains & Losses for the year ended
31 December 2012**

	Note	2012 £ Stg	2011 £ Stg	2012 €	2011 €
(Deficit)/Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation		(5,878)	343,708	(14,604)	396,021
Unrealised deficit on revaluation of fixed assets		0	(54,786)	0	(65,376)
Actuarial gain/ (loss) in respect of pension scheme		195,806	(149,735)	241,429	(172,525)
Adjusted for Deferred pension asset		(195,806)	149,735	(241,429)	172,525
Total recognised gain relating to the year		(5,878)	288,922	(14,604)	330,645
Total recognised gains since last report		(5,878)	288,922	(14,604)	330,645
Reconciliation					
Opening reserves		1,459,491	1,170,569	1,741,614	1,366,290
Total recognised (loss)/gain relating to the year		(5,878)	288,922	(14,604)	330,645
Currency Translation Adjustment				41,945	44,679
Closing reserves		1,453,613	1,459,491	1,768,955	1,741,614

Loughs Agency Annual Report and Accounts **2012**

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets	Note	2012 £ Stg	2011 £ Stg	2012 €	2011 €
Tangible fixed assets	10	5,250,281	5,123,336	6,416,894	6,113,677
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	11	878,024	314,487	1,073,122	375,278
Cash at bank and in hand		642,495	563,862	785,257	672,856
Bank – INTERREG / IBIS		296,988	13,873	362,979	16,555
		1,817,507	892,222	2,221,358	1,064,689
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accruals	12	1,389,427	471,628	1,705,814	562,794
Net Current Assets		428,080	420,594	515,544	501,895
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		5,678,361	5,543,930	6,932,438	6,615,572
Provisions					
Deferred revenue grants	14	0	0	0	0
Pension Liability	15	8,507,288	8,050,910	10,397,607	9,607,151
Deferred Pension funding	15	(8,507,288)	(8,050,910)	(10,397,607))	(9607,151)
Net Assets		5,678,361	5,543,930	6,932,438	6,615,572

Represented By					
Deferred Capital grants	13	4,224,748	4,084,439	5,163,483	4,873,958
Reserves					
Revaluation reserve	17	1,025,533	1,038,898	1,253,411	1,239,719
General reserve	16	428,080	420,593	515,544	501,895
Total reserves		1,453,613	1,459,491	1,768,955	1,741,614
Total		5,678,361	5,543,930	6,932,438	6,615,572

The notes on pages 138 to 163 form part of these accounts.

J Pollock
Chief Executive and Accountable Person

3 July 2014

Loughs Agency Annual Report and Accounts **2012**

Cash Flow Statement

	Note	2012 £ Stg	2011 £ Stg	2012 €	2011 €
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		312,758	155,815	398,509	272,543
Return on investment and servicing of finance		0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure and financial investment		(597,837)	(204,041)	(737,222)	(235,094)
Net cash outflow before financing		(285,079)	(48,226)	(338,713)	37,449
Financing		646,827	225,209	797,538	259,486
(Decrease) / increase in Cash		361,748	241,480	458,825	296,935
Operating (deficit) /surplus		(5,878)	343,708	(14,604)	396,021
(Profit) Loss on disposal of fixed assets		(35,585)	13,115	(43,876)	15,111
Depreciation	10	514,601	518,541	634,503	597,463
Capital grant release	13	(501,236)	(519,006)	(618,024)	(597,999)
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of capital grant assets		(13,403)	(31,936)	(16,439)	(36,797)
Interest received		-	-	-	-
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		81,729	(33)	93,264	(6,022)
Grants receivable		(645,268)	(36,413)	(791,108)	(44,724)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		917,798	(67,664)	1,143,020	(66,668)
Translation exchange difference		-	-	11,773	16,158
Net cash outflow from continuing activities		312,758	155,815	398,509	272,543
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	10	(646,827)	(225,209)	(797,538)	(259,486)
Adjustment to Fixed Asset		8,123	-	9,928	-
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		40,867	21,168	50,388	24,392
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment		(597,837)	(204,041)	(737,222)	(235,094)
Reconciliation of financing					
Capital grants received	13	646,827	225,209	797,538	259,486
Net cash inflow from financing		646,827	225,209	797,538	259,486
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in cash					
(Decrease) / increase in cash in year		361,748	241,481	458,825	296,935
Explained as follows:					
At 1 January		577,735	336,255	689,411	392,476
At 31 December		939,483	577,735	1,148,236	689,411
(Decrease) / increase in cash in year		361,748	241,480	458,825	296,935

Notes to the Accounts

1: Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Without limiting the information given, the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, (as amended by the Companies NI Order 1990) the Republic of Ireland Companies Acts 1963 to 2012, the accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board, and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel and by the Department of Finance, in so far as those requirements are appropriate.

b) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

From 1 January 2003 a policy was put in place whereby only assets (or groups of assets where appropriate) with costs greater than £1,000/€1,485 have been capitalised. Prior to this all items of a capital nature were capitalised regardless of cost.

