



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report of December 17th, 2020

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

BOARD MEETING – December 17th, 2020

1. Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair welcomed recently appointed members, Professor Frances Lucy and Staff nominee Sean Coady back to the Board and also extended the apologies of those members that could not attend the meeting. The Chair formally opened the meeting, no conflicts were raised.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The following meeting minutes were approved:

Board Meeting – November 12th, 2020

Private Session – November 19th, 2020

Board Meeting Report – November 12th, 2020

3. Matters Arising

The Board enquired as to the status of the value for money report on the TETRA system.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence related to the recent Annex to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which introduces obligations on gender balance, inclusion and diversity in respect of Board membership.

5. Corporate Plan 2021-2025

P. Millar was admitted to the meeting at this point. Mr Millar presented on the output of the workshops with the Senior Management Team which took place following the Board/SMT workshops. He indicated that the next step in the development of the Corporate Plan would involve working with the Senior Leadership Team. Mr. Millar responded to queries raised. Members discussed the critical nature of buy-in and participation of staff who will deliver this 5-year plan. Also discussed was the wider environment such as climate change and biodiversity. The Board thanked P. Millar for his presentation, and he left the meeting.

6. IFI Fish Farm Feasibility Study

Head of Research & Development, Dr Cathal Gallagher, was admitted to the meeting. Members discussed funding in relation to IFI's aquaculture activities. Dr Gallagher responded to queries on Roscrea Fish Farm. The Chair thanked Dr Gallagher for his contribution and he then left the meeting.

7. Climate Action Framework 2019-2021

A copy of the '*IFI Climate Action Framework 2019 – 2021*' update was distributed with the meeting papers, taken as read.

8. CEO's Report

The CEO provided a verbal update on the following matters; meeting with Department Officials regarding funding and a sectoral plan; proposed footbridge at Galway Weir and the base at Cornamona.

9. Finance

P. Doherty and M. Martin were admitted to the meeting.

Audited Financial Statements 2019

The 'Letter of Representation' and the 'Audited Financial Statements 2019' including the Governance & Internal Controls Statement were reviewed and the **audited Financial Statements for 2019** were approved by the Board.

DRAFT Income & Expenditure and Capital Budgets for 2021

Head of Finance, P. Doherty presented on the draft '*Income & Expenditure and Capital Budgets for 2021*' highlighting specific areas such as property, stating that the Property Sub-committee will be ensuring the necessary oversight of optimisation projects. The Board reiterated its request that expenditure of capital funds is considered in context of reducing IFI's revenue costs. P. Doherty commented that the budget presented is a draft and would be updated following the completion of the Corporate Plan.

Projected Cashflow at Year End

P. Doherty responded to queries on the '*Cashflow December 2020*'.

Striking of Fishery Rates 2021

A paper titled '*Striking of Fishery Rates 2021*' was distributed and the **recommendation to maintain current fishery rates for 2021** was approved by the Board.

Both the Board Chair and Chair of the ARC thanked the good work and dedication of the Finance Team in providing assurance on the financial control environment of the organisation. P. Doherty and M. Martin left the meeting at this point.

S. Campion joined the meeting at this time.

IFI Sponsorship Programme Awards 2021

Ms. Campion provided a brief overview of the '*IFI Sponsorship Programme Awards 2021*' paper, where events could not proceed in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and applicants were encouraged to apply again for the 2021 fund. The **IFI Sponsorship Programme Awards for 2021** were approved by the Board.

IFI State Fishery Permit Prices 2021

S. Campion responded to questions in relation to the paper '*IFI State Fishery Permit Prices 2021*'; the Midland Fisheries Fund, IFI's stocking of State fisheries and the level of protection provided by IFI on ESB fisheries. The recommendation made affects the permits for IFI managed lakes in the South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) and the Midlands Fisheries Group permit impacting some parts of the Shannon River Basin District. The recommendation for **IFI's State Fishery Permit Prices 2021** was approved by the Board. S. Campion left the meeting at this point.

10. Management Assurance

G. Forde was admitted to the meeting.

Protection Plan Review Report – November 2020

The '*Protection Plan Review Report for November 2020*' was distributed with the meeting papers and was noted by the members.

RIB Fleet Patrols Report

A copy of the '*RIB Fleet Patrols Report 2018-2020*' was distributed with the meeting papers. The content was noted by the members. A detailed discussion ensued on the use of RIBs which had been delivered to IFI in 2018 and early 2019, which were operable for the full year (2019). Aspects of operation were raised; the high-quality levels of health and safety training and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed; the lower than anticipated usage in some areas of the country; the extra effort required by the tuna fishery in specific regions; lower than normal take-on of seasonal Fisheries Officers in 2020/staff loss to other areas of the organisation; geographically varying pressure on stocks; sea conditions and the impact of COVID-19 on operating patrols. Dr Forde stated that continually updating training was critical. The Chair emphasised the importance of the appropriate planning and resourcing of the deployment of IFI's most significant fleet assets. Dr Forde left the meeting at this point.

Dr. Ciaran Byrne was admitted to the meeting.

Draft Revised Fleet Management Procedure

A document titled '*Draft Revised Fleet Management Procedure*' was distributed with the meeting papers. Dr Byrne responded to queries in relation to the amendments made to the procedure; the criteria for replacement of vehicles; fleet administration, maintenance, and taxing arrangements. The Board discussed the proportion of diesel vehicles within the fleet and the high level of hiring vehicles over recent years. Dr Byrne advised that the current number of fleet vehicles of 183 is in fact less than is operationally required and that hiring vehicles accommodates seasonal fluctuations in operational requirement. It was asserted that local budgetary controls and an overall 'cap' on vehicle hire contributes to reducing this expenditure. Further to feedback the fleet management procedure will be amended. C. Byrne left the meeting.

Verification of Compliance with Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016

A letter from the Inland Fisheries Division confirming the positive result of its audit of compliance of the Code of Practice was noted by the members.

11. Audit & Risk Committee

ARC Meeting Minutes November 23rd, 2020

Meeting minutes of November 23rd were distributed and the ARC Chair provided a meeting report.

Internal Audit Review of Internal Financial Controls 2020

The '**Internal Audit Review of Internal Financial Controls 2020**' was adopted by the Board.

Internal Audit Review of IT Strategy, Security and Resilience 2020

The '**Internal Audit Review of IT Strategy, Security and Resilience 2020**' was adopted by the Board.

Recommendations – previous Internal Audits

The 'Review of Previous Audit Recommendations' was distributed and noted by the members.

12. Strategic Human Resources Sub-committee

SHR Sub-committee Meeting Minutes November 4th, 2020

A copy of the meeting minutes of the SHR Sub-committee meeting of November 4th were distributed with the meeting papers for note by the members.

13. Property Sub-committee

Sub-committee Meeting Minutes December 1st, 2020

Meeting minutes of the Property Sub-committee meeting of December 1st were distributed. The committee Chair provided a verbal report of the meeting which considered property at Corlesmore, Co. Cavan.

Aasleagh Lodge

Further to a paper submitted at the September Board meeting, members discussed the proposal to remove **Aasleagh Lodge** and related property from the market. The CEO responded to queries in relation to current letting arrangements and operational use. This was approved by the Board.

14. Risk Management

Corporate Risk Register 10.14

With reference to the report of the Chair of the ARC, the Chair of the Board proposed that the Corporate Risk Register be reviewed by the Board in Q1.

15. AOB

No business raised.