

# Angling Consultative Council Ireland (ACCI)

## Minutes of Meeting – 8 July 2021 (Remotely)

### **Attendees:**

Philip Nugent (DECC, Co-Chair), Martin McEnroe (ACI, Co-Chair), Joe Birney (IFSA), Bob Seward (SSTRAI), John Chambers (IFPAC), Paul Byrne (IPS), Warren Doyle (EFSA), Noel Carr (FISSTA), 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)

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

Meeting was chaired by P. Nugent at the request of the joint chair and opened with welcome to all. Minutes of meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> May were adopted.

### **Agenda Item 1 - NIFF presentation by Francis O'Donnell (IFI)**

Francis O'Donnell CEO (IFI) delivered a presentation on NIFF. The reformation of NIFF is an important development in the future of stakeholder engagement with IFI. The forum will be made up of up to 25 persons from a diverse range of stakeholders. It is intended that the forum will meet 3 times per year and the aim is that the minutes and agenda will be circulated approximately one month ahead of the meetings.

There was a suggestion that with the reformation of NIFF there would be no need for any further meetings of the ACCI. Chair clarified that the ACCI is the consultative group for angling representative bodies in Ireland and it will continue. NIFF, on the other hand, will involve a far broader range of stakeholders from Aquaculture, hospitality, commercial fishing, environmental and other NGOs, angling representatives and other disciplines. The NIFF presentation will be circulated to ACCI members.

**Action Point:** IFI to circulate presentation on NIFF to all delegates.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Draft ACCI Work Programme (For discussion and adoption)**

The draft ACCI Work Programme was discussed. Department secretariat staff were thanked for the formation of this detailed document. The themes set out in this document are from the delegates own priority lists.

The majority of ACCI members emphasised the importance of the Work Programme and that it was imperative that it should commence as soon as possible. Theme 1 of the Work Programme 2021: Conservation and Habitats was adopted and will be discussed further at the next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Chair was asked by one of the members if the adoption of this document and its progression could be deferred to facilitate consultation within that federation. The availability of persons during the holiday season was cited as the main reason for the deferral request.

The adoption of the entire Work Programme will be considered at the next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Action Point:** ACCI Theme 1: Conservation and Habitats agreed to be on the agenda for meeting 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-law (Update on draft)**

DECC advised that the current working draft of the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-law, under the Programme for Government, would be ready for circulation in the first or second week of July. DECC advised that the tendering process for an Appropriate Assessment in line with the EU Habitats Directive was live on the Department's website. Preliminary legal advice has been sought and the final draft, following public consultation, would be subject to detailed legal advice. The tender is open to both domestic and international consultants.

**Action Point:** Draft bye-law to be circulated to ACCI subject to strict confidentiality.

### **Agenda Item 4 - AOB**

1. Marine Protected Areas – submission to public consultation from ACCI on designation process.

DECC and IFI attended a meeting with the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in relation to the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) plan and next steps in the process. The briefing was positive and encouraging in relation to views from the inland fisheries sector into the designation of MPAs. The Department advised of the formation by Minister Ryan of ACCI and its role and functions. DHLGH would very much welcome a submission under the public consultation process on this issue from ACCI (closing date 30 July). It was noted by the ACCI that the document was very comprehensive. It was suggested and agreed that a sub-group of ACCI would look to formulate a submission. FISSTA advised that they had progressed

drafting their own submission and agreed to share it with ACCI members in the context of the sub-group's submission.

**Action Point:** ACCI Marine Protected Areas sub-group to make a submission under the consultation process. FISSTA to share its draft submission.

## 2. World Youth Sea Angling Championships Lough Swilly 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

The Irish Federation of Sea Anglers is hosting the World Youth Championships on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The venue is Lough Swilly and IFSA asked if a safety rib, life jackets and some staff assistance would be made available for the championships by Inland Fisheries Ireland. IFI will make a rib and life jackets available for the championships and the SSTRAI representative offered to assist with life jacket provision. IFI are happy to discuss staff assistance needs. CEO of IFI and SSTRAI were thanked for this. IFSA have made an application under IFI's sponsorship programme. The members of ACCI expressed their support to the hosting of the championships.

**Action Point:** IFI and SSTRAI to liaise with IFSA on provision of equipment and personnel (IFI) and sponsorship application to be progressed.

**Date of next meeting (remotely) Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August – 16.30**

All those in attendance were thanked by the chair.