



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

# BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

**Meetings Report of June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

This is the report of the meetings of the Board of IFI which took place in June 2022.  
This report provides an outline of agenda items raised at this meeting.

# BOARD MEETING – June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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## 1. OPENING REMARKS

Recently appointed Board Chair, Prof. Frances Lucy welcomed members present and expressed her honor upon appointment. In response to the Chair's request for declarations of conflicts of interest with matters on the agenda, no conflicts were declared.

## 2. CONSENT AGENDA

### 2.1 Board Meeting – March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Draft Minutes and Report

**Paper(s) distributed:** Draft meeting minutes of March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>; April 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Report

The amendments highlighted in the draft March 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes were discussed. Amendments were advised for the April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup> minutes.

**MOTION:** **Approval of amended draft minutes - March 30<sup>th</sup>; April 20<sup>th</sup>; April 27<sup>th</sup> and Board meeting Report, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### Matters Arising

In response to a query on the progression of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) at the Galway Weir, the CEO briefed the members of his interaction with Galway City Council on the matter. He stated that a long-term management plan for the site will be drafted for Board approval. F. Walsh joined meeting.

**Action(s):** Executive to brief Board on the status of the long-term management plan for the Galway Fishery at the next Board meeting.

### 2.2 Board Meeting – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Resolutions and Status on Actions Arising

**Paper(s) distributed:** April 27<sup>th</sup> Actions Arising and Meeting Resolutions

In response to a query relating to the Ballisodare Fishery and issues reported relating to the installation of a turbine impacting fish welfare, the CEO briefed members on his meeting with the Ballisodare Angling Club. He stated that the matter would be progressed by RBD Director, Mary Walsh while liaising with Sligo County Council, the body responsible for granting permission for the turbine.

**Action(s):** Executive to brief Board on Aasleagh Lodge and Cottages feasibility study in relation to the procurement process, costs, and recommendations.

### 2.3 Other Items of Note

#### Member Submission

**Paper distributed:** Member Submission – Habitats Directive

This submission was taken as read and it was agreed that the Executive would provide a response to the matters raised.

#### IFI Climate Action Mandate

**Paper(s) distributed:** Climate Action Mandate for May 2022

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

The Board welcomed the number of premises receiving energy upgrades and sought clarity on grant funding being optimised to support these initiatives.

**Action(s):** Executive to provide an update on the grant funding accessed to support energy efficiency initiatives.

## 3. CEO'S REPORT

### 3.1 CEO's Report

**Paper(s) distributed:** CEO's Report – June 2022

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

The CEO responded to queries in relation to the following topics raised in the CEO's Report:

#### National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF)

In response to a query on the membership of the Forum the CEO outlined the nature of membership which included representation from national angling bodies, commercial fishermen, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the aquaculture industry, ESB fisheries and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

#### ESB Meeting

In response to a query on his meeting with the ESB, the CEO confirmed that he met with Executive Director Generation Trading, Jim Dollard. The CEO provided a synopsis of the meeting, The Board noted that fish and eel stocks are under greater threat by being held up at barriers on these fisheries and that the under resourced protection service provided at these points is unsustainable.

#### New Head of Operations

In response to a query regarding the appointment of the Head of Operations, the CEO stated it was expected that the successful candidate would commence on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### EIFAAC Symposium and NASCO Conference

The Chair commended the excellent work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) Symposium and wished to extend the thanks of the Board to the organisers of the conference, being very beneficial and successful. The Chair also noted the significant involvement of IFI in the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) conference.

## **4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Management Accounts and Executive Summary – May 2022**

**Paper(s) distributed:** Management Accounts and Executive Summary May 2022

**Presenting:** Finance Director, M. Martin

M. Martin joined the meeting and invited queries from the members on the Management Accounts presented. A discussion on the presentation of Development Costs (recently recommended by the ARC as an additional requirement under HLO 1 Habitats). It was agreed that M. Martin would put forward options of presenting this data for the Board to choose from.

**Action(s):** Noted by Board members.  
M. Martin to send options for presenting Development Costs to members

### **4.2 Quarterly Accounts and Executive Summary – March 2022**

**Paper(s) distributed:** Quarterly Accounts and Executive Summary Quarter 1 2022

**Presenting:** Finance Director, M. Martin

M. Martin responded to queries on working capital and cashflow. The Board re-iterated its request for information on the accessing of energy initiative grants.

