



Central Fisheries Board

An Príomh-Bhord Iascaigh

**Report to the Minister for Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources**

From the

Central Fisheries Board

**On its activities during 2005 and those of each
Regional Board and Fisheries Cooperative Society**



Fisheries Ireland

Our Natural Heritage

April 2006

Mission Statement

To ensure that the valuable natural resources of inland fisheries and sea angling are conserved, managed, developed and promoted in their own right and to support sustainable economic activity, recreational amenity and job creation.

The Fisheries Boards

The Fisheries Boards are the statutory agencies responsible for inland fisheries in Ireland and operate under the aegis of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

The principal functions of the Central Fisheries Board are to:

- 1 advise the Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources on policy relating to the conservation, protection, management, development and improvement of inland fisheries;
- 2 support, co-ordinate and provide specialist support services to the seven Regional Fisheries Boards; and,
- 3 advise the Minister on the performance by Regional Fisheries Boards of their functions.

The seven Regional Fisheries Boards have responsibility for conservation, protection, development, management and promotion of inland fisheries in their regions. They have a duty to co-ordinate and co-operate in the delivery of a national fisheries service, observing principles of sustainability, biodiversity and the conservation of all species in inland water ecosystems.

Central Fisheries Board Members

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Mr. David Mackey (Chairperson) |
| 2 | Ms. Mary Bohan |
| 3 | Mr. Paddy Byrne |
| 4 | Ms. Paula Carroll |
| 5 | Mr. Eamon Cusack |
| 6 | Mr. Eamon de Buitléir |
| 7 | Mr. Myles Kelly |
| 8 | Mr. Naul McCole |
| 9 | Mr. John Henry McLaughlin |

Senior Management Team

John O' Connor	Chief Executive Officer
Nuala O'Byrne	Director of Finance
Ciara Nic Craith	Director of Human Resources
Kieran Murphy	Director of Protection and Conservation
David Byrne	Director of Promotion and Marketing

Table of Contents

Comment of Chairman

Comment of Chief Executive Officer

Central Fisheries Board

Research and Development

Promotion and Marketing

Field Services

Finance/ICT

Human Resources

Regional Fisheries Boards/Fisheries Co-Operative Societies

Eastern Regional Fisheries Board / Eastern Fisheries Co-Operative Society

Southern Regional Fisheries Board / Southern Fisheries

Co-Operative Society

South Western Regional Fisheries Board / South Western Fisheries

Co- Operative Society

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board / Upper and Lower Shannon Fisheries

Co-Operative Societies

Western Regional Fisheries Board / Western Fisheries Co-Operative Society

North Western Regional Fisheries Board / North Western Fisheries

Co-Operative Society

Northern Regional Fisheries Board / Northern Fisheries Co-Operative
Society.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Fisheries Development and Surveys

Appendix 2 – Pollution Control and Water Quality

Appendix 3 – Fish Stocking

Appendix 4 – Fishing Licences and Board Managed Fisheries

Appendix 5 – Commercial Salmon and Sea Trout Catches (2004)

Appendix 6 – Rod and Line Salmon & Sea Trout Catch (2004)

Appendix 7 – Wild Salmon & Seatrout Tagging Report Statistics 2004

Appendix 8 – Marine Tagging Programme

Appendix 9 – Deep Sea Angling Logbook Statistics

Chairman's report regarding the assessment of internal financial controls of the Central Fisheries Board as is required under paragraph 10.2 (iii) of the code of practice for the governance of State bodies

On behalf of the Central Fisheries Board, I hereby acknowledge that the Board is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate system of internal financial control is in operation within the Board.

I am satisfied that the systems which the Board has in place, are reasonable and appropriate for the Board's circumstances having regard to its size. However, the systems do not, and cannot, provide absolute assurance against material error.

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. All Regional Fisheries Boards have adopted the Code also.

The Board members are aware of and are fully compliant with the provisions of the Standards in Public Office Act 2001, and the Code of Business Conduct.

The Board has an audit sub-committee whose duties include:

- to approve a charter for Internal Audit which clearly defines its mission, authority, roles, responsibilities and other reporting relationships
- to consider the draft annual internal audit plan
- to monitor the implementation of the plan
- to protect the independence of the Internal Audit function
- to review significant findings and the recommendations of the Internal Audit and to monitor action taken by management to resolve any issues that have been identified
- to monitor the performance of the Internal Audit Function
- to request special reports from the Internal Auditor as considered appropriate
- to advise and make recommendations to the Board on any matters pertaining to the Internal Audit Function, that the committee considers necessary
- to communicate with the Board and management in relation to any significant shortfalls in the business control and/or risk management environments that come to their attention
- to consider the findings and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General
- to review any value for money reports that are undertaken by the Board

The chairperson of the audit sub-committee reports to the Board.

The Board takes the major strategic decisions and meets at regular intervals to monitor performance and plans. The executive management only act within the authority delegated to them by the Board to give effect to Board policy and decisions. The Board's professional advisors are available for consultation by the Board as required.

Legal matters were progressed having regard to professional advice procured by the Board.

