



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report - 23 April 2024

This report provides an outline of agenda items raised at this meeting.

BOARD MEETING – 23 April 2024

1. Meeting Administration

1.1 Agenda Adoption /Conflicts of Interest Declaration/ Adherence to Confidentiality

The agenda was adopted with no conflicts of interest declared. The confidential nature of matters to be raised was agreed.

1.2 Apologies

One apology was received.

1.3 DRAFT Minutes of the meetings of 1, 6, 21 March 2024

Paper distributed: 1.3.1 DRAFT Meeting Minutes of IFI Board 1 March 2024;1.3.2 DRAFT Meeting Minutes of IFI Board 6 March 2024; 1.3.3 DRAFT Meeting Minutes of IFI Board 21 March 2024

RESOLUTION: Approval of the draft **minutes of the 1 March 2024 Board meeting**

Following consultation with the executive the Chair proposed an alteration to the resolution passed by the Board on 6 March. He provided the rationale for this alteration; that lengthening the term would support organisational stability.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the draft **minutes of the 6 March 2024 Board meeting** and alteration of the resolution regarding: **1) length of term of Deputy Chief Executive to 6 months, 2) Barry Fox replacing Suzanne Campion as the next Deputy Chief Executive, where circumstances require it.**

RESOLUTION: Approval of the draft **minutes of the 21 March 2024 Board meeting**

1.4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

1.5 Board Meeting Actions Arising & Resolutions – 21 March 2024

Paper(s) distributed: 1.4.1 Board Meetings Actns Arising; 1.5.1 Board Meetings Resolutions

Presenting: Deputy CEO

The actions arising and resolutions from the previous meeting were taken as read. The Deputy CEO briefed members updates to agreed actions.

2. CEO's Report

2.1 CEO's Report – March 2024

Papers distributed: 2.1.1 CEO's Report March 2024;

Presenting: Deputy CEO, Dr Cathal Gallagher

The Deputy CEO provided a briefing on the matters raised in the CEO's Report. Matters comprised; legal fee recoupment in relation to the Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board (ALAB) Judicial Review; the recent refund customers of the fish farm €7.5k, exceptionally, due to a stock quality issue arising from a theft of stock in 2022, and the recent withdrawal of a prosecution case in Cork. He stated that although the matter was rectified in June 2023, some cases affected are still working through the courts. The current standing of legal costs of withdrawal from the 61 cases was provided.

A detailed discussion ensued on organisational narrative and external/internal communication. Members recognised the impact of negative news/social media on staff and that there is a need for staff to feel good about their work.

In briefing members on the BIK audit by the Revenue Commissioners, the Deputy CEO noted that IFI's warranted officers are now considered 'Officers of the State', which has positive impacts for fleet management and BIK.

The members were briefed on the discovery of chub (non-native) most recently in the Glone River, and the work conducted by IFI in locating and removing specimens since 2010. It was proposed that IFI develop a strategy for natural biodiversity. The Deputy CEO indicated that €400k per annum is expended managing Lagarosiphon major in Lough Corrib. It was agreed this matter and key changes in legislation would be raised with IFI's parent Department.

3. Matters for Consideration/Decision

3.1 Draft Business Plan 2024

Papers distributed: 3.1.1 Draft Business Plan 2024; 3.1.2 DRAFT IFI Business Plan 2024_Presentation

Presenting: Senior Management Team

Members of the Senior Management Team and the Financial Controller joined the meeting. The Deputy CEO provided the context of the draft 2024 Business Plan, in the delivery of the 2021-2025 Corporate Plan and the recent EY Governance Review. He anticipated key areas for strategic development as: IFI's risk process, records management, organisational structure, reviewing delivery against the 2021-2025 Corporate Plan, seeking additional resources and policy review. Each of the Heads of Function presented their area of the 2024 Business Plan. Matters discussed by members included: the impact of IFI's Oversight Agreement and Performance Delivery Agreement (OA & PDA) on the plan; whether the business plan is taking into account the external environment; developing positive alliances with other agencies; and adding addressing the negativity surrounding the organisation, impacting morale and culture.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **Draft Business Plan 2024**

3.2 DRAFT Annual Report 2023

Paper distributed: 3.2.1 DRAFT IFI Annual Report 2023 V4

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Paper was taken as read. The Deputy CEO and Head of Operations responded to queries. The Board was satisfied with the submission.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **Draft Annual Report 2023**

3.3 Draft Comprehensive Report to the Minister - 2023

Paper distributed: 3.3.1 DRAFT Chairman's Comprehensive Report to the Minister 2023

Presenting: Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read. No queries were raised by members.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **Draft Comprehensive Report to the Minister 2023**

3.4 Capital – Vehicles & Property

Papers distributed: 3.4.1 CapEx – Heavy Towing Vehicles; 3.4.2 Sligo District Property Lease Proposal

Presenting: Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Papers were taken as read. **Vehicles:** the proposed procurement was outlined of 9 heavy towing vehicles, tranche 2 of the multi-year investment strategy (3-year) replacing similar end-of-life vehicles. **Property:** The proposal was outlined to secure a 5-year lease accommodating WRBD, Sligo District (Inspectorate), staff at Knocknahun/Ransboro. The Head of Finance & Corporate Services confirmed that the property met operational requirements, that the necessary due diligence was completed and relevant declarations regarding conflicts of interest managed.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **purchase of 9 heavy towing vehicles**

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **Sligo District - Property Lease Proposal**

3.5 National Barriers Mitigation Programme Update

Presenting: Deputy CEO

No papers were distributed for this item. The Deputy CEO informed members that Ms. Hazel King has been appointed as Head of Barrier Mitigation.