Fixed assets (other than land and buildings) are stated on the balance sheet at cost less depreciation at annual rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Land and buildings in Northern Ireland were revalued by Land & Property Services (LPS) on 31 December 2011. The Valuation was undertaken in line with Red book 5th additions published by Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and additions have been added to the revalued balance. In this instance depreciation has been provided to write land and buildings off over their remaining useful lives, otherwise the Agency uses the straight line method of depreciation.

Fixed asset additions are depreciated from the month of purchase and no depreciation is charged in month of disposal.

The current rates applied to Fixed Asset additions are:

Land & buildings, Interpretive Centre, Weirs	Various
Boats & boating equipment	15%
Plant & Equipment	25%
Office equipment / Fixtures & Fittings	10%
Computer equipment	25%
Motor vehicles	25%

c) Currency

The Agency's transactions are effected in both sterling and euro. The working currency of the Agency is Sterling and transactions are initially recorded in that currency. Transactions in other currencies are translated to Sterling at an average of the previous month exchange rate (this is used as an approximation as exchange rates do not fluctuate significantly). Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in other currencies are translated to Sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the balance sheet date (closing rate). Realised gains and losses are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account.

At year end the financial statements are translated into euro. The Income and Expenditure Account is translated using the average exchange rate for the year while the Balance Sheet is translated using the closing exchange rate. The year end rate for 2012 is £stg - €1.2222 (2011: £stg - €1.1933). The average rate for 2012 is £stg - €1.2330(2011: £stg - €1.1522). Currency adjustments arising from this translation of the financial statements are reflected in Fixed Assets (Note 10), Capital Grants (Note 13), Deferred Revenue Grants (Note 14), Superannuation Scheme (Note 15), General Reserve (Note 16), and the Revaluation Reserve (Note 17). The Bank of England rates are used.

d) Capital Grants

Deferred capital grants represent the value of grants received from sponsor departments used to purchase fixed assets. These grants are amortised in line with depreciation.

e) Revenue Grants

Revenue grants from Departments are accounted for in line with the amount approved by the North/South Ministerial Council subject to any surrender of grants.

Interreg IVA and IBIS grants have been accounted for on an accruals basis in line with when the grant supported expenditure has taken place. As regards IBIS, expenditure incurred by project partners (Glasgow & Queens) which will not be grant aided, is not reflected in these financial statements.

SDF (Sustainable Development Fund) grants have been awarded on an accruals basis.

f) Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to administrative costs on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

g) VAT

The Loughs Agency is not in a position to reclaim VAT. Therefore VAT is included as expenditure and where appropriate capitalised in the value of fixed assets.

2. Superannuation Scheme

The Loughs Agency came into existence on 2 December 1999. On that date the Loughs Agency assumed all the assets and liabilities of the Foyle Fisheries Commission. The Loughs Agency, under the Foyle Area (Pension) (Amendment) Regulations 1979 made in exercise of its powers under paragraph 16 of the Third Schedule to that Act, provides retirement benefits to its employees. The Agency operates a defined benefit pension scheme for current and former employees.

A FRS 17 calculation was completed at 31st December 2012, at which time the accrued liability, as per Balance Sheet, was £8,507,288 in 2012 (2011: £8,050,910) The liability at 31 December 2012 has been calculated by the actuary, Xafinity as disclosed in note 15. This includes the results of the calculations of the pension liabilities and costs of employees (and ex-employees) of the Loughs Agency for the purposes of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012 and comparative figures for 2011.

During 2012, discussions continued with Sponsoring Departments and the Departments of Finance, to resolve the difficulties identified in respect of the incompatibility of the pay and pension arrangements as operated by the Loughs Agency and the North/South Pension Scheme. On the 16th

March 2007, it was confirmed that the Foyle Fisheries Commission Pension (Amendment) Scheme 1979 should apply to the Loughs Agency (Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission) from 2 December 1999 in accordance with the requirements of the Implementation Bodies Agreement, Annex 2, part 7, paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3. It was also confirmed in this Interim Procedure (IP) that the Foyle Fisheries Commission Pension (Amendment) Scheme 1979 is the same as, and therefore no less favourable than that to which transferred staff were subject immediately before transfer. During 2007, Arthur Cox, Solicitors, were commissioned to draft a legal paper to further regularise current pension arrangements and report on options for the future. This options paper was submitted to the Sponsoring Departments and discussions are on-going with a view to a resolution. A business case and economic appraisal of those options was presented to the Sponsoring Departments on the 17 June 2011 and this is currently being considered by both Departments of Finance. Discussions are still ongoing and it is anticipated that a resolution of this matter will be completed by the end of Summer 2014. It should also be noted that the Foyle Fisheries Commission Pension (Amendment) Scheme 1979 was formally accepted by the Cabinet Office into the Public Sector Transfer Club on 14 December 2012.