A detailed procedures manual is in the course of preparation and management exercise close supervision over all significant transactions. Major sources of income are subjected to overall reconciliation and, where possible, staff duties are appropriately divided taking account of the risks involved and the limited number of staff. The following specific procedures are in place in order to provide effective financial control: -

- 1 Formal procedures are in place for the purchase of all goods and services, for approval of invoices in respect of goods and services and authorization of payment in respect of goods and services. Procedures in this regard have been strengthened from time to time and recommendations emerging from internal audits have been implemented.
- 2 Monthly accounts are presented to the Board. The Board operates a computerised accounting system, which is capable of providing a wide range of financial and accounting information.
- 3 Budgets are prepared in respect of each year and monthly statements of income and expenditure are produced to facilitate comparison with budgeted figures.
- 4 The Minister appointed a new Chairman and Board in July 2005 and a new audit committee has been established. A firm of Auditors is now being engaged to provide an internal audit service to the Board.

With reference to section 10.2 of the Code, I wish to report the following position in relation to the Board.

- 5 There were no commercially significant developments affecting the Board during the year. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares.
- 6 The Board has complied with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and disposal of assets and has complied with all relevant tax legislation.
- 7 Government policy on the pay of the Board's Chief Executive Officer and all employees is being complied with.

- 8 Government guidelines on payment of directors' fees are being complied with; no fees are paid to ordinary members of the Board.
- 9 As of now, there have been no significant post balance sheet events. The Board's accounts for 2005 have yet to be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and, therefore, the Board can only provide draft accounts at this time.
- 10 It is my understanding that the Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals are not relevant to the activities of the Board for the year 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mackey', is written over a faint rectangular box.

David Mackey
Chairman

Comment of the Chief Executive Officer

This report sets out what the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and the Fisheries Cooperative Societies have been engaged in over the past year to advance the management of the inland fisheries and sea angling sectors in Ireland.

In 2005 the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards developed and agreed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. This SLA set out what service the Boards would provide to the Minister, the Inland Fisheries sector and to its own staff in 2005. A simplified reporting format on which the Fisheries Boards would report progress in relation to the SLA was agreed with the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources.

In the area of corporate governance the Boards have adopted the Government's Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and are proceeding with its implementation. The Code of Conduct has been signed by all Board members and has been placed on the CFB website.

The Code of Conduct for employees is under discussion with the Unions at present. It is hoped to have it finalised in 2006. I would like to point out that the code for employees is designed to cover employees of all eight Boards and as such the Unions representing all Boards are involved in negotiations.

Under Sustaining Progress the Fisheries Boards have developed a comprehensive and challenging modernisation programme and are in the process of implementing this programme.

The Central Board moved to custom built accommodation within the Swords Business Campus during 2005. Most staff are now located in these offices. Work continues on the development of a new laboratory and the procurement of suitable warehousing. By the third quarter of 2006 the Board expects to have completed its acquiring of new accommodation, including, office, laboratory and warehousing. We wish to express our thanks to the Minister, his officials, OPW and our Chairman and Board, for their help in advancing this.

The Board continued in 2005 with its programme of policy development. Sectoral policies were advanced on brown trout carp and coarse fish. A comprehensive review of the Boards' Human Resource Management policies is at an advanced stage. This review is being advanced on a partnership basis with the staff and unions.

The Boards continued, in 2005, to manage and implement the Minister's decisions on salmon management. While many stakeholders input into advising the Minister on his salmon management strategy, the critically important job of implementation on the ground is the sole responsibility of the Regional Fisheries Boards with co-ordination and specialist support from the Central Board. This is a very ambitious and important initiative and the Regional Boards must be complemented on the manner in which they have worked with the sector in ensuring it is such a great success.

During the year, 780,000 brown trout, 377,000 rainbow trout together with 22,500 carp were reared at our fish farms at Roscrea and Mullingar. These were stocked out to over 100 customers and angling centres all around the country during the year.

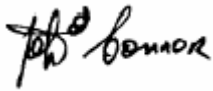
The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and the Sports Council continued their support of Recreational Angling Ireland, by providing the vital funding to produce a guidance handbook. This publication deals with a number of key topics relating to the management of angling clubs including: membership, the committee, finance and funding, enjoyment and access, competitions, catch and release and insurance to name but a few. Sample documents are included as appendices, including a sample 'Code of Conduct', 'Constitution' and a competition poster outlining the relevant rules and regulations etc.

Recreational Angling Ireland, was established by the Board and the Irish Sports Council to harness the angling voluntary sector to advance matters of mutual interest, continued with its ambitious plan to involve the nations youth in angling activities

The Board continues to provide coordination and specialist research and development services to the regional boards. The Board is also working with The Marine Institute, Waterways Ireland, EPA, Dúchas, ESB and our colleagues in Northern Ireland to advance priority projects. These projects cover areas such as the Water Framework Directive, salmon and sea trout genetics, development of our canals, support for flood relief schemes and the impact of hydro stations on fish movements.

2005 saw the completion of term of office of the Board. The Chairman, Bill McLysaght, had served on the Board for over twelve years and made a major contribution to inland fisheries over that period. Some of the other members had served for a considerable period on the Board also. I would like to congratulate Bill and the other Board members on their achievements and to thank them for their support. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Minister and his officials and to the dedicated staff in the Central Board for their help and support over the last year. I would also like to acknowledge the support and meaningful achievements of my colleagues in the Regional Boards.

Finally, I would also like to welcome the Board's new Chairman, David Mackey, and the new Board members and to acknowledge their early successes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Connor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John O'Connor

April 2006

Central Fisheries Board

Research and Development

The 2005 Research Programme as set out in our Business Plan was delivered in full. The Business Plan included the provision of an agreed national research programme amounting to € 200,000 for the Regional Fisheries Boards reflecting their agreed priorities for 2005. In addition to the national programme the Board also provides scientific inputs and support to other agencies and bodies. The commitments entered in to for 2005 in this regard were also delivered in full.

