



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

# BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

## Meeting Report of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

This is the report of the meeting of the Board of IFI which took place in June 2020.  
This report provides an outline of agenda items raised at this meeting.

# BOARD MEETING – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## 1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming members, no conflicts of interest were raised with matters on the agenda.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by the members.

The minutes of a private session of the Board on May 27<sup>th</sup> were approved by the members.

The report of the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was noted by the members in advance of distribution to staff.

## 3. Matters Arising

The CEO responded to a query regarding proposed project awards and that when the expenditure could be fully justified it would be brought back to the Board for review. The Board also considered a submission from a member regarding the Terms of Reference of the Value for Money audit of Fisheries Protection Patrols and the notification of an alteration made to same. It was agreed to circulate the ESRI reports derived from the Angler Panel to all members of the Board.

## 4. Correspondence

Correspondence from Minister S. Canney TD regarding IFI's Corporate Plan was noted.

## 5. Corporate Plan 2021-2025

The Chair confirmed that work toward a draft Corporate Plan was ongoing.

## 6. Climate Action Framework - Update

A copy of the '*IFI Climate Action Framework 2019 – 2021*' update for June was distributed with the meeting papers. Members discussed the issues raised in the paper; the location of the planting of 200 sessile oak saplings by IFI staff; and the extent of the work on reducing energy consumption associated with the office and warehouse at Citywest. Also discussed was the future role of such office buildings for the organisation, given the increased focus on energy efficiency. The paper was noted and commended.

## 7. CEO's Report – June 2020

The CEO briefed members on events occurring since the report was issued; the draft Programme for Government contains a commitment to the designation for the western lakes as protected salmonid fisheries; an update in relation to an environmental prosecution; the 2020 Sponsorship Scheme (disbursement of same being delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic). The CEO responded to a query in relation to the amended 2020 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) application (delivery of which is delayed due to Covid-19) and the commencement of this work. The CEO updated the Board on a serious health and safety incident which took place in the Bangor District which necessitated the deployment of the emergency services (a full and complete report has been drafted on the matter). The CEO confirmed that he had spoken with those involved. The Board also noted a serious incident involving a gun being discharged over the heads of staff in the field and they commended the excellent training and composure of the staff involved and wished that their empathy and support be communicated to both of the teams involved in these incidents.

## 8. Finance

Management Accounts – Executive Summary May 2020

Taken as read and noted by the members.

### 2020 Funding Call Outcome

Further to the approval at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of all but two projects in the report of the outcome of awards of the funding schemes, which opened in January 2020 for applications, detail on one of the projects was distributed with the meeting papers. The CEO briefed the members on the application. Partnership with the Local Authority was noted and welcomed. In response to a query, the CEO confirmed that the facility is intended to be freely accessed by all members of the public. The grant application NSADF-20-0235 was approved.

## **9. Audit & Risk Committee**

### Approved ARC Meeting Minutes – May 14<sup>th</sup>

The ARC meeting minutes of May 14<sup>th</sup> were noted. The Chairman of the Board discussed the current political status and asserted that ensuring that IFI's draft fisheries legislation is presented to a newly appointed Minister as an urgent priority in progressing the organisation's strategic objectives. The CEO briefed the members on funds returned to the Department following a period of reduced operational service at the outset of the Covid-19 crisis.

### Draft Protocol for Sub-committees

A draft 'Board Sub-Committee Protocol' was reviewed, amended and approved.

## **10. Strategic HR Sub-committee**

### Approved Strategic HR Sub-committee Meeting Minutes – May 15<sup>th</sup>

The Strategic HR Sub-committee meeting minutes of May 15<sup>th</sup> were noted. The Chair of the Strategic HR Sub-committee provided a report of the meeting of June 16<sup>th</sup> which was convened to review the proposed Seasonal Fisheries Officer campaign 2020, the Staff Pulse Survey of the organisation's handling of the Covid-19 crisis and risk management.

## **11. Risk Management**

### Updated Corporate Risk Register 10.13

The Chair of the ARC discussed the detailed work by the committee on the Risk Register, thanking the Chief Risk Officer (the CEO) for his extensive environmental assessment of factors influencing the organisation's risk profile. Four new risks were agreed and the draft Corporate Risk Register 10.13 as recommended, was approved.

### Covid-19 Update

The CEO reported on regular staff briefing with the Board being apprised of these updates. He stated that IFI was about to launch the updated IFI roadmap and that feedback received was that staff felt supported by the organisation, confirming that IFI's approach to managing the Covid-19 crisis within the organisation was appropriate. This update was noted.

## **12. Protection & Conservation**

### Protection Plan Review Report May 2020

A document titled 'Monthly Protection Plan Review – May 2020' was distributed with the meeting papers. The content was noted by the members.

### Salmon Licence Proposal 2021

A document titled 'Proposal for Angling and Commercial Salmon Fishing Licence Prices 2021' was distributed with the meeting papers. Members considered the recommendation and approved that Angling and Commercial Salmon Fishing Licence prices remain unchanged for 2021.

#### Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) Applications for 2021

A document titled 'Dormant Accounts Fund Applications 2021' was issued with the meeting papers. Members noted the content and the recommendation to progress the two DAF applications for 'Go Fishing – Novice Angling Initiative' and 'Angling for All' was approved by the Board.

#### Draft Novice Angler Strategy 2020 - 2025

Two documents were distributed: 'Draft Novice Anglers Strategy Paper' and 'Draft Novice Anglers Strategy 2020-2025'. Following a tender process Otium Leisure Consultancy was appointed to develop the strategy. The CEO highlighted the extensive consultation undertaken to arrive at a detailed strategy as part of the 2016-2020 Corporate Plan [High Level Objective - to maximise the development of the recreational angling sector]. The Novice Angler Strategy 2020-2025 was approved.

### **13. Any Other Business**

There were no matters raised under this item.

In recognition of his dedicated service over the last 10 years, being the founding CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland, critical in modernizing the fisheries service, making it the professional and dynamic organisation it is today, on behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the CEO and presented him with a glass panel of Aasleagh Falls, Connemara.

Three other documents were issued with the meeting papers for members' information:

- Wild Salmon & Sea Trout Statistics Report 2019
- Control of Lagarosiphon major 2019 Report – Operations
- Lagarosiphon major Research on Lough Corrib (LARC) Interim Report 2018-2019