3. Staff Costs and Board Remuneration

The average monthly number of employees (full time equivalent) was:	2012	2011
Senior Management	5	5
Administrative	17	16
Field staff and inspectorate	38	41
Total	60	62

The costs incurred in respect of these employees were:

	Note	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Gross		1,950,206	1,982,202	2,404,604	2,283,893
Social security costs (*)		164,912	161,854	203,336	186,488
Other pension costs	15	710,280	755,736	875,775	870,759
		2,825,398	2,899,792	3,483,715	3,341,140
Board remuneration		71,925	79,684	88,684	91,812
Social security costs		1,501	3,608	1,851	4,157
Total Board costs		73,426	83,292	90,535	95,969
Total Board and staff costs		2,898,824	2,983,084	3,574,250	3,437,109
Staff costs above include the following		2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Temporary staff		117,275	167,792	143,310	193,330
Total temporary staff costs		117,275	167,792	143,310	193,330

3. Staff Costs and Board Remuneration cont'd

The Chief Executive's (Derick Anderson aged 65) emoluments including pension scheme contributions were as follows:

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Gross	71,754	71,347	87,683	82,206
Social security costs	7,863	7,474	9,609	8,612
Other pension costs	4,305	4,281	5,261	4,933
	83,922	83,102	102,553	95,751

The benefit in kind, which relates to the provision of a motor vehicle, attributed to the Chief Executive in 2012 was £2,133/€2,607. (2011 was £3,984/€4,549). The Chief Executive is an ordinary member of the Agency's pension scheme. Gerard Mill's, former member of senior management, received benefits in kind (a personal issue vehicle) in 2012 of £2,724/€3,329. (2011: £2,133/€2,758).

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No other senior management staff received any benefits in kind. Benefits in kind are not included in the remuneration figures shown below.

Other senior management / directors		2012			2011		
		Gross	Social Security Costs	Other Pension Costs	Gross	Social Security Costs	Other Pension Costs
	Age	£	£		£	£	£
John Pollock (Corporate Services)	55	47,836	4,382	2,866	46,760	4,140	2,779
Gerard Mills (Development - Resignation 02/03/12)	45	10,251	893	615	43,308	4,083	2,779
Kevin Wilson (Development - Appointed 01/11/12)	40	7,063	671	424	0	0	0
John McCartney (Conservation and Protection)	54	48,520	4,475	2,897	47,363	4,224	2,779
Barry Fox (Aquaculture & Shellfisheries)	40	41,765	4,490	2,506	41,707	4,016	2,503
		155,435	14,911	9,308	179,138	16,463	10,840

3 Staff Costs and Board Remuneration cont'd

The total of the Board members remuneration including social security costs were as follows:

	2012	Restated 2011	2012	Restated 2011
	£	£	€	€
Mr Tarlach O'Crosain	4,977	8,434	6,137	9,718
Ms Jacqui McConville	0	9,058	0	10,460
Mr John Mulcahy	0	7,199	0	8,295
Mr Winston Patterson (Chairperson)	9,795	7,778	12,077	8,962
Mr Enda Bonner	0	7,199	0	8,295
Mr Brendan Byrne	0	7,199	0	8,295
Mr John Byrne	0	7,199	0	8,295
Mr Alan McCulla (Vice Chairperson)	6,690	5,572	8,249	6,416
Mr Joe Miller	5,235	5,496	6,455	6,328
Mr Denis Haughey	0	5,224	0	6,015
Mr Jim Wilson	5,235	5,496	6,455	6,328
Mr Thomas Sloan (Deceased)	5,235	5,496	6,455	6,328
Mr Don Tipping	6,297	349	7,764	401
Mr Andrew Duncan	6,297	349	7,764	401
Mr Michael McCormick	6,297	349	7,764	401
Mrs Teresa McLaverty	5,235	273	6,455	315
Mr Seamus Rodgers	6,625	349	8,169	401
Mrs Phil Mahon	5,508	273	6,791	315
	73,426	83,292	90,535	95,969

On 13 December 2011 the North / South Ministerial Council appointed the members of the Boards of the North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd. The Council also approved from 13 December 2011 the following revised rates of remuneration for members of the Board per annum. Chairperson 2012:£9,795/€11,969 (2011:£8,140/€11,970), Vice-Chairperson 2012:£6,690/€8,175 (2011:£6,690/€9,830) and members for (2012 £5,235/€6,397) (2011:£5,235/€7,695). Board members' salaries are not pensionable.