National Inland Fisheries Research, Development & Advisory Service

A three year national research programme to study the current ecological status of fish stocks in our larger lakes commenced this year. Waters to be surveyed include Loughs Corrib, Conn, Cullin, Ennell, Arrow and Sheelin.

Consultancy work on riverine enhancement schemes for various private / public agencies continued. This included an extensive training programme for ESB fisheries staff.

A comprehensive survey of fish stocks in the Suir Catchment was completed in 2005. This survey will be documented in 2006.

A number of trout lakes were surveyed at the behest of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board. These included Loughs Owel and Derravaragh.

A number of riverine channel reaches in the Lough Corrib catchment, enhanced under TAM programme were re-evaluated in 2005.

Preparation of the Training Manual on stream enhancement continued through 2005. This book will be printed early in 2006.

During 2005 a total of 900kgs of coarse fish and pike were stocked into the navigable waterways, directly benefiting the recipient fisheries. Furthermore, a number of fish rescue operations were conducted.

Fish Kills

In 2005 the Regional Fisheries Boards' environmental staffs reported 46 fish kill incidents. One of these relates to mortalities of marine species, a consequence of 'red tide' (see appendix x) Freshwater incidents totalled 45 nationally (this compares to 43 in 2004 and 72 in 2003). Mortalities of coarse fish continued to occur in the Cavan/Monaghan area associated with eutrophication. Industry is the most frequent cause of mortalities in the Eastern Region while agriculture is the main factor in the Shannon Region. Mine leachate continues to cause problems in the Avoca River.

Fish kill incidents for 2005 by sector are as follows: Agriculture – 10; Industry – 7; Local Authority – 6; Eutrophication – 7; Other (various causes) – 8; Unknown – 7 and red tide (marine).1.

Laboratory Services

In 2005 4,396 samples were analysed in the laboratory for nutrients and various other parameters. The monthly breakdown per Region is presented in Table ----. The long-term monitoring programme was

continued in the Western lakes and L. Sheelin; L. Ennell was also sampled from July to December. The yearly average total phosphorus value increased in most lakes as did the maximum chlorophyll value. Lough Sheelin and Lough Arrow again showed lower average and maximum chlorophyll values; water clarity was also good in both these lakes which are now heavily colonised by zebra mussels.

National Fish Stock Assessment Programme

A major research programme to evaluate the most important salmon rivers in the Northern Region commenced in 2005. A comprehensive aerial photographic record was compiled of all of these rivers. This will be incorporated as a layer in the GIS system. A comprehensive electro-fishing survey of the River Eany was completed.

Fish stock surveys were conducted on the rivers Feale and Slaney to investigate the stock status of juvenile salmon and trout. The Slaney stock monitoring is part of a major EU –funded programme being undertaken by the Slaney River Trust as part of the wider Celtic Rivers Trust. An updated report on the Colligan River stock survey was issued.

A report on the habitat status of Irish salmon rivers was submitted to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation annual meeting in June, NASCO document, CNL (05) 45. These data were compiled following extensive consultations with RFB staffs nationally.

A joint Central Fisheries Board/ Marine Institute Board report was compiled in 2005, *Salmon Fisheries Review 2004 with Scientific Advice for 2005*. This report sets out the status of salmon at an International, National, District and individual salmon river basis.

A radio telemetry project began in August 2005 to tag ferrox trout in Lough Corrib in an attempt to determine spawning locations. Sixteen ferrox trout ranging in weight from 5-13 lbs were captured by rod and tagged.

Work continued in 2005 on a European Union funded project, the *Atlantic salmon Arc Project (ASAP)* which aims to identify important individual salmon stocks genetically in countries across Europe. Samples of juvenile salmon were taken from 18 Irish river stocks in 2005.

Year 3 of the EU funded salmon and sea trout research programme – ‘Sustainable Management of Interaction between Aquaculture and Wild Salmonid Fish’ – was completed in 2005, in collaboration with the WRFB and a final report was prepared and submitted.

Regarding the National Sea Trout /Sea Lice Monitoring Programme, sampling was carried out on 16 rivers along the south, west and north-west coasts in 2005.

Aspects of the Cork Harbour draft net salmon fishery were again investigated in 2005. A report was prepared for the South-Western Regional Fisheries Board.

A study began in spring 2004 to investigate the potential impact of cooling water extraction on salmon smolts, at six ESB estuarine Thermal Generating Stations. The study continued in 2005 with low numbers of salmon smolts being encountered in both years.

In 2005, an investigation began to determine habitat and juvenile salmon stock status in selected major rivers in the Northern Regional Fisheries Board area.

A report entitled “Quantification of the Freshwater Salmon Habitat Asset in Ireland using data interpreted in a GIS platform” was published in 2003. These data were presented at the IFM Annual Conference 2004 and published in the conference proceedings in 2005.

Additional data on the wetted width of salmon rivers was collected on a broader range of rivers in 2005 for the purpose of updating the wetted area model.

As part of the National Salmon and Sea Trout Research Programme work began on characterizing salmon and sea trout populations nationally. This programme aims to examine scale collections from catchments countrywide to establish the life history of fish from each of the major catchments.