**Action(s):** Noted by Board members.  
M. Martin to add comparator year 2019 to Management and Quarterly Accounts

### **4.3 Draft Capital Expenditure Budget 2022**

**Paper distributed:** Proposed Capital Plan 2022

**Presenting:** Finance Director, M. Martin

M. Martin responded to a query in relation to matured liabilities. The Chair commended the prudence applied in the plan.

**Rationale:** Following a brief discussion the Board was satisfied to approve the Capital Expenditure Plan as recommended by the Executive.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft Capital Expenditure Plan/Budget 2022**

### **4.4 Bank Mandate Amendment**

**Paper distributed:** Bank Mandate

**Presenting:** Finance Director, M. Martin

**Rationale:** Due to the appointment of a new Board Chair the Board were satisfied with the application of the relevant amendments to IFI's Bank Mandate.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the amendment of the Bank Mandate**

## 5. VITAL FEW

### 5.1 Draft Internal Audit Programme 2022

**Paper distributed:** Draft Internal Audit Programme 2022

**Presenting:** Audit & Risk Committee Chair, B. Orbinski Burke

The Chair of the ARC outlined the detailed discussions which took place with the newly appointed Internal Auditor at the June 15<sup>th</sup> ARC meeting in respect of the draft Internal Audit Programme. Following the ARC meeting with the new Internal Auditor, the ARC Chair expressed the satisfaction of the Committee with the discussions held and the draft programme for 2022.

**Rationale:** Following the recommendation of ARC, the Board was satisfied with the draft Internal Audit Programme for 2022.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft 2022 Internal Audit Programme**

### 5.2 IFI National Barriers Programme (NBP) 2022

**Paper distributed:** IFI NBP - Initial Barrier Mitigation Prioritisation Index 2022

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

The Chair proposed that a presentation is made to Board members regarding this important mitigation programme which is high on the Board's agenda. Concern was expressed as to the materiality of the changes effected by the programme. The Chair responded that there were many factors involved including socio-economic factors.

**Action(s):** Noted by members.

**5.1** Arrange a presentation to members on the National Barriers Programme

### 5.3 Query from ARC re Impact of the Use of Jute Matting in mitigating Invasive Weed

**Paper distributed:** IFI ARC query Macroinvertebrates and Jute matting November 2021

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

A discussion ensued on the necessity of balance in mitigating the impact of aquatic invasive species. The Chair outlined the natural location of macroinvertebrates and likely impact of laying jute matting. The Chair acknowledged that concerns were raised by a member of the Board.

**Action(s):** Noted by members.

**5.2** Executive to respond to queries raised in respect of IFI's mitigations

## 6. RISK MANAGEMENT - UPDATE

### 6.1 Corporate Risk Register 10.25

**Paper distributed:** Corporate Risk Register 10.25

**Presenting:** Chair of ARC, B. Orbinski Burke

The Chair of the ARC briefed members on the proposals for mitigations for Risk 8 on the Risk Register submitted for consideration by the Executive.

**Action(s):** Noted by Board members.

## 7. BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

### 7.1 ARC Meeting Report

**Paper distributed:** ARC Meeting Minutes May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Presenting:** Audit & Risk Committee Chair, B. Orbinski Burke

The Chair of the ARC provided a high-level overview of the ARC meeting, which took place on May 10<sup>th</sup>. In relation to the work conducted at the recent ARC meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Chair highlighted the need to implement outstanding internal audit recommendations. Also raised at that meeting was the need for financial reporting under strategic HLO headings; private time with new Internal Auditor; discussion on the Capital Budget and the paper on the Pay Funding gap which was submitted to the

Department in May. Also discussed by the ARC was the Risk Working paper and this had been provided to the Executive for consideration.

**Action(s):** Noted by Board members.

## 8. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

### **8.1 Commercial Salmon License Application - WRBD**

**Paper distributed:** Commercial Salmon License Application – Additional Application May 2022

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

**Rationale:** The Board accepted the recommendation of the Executive to approve this license (received one working day late).

**MOTION:** **Approval of the granting of one Commercial Salmon License (SWRBD)**

### **8.2 Wild Salmon & Sea Trout Statistics Report 2021**

**Paper distributed:** Draft Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics Report 2021

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

The Chair noted that the annual approval of this report was not a matter for decision by the Board and would not be presented to the Board for approval in the future rather for note.

**Rationale:** The Board accepted this report submitted by the Executive.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics Report 2021**

## 9. Management Assurance

### **9.1 Monthly Protection Plan Review**

**Paper distributed:** Monthly Protection Plan Review – April 2022

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

**Action:** Noted by Board members.

### **9.2 Mode of Delivery of Development Projects**

**Paper distributed:** Mode of Delivery of Development Projects [02-04]

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

The Board welcomed the information provided in the briefing note.

**Action:** Noted by Board members.

### **9.3 Development Project Progress Q1**

**Paper distributed:** Development Project Progress Q1 2022

**Presenting:** CEO, F. O'Donnell

**Action:** Noted by Board members.

## 10. Any Other Business

No operational matters were raised.