

# Angling Consultative Council Ireland (ACCI)

## Minutes of Meeting – 27 May 2021 (Remotely)

### Attendees:

Philip Nugent (DECC, Co-Chair), Martin McEnroe (ACI, Co-Chair), Denis Maher (DECC), Karen Egan (DECC), Barry McCartin (DECC), Jonathan Rice (ACI, Co-Secretary), Mary Breslin (DECC, Co-Secretary), Francis O Donnell (IFI), Suzanne Campion (IFI), Joe Birney (IFSA), Bob Seward (SSTRAI), John Chambers (IFPAC), Paul Byrne (IPS), Warren Doyle (EFSA), Noel Carr (FISSTA).

**Apologies:** Padraig O' Riordan (IADA), Donal Kennedy (ICS)

Meeting opened with welcome to all. Minutes of meeting of 27 April 2021 were adopted.

### Agenda Item 1 - Update from members as regards priorities

ACCI Chair asked representative delegates to present their work priority list for inclusion in the ACCI annual plan.

**Action Point:** Co-Chairs asked for priority issues to be prepared by Angling delegates and emailed to Secretary. A draft Work Programme based on priorities identified will be prepared and included on the Agenda for the next ACCI meeting.

### Agenda Item 2 - Western Lakes Designation

DECC is preparing a Bye-law designating western lakes in line with the Programme for Government. DECC's intention is to secure an Appropriate Assessment (AA). All scientific advice will be considered in the formation of a draft document. ACCI will be consulted on this draft in the first instance followed by a public consultation process.

In response to queries DECC advised that a tender for AA would be designed to secure an independent assessment and that the tender process would be open to all qualified consultants.

**Action Point:** DECC to finalise draft bye-law by the end of June for review by the ACCI.

## **Agenda Item 3 - Update on Climate Change/Water Quality Roadmap**

DECC advised that a draft Roadmap Policy Paper covering both climate action and water quality is nearing completion and will be submitted to ACCI by the end of June.

Co-Chair advised of a new study due to begin shortly funded by the National Water Forum and also advised of a paper on invasive species to be published shortly. ACCI might consider both in the context of its work.

## **Agenda Item 4 - Paper on Sea Lice Roadmap**

DECC are preparing a draft Roadmap Policy Paper on the impacts of aquaculture (sea lice and escapes). DECC will attend the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) special session on this matter and will apply learnings and updates from this session in formulating the paper. It is expected that the NASCO special session will explore and update on alternative aquaculture technologies. The draft policy paper will be available to ACCI shortly.

The issue of licensing regime for aquaculture was raised and the need to discuss same at ACCI in the context of operators continuing operations in the absence of AA's.

**Action Point:** Draft policy paper to be finalised by DECC and to be provided shortly to ACCI.

## **Agenda Item 5 - Briefing from IFI on reformation of National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF)**

IFI gave a briefing on the reformation of NIFF. They are engaging with a much broader stakeholder group of which angling including the chartered skippers is a component. It is expected that draft proposals from IFI will be made available to DECC in the coming month.

**Action Point:** IFI to prepare draft options paper and submit to DECC.

## **AOB**

A question was directed to the Co-Chairs to determine if all attending delegates had signed up to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and Code of Conduct (CoC).

Co-Chair (DECC) advised that compliance with the ToR and CoC was implicit in attendance at ACCI meetings. Co-Chair (ACCI) also re-iterated that ACCI participation remained open to all national angling representative organisations to join.

**Date of next ACCI meeting (remotely) Thursday 8 July - 16:30**

All those in attendance were thanked by Co-Chairs.