The Board is commissioned by Waterways Ireland to conduct scientific research aimed at understanding and improving habitat conditions for fish and aquatic life on the Royal Canal, Grand Canal (Main Line & Barrow Line), the Barrow Navigation and the Shannon-Erne Waterway.

In 2005, a programme investigating fish habitat use of lateral canal cuts on the Barrow Navigation was initiated. Regular (bi-monthly) surveys are providing an important insight into how these artificial habitat features are utilised by a variety of fish species. In particular, there is considerable evidence that they act as important flood refugia and are important winter habitats for a wide range of fish species.

The Board has been involved for a number of years in acoustic tracking of common bream and pike in two locations, namely the River Barrow Navigation at St. Mullins, Co. Carlow and on a section of the Shannon-Erne Waterway in Co. Cavan. These studies were ongoing during 2005.

Water Framework Directive

A synthesis report entitled "A Desk Study to Determine a Methodology for the Monitoring of the 'Morphological Condition' of Irish Rivers as prepared for the EPA. This work was funded under the EPA ERTDI programme.

The Board continued delivery of the national requirements of the Water Framework Directive in regard to fish in transitional waters. Under the agreed National Research Programme, Board staff worked with colleagues in the Regional Boards in carrying out fish surveys on the Liffey/Tolka in spring and autumn (ERFB), on Tralee Bay (SWRFB) and on Ballysadare Bay and the Garavogue Estuary (NWRFB).

Staff attended meetings and contributed to the work of the UK - RoI working group on Water Framework Directive implementation for fish in Transitional Waters as well as the NEA (Northeast Atlantic) WFD working group.

A joint CFB / MI proposal, to develop tools and metrics for servicing WFD in Coastal and Transitional Waters, was accepted for funding by the EPA in December 2005. This project, to be known as METRIC, will permit data collection in 2006 as part of the tools and metrics development process.

National Fisheries Environment and Biodiversity Programme

Research on the impacts of drainage maintenance on aquatic vegetation, coarse fish, and protected fish species (Habitats Directive, Annex II) and on management of marginal tree cover continued in 2005.

Scientific studies were conducted as part of the National Research Programme on 'non-angling' species such as shad, smelt and lamprey, all of which are protected fish species under the Habitats Directive or under national legislation.

Investigations on smelt were undertaken with the Southern Regional Fisheries Board in spring 2005. Sampling was conducted in the upper reaches of the estuaries of the Suir, Nore and Barrow.

Experimental netting for adult shad was undertaken in the upper reaches of the Barrow, Suir and Munster Blackwater in conjunction with samples from anglers and from estuarine commercial salmon netmen. A paper outlining the findings of the Boards recent studies was presented at an international conference on diadromous fish in Bordeaux, France in spring 2005.

A 3-year programme to examine status and distribution of lamprey in the Erne catchment was continued with Northern Regional Fisheries Board in 2005. This programme will conclude in 2006.

The arrival in recent years of aggressive invasive alien weed species, such as *Elodea nuttallii* (Nuttall's Pondweed) and *Crassula helmsii* (Australian Swamp Stonecrop), in the canal habitat is a cause of particular concern. Research is ongoing in an effort to curb the spread and detrimental ecological impact of these weeds.

Fish Stocks and Water Quality

In 2001 the Board, in partnership with UCD, UCC, NUIG and UU, was awarded an EPA ERTDI project to research possible associations between fish communities in rivers and EPA water quality ratings (Q values). Fish and habitat variables for 519 river locations (374 project generated & 145 archival datasets) were evaluated. A relationship was demonstrated for the proportional abundance (species composition) and Q values. A draft report was submitted to the EPA in Dec 2005.

Ecological Classification Using Fish in Lakes (NS Share)

The island of Ireland is a single ecological entity (Eco-region 17) and common approaches, standards and measures are required throughout for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The North South Shared Aquatic Resource (NS SHARE) project was set up to strengthen inter-regional capacity for environmental monitoring and management at river basin district level, to improve public awareness and participation in water management issues and to protect and enhance the aquatic environment and dependent ecosystems in the border area. Donegal County Council is the lead public authority and RPS Engineering Consultants were awarded the project which is funded through INTERREG 111a. The Board, in association with TCD and with assistance from the Northern and the Eastern Regional Fisheries Boards, has the task of developing an ecological classification scheme for lakes using fish. A total of 39 lakes were surveyed in 2005 using a standard sampling method to create a comprehensive database of existing fish stocks in different types of Irish lakes. The project is scheduled to conclude in 2007.

Irish Specimen Fish Committee

The ISFC was 50 years in existence in 2005 and will celebrate this anniversary at its Annual Awards Day in 2006. Since its foundation in 1955 the ISFC has ratified over 20,000 specimen fish which includes many Irish record fish. A total of 628 claims were received in 2005. 568 were ratified including two new Irish records. The Lake Pike record now stands at 42 lbs 12 ozs and was set by Larry Kelly in White Lake in September 2005. This fish beat the old record by 1 lb 12 ozs. A new Stone Basse record of 11.72 lbs was set by UK angler Tony Rainer in July fishing out of Baltimore.

A new award, for anglers catching specimens of 20 different species, will be awarded to Terry Jackson from Co. Down and Noel Lane from Cork.

