



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

BOARD OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

Meeting Report - 26 June 2024

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

BOARD MEETING – 26 June 2024

1. Standard Business

1.1 Administration and Monthly Reporting

1.1.1 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.

1.1.2 DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2024

Paper distributed: 1.1.2 DRAFT Meeting Minutes of IFI Board 29 May 2024

RESOLUTION: Approval of the draft **minutes of the 29 May 2024 Board meeting**

Matters Arising

Online Licensing System Tender

The Deputy CEO briefed members on an issue which has arisen in relation to the procurement process for a new online licensing system, which would replace Bradán, where a new tender would be initiated.

Delegations

The Deputy CEO briefed members on the updated IFI Scheme of Delegation.

RESOLUTION: Approval to affix seal of IFI to **rod licences and commercial licences** issued annually.

The Deputy CEO responded to a query in relation to a request to report of fish kill loss value.

New Board Sub-Committees

A member of the Board was nominated to the interview panel for the Head of HR. It was agreed to form a new Board Sub-committee on human resources, the Chair and members were proposed and agreed. Two further Sub-Committees were proposed – members nominated and agreed, namely. The Property Sub-Committee and ICT Sub-Committee.

1.1.3 Actions & Resolutions from previous meetings

Papers distributed: 1.1.3.1 Board Meetings Actions Arising_2024@ 29 May 2024; 1.1.3.2 Board Meetings Resolutions_2024@ 29 May 2024;

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Actions arising and resolutions from the previous meeting were taken as read. The Deputy CEO briefed members on; the forthcoming meeting of the Implementation Support Team (IST) with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Friday, 28 June; licencing access to IFI property via an 'expression of interest' process; and confirmation that demolition of the IFI property at Fermoy is now complete.

1.1.4 Correspondence

Paper distributed: 1.1.4 20240430_Roscommon Co Co - MFP

Presenting: Deputy CEO

This letter had previously been distributed and was taken as read. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to accept the executive's recommendation with reference the low cost of participation and the channeling of receipts from permit sales to sustainable habitat development projects.

1.1.5 CEO's Report/Main Board Report

Paper distributed: 1.1.5.1 Deputy CEO Report June 2024

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Paper was taken as read. The Deputy CEO provided an overview of the matters raised in the Board Report. These comprised: Business Plan KPIs and Operations metrics; legal advice in relation to cases struck out; health and safety in relation to staff being videoed and recordings uploaded to social media.

Following agreement at the May Board meeting to explore the legal recourse open to IFI in relation to 2 cases struck out on 27 May, the Deputy CEO reported the advice received. A detailed discussion ensued and it was agreed that this matter was fundamental to the organisation's enforcement processes. It was agreed to obtain a second opinion in relation to the matter from IFI's contracted legal adviser.

Health & Safety

The CEO raised the matter of recording of staff in the field, being published in social media.

The Deputy CEO completed his presentation in relation to the Board Report and noted to members that he had been invited to meet with Uisce Éireann by Minister E. Ryan TD to discuss recent fish kills.

Presentation on Impacts from Salmonid Aquaculture on Wild Salmonids

Paper distributed: 1.1.5.2 Aquaculture Impact Presentation - June 2024

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Deferred to next meeting.

DECC Business Case

Paper distributed: Hard copy 'Workforce Plan & Business Case 2024'

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Following distribution of the paper in hard copy form, members were requested to provide feedback to the Executive following the meeting.

1.1.6 Finance Update

Paper distributed: 1.1.6 Finance Report - June 2024 - Summary Management Accounts (DRAFT 2)

Presenting: Head of Finance and Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read. A verbal report was provided, highlighting: matured liabilities in relation to the Clonmel Office works and the purchase of property at Cornamona. Queries in relation to the overall variance against budget were addressed.

1.1.7 Governance & Risk Update

Paper distributed: 1.1.7 Governance and Risk Update - June 2024

Presenting: Head of Finance and Corporate Services

This paper was taken as read. A presentation on the report comprised: feedback received from EY in relation to the Governance and Risk report; contract award to Risk & Resilience for services in relation to risk management training and support, with a view to appointing a Chief Risk Officer; and reporting no CGT liability. The Head of Finance & Corporate Services reported that IFI had engaged with the State Claims Agency with a view to entering into the General Indemnity Scheme. A discussion on membership ensued. Members were briefed on the status of the Special Audit (C&AG) and internal audit on records management.

1.1.8 Presentation - Draft Legislation Department of Environment, Climate & Communications (DECC)

Paper distributed: No papers were distributed for this item.

Presenting: Principal Officer, Fisheries Division, DECC

D. Maher joined the meeting and he provided a presentation on a number of overarching themes in relation to the work of the Inland Fisheries Primary Legislation and Policy Group on the consolidation of fisheries legislation from 1840-2017. Themes included; licencing, fees, rights, penalties and reparations. Mr Maher responded to queries in relation to; alignment of fisheries legislation with the Nature Restoration Law; recognition of angling as a sport; the role of secondary legislation; articulation of the purpose of IFI; timeline to completion; work on IFI's strategy development raising relevant issues for consideration in respect of fisheries legislation; and clear powers of delegation to the CEO. Mr Maher was thanked for his informative presentation and left the meeting.

1.2 Sub-Committee Update

1.2.1 Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

Paper distributed: 1.2.1.1 Mins of Audit & Risk Meeting 19 March_APPRVD 27 May 2024

Paper was taken as read. and noted. The most recent ARC meeting (27 May) was reported to the members on 29 May.

