



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report of January 30th 2020

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

BOARD MEETING – January 30th, 2020

Welcome & Apologies / Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming members. In response to his request for declarations of conflicting interests with matters on the agenda, no conflicts were declared.

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Board Meeting December 18th, 2019

The minutes of the December 18th meeting were approved.

Report of Board Meeting – December 18th, 2019

The draft copy of the report of the December Board meeting was noted by the members.

2. Matters Arising

The CEO responded to queries regarding the scheduling, content and possible contributors to the proposed Habitats Directive workshop.

3. Correspondence

There were two items of correspondence raised to the members.

4. Business Plan 2019

The '2019 Business Plan in Review' was distributed with the meeting papers and Head of Finance, P. Doherty, was invited to the meeting to assist with the review. Discussion focused on areas of priority for 2020 and beyond, and their consequential impact on staffing and the allocation of resources. The CEO briefed the members on the different types of development work currently undertaken by IFI and how they are geographically spread across the country. He stated that planning for more complex projects will require specific expertise due to the requisite environmental assessments and authorisations. He also referred to the series of proposed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) being entered into between IFI and fishery development groups with a view to developing 5-year catchment plans.

Following a discussion on reporting structures, the Chair articulated the needs of the Board in relation to reporting, emphasizing the need for a concentration on the organisation's core functions. The CEO indicated that it was ultimately planned to utilise a dedicated software solution for capturing inputs for timely activity reporting. A discussion ensued on the recruitment of temporary seasonal Fisheries Officers.

With reference to the 2019 Business Plan, the Board acknowledged the level of effort involved in delivering the plan and expressed its gratitude to staff for their valued work during the year.

2020 Budget

Three documents were distributed with the meeting papers; '2020 Budget Adjustments'; 'High Level Review of Key Changes between 2019 Budget and 2020 Budget' and 'Re-drafted 2020 Budget'. P. Doherty reviewed the Budget Adjustments document in detail, responding to members' questions. The Head of Finance & Logistics stated that IFI is underfunded by the Exchequer. A discussion ensued as to how the organisation might address this situation.

The Head of Finance & Logistics added that the inevitable move of ICT infrastructure to cloud based services would also contribute to increased operational expenditure (away from capital) in the future.

In line with the risks outlined by P. Doherty, the Board agreed to retain contingencies as originally outlined; to continue its investment in property as planned and reduce its investment in fleet as outlined in the budget adjustment document, both of which are with a view to improving the efficiency of the organisation. The members discussed the Fish Farm facility in Roscrea.

The Chair expressed his satisfaction that the Board had conducted a comprehensive review of the budget documentation. He thanked the CEO and Mr. Doherty for their work on the documentation provided. The **2020 budget** was approved by the members.

5. Fish Farm

This matter was raised under item 4.

6. Climate Action Framework – Update

A document titled '*IFI Climate Action Framework 2019-2021*' was distributed with the meeting papers. The CEO briefed the members on the extent of the work that will be undertaken to deliver IFI's climate action measures. Although included in the budget figures previously presented, P. Doherty sought permission in principle for designated expenditure of €120k to purchase and **install photovoltaic (PV) panels (converting solar energy into electricity)** on IFI properties. This was approved in principle. The final costs for this proposal will be brought the next Board meeting.

7. CEO's Report – January 2019

The '*CEO's Briefing Note to the Board – January 2020*' was noted by the members. The CEO responded to queries in relation to recruitment and the necessity to increase the training budget in 2020.

8. Finance

Management Accounts November 2019

Copies of the '*November Management Accounts 2019*' and '*Executive Summary*' were distributed with the meeting papers and noted.

9. Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

The approved minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting of November 22nd, 2019 were distributed with the meeting papers. The CEO updated the members on the status of the Benefit in Kind (BIK) liability.

10. Risk Management

The Chief Risk Officer (the CEO) reviewed the risks that had been discussed under the previous items in the meeting.

11. AOB

Communication Evaluation 2019

A submission from the Business Development Division titled '*Communication Evaluation 2019*' was distributed with the meeting papers. This paper provided a summary report of the objectives, nature and breadth of external communication undertaken during 2019 (comprising PR and media relations, advertising, social media, IFI's website, the angling blog and email marketing). The CEO commented that the vast majority of interaction with external stakeholders is positive. The Chair commented that appropriate internal communication was a critical tool supporting effective delivery of change.

Lough Ree Fishery Commercial Draft Net Licences 2020

A document titled '*Lough Ree Fishery Commercial Draft Net Licences 2020*' was issued with the meeting papers. The CEO provided the background to the matter and as per the recommendation the **Lough Ree Fishery Commercial Draft Net Licences 2020** were approved by the members.

Licence Distributors – South Western River Basin District

A document titled '*State Salmon and Sea Trout Licences – Licence Distributor Applications (SWRBD)*' was distributed with the meeting papers. As per the recommendation a **State salmon and sea trout distributor** was approved by the members.