The CFB actively supports the activities of the ISFC recognizing the importance of verification and publicizing the capture of large rod caught fish in Irish waters from a scientific and angling promotion perspective. Dutch anglers caught 11% of all specimens taken in Irish waters in 2005 followed by UK anglers with 9%.

Promotion and Marketing

The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards advanced the National Marketing Strategy in partnership with Failte Ireland. The Strategy will be finalised in 2006.

The Board advanced its proactive programme to develop the tourist angling product in Ireland. Development continued on a number of specialised angling techniques, including fly fishing for pike and bass. These developments will provide marketers with new and exciting products with which to promote Ireland as a first class tourism destination.

The Board In conjunction with Tourism Ireland and Failte Ireland, attended all targeted major angling promotions in the UK, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and the USA, and actively promoted Ireland as a leading tourist fishing destination.

Promotions attended in Ireland, included the National Angling Show, The Young Scientist Exhibition, the Education Show, the Boat show and the Irish Skipper Show.

Press and media coverage was targeted during the year and included national newspapers, radio and a number of overseas publications.

The Irish Angling Update was produced regularly during the angling season with angling reports being supplied from the Regional Fisheries Boards and other angling sources. It was circulated to Tourism Ireland offices worldwide, Irish and foreign angling journalists, angling tour operators and the tourist angling trade in Ireland. It continues to be an important part of the CFB Website.

Sea Angling

The 2005 sea angling season was good with favourable weather conditions for deep sea fishing especially in July and August. Visitor numbers were down slightly on the previous year.

One Irish Record was broken in 2005 in the sea fish category, namely the Stone Basse. This fish weighing 11.72 lbs was caught by UK angler, Tony Rainer, while fishing out of Baltimore last July.

Sea angling was good with all the usual species available. Blue shark catches were up slightly on 2004 but remain low, giving cause for concern. Codling showed a marked increase especially in the south east with catches of 40 codling per angler per day ranging from 1 to 5 lbs. Tope were also plentiful especially on the renowned tope marks on the east coast. 2005 will be remembered for the plentiful supply of mackerel which has not been seen for several years. One disturbing picture is the marked decline in Monkfish (*Squatina squatina*) with no fish recorded in 2005.

Sea Angling Logbook Statistics 1978 - 2005

The number of charter skippers who completed an angling logbook in 2005 was 104, down one on the previous year. The number of rod days was 42,313. Ireland accounting for 55%, followed by the Dutch at 18% and the UK at 17%.

Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme

Over 70 charter skippers and a few dedicated anglers took part in the 2005 Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme. Over 1,000 were tagged and released including blue and porbeagle shark, tope, common skate and ray. Since 1970, a total of 37,628 sea fish have been tagged and released including 17,562 blue shark. This programme is now the largest of its kind in Europe and the second largest in the world after the USA.

Sea Angling Promotion

The Board developed a number of promotional programmes for visiting journalist programmes who visited most regions. These programmes kept Ireland to the forefront of the sea angling tourism industry. Almost twenty full colour features have appeared with much column space being devoted to the development of small boat angling and saltwater fly-fishing. These "newer" products are creating a lot of overseas interest and look set to become established as future mainstream attractions.

Board staff selected the location, arranged facilities and drew up shooting schedule for BBC Natural History Unit to film part of proposed new series about sharks in our waters. The series is due for screening in late summer 2006.

In conjunction with Eastern Regional Fisheries Board a detailed marine test fishing and mapping study was successfully completed, on behalf of Louth County Council. A comprehensive full colour report of the findings was produced and was well received by Louth CC.

Coarse and Pike Angling

Roach and Roach Bream hybrid catches continue to dominate coarse fish catches recorded by home and visiting anglers. In September 2005, an angler fishing the Virginia Angling Festival recorded over 100 lbs of Bream in a day on Lough Ramor. It was a fruitful year for tench fishing with many specimens recorded particularly in Ballyhoe Lake near Drumconrath. The River Barrow continued to fish well for specimen perch. The Ballyhoe lakes fished well for specimen bream and tench.

It was an excellent year for Pike fishing with a new Irish Lake record of 42 lbs. 12 oz. recorded at White Lake near Mullingar. Throughout the year, the Rivers Suck, Inny, Barrow and Shannon regularly produced fish over the specimen weight of 20 lbs. The two largest Pike recorded from rivers were fish of 31 lbs. and 30 lbs. taken on the Lee in Cork, on the fly. This is growing in popularity as a method to catch Pike. The Irish Federation of Pike angling clubs reported another good year with very good competitions for Pike at most venues throughout the country.

Game Angling

2005 was a season of contrasting features in Game Angling.

Salmon

The season opened on 1st January and started off reasonably well with a fair run of spring salmon. Catches in the late spring were generally poor although salmon were reported from around the country, taken on the rod on a daily basis. The grilse run was satisfactory on rivers such as the Moy and the Munster Blackwater, but low water levels for most of the summer did not contribute to good sport up the end of the season.

Sea Trout

As in previous years, sea trout runs, with a few notable exceptions, were very poor. Lough Currane produced some reasonable fishing at times including three fish over 10 lbs. along with a good number of specimens over 6 lbs. .

Brown Trout Loughs

Lough Mask again performed best of the great Western Loughs. Lough Corrib disappointed during the Mayfly season and anglers complained of the poor Mayfly hatch. There was some good Buzzer fishing on the Lough in the early season. Smaller numbers of anglers were reported fishing on Lough Conn. The performance of the Midland lakes of Sheelin, Ennell and Owel was disappointing but Lough Ree produced some wonderful Trout fishing particularly during the Mayfly season.

