

FISHERIES CONSERVANCY BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.

-Minutes of Proceedings-

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSERVANCY BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND HELD AT BOARD HEADQUARTERS IN PORTADOWN AT 1.00 PM ON TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2004.

Present

Chairman

Dr R Hanna

Deputy Chairman

**Mr F Galbraith
Ms H Campbell
Mr J S Mc Creight
Mr J Mulvenna
Mr K O'Neill
Miss M Doyle
Mr E Montgomery
Cllr R D Stewart
Mr M Crilly
Prof C Paris
Mr T Jarvis**

Apologies:

**Mr A Kilgore
Rev O P Kennedy
Mr F Conlon
Mr D Cardwell**

In attendance
Fisheries Conservancy Board
For Northern Ireland

**Mrs K Simpson
Mrs F Lavery
Mr B Finn**

The Chairman welcomed the two new members to the Board.

98/03 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2003

With regard to the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2003 an objection was raised in that some words were missing from a phrase in the section 77/03 – Angling. All members agreed to an amendment proposed by Mr Jarvis, which was seconded by the Deputy Chairman.

99/03 Matters arising from the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2003

All matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September and 9 December 2003 appear as Agenda items.

100/03 Report from Executive Committee

The Chief Executive circulated correspondence for consideration by the Board. Further correspondence was tabled for discussion and the Chief Executive outlined the content of the correspondence and noted the issues raised. The Chief Executive clarified the procedures for the production and circulation of the minutes and members concurred with the procedures. Discussion continued in response to licencing issues raised by two members.

101/03 Audit Committee

The Chairman of the Audit Committee provided a report on the following items.

- FCB requirements for the Whole of Government Accounts

The Audit Committee Chairman provided a summary of the requirements for the Whole of Government Accounts and the work carried out to date.

- 2003 Internal Audit – Income

The Audit Committee Chairman advised that the Beeches Management Centre had completed the recent audit of 2003 Income. The outcome was very satisfactory.

102/03 Future Funding /review of the FCB

The Chairman asked the Chief Executive to outline the content of the correspondence contained in the Board papers. Timescales for the withdrawal of EHS work were clarified and the Chief Executive advised that EHS had confirmed that they were prepared to facilitate the Board pending the outcome of the Review. A further meeting with EHS is planned. Concerns were raised with regard to the reduction of pro-active work and felt that all monitoring should continue, quoting comments from Anglers on the level of pollution in drains. The Chief Executive agreed to raise the concerns at the EHS meeting.

103/03 Commercial Licence Review

Members noted the correspondence from the Department contained in the Board papers.

104/03 Conservation and Protection of Salmon Stocks

The Chief Executive noted correspondence from the Department in relation to the use of the consultation process. The Chairman raised the issue of resource implications. It was agreed that further discussion with the Department will clarify this and proposals

will be tabled at the next meeting. The extent of Angling representation made to the Department following the proposed changes to the legislation was queried. The various types of representation received was outlined. The level of consultation undertaken by the UAF was outlined. In conclusion the Chairman summarised the future plans for full consultation.

105/03 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive outlined the performance targets contained in the Board papers, noting the pollution prosecution timescales were not being met and outlined the reasons for the delays.

106/03 Pollution Report

The Deputy Chief Executive referred members to the update of pollutions contained in the Board papers from 26 November – 8 January 2004.

107/03 Freshets /Carnroe Fish Pass

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the next Freshets Group meeting would be held at the end of the month and proposals will be agreed for the next Board meeting.

108/03 Equality Scheme

No report at present.

109/03 Draft Policy "Driving vehicles for the FCBNI"

The Chief Executive outlined the content of the policy, noting that the FCB would not be funding any hands-free kits for the Field staff.

110/03 Any other Business

A member noted that the Bush had made a return of 649 fish and that a high percentage of fish were being taken within the Foyle area. It was felt that the Board should raise this issue with FC&ILC, DCAL and DARD.

A member raised the issue of DOE designation of waters under the Fresh Water Directive and asked if the Board were being consulted. The Chief Executive confirmed this was happening. Following discussion it was agreed that the member would provide the Chief Executive with further details.

111/03 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 23 March 2004 at 2.00pm** at Board Headquarters, Portadown.

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

Signed _____ Date _____