3.6 List of Statutory Reporting Requirements

Paper distributed: 3.6.1 List of Statutory Reporting Requirements

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Paper was taken as read. The Deputy CEO stated that the paper distributed captured the reporting activity to agencies/bodies as per regulation and legislative obligations. It was noted that this resource burden may not be acknowledged in IFI's PDA with its parent Department. The Board agreed that such resourcing and delivery should be emphasised in funding applications.

3.7 Draft Annual Report 2023 – Protected Disclosures

Papers distributed: 3.7.1 DRAFT IFI Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2023

Presenting: Deputy CEO
This paper was taken as read and noted by members.

3.8 Commercial Salmon Licence Report

Paper distributed: 3.6.1 Commercial Salmon Licence Report – April 2024

Presenting: Head of Operations

Paper was taken as read. The Head of Operations presented on the paper which outlined the outcome of the annual commercial licence process. A discussion ensued grounds for licence refusal, proprietary relationship to the licence and consideration of conservation measures. It was proposed to amend the 'Control for Fishing for Salmon Order'¹ to include requirements in relation disqualification where the applicant has been found guilty of a fisheries offence and/or where an applicant cannot evidence that their tax affairs in order. As it is not a matter for decision by the Board, it was agreed to acknowledge the briefing paper and note the concern of members in endorsing the harvesting of an endangered species.

3.9 Marketing Strategy – AA & SEA Terms of Reference

Paper distributed: 3.9.1 Marketing Strategy – AA & SEA TORs – April 2024

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Paper was taken as read. Having presented the draft IFI Sustainable Angling Marketing Strategy 2023-2027 at the March Board meeting, members were briefed on the paper which contained the terms of reference for the Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for this strategy. Members were satisfied with the presentation.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **IFI Sustainable Angling Marketing Strategy 2023-2027**

3.10 Financial Report Q1

Paper distributed: 3.10.1 Board Finance Report

Presenting: Financial Controller

This paper was taken as read. IFI's Financial Controller brought members through the figures reported.

4. Committees / Forum

4.1 Audit & Risk Committee | Updated Internal Audit Programme 2024 | ARC ToR

Papers distributed: 4.1.1 Internal Audit Programme 2024 4.1.2 DRAFT Audit & Risk Committee ToR

Presenting: IFI Audit & Risk Committee Chair

The ARC Chair reported on recommendations from the Committee. The Internal Audit Programme was noted and members were satisfied with the updated ARC Terms of Reference.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the updated **Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference**

4.2 Governance Review Steering Group – Verbal Report of Meeting of 8 April 2024

Paper distributed: 4.2.1 Gov Review Strng Grp Mtg Mins-4 Mar 2024_APPRVD_8 April 2024

Presenting: Chair

The March meeting minutes of the Governance Review Steering Group were noted.

4.3 Corporate Plan Steering Group – Nomination of Chair

At a meeting of the members of the Corporate Plan Steering Group, earlier in the day, The nominee to chair of the steering group was approved by the Board unanimously. Also agreed was that the staff representative on the steering group would be the Head of Human Resources and that the CEO/Acting CEO (or their nominee) should also be on it.

5. Management Assurance/ Presentations

5.1 Monthly Protection Review – March 2024

Paper distributed: 5.1.1 Monthly Protection Review – March 2024

Presenting: Head of Operations

Paper was taken as read and noted.

¹ [2024 Control for Fishing for Salmon Order](#)

5.2 Health and Safety Reporting – March 2024

Paper distributed: 5.2.1 IFI Health and Safety Report - March 2024

Presenting: Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read and noted. The report was presented and queries addressed.

5.3 Sustainability and Climate Mandate Report - March 2024

Paper distributed: 5.3.1 Climate Action Mandate Board - March 2024

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Paper was taken as read and noted.

5.4 Habitats & Conservation Funding Application Outcome – Q1 Report

Paper distributed: 5.4.1 Habitats & Conservation Funding Application Outcome 2024

Presenting: Head of Operations

Paper was taken as read. Individual members provided feedback on their assessment of the proposed awards. The Head of Operations responded to queries raised in relation to: whether the listing of projects is a programme of works for IFI; the rationale for IFI being awarded a large proportion of the funding; and the local and national nature of media releases regarding the awarding of funding. The Board noted the level of stakeholder engagement within this programme, adding that it would like to see projects more evenly spread around the country. Members were satisfied with the briefing provided by the Head of Operations.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **recommended Habitat and Conservation awards 2024**

6. AOB

- Invitation to meet IFI Board
- Board Member Induction Training

IFI's Bank Mandate

The Head of Finance & Corporate Services informed members that changes in personnel required amendments to signatories on IFI's Bank Mandate.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **updated signatories on IFI's Bank Mandate**

7. Meeting of the Board without the Executive

- Chief Executive Officer's Leave
- Protected Disclosures: the Secretary (IFI's Designated Person for Protected Disclosures) provided a high-level briefing to members on disclosures received by IFI coming forward from 2023 and newly received in 2024 and their status.