

# **Terms of Reference For a National Consultative Angling Group**

Angling Consultative  
Council of Ireland (ACCI)

## Background Context

Following the resignation in early 2019 of the Chair of the National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF) as established under the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 a fundamental review of the consultative framework in place for the sector was undertaken.

In particular, while the NIFF structure encompasses the entire inland fisheries sector, there is a requirement for a consultative group for the angling sector. Such a group would seek to be inclusive of all angling disciplines and focused on seeking common ground on matters affecting the entire sector and would engender equal representation across all of the diverse disciplines of angling.

Such a group acting in collegiate fashion for the good of angling generally would assist in drawing together the various disciplines to advise, consult and advocate on a national basis for angling issues.

## Name

The group shall be known as: **Angling Consultative Council of Ireland (ACCI)**

## Structure

Participation is open to all National Angling Representative Bodies.

The overall objective of the Group is to put in place a formal process and structure to harness those representative bodies willing to productively contribute to the sport of angling and support cooperation across its component disciplines.

The Group will:

- be the channel for orderly, progressive and constructive engagement on significant policy issues with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and also Senior Officials in the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications (DECC) and the Minister;
- be a significant conduit for access to organisation-related funding, particularly sponsorship and supports for youth development, social inclusion, training and development and governance;
- embrace and operate to the highest standards of sports governance (those of Sport Ireland); and
- be a key mechanism for angling stakeholder input to the development of a new policy statement for the Inland Fisheries Sector.

One representative from each of the angling representative organisations, who have confirmed their participation, should be a member of ACCI. The organisations will nominate an alternate member to attend meetings if the primary member is unavailable.

The Group nominates/elects a Chair and Vice Chair from within the primary membership. These positions will be filled from different disciplines within the angling sector. The Vice Chair nominated by the group assumes the Chairmanship after the initial two year period after which a new Vice Chair, not from the disciplines holding the Chair or Vice Chair position is nominated. It is anticipated that over a period of years each of the angling disciplines represented on the group will hold the Vice Chair and Chair positions. The Chair and Vice Chair will also be the nominated attendee in respect of their organisations.

## Terms of Office

Chair: 2 years

Vice Chair : 2 years

Vice Chair elected from among ACCI Members every 2 years

Chair and Vice Chair positions cannot be held simultaneously within one angling discipline (Game, Coarse, Pike, Sea).

## Support

Administrative and secretarial support shall be provided by IFI/DECC, and meetings of the group may take place in either IFI Headquarters or an appropriate location as agreed by the members or by video conference if necessary

## Functions of the Group

1. To facilitate stakeholder input, as required, on policy issues relevant to the angling sector and communicate its views to DECC/IFI as the statutory bodies via a nominated representative.
2. In providing stakeholder input the group should consider how best the inland fisheries resource may be protected conserved and exploited on a sustainable basis, having regard in particular to Government policy, National and European legal obligations.
3. To provide a consolidated view on specific policy issues relating to the angling sector as referred it by IFI, DECC and or the Minister.

4. To provide a consolidated view on the corporate plan of IFI prepared in accordance with section 41 of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010.
5. To provide a consolidated view to IFI, in the first instance and the Department in relation to angling matters.
6. All communications with IFI will be in written format from the Chair of the group via the nominated representative referred to in point 2.
7. In providing its consolidated views the group shall have regard to the following:-
  - a. Best practice internationally;
  - b. Obligations on the Minister / Department and or IFI under national, international and European legislative measures (e.g. Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive);
  - c. Government policies and the budgetary and financial circumstances of IFI and the wider inland fisheries sector;
  - d. Corporate and other governance obligations relevant to the sector;
  - e. How the sector could best contribute to the conservation, management, development, and sustainable exploitation of the inland fisheries resource;
  - f. The feasibility of any consolidated view provided by the group from an enforcement, health and safety and management perspective.

## Meetings of the Group

1. The group shall meet at a frequency as decided by its membership but not less than twice per year.
2. IFI/DECC will provide a secretariat to the group if required.
3. The quorum for group meetings is attendance by 50% of the group +1 member.
4. The group may invite an IFI staff member or official from DECC if technical, administrative or other advice or update is required, in such circumstances the group Chair will make a request via the Group Secretary, clearly setting out the advice sought, and an appropriate IFI or Department Official will be requested to attend.
5. All meetings of the Group will be chaired by the elected Chair of the group, or in the absence of the Chair, by the Vice Chair.
6. Engagements with DECC/IFI will be co-chaired by a senior Official of DECC.
7. The group shall establish its own standing orders for the operation of the group.

## Meetings

- Each participating Body shall nominate one representative (and one alternate).
- Only one nominated representative per organisation to attend each meeting.
- The Chairperson shall approve the agenda for each meeting.
- Decisions will be by majority vote.
- In the event of a tied vote the Chair will have the casting vote.

## Mediation

The agreed arrangements will be engaged to resolve disagreements.