1.2.2 Governance Review Steering Group (GRSG)

Papers distributed: 1.2.2.1 DRAFT Gov Review Steering Group - Terms of Reference: 1.2.2.2 DRAFT Relationship Between CEO and Board Chair of Inland Fisheries Ireland

Presenting: Chair of GRSG

Papers were taken as read. The GRSG Chair introduced the two papers submitted from the steering group for approval.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the '**Governance Review Steering Group Terms of Reference**', and the '**Relationship between CEO and Board Chair of Inland Fisheries Ireland**' pending the application of the advised amendment.

1.2.3 Corporate Plan Steering Group (CPSG)

Paper distributed: 1.2.3.1 Corporate Plan Steering Group – Board Update – June 2024

Presenting: Chair of the CPSG

Paper was taken as read. The CPSG Chair presented the progress of the steering group's work, currently preparing for Action 4 of the steering group's terms of reference – 'outline the resources required to craft the Corporate Plan'.

1.2.4 National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF)

A meeting between the new Chair of the NIFF, the Board Chair and Deputy CEO was confirmed.

1.3 Items for Approval

1.3.1 Updated Capital Plan 2024

Papers distributed: 1.3.1 Updated Capital Plan 2024 update June 2024 v1

Presenting: Head of Finance and Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read. Board members were satisfied with the paper and verbal briefing provided.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **updated Capital Plan 2024**

1.3.2 Cap-ex – Conservation Architect – Weir Building in Galway

Papers distributed: 1.3.2 Cap-ex - Conservation Architect Galway Weir Lodge Design - June 2024

Presenting: Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read. It was advised to consult an appropriate expert who can provide advice subject to an impact assessment for wildlife. Board members were satisfied with the paper and verbal briefing provided.

RESOLUTION: Approval of expenditure **for consultancy services** for the preparation of preliminary planning drawings application submission, and estimate costing for retrofit and build works at Earls Island, Galway.

1.3.3 Cap-ex – Rainwater Harvesting Programme

Papers distributed: 1.3.3 Cap-ex – Rainwater Harvesters v1 - June 2024

Presenting: Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read. Feedback provided by members advised the inclusion of the current cost of water and articulation of the value of the project i.e. cost benefit analysis, and to present this project in the context of an overarching sustainability action plan.

RESOLUTION: Approval of capital funding to expand **IFI's rainwater harvesting programme** to 8 locations.

1.3.4 Grant Proposal – RiverWood Project – EPA Funded

Papers distributed: 1.3.4 Grant Proposal – RiverWood_Project - June 2024

Presenting: Deputy CEO

Paper was taken as read. Board members were satisfied with the paper provided.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **RiverWood** project proposal in line with IFI's Grant Scheme Policy.

1.3.5 Grant Proposal – Flow Project

Paper distributed: 1.3.5 Grant Proposal - FLOW Project - June 2024

Presenting: Head of Operations

Paper was taken as read. Board members were satisfied with the paper provided.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the **Flow** project proposal, in line with IFI's Grant Scheme Policy.

1.3.6 Grant Proposal – DAF – 'Go Fishing'

Paper distributed: 1.3.6 Grant Proposal – Go Fishing – June 2024

Presenting: Head of Finance and Corporate Services

Paper was taken as read. A summary was provided of this grant proposal for the disbursement of €250,000 via the 'Go Fishing Grant Scheme', awarded to IFI from the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF).

RESOLUTION: Approval of the recommendation to open the **Go Fishing Funding Scheme**.

1.3.7 Salmon Licence Prices

Paper distributed: 1.3.7 Salmon Licence Price Proposal 2025-2027 - June 2024

Presenting: Head of Operations

Deferred until September Board meeting.

1.3.8 Brown Trout Bye-law

Paper distributed: 1.3.8 Proposal to amend existing brown trout Bye-Law - June 2024

Presenting: Head of Operations

Deferred until September Board meeting.

1.4 Items for Noting

1.4.1 Action #02:04:24 - Prosecutions, Fines Issued and Fish Kills

Deferred until September Board meeting.

1.4.2 Action #05:04:24 - Quantifying Resource Requirement of Report Obligations

Paper Distributed: 1.4.2 Resource Commitment of IFI's Reporting and Consultation Obligations

Paper was taken as read and noted.

1.4.3 Development Projects Progress

Paper Distributed: 1.4.3 Development Projects Progress Report for Q1 - June 2024

Paper was taken as read and noted.

2. Strategy & Planning

2.1 Corporate Plan - Not raised in this meeting.

2.2 Annual Business Plan - Not raised in this meeting.

2.3 Individual Strategies

2.3.1 ICT Strategy

Paper distributed: 2.3.1 - IT Strategy - June 2024

Presenting: Acting Head of ICT

Paper was taken as read and noted. Acting Head of ICT presented IFI's IT strategy. Feedback was provided and the strategy be approved at a the high-level, recognising the further work to be completed.

RESOLUTION: Approval of the draft **ICT Strategy**

3. Key Reporting

Not raised in this meeting.

4. Policies

Not raised in this meeting.

5. Governance Plan

Not raised in this meeting.

6. AOB

Noted Canadian government announcement on open-net pen salmon farming, seeing the phasing out of open-net pen salmon farming before a permanent ban on 30 June 2029. Also, noted closure of 33 rivers by the Norwegian Environment Agency due to low salmon numbers.

The executive confirmed court dates set for the Judicial Review regarding a decision of the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB) in October.

7. Meeting of the Board without the Executive