-Minutes of Proceedings-

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSERVANCY BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND HELD AT FCB HEADQUARTERS, PORTADOWN AT 2.15 PM ON TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2007.

Present

Chairman	**Dr R Hanna**
	Mr E Montgomery **Mr D Houston** **Mr A Kirkpatrick** **Mr L Fawcett** **Mr D Cowan** **Mr R Montgomery** **Mr W O'Neill**
Apologies:	**Mr R Dickson.** **Prof C Paris** **Mr M Crilly**

In attendance
Fisheries Conservancy Board
For Northern Ireland

Mrs K Simpson
Mrs F Lavery

The Chairman welcomed members and opened the meeting by extending a word of sympathy to the family of the late Sir Patrick Mcnaghten who passed away on the 22 August 2007.

61/07 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 August 2007

Members were advised that Professor Paris had requested some amendments to the minutes as follows.

Item 50/07 should read as -*Professor Paris opened the discussion by questioning the need for additional conservation measures with regard to pike. He argued that if catch limits were to be introduced, then they should not be applied only to anglers, but should also apply to commercial fishing.*
In response to Mr Houston's suggestion it should read. - "*In reply, Professor Paris agreed in principle that this approach was worthy of further consideration."*
With regard to the matter of compulsory catch and release for pike the agreed wording should read " *a bag limit of one pike per day up to 4 kilos.* Members approved the amendments and the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and endorsed by the Chairman.

62/07 Matters arising from the minutes of the Meeting held on 22 August 2007

All matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 August 2007 appear as Agenda items.

63/07 Audit Committee

No report was provided, as the Audit Committee has not met since the last Board meeting held on 22 August 2007. Members noted the date of the next meeting **7 November 2007**

64/07 Executive Committee 29 May 2007
See Reserve agenda item.

65/07 Future Funding/Closure of the Board.

The Chairman advised members that he would be attending the forthcoming meeting of NDPB Chairs with the DCAL Minister. Mr Houston clarified the format of the meeting and Mr O'Neill queried the financial position of the Board. The Chief Executive clarified the current funding arrangements with DCAL, which allowed the Board to maintain a service. Mr O'Neill suggested that the perception was that the Board was at present winding down yet no date had been confirmed.

66/07 Conservation and Protection of Fish Stocks

The Chief Executive referred members to the paper circulated in the Board papers and reviewed the current recommendations agreed at the last Board meeting stressing that the consultation carried out only related to angling not commercial fishing. Continuing the Chief Executive explained that it would not be possible to progress item 2.1 (c) - Ban on the sale of rod caught fish and requested permission to put the recommendation to DCAL. It was agreed that a caveat must be included to the effect that the Section 75 consultation period has not yet closed.

67/07 Chief Executive's Report

Members noted the reports contained in the Board papers. A member asked the Chief Executive for further background into the incident in Fermanagh. The Chief Executive outlined the events of the day, which involved three FCOs. Mr Houston suggested that the Board should commend the officers for the actions taken. All members supported this action.

68/07 Pollution Report

Members noted the pollution reports contained in the Board papers.

69/07 Equality Scheme

The Chief Executive advised members that to date no response had been received from the Equality Commission in relation to the submission of the Section 75 Annual Progress Reports 2006/07 or the 5 year Review.

70/07 Any other Business

The Chief Executive raised the following items for approval.

Payment of a restocking invoice –
Members were advised that a restocking had taken place at the Inver River on 22 April 2007. Board Management had attended and verbally confirmed that the re stocking had taken place. Member agreed that the submitted invoice should be paid.

Risk Management Course
The Chief Executive advised members that following from the last meeting of the Audit Comittee the Department have recommended a CIFPA Risk Management course. Members approved the attendance of the Chief Executive and Support Manager.

71/07 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 18 December 2007 at **2.15pm** at Board Headquarters, Portadown

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed _____ Date_____