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Republic of Ireland Board members were paid in Euro at the agreed Euro amounts. The apparent overstatement of Sterling Equivalent is solely due to currency exchange rates used. Current year remuneration includes all current year entitlement.

4. Revenue and Capital Grants

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Grants received in year				
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	2,197,847	2,219,350	2,709,945	2,557,135
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	2,197,847	2,219,350	2,709,945	2,557,135
Total	4,395,694	4,438,700	5,419,890	5,114,270
	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Appropriation of grants received in year				
Capitalised against fixed assets	646,827	225,209	797,538	259,486
Released to revenue	3,748,867	4,213,491	4,622,352	4,854,784
	4,395,694	4,438,700	5,419,890	5,114,270

5. Marine & Angling Tourism INTERREG IV grant

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Marine & Angling Tourism INTERREG IV grant released	1,301,495	36,497	1,604,743	42,052
	1,301,495	36,497	1,604,743	42,052

For background information to the grants scheme please (see Note 18(b) (1)).

6. IBIS Grants

	2012 £	2010 £	2012 €	2011 €
IBIS grant released	949,658	28,000	1,170,928	32,261
	949,658	28,000	1,170,928	32,261

For background information to the grants scheme please (see Note 18(b) (2)).

IBIS project expenditure

	2012 £	2012 €
Expenditure incurred by Agency for which grant received	161,706	199,383
Grant released to Glasgow University	604,688	745,580
Grant amount released to Queens University	183,264	225,965
Total amount of grants	949,658	1,170,928

7. Ordinary Income

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Normal activities				
Licence duties	83,953	88,791	103,514	102,305
Fishery rent and rates	2,520	2,976	3,107	3,429
	86,473	91,767	106,621	105,734
Other activities				
Fines and costs recovered	5,682	18,461	7,006	21,271
Sundry receipts (NITB & Whitewater)	2,454	27,790	3,026	32,019
	8,136	46,251	10,032	53,290
Total	94,609	138,018	116,653	159,024

8. Programme expenses

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Programme expenses				
Conservation and Protection	121,932	190,625	150,342	219,638
Marine tourism & Development (to include Angling Fairs & Events)	228,712	257,677	282,004	296,896
Sustainable Development	38,530	15,000	47,507	17,283
Aquaculture & Shellfisheries	30,956	51,749	38,168	59,625
	420,130	515,051	518,021	593,442

9. Administrative Expenses

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Staff training	44,096	59,671	54,370	68,751
Bank charges	1,045	902	1,288	1,039
Postage	13,337	16,206	16,445	18,673
Advertising	48,049	40,625	59,244	46,808
Light and heat	44,090	49,737	54,363	57,307
Telephone	75,034	81,532	92,517	93,941
Operating lease – rent	43,466	40,411	53,594	46,562
Insurance	153,033	142,790	188,690	164,523
External Audit Fee	22,100	22,000	27,249	25,348
Accountancy	15,905	10,812	19,611	12,458
Motor vehicle expenses	86,106	104,464	106,169	120,363
Boat stores	8,392	20,031	10,347	23,080
Boat maintenance	89,411	71,036	110,244	81,848
Printing and stationery	31,211	50,140	38,483	57,770
Licence dealers' commission	9,005	10,455	11,006	12,046
Maintenance and repairs	86,656	57,201	106,847	65,907
Miscellaneous	1,710	78	2,108	90
Travelling and conference expenses	61,529	65,513	75,865	75,484
Hospitality	9,930	14,222	12,244	16,387
Health and safety	19,150	48,436	23,612	55,808
Cleaning	12,393	11,508	15,281	13,260
Computer consumables & maintenance	33,458	38,084	41,254	43,880
Other equipment costs	37,468	43,525	46,198	50,150
Subscriptions	100,523	82,292	123,945	94,817
Legal and professional fees	105,172	121,309	129,677	139,772
Research programme	0	812	0	936
Tagging expenses	6,981	11,081	8,608	12,768
Interpretive centre expenses	0	286	0	330
Counter site expenses	0	1,670	0	1,924
Licence Fees	6,395	7,515	7,982	8,659
Financial Penalty (See Note 19)	36,137	-	51,824	-
	1,201,782	1,224,344	1,489,065	1,410,689

