

Angling Consultative Council Ireland (ACCI)

Minutes of Meeting – 19.10.21 (Remotely)

Attendees:

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

Apologies: Donal Kennedy, Pdraig O’Riordan, Mary Breslin.

Agenda item 1 – Adoption of minutes

Meeting opened with welcome to all. Minutes of 28 September 2021 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minutes was proposed and seconded.

Matters arising

EFSA raised two points on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

1. EFSA would recommend a midrange category change to allow for the collection of bait in Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), this needs to be recorded in a MPA category to avoid confusion amongst the general public. DECC and IFI responded that there is currently no restriction on the collection of certain allowable bait such as crab and sand eel in SACs.

Action Point: DECC to discuss with DAFM about an inclusion in MPAs on this issue. Discuss the potential of DECC drafting a letter and circulating to members of IFSA and EFSA, potential for signage to be provided at bait collection areas may also be explored.

2. EFSA raised the issue of the 6 nautical mile (NM) limit and recent judgements allowing trawling within this zone. These are having a devastating effect on angling and damaging the angling tourism product.

Action Point: DECC will advise EFSA in writing on this issue.

Agenda Item 2 – Theme 3 of the Work Programme (Access and Coaching)

ACCI Co Chair (DECC) opened the discussion on Work Programme Theme 3 “Access and Coaching”.

1. Coaching

ACI Coach Coordinator gave an overview of the coaching plans for 2022. A demand for ACI coaching services in outreach programmes has been identified. To meet this demand the ACI requires funding and support from the Department.

The issue of multi annual funding was discussed. This is in line with the Federation of Irish Sport recommendations to Government and will enable long-term planning with some certainty, helping to build capacity and achieve ACI coaching goals.

New youth coaching material has been designed by Sport Ireland Coaching. This is being rolled out by Angling Council of Ireland Federations over 2021 and beyond.

ACI Cast Programmes use of a six-stage certification process was discussed. Funding is required to expand to all regions. ACI has a plan to expand the delivery of coaching and instruction nationally.

2. Access

IADA requested improvements in access for anglers on Blueways. Barriers have prevented access in certain places and users of Blueways have damaged angling equipment (e.g., poles). It was requested that these issues be discussed with Waterways Ireland (WI) to find some solutions on safe sharing of facilities. IPS noted that access for vehicles on canal stretches has been prevented by entry barriers.

The issue of access and the potential of obtaining keys for angling clubs should be discussed with WI.

Action Point: IFI will discuss with WI during their next meeting and report back.

IFSA raised similar access issues at sea angling venue carparks and the requirement for letters of indemnity to local authorities. The National Indemnity Scheme was raised, IFI and DECC agreed to explore if it could include angling.

IFI noted the shared use of Greenways and Blueways is being promoted and acknowledges that issues raised are a genuine concern. IFI environmental staff are sometimes involved in these projects and offer advice regarding shared use of resources and consider access to angling in submissions to planning as appropriate. ACI and SSTRAI advised that they have provided letters of indemnity to property owners in advance of events to assist with obtaining open access at certain venues - IFI commended this approach.

Agenda Item 3 – Updates

National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF)

IFI advised that it is hoped to have the first meeting in December. A Chairperson has been selected who is independent with no background in angling. It is intended that the Chairperson will set the work plan for the Forum.

Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations (WSSTSRs)

It is expected that the draft Regulations will be published for public consultation in early November. The closing date for public consultation will be early December. Details will be published in a national newspaper and on www.gov.ie. Public consultation will be open for 30 days.

Public Consultation on new licencing system for Salmon

IFI advised that it will be putting out a notice for public consultation shortly on this matter and will welcome any input and recommendations on this.

Judicial Review – Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB) decision on Shot Head

DECC gave an update on IFI Judicial Review of 24 September. Salmon Watch Ireland and another party also lodged an application for a Judicial Review on the decision. DECC advised that the matter was for mention the following Monday however it was likely that it would be adjourned for another two weeks. FISSTA indicated that they are the third party who initiated a Judicial Review on this matter.

DAFM Response to DECC re 6NM limit

DECC provided an update on response from DAFM that explained the current position in relation to Fishery Vessels over 18 metres working within that zone. Judgement in relation to the appeal is reserved. DECC agreed to circulate the note received from DAFM.

Date of next ACCI meeting (Remotely): Tuesday 23 November 2021 - 16:30

All those in attendance were thanked by Co-Chairs.