Brown Trout Rivers

Water and weather conditions were reasonably favourable throughout the season. The fishing was on a par with previous seasons, it was marginally better on a number of rivers in the state. Elsewhere the River Boyne and tributaries and the River Liffey provided good sport with many sizable trout. On these two rivers, many anglers are now practicing catch and release.

Field Services

The Field Services Division delivered against its key targets outlined in the 2005 Business Plan.

The national programmes in relation to sea protection and salmon and seatrout tagging for which it has operational responsibility were delivered on time and in line with budgets. .

Key conservation measures for brown trout, carp and coarse fish were advanced and these efforts will culminate in the submission of reports in relation to these species by mid 2006

A number of key initiatives were introduced in relation to value for money programmes. These resulted in significant benefit accruing to the Central and a number of the Regional Boards. The most significant programme in this regard related to fleet purchase.

The Field Services Division is also responsible for reporting performance against Business Plans on behalf of the Board and for coordinating the inputs of the Regional Boards in this regard. A simplified set of reporting criteria was agreed with the Department.

Protection

The Boards protection staff coordinated the protection and conservation programme operated by the Regional Boards, the Naval Service, the Garda Síochána and the Air Corps. The Naval Service, as well as providing patrol days, also provide training for Fishery Officers in sea survival, fire fighting and as coxswains. The Garda Síochána supplied personnel to partake in naval service patrols as back up to Fisheries Officers.

Boards Large Patrol Vessels

Details of the LPV, Naval and Air Corps Operations during 2005 are as follows:

Sea Patrols

	Days on Patrol	No. of Licence Checks	Length of Net Seized (Yards)	Prosecutions & Warnings
Bradán Beatha	160	455	3550	8
Cosantóir Bradán	156	506	4300	11
Naval Service	64	160	3300	2
Total	380	1121	11150	21

Air Corps Patrols

Number of Flights	14
Number of Sightings	443

The above figures reflect an increase on 2004 of:

7% in the number of sightings

9% in the number of days on patrol

The Garda Síochána Provided a total of 64 patrol days in support of the above programme

Wild Salmon and Seatrout Tagging Scheme

Now in its fifth year, the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme was again successfully implemented, monitored and enforced by the Fisheries Boards.

The Board published the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Fisheries Statistics Reports 2003/2004.

These reports contain data relating to the 2004 commercial salmon fishing season and the 2003 angling season. The Board also published a report in relation to the 2004 angling season in the fourth quarter of the year.

The coordination and collection of the catch statistics on salmon and sea trout exploitation is a strategic management tool aimed at contributing to the long-term sustainability of these species.

The main findings are as follows:

Commercial 2004

- The National Catch of 145,253 was 16,698 below the National Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 161,951
- Commercial fishermen returned in excess of 99% logbooks to the Regional Fisheries Boards; this return is consistent with 2003 figures.
- 83.7% of the reported commercial salmon catch were captured by drift net, 13.5% by draft net and 2.7% by other engines,
- 59.1% of the drift net catch and 36.1% the draft net catch was sold through licensed salmon dealers. 5.9% of the drift net catch and 16.6% of the draft net catch was accounted for by domestic consumption.

Angling 2004

- 30,807 angling licenses were sold in 2004, which was a 3.2% decrease on those purchased in 2003
- Successful efforts to encourage the return of angling logbooks continued. 58% were returned to the Regional Fisheries Boards, compared with 57% in 2003, 52% in 2002 and 43% in 2001.
- Anglers from 39 different countries held rod licences in 2004. 57% were from the Republic of Ireland, 15% from Northern Ireland, 12% from the UK, 3.6% from France, 2.5% from Germany and 2.1% from USA.
- The river Moy in County Mayo provided the largest number of salmon to the rod with a catch of over 8000 fish

Fish Farms

The Board's fish farms, located in Roscrea and Mullingar, had another successful year in 2005. The farms stocked out a total of 1.15 million fish, (780,000 brown and 377,000 rainbow trout) to the Regional Boards' managed lakes, to angling club waters and to private angling operations.

A total of 22,500 carp at various stages of growth were stocked out to 17 different coarse fisheries.

These stockings are a vital component in supporting the Regional Boards and angling industry in developing and promoting angling tourism.

The Farm at Roscrea undertook a conservation project in relation to a protected species - The Nore Pearl mussel. This is a collaborative programme together with the NPWS and the NRA, and is designed to on the one hand protect this listed species under the Habitat's Directive, and also permit the construction of the M7 / M8 road development in the vicinity of Durrow Co. Laois.

Value for Money

In 2005 the Board commenced purchase of replacement vehicles through the Government Supplies Agency. This facility was also extended to the Regional Fisheries Boards and a number of them availed of the opportunity to purchase vehicles at favourable terms.

On average savings of 25% were achieved on the vehicles purchased and this provided the opportunity to utilise available funds to the maximum, and increase the number of aging vehicles replaced.

State Fisheries

The Board advertised a total of 75 fisheries for lease in 2005.

Customer Service

The Board developed its customer charter further during 2005 and produced a user friendly condensed version, which has been placed on its website. A Customer Service Officer has been appointed from within the Boards staff to monitor the Boards performance against the targets set in the charter. The officer will provide a customer service report in the Boards 2006 Annual Report.