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10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Land & buildings (incl. Slipway enhancement)	Weirs	Interpretive centre	Boats & boating equipment	Fixtures & fittings	Plant	Office equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Total	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2012	2,610,554	1,400,237	498,111	1,810,339	73,061	1,021,695	40,996	310,048	421,303	8,186,344	11,184,995
Additions	223,250	7,260	10,200	48,822	0	92,519	4,417	45,542	214,817	646,827	797,538
Disposals	0	0	0	(40,832)	0	0	0	0	(132,789)	(173,621)	(214,076)
At 31/12/2012	2,833,804	1,407,497	508,311	1,818,329	73,061	1,114,214	45,413	355,590	503,331	8,659,550	11,768,457
Depreciation											
At 1 January 2012	2,503	533,898	148,362	988,199	40,380	846,770	11,579	224,177	267,140	3,063,008	4,274,009
Charge for year	51,944	56,227	20,026	145,317	5,543	88,108	4,210	55,391	87,835	514,601	634,503
Depreciation on disposal	0	0	0	(40,832)	0	0	0	0	(127,508)	(168,340)	(207,564)
At 31/12/2012	54,447	590,125	168,388	1,092,684	45,923	934,878	15,789	279,568	227,467	3,409,269	4,700,948
Net Book Value											
At 31/12/2012	2,779,357	817,372	339,923	725,645	27,138	179,336	29,624	76,022	275,864	5,250,281	7,067,509
Currency Translation Adjustment											6,416,894
NBV at 31 December 2012	2,779,357	817,372	339,923	725,645	27,138	179,336	29,624	76,022	275,864	5,250,281	
At 31/12/2011	2,608,051	866,339	349,749	822,140	32,681	174,925	29,417	85,871	154,163	5,123,336	6,910,986
Currency Translation Adjustment											(797,309)
NBV at 31 December 2011	2,608,051	866,339	349,749	822,140	32,681	174,925	29,417	85,871	154,163	5,123,336	6,113,677

11. Debtors and Prepayments

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Trade debtors	12,712	14,841	15,537	17,709
Prepayments	113,316	173,845	138,495	207,449
Bailiffing	9,000	9,000	10,999	10,739
Other debtors	12,557	31,630	15,348	37,746
Grants receivable	730,439	85,171	892,743	101,635
	878,024	314,487	1,073,122	375,278

12. Creditors and Accruals

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Trade creditors	271,114	232,624	331,355	277,590
Accruals	282,262	191,246	352,637	228,214
Other Creditors (incl. Grants payable)	836,051	47,758	1,021,822	56,990
	1,389,427	471,628	1,705,814	562,794

13. Capital Grants

		DCENR / DARD	Local Govt	EU Funds	Total	Total
Gross capital grant	Note	£	£	£	£	€
At 1 January 2012		3,336,743	933,094	3,010,120	7,279,957	9,836,311
Additions	4	646,827			646,827	797,538
Disposals		(173,624)			(173,624)	(214,076)
At 31 December 2012		3,809,946	933,094	3,010,120	7,753,160	10,419,773
Grant amortisation						
At 1 January		1,679,616	465,795	1,050,107	3,195,518	4,287,824
Amortised in year		374,112	36,050	91,074	501,236	618,024
Eliminated on disposal		(168,342)			(168,342)	(205,746)
At 31 December		1,885,386	501,845	1,141,181	3,528,412	4,700,102
Unamortised capital grants						
At 31 December		1,924,560	431,249	1,868,939	4,224,748	5,719,671
Currency Translation Adjustment						(556,188)
						5,163,483
At 1 January		1,657,127	467,299	1,960,013	4,084,439	5,548,487
Currency Translation Adjustment						(674,529)
						4,873,958

14. Deferred Revenue Grants

	EU Funds £	Total £	Total €
At 1 January	-	-	-
Additions INT IV Programme	1,301,495	1,301,495	1,604,743
Additions IBIS	949,658	949,658	1,170,928
At 31 December	2,251,153	2,251,153	2,775,671
Released in year INT IV	1,301,495	1,301,495	1,604,743
Released in year IBIS Programme	949,658	949,658	1,170,928
Currency translation adjustment			
At 31 December	2,251,153	2,251,153	2,775,671
Net Revenue Grants at 31 December	-	-	-

	Note	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Reconciliation of grant income					
Capital grant amortised in year	13	501,236	519,006	618,024	597,999
Revenue grant released in year other		2,251,153	64,497	2,775,671	74,313
		2,752,389	583,503	3,393,695	672,312

15. Pension Liability

FRS17 requires financial statements to reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from an employer's obligations and any related funding and to recognise the cost of providing superannuation benefits in the accounting period in which they are earned by employees. The effect of FRS17 is to recognise expenditure in the year the costs of pensions earned rather than

the payments made to pensioners, and a corresponding funding amount. In addition the Balance sheet recognises the cumulative liability for pensions earned by employees at 31 December 2012 together with a corresponding asset. The provision relates to the outstanding liability to pensions, deferred pensions and active members for the Foyle Area (Pension) (Amendment) Regulations 1979.

