



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

# BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

**Meetings Report of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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

# BOARD MEETING – December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

---

## 1. PRIVATE MEMBERS SESSION

Following a delay due to the resolution of technological issues, the meeting commenced at 2.30pm. The Board went into private session. Due to the lateness of the hour (4.15pm), the Chair proposed taking Item **5.1 Business Plan 2022**.

### VITAL FEW

#### **5.1 Business Plan 2022**

**Papers distributed:** 5.11 Slide Deck distributed in paper and electronic format on the day;

**Presenting:** F. O'Donnell, CEO and Heads of Function

Following welcome and introductions, each of the heads of function provided a high-level presentation in relation to the 2022 Business Plan outputs for their division under each of the Corporate Plan High Level Objectives.

Following the presentations, the Executive responded to queries in relation to the Safe Driver Programme; delivery of new 4x4s vehicles within budget; the number of vehicles in IFI's fleet versus staff numbers; development project delivery; the unsuccessful 2023 ORIS funding application; funds held for IFI property; requirements for organisations under the new [European Corporate Sustainability Directive](#) (CSRD) impacting public sector non-financial reporting; re-instatement of the Strategic Human Resources Sub-committee; and the assessment of the public perception of risk to rivers and aquatic species (ref: Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity) through market research tools.

Members discussed the merit in developing biodiversity/natural capital valuation and reporting to strengthen fisheries protection and water pollution prosecution cases and the need for resourcing such work. S. Campion responded to a query in relation to quantifying the impact of outbound communication (such as IFI social media posts). The Head of Human Resources provided an update on a staff surveying initiative and responded to queries in relation to exit interviews. She stated that she was of the belief that IFI needed to develop a more collegial and transparent culture. Members commented on these observations.

Members discussed the level of public awareness of IFI's critical work in relation to fisheries conservation and protection and the potential for partnership/collaboration with other related environmental agencies in addressing the environmental emergency. Following this interaction, the Board thanked the Senior Management Team for their presentations on the 2022 Business Plan outputs and valuable discussion which followed. SMT members left the meeting.

**Action:** 5.1 Place Strategic HR Sub-committee on next Board meeting agenda

## 2. CONSENT AGENDA

### **2.1 Board Meeting – November 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes**

**Papers distributed:** 2.1.1 Draft Board Meeting Minutes 22 November; 2.1.2 Draft Board Meeting Report 22 November 2022

**MOTION:** **Approval of draft November 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting minutes and report**

#### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **2.2 Board Meeting November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – Resolutions and Status on Actions Arising**

**Papers distributed:** 2.2.1 Board Meeting Actions Arising, 2.2.2 Board Resolutions

#### Actions Arising from November 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

It was agreed that actions addressed in the CEO's Report would be taken as noted and verbal reports would be provided where relevant later in the agenda.

### **2.3 Correspondence**

**Papers distributed:** 2.3.1. Letter from B. McGrath, CEO, Galway City Council; 2.3.2 Email from CEO to G. Luddy of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) in response to the Minister's request for accommodation to house migrants [raised at the November Board meeting]. This correspondence was taken as read with no queries raised.

## **3. CEO'S REPORT**

### **3.1 CEO's Report**

**Paper distributed:** 3.1.1 CEO's Report - December 2022

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

The CEO's Report was taken as read. No matters were raised in relation to the CEO's Report.

## **4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Draft Audited Financial Statements 2021**

**Papers distributed:** 4.1.1 Draft Audited Financial Statements 2021 (Incl SIC)

**Presenting:** Head of Finance Director, P. Doherty

Following the private members session earlier in the meeting, the Board requested that the minute record that the draft audited Financial Statements for 2021 would not be approved today.

### **4.2 Management Accounts and Executive Summary – October 2022**

**Papers distributed:** 4.1.1 Executive Summary; 4.1.2 Management Accounts and Development Costs for October 2022

These papers were taken as read with no queries raised.