Finance / IT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

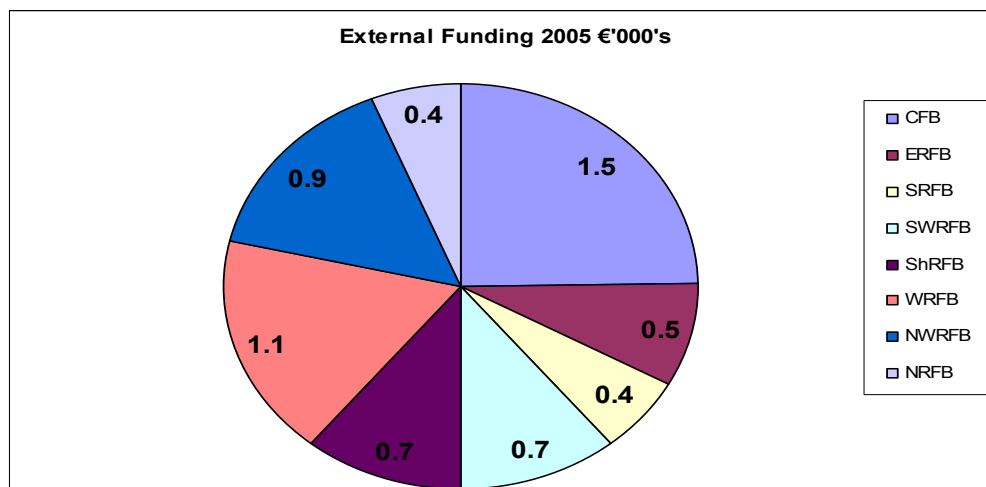
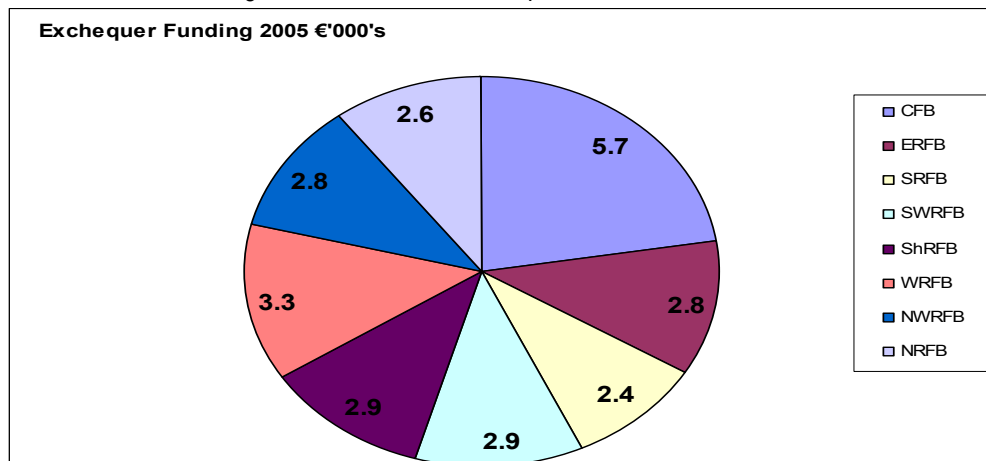
General Financial Management

The 2005 accounts incorporated the Chairman's statement of internal financial control, as required under paragraph 10.2(iii) of the Code of practice for the governance of State bodies.

To comply with Financial Reporting Standard FRS 17, the Board engaged an actuary to value the liability of the Board's Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme. The results of the valuations are noted in the 2005 accounts for each of the Fisheries Boards

Funding for 2005

In 2005, the Fisheries Boards received an exchequer grant of €25.2 million, of which Pay costs amounted to €17.6million or 70% of the total grant received. €1.8 million was allocated to national programmes, which were co-ordinated by the Board. The Boards also generated €6.2 million from other sources which was reinvested in the management, conservation and protection of Inland Fisheries.



Financial Accounts

The financial accounts for 2004 were presented for Audit to the Comptroller and Auditor General in March 2005.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

In early 2005, a number of key focus groups, both technical and operational, were established to assist in the specification and design of the CFB new HQ in Swords Business Campus. A steering group comprised of OPW, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and CFB representatives oversee the project.

The CFB relocated to the new building on the target date of 21st October 2005, with the project being delivered on time and within budget.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

ICT Strategy / Systems

The Board initiated a project in 2005 to review the information systems in the CFB and develop a strategy for the years ahead. Although the strategy will not be fully complete until March 2006, several critical key success factors were identified and the Board has made significant investment in advancing these components. The Board implemented much of the key foundation technology required to move forward with implementing the strategy.

The Board has invested significantly in its IT infrastructure over the last two years. The addition of a Blackberry communication server now enables both field staff and research managers to keep in constant communication with the Board and others while on the move. Internal systems, which in the past were made up of many different interconnecting operating environments, have now been consolidated to one administrative architecture. Network perimeter security has also undergone some enhancements with the addition of a Cisco PIX firewall; this now enables the Board to conduct data communication in a more controlled and secure fashion with remote sites and designated access clients. A number of core software applications have undergone upgrades, e.g. HR & Finance, along with the Board users desktop hardware and software resulting in a more compatible environment.