Deferred Funding for Pensions

The Loughs Agency recognises as an asset a deferred funding asset of (2012: £8,507,288) (2011: £8,050,910) as at 31 December 2012. The net deferred funding for pensions recognised in Income & Expenditure in 2012 includes:

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Deferred Funding for Pensions				
Funding recoverable in respect of the current year pension costs	818,214	857,934	1,008,858	988,512
State grant applied to pay pensioners	(166,030)	(162,267)	(204,715)	(186,964)
	652,184	695,667	804,143	801,548

The scheme is a defined benefit scheme. Section 9 of the regulations covers retirement on medical grounds. This section of the scheme rules states that when a person retires on medical grounds then the length of pensionable service to be used when calculating the lump sum and annual pension should be increased as follows:

- If the pensionable service is less than ten years then it should be doubled
- If it is ten years or more it should be increased to either twenty years or by six years.

The Loughs Agency Superannuation Scheme shows a net liability position (netted off with pension deferred asset) on the face of the Balance sheet and is based on the actuarial valuation performed by Xafinity at 31st December 2012. The Loughs Agency is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. This relationship means that both Departments will meet pension

liabilities as they fall due on a yearly basis and within agreed limits.

Pension payments were also made to individuals who retired in previous years and who had their length of service increased by the additional two thirds of a year (243 days). The value of these additional payments is not known, but will be small and not material.

Actuary FRS17 Review at 31 December 2012

As regards the FRS calculations Xafinity noted the following:-

- a) The liability and cost calculations have been based on an actuarial valuation carried out as at 31 December 2007, updated to allow for the actual salary and pension rolls as at the effective date of the calculations.
- b) For the preparation of the 2011 financial year disclosures the Agency measured inflation by reference to the Retail Price Index (RPI) and last year's disclosures were prepared accordingly. The Agency for these Financial Statements and going forward will measure inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Future Pension Arrangements

Liabilities and the corresponding asset below may increase should the Loughs Agency be able to apply the terms of the North / South pension scheme.

Assumptions	2012 £	2011 £		
Rate of future pay increase	4.00%	4.00%		
Rate of pension increase	1.80%	2.60%		
Discount rate	4.10%	4.70%		
Rate of increases in retail prices	1.80%	2.60%		
Average expected life at Age 63 for;				
Male Member currently aged 63	23.3 years	23.2 years		
Male Member currently aged 45	25.1 years	25.0 years		
Female Member currently aged 63	26.0 years	25.9 years		
Female Member currently aged 45	27.8 years	27.7 years		

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	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Assets of the scheme and expected rate of return				
Actuarial liabilities	(8,507,288)	(8,050,910)	(10,397,607)	(9,607,151)
(Deficit)	(8,507,288)	(8,050,910)	(10,397,607)	(9,607,151)
Analysis of the amount charged to operating profit				
Current Service cost	(325,601)	(358,579)	(401,466)	(413,155)
Other Finance charge	(384,679)	(397,157)	(474,309)	(457,604)
Total	(710,280)	(755,736)	(875,775)	(870,759)
Amount recognised in STRGL	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Change in actuarial assumptions	195,806	(149,735)	241,429	(172,525)
Actuarial (loss)/gain in STRGL	195,806	(149,735)	241,429	(172,525)
Movement in deficit during the year				
(Deficit) at 1 January	(8,050,910)	(7,205,508)	(9,607,151)	(8,410,269)
Adjustment				
Current Service Cost	(325,601)	(358,579)	(401,466)	(413,155)
Member contributions	(107,934)	(102,198)	(133,083)	(117,753)
Other Finance Income/ Charge	(384,679)	(397,157)	(474,309)	(457,604)
Actuarial (loss)/gain in STRGL	195,806	(149,735)	241,429	(172,525)
Benefits paid	166,030	162,267	204,715	186,964
Currency Translation adjustment			(227,742)	(222,809)
(Deficit) at 31 December	(8,507,288)	(8,050,910)	(10,397,607)	(9,607,151)

In 2012 a full valuation of the pension scheme took place. The actuarial gain of £196k is made up of £416k net of a loss due to change in financial assumptions of (£220k). The experience gain has arisen due to assumptions in interim years such as salary increases and pension increases not being borne out in practice. The £220k change is composed of a £1,130k increase in liabilities arising from the reduction in discount from 4.7% to 4.1% net of a

decrease in liabilities of £910k arising from change in the assumption made for deferred revaluation/pension increases from 2.6% in 2011 to 1.8% in 2012.