### **4.3 Striking of Fishery Rates 2023**

**Papers distributed:** 4.1.1 Striking of the Fishery Rate 2023

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

**Rationale:** The Board was satisfied with the verbal update of the ARC Chair, where the committee recommended approval of the Executive's proposal.

**MOTION:** **Approval that Fishery Rates for 2023 remain unchanged (from 2022 rates)**

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT - UPDATE**

### **6.1 Corporate Risk Register 10.29**

**Paper distributed:** 6.1 Corporate Risk Register 10.29

**Presenting:** Chief Risk Officer, F. O'Donnell

The amended Corporate Risk Register was taken as read.

## **7. BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **7.1 Verbal Update from Audit & Risk Committee Chair – Meeting 14 December (Morning)**

**Paper distributed:** No papers were available as the meeting took place earlier in the day.

The Chair of the ARC provided a verbal update on the open and frank discussions with IFI's external auditor, representatives of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG). She stated that the committee raised a range of concerns for the auditor's attention and that Mary Henry (Deputy Director OCAG) clarified that the responsibility for the content of the Statement of Internal Control (SIC) lies with the Board. Ms Henry stated that the information provided in respect of the 2021 statement should outline how matters raised came about, actions taken to address them and the result of such actions and the current status of the matter. Ms Orbinski Burke informed the Board that the delay in completing outstanding internal audits would impact finalising the SIC and as a result the signing off of the Financial Statements by the OCAG.

The ARC Chair stated that the committee met with IFI's Internal Auditors earlier in the morning and raised queries regarding the delay in completing the scheduled reviews. She relayed the responses provided

which included; the alteration in audit priorities, commencement of reviews in August, the unexpected detail of reviews which necessitated additional time and cost. Ms Orbinski Burke stated that 5 outstanding Internal Audit Reviews are being brought forward for reporting into 2023. The Board committed to follow up on matters added to the SIC by the OCAG.

## **7.2 National Inland Fisheries Forum**

**Paper distributed:** 7.2.1 National Inland Fisheries Forum Terms of Reference; 7.2.2 National Inland Fisheries Forum – Meeting Minutes, 30 May 2022  
These papers were taken as read and no queries were raised.

## **8. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **8.1 IFI Innovation Strategy**

**Paper distributed:** 8.1.1 Cover Board Paper; 8.1.2 Draft IFI Innovation Strategy

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

The paper was taken as read. No queries were raised in relation to the draft strategy.

**Rationale:** The Board was satisfied with the recommended draft strategy as presented.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft IFI Innovation Strategy**

### **8.2 IFI External Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**

**Paper distributed:** 8.2.1 Cover Board Paper; 8.2.2 Draft IFI External Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

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

The paper was taken as read. Members wished to extend compliments to the authors.

**Rationale:** The Board was satisfied with the recommended draft strategy as presented.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft IFI External Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**

### **8.3 IFI Public Consultation Policy**

**Paper distributed:** 8.3.1 Cover Board Paper; 8.3.2 Draft IFI Public Consultation Policy

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

The paper was taken as read. No queries were raised in relation to the draft policy.

**Rationale:** The Board was satisfied with the recommended draft policy as presented.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft IFI Public Consultation Policy**

### **8.4 IFI Irish Language Scheme**

**Paper distributed:** 8.4.1 Cover Board Paper; 8.4.2 Draft IFI Irish Language Scheme

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

The paper was taken as read. No queries were raised in relation to the draft scheme.

**Rationale:** The Board was satisfied with the recommended draft scheme as presented.

**MOTION:** **Approval of the draft IFI Irish Language Scheme**

## **9. Management Assurance**

### **9.1 Verification Audit of the IFI Code of Practice Checklist 2021**

**Paper distributed:** 9.1.1 Letter of verification following the Audit of the IFI Code of Practice Checklist 2021 from DECC

This correspondence was taken as read and no queries were raised.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Chair committed to contacting the Department in order to establish the progress being made on filling the three vacant positions on the Board. The Chair thanked members for their perseverance during a complex day of Board work and expressed her appreciation of the frank discussion with members of the Senior Management Team.