



**Inland Fisheries Ireland
Iascach Intíre Éireann**

**Minutes of the Fish Farm Working Group Meeting
2.00pm Friday, January 27th 2017
3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24**

Federation Reps:	TAFI: Mr Martin Kinneavy, Mr Eamonn Moore NARA: Mr Pat Foley, Mr Michael Callaghan
IFI Representatives:	Mr Fintan Gorman, (Chairman), Board of IFI Dr Ciaran Byrne, Chief Executive Officer Dr Cathal Gallagher, Head of Research & Development Dr Frances Lucy, Board of IFI Ms Fiona Mahon, Secretary

Opening Statement

The Chairman welcomed the members to the second meeting of the fish farm working group.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was proposed by E. Moore, seconded by M. Callaghan and adopted by the members.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Fish Farm Working Group meeting of the 24th of October 2016 were proposed by M. Kinneavy, seconded by F. Lucy and agreed by the members.

3. Verbal update on Health & Safety Report

The members were informed that an independent Health & Safety audit of IFI's current fish farm facilities at Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, Cullion, Co. Westmeath and Cong, Co. Mayo had been completed by consultants procured by IFI to evaluate health & safety compliance at the three farms. A short briefing on the results and recommendations of the Health & Safety audit was provided which included the need to update Health & Safety procedures and physical infrastructure.

In light of the recommendations of the Health & Safety audit report the fish farm manager and Health & Safety officer have been requested to work collaboratively to develop a plan to address the issues raised.

4. Verbal update on Environmental Report

The members were informed that an independent environmental audit of IFI's fish farm facilities had been completed by consultants procured by IFI and the resulting report provided to IFI. A short briefing on the results of the environmental assessment was provided and areas of concern highlighted included; licensing conditions, the need to examine the hydrology of the farms in particular at Roscrea, environmental reporting, environmental processes and procedures and the frequency of sampling.

The outdated nature of IFI's fish farm facilities was discussed at length and the members agreed that significant capital expenditure would be required to bring the operating standards of the fish farms up to a satisfactory level.

IFI management informed the members that the fish farm manager has been tasked with the development of a plan to address the concerns raised in the environmental audit report. The next step would be to conduct a risk assessment of the farms.

5. Fish farm finances

An analysis of fish stockings provided free of charge to angling clubs and lakes over the past number of years was presented to the members. The cost to IFI and the cost of production were discussed and it was agreed that this was a matter which must be addressed as it contributes to the overall operating loss of the fish farms.

The members agreed that there is considerable scope and justification for increasing fish farm stocking prices.

6. Danish fish farm video clips

Video clips from a recent visit to an aquaculture facility in Denmark by an IFI staff member were shown to the members detailing filtration systems, monitoring systems, aeration, water supply and water treatment. Following the showing of the video clips the members discussed the overarching need for a modern aquaculture facility for IFI.

Following on from this discussion it was agreed that a site visit to both the Roscrea and Cullion fish farms should take place as soon as possible and that the members should also visit a top class facility to assist in identifying a fit for purpose production solution.