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Deferred Funding Asset for pension				
Opening balance at 1 January	(8,050,910)	(7,205,508)	(9,607,151)	(8,410,269)
Increase / (Decrease) in deferred funding for pension asset	(456,378)	(845,402)	(790,456)	(1,196,882)
Closing balance at 31 December	(8,507,288)	(8,050,910)	(10,397,607)	(9,607,151)

16. General Reserve

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
At 1 January	420,593	75,003	501,895	87,545
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(5,878)	343,708	(14,604)	396,021
Exchange difference			11,916	16,083
Transfer from revaluation reserve	13,365	1,882	16,337	2,246
Actuarial (loss)/gain on pension scheme	195,806	(149,735)	241,429	(172,525)
Adjustment for Deferred Pension Scheme Asset	(195,806)	149,735	(241,429)	172,525
At 31 December	428,080	420,593	515,544	501,895

Note: The 2012 General Reserve figure of £428,080 (€515,544) includes £115,000 earmarked as a revenue contribution to fund fixed assets

17. Revaluation Reserve

	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
At 1 January	1,038,898	1,095,566	1,239,719	1,278,745
Revaluation	-	(481,311)	-	(574,348)
Revaluation adjustment		426,525		508,972
Exchange difference			30,029	28,596
Transfer from to Income and Expenditure account	(13,365)	(1,882)	(16,337)	(2,246)
At 31 December	1,025,533	1,038,898	1,253,411	1,239,719

18. Commitments

(a) Capital Commitments

Capital Commitments	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
Contracted for	-	88,744	-	105,898
	-	88,744	-	105,898

There are no capital commitments contracted for year ended 31 December 2012.

b) Other Commitments

- (1) In July 2009 the Agency received a Letter of Offer from the Special EU Programmes Body to the value of €4M EU to progress its marine tourism strategy under the INTERREG IV programme. The Agency is awaiting INTERREG value for money assessments of its projects and approval from the Department of Finance and Personnel for staffing to help manage the projects. The programme of works will complete by 2015. During 2012 construction was completed on the cruise ship quay and a marine event platform (a large pontoon) on the left bank of the River Foyle. Other projects are proceeding at Malin Head, Benone, Strabane and at other locations. A finance, monitoring and evaluation officer and also a project support officer are in post. Claims have been processed by the Loughs Agency in 2012 for expenditure that has been incurred on this programme amounting to £1,301k. This was 100% grant funded. As part of this 2012 figure - £1,253,216 related to monies paid or payable to Partner organisations. At 31st December 2012 a grant receivable amount owing was included as a debtor within the accounts (Note 11: 2012- £44,804 (£30,730 owed to partner organisations and £14,074 owed to the Loughs Agency). The corresponding figure in 2011 was £57,171 owed to the Agency and due from SEUPB.
- (2) The total project budget for the IBIS project is £8,694,063. It is expected that £6,017,968 of this is eligible to be grant aided with a grant amount receivable of £4,937,442 over the life of the programme. The grant amounts due are split between the Agency, Glasgow University and Queens University. The total grants are set out below showing the cumulative position at the end of 2012 as well as the activity during 2012.

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	Total Grant	Cumulative to 31.12.2012	2012
	£	£	£
Loughs Agency	572,246	162,706	161,706
Glasgow University	3,241,577	613,688	604,688
Queens University	1,123,619	201,264	183,264
Total	4,937,442	977,658	949,658

As outlined in Accounting policy 1(e) the Agency financial statements recognises all the costs incurred by it in relation to this project. The Agency record only amounts disbursed by way of grants to its partner agencies (Glasgow University and Queens University). Matching funding provided by those agencies is recognised in the financial statements of those entities only.

- (3) The Agency received an out of court settlement on 16th June 2009 £500k in lieu of several pollution incidents from 1999 to 2004. Part of the terms of the agreement were that monies were to be spent on river rehabilitation works in accordance with national guidelines and overseen by a trust to ensure this money was kept separate from the Agency's core funding. The money was held by the Agency's solicitor in a high interest account until it was transferred to the Loughs Agency in February 2011 along with interest earned. The balance held by the Loughs Agency on behalf of this Trust as at 31st December 2012 was £527,111 (2011) £518,441 which includes net interest received of £8,670. A separate SAGE register has been set up for the Trust, these monies are not included in the Agency's balance sheet as per the requirements of the trust agreement. The Trust's draft articles of association and the Accountancy treatment of this is being finalised with the sponsor departments.
- (4) There were no other commitments other than operating leases see note 21

19. Capital grant for monitoring vessel

Additional costs have been incurred by the Department and the Agency in relation to the monitoring vessel the MMV Ostrea as a result of cost overruns, the disallowance of certain expenditure claimed from the EU and the application of a financial correction penalty by the EU. The budgeted costs and funding structure and the actual costs and funding are set out below.

	Original project proposal £'000	Actual project outturn £'000	Difference £'000
Total Project cost	750	897	147
Funding			
- DARD	300	388	88
- EU	450	325	(125)
- Loughs Agency	0	184	184
	750	897	147

The amount received from the EU was some £125,000 less than anticipated. This was due to

- the application of a financial penalty of £36,137 (€51,824) related to non compliant procurement procedures and
- a further reduction of £88,630 as a result of ineligible expenditure.

The cost overruns of £147,000 and the financial penalty imposed by the EU of £36,137 have been funded by the Agency. The Department has funded the additional amounts incurred of £88,630 as a result of the expenditure deemed ineligible by the EU.

20. Post Balance Sheet Events

The former Chief Executive and accounting Officer Mr Derick Anderson retired on 25/04/13.

Mr John Pollock was appointed Acting Chief Executive by Ministers at their meeting of the North south Ministerial Council and he is the accounting person of the Loughs Agency from 5 December 2012.

21. Operating Lease

Expiry	2012 £	2011 £	2012 €	2011 €
< 1 year	35,968	35,373	43,953	40,758
2-5 years	104,008	79,266	127,098	91,330
> 5 years	-	-	-	-

At 31 December 2012 the Agency had an annual commitment under a 5 year short term business letting agreement for the 1st and 2nd floors of the Darcy Magee Centre, Dundalk Street, Carlingford per year as follows- 2012: £13,748/€16,800 (2011: £14,581/€16,800) and the lease agreement is due for renewal on 15/07/2017.

Additional storage unit has been rented in Carlingford, and the lease agreement is due for renewal on 1 August 2017. The annual cost is £12,000 per annum.

A new lease agreement for Greencastle office has been drafted in 2011 which runs for 3 years commencing the 01/09/2012: £7,722/€9,438 (2011: £8,191/€9,438)

Additional Storage leased Port and Harbour. The Lease Agreement commenced 1 July 2012 for five years and is due for renewal on 1 July 2017. The annual cost is £2,500 per annum.

22. Related Party Transactions

The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (Loughs Agency) is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland, and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the Republic of Ireland.

The above named departments are regarded as related parties. During the period Loughs Agency has had various transactions with these Departments.

The Agency is Lead Partner for two Interreg IVA funded projects INTERREG IV Marine & Angling Tourism and INTERREG IVA IBIS. The principle partner for INTERREG IV Marine & Angling Tourism was Londonderry Port. The sub partners for IBIS are Glasgow University in Scotland and Queens University Belfast.

None of the members of key management staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the Loughs Agency during the period.

23. Losses and Special Payments

There were no losses and one special payment for the year ended 31st December 2012. A special payment was awarded to a fisherman in respect of the Salmon Fisherman Hardship Interreg IV grant scheme which was closed in 2009. The settlement was for £13,296/€16,250.

24. Financial Instruments

a) Financial instruments

Due to the non - trading nature of its activities, and the way in which the Loughs Agency is financed, it is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by business entities. The Loughs Agency has very limited powers to borrow or invest surplus funds and financial assets and liabilities are generated by day - to - day operational activities and are not held to change the risks facing the Agency in undertaking its activities.

The Agency's financial instruments mainly consist of cash, trade debtors and trade creditors.

b) Liquidity, Interest Rate and Foreign Currency Risk

The Agency's net revenue resource requirements are financed by resources voted annually by the Northern Ireland Assembly and Dáil Éireann, as largely is its capital expenditure. It is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risks. The Agency does not access funds from commercial sources and so is not exposed to significant interest rate risk. The Agency's transactions are effected in the currencies of each part of the island, with realised gains and losses being taken to the Income and Expenditure account. The Agency's exposure to foreign currency risk is not significant as it receives agreed levels of funding from its sponsoring departments, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, in sterling and does not engage in trading activities.

Appendix 1

ACCOUNT DIRECTION GIVEN BY THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, MARINE AND NATURAL RESOURCES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORTH/SOUTH CO-OPERATION (IMPLEMENTATION BODIES) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1999 AND THE BRITISH-IRISH AGREEMENT ACT 1999

The annual accounts shall give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and the state of affairs as at the year end. Subject to this requirement, the Loughs Agency shall prepare for the financial period ended 31 December 2000 and subsequent years in accordance with:

- a) The North/South Implementation Bodies Annual reports and Accounts Guidance;
- b) Other guidance which Finance Departments may issue from time to time in respect of accounts which are required to give a true and fair view;
- c) Any other specific disclosures required by sponsoring departments

Except where agreed otherwise with finance departments, in which case the exception shall be described in the notes to the accounts.

Signed by authority of the Department
of Agriculture and Rural Development

Gerald Lavery

Date 3rd August 2001

Signed by authority of the
Department of
Communications, Marine and
Natural Resources

Maurice Mullen

Date 6th September 2001

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