In 2005, the Board implemented a common application framework that will form the basis for almost all future business applications in the organisation (excluding the main financial and HR applications on security grounds). This framework is a DotNetNuke framework built on an MSSQL server network. It will form the basis of the Board's Internet and Intranet applications and provide the basis for implementing a range of eServices. Key features of this framework include its flexibility, it is sufficiently powerful to comfortably cater for the size of applications envisaged by the CFB, it represents very good value and it is relatively inexpensive to develop applications on.

The Board has already implemented a number of modules on the framework and is now starting to roll out the first applications. Included is Phase 1 of the Bradán system (salmon licensing, tag management and logbook issue and return) is at beta stage and will roll out on a pilot level in March. This is the foundation for a significant part of the work included in this proposal.

One of the projects that will be undertaken in 2006 is the development of a data management policy for the organisation and the development and implementation of procedures supporting this policy.

Website

The Board website showed a dramatic increase over the previous year in line with expectations. Website statistics indicate that 421, 595 visits were made to the website, up 300% over 2004. Users of the site accessed over a million pages (1,112,785) of quality information.

The new News Clippings service contributed significantly to the huge increase in site traffic. However, the comprehensive Game, Sea, River Trout, Pike and Coarse fishing sections of the site, the Irish Angling Update, and the Irish Tackle Shop, Charter Boat and Guide and Ghillie Directories remain major factors in attracting visitors.

The website continues to be a remarkably successful marketing tool for Irish angling abroad and to raise the profile of the Board at home and amongst its international peers.

The Board also undertook the re-development of the Southern and Northern Regional Fisheries Boards' websites in 2005. The work done to date has been of the highest standard and it is expected that both these sites will be online early in 2006.

The Board's Extranet was piloted late in 2005 and has been used to host press clippings for the Central and Regional Fisheries Board staff. It was also used to advertise jobs internally. It is expected that the Extranet will become a vital, everyday tool for staff in the future.

Library Management

The CFB holds many historical, valuable and varied sources of information which are held in paper format. To complement the ICT strategy, a library management initiative was initiated in November 2004, with an agreed business plan being rolled out in January 2005. To date, an information audit has been completed, with all information being organized and catalogued. The provision of Library services, including a query service, temporary borrowing service, Inter-library loan service and current awareness service have been established.

In August 2005, a new Library Management System for the Board was acquired and installed. This system provides an electronic, fully searchable Library catalogue as well as keeping track of material.

Human Resources

Training & Development

The Central & Regional Fisheries Boards (C&RFB) continued their National Targeted Training Programme in 2005 with an investment of €232k. The plan was developed with input from the Central & Regional Fisheries Boards and addressed the key developmental and training needs of the organisation.

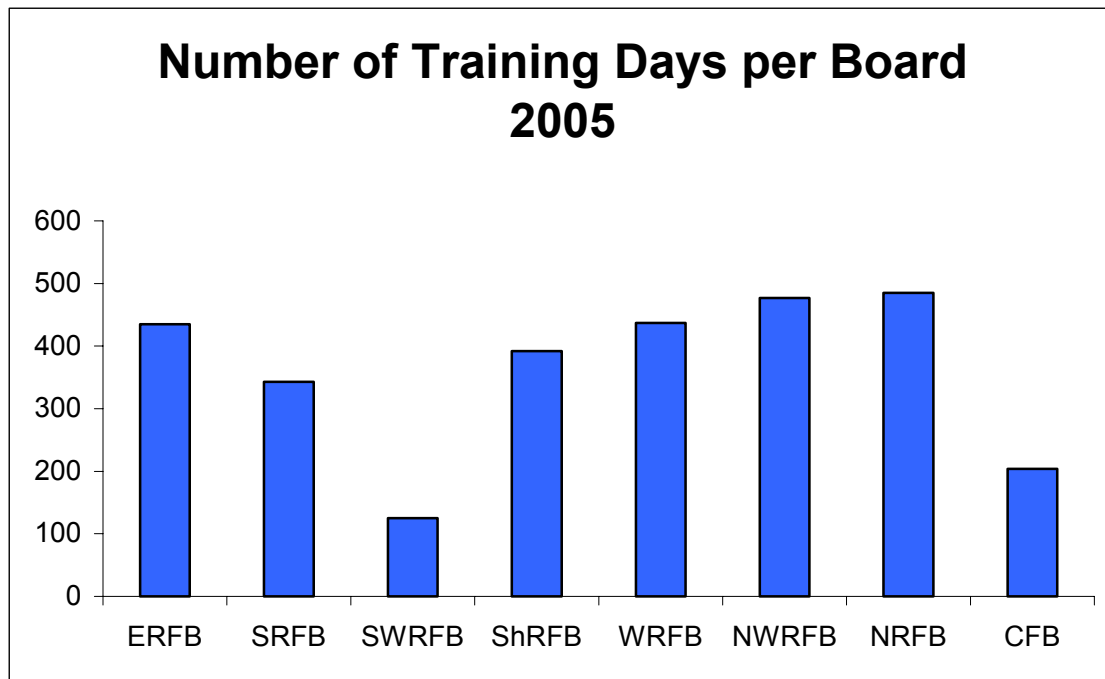
The key areas of development and training addressed in the national training plan were:

- Completion of the final phase of the PMDS cycle – the Annual Review of Performance training;
- Health & Safety training, (First Aid, Manual Handling, Safety rep. Water Safety);
- Job Skills development such as ISA approved Powerboat training, LPV training, Conflict Resolution, Equality training for newly elected DCPs, Electrofishing training, Microsoft Office skills;
- