Joint Statement from Minister Eamon Ryan and the Board of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) on the publication of the Report under section 18 of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010

The <u>report of the review of the Board of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)</u>, conducted by Mr Conleth Bradley SC, under section 18 of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 has today been published by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Publication follows a meeting between the members of the Board of IFI and DECC to discuss the recommendations made in the review. It was agreed at the meeting that IFI will implement all recommendations in the report. This will ensure that the Minister may have confidence in the Board going forward.

The Minister noted that, while the exercise of his powers under section 18 was a significant step, the matters that gave rise to the review were of concern and that report itself is clear that the review was warranted.

The Chair of IFI, Prof. Frances Lucy affirmed, on behalf of the Board, their recognition that the report contains a number of important recommendations based on Mr Bradley's review, the implementation of which will result in positive changes to Board procedures and processes to reinforce the effective exercise of functions in the future.

The Minister and the Board jointly endorsed the forward-looking nature of the recommendations, welcomed the opportunity for Inland Fisheries Ireland to implement them and to move forward in the knowledge that the issues which arose are addressed.

The Board is engaged in moving forward collectively, in collaboration with the Executive and staff of Inland Fisheries Ireland and with the support of the Minister and the Department with a cohesive focus on conserving, protecting, and developing the entire inland fisheries resource.

The Executive Team of Inland Fisheries Ireland welcome and fully accept the recommendations of the report. The Executive Team have discussed the findings and are eager to assist the board implement the recommendations contained therein and support the activation of the new Board processes and procedures as identified by the report.

Independent review of the Board of Inland Fisheries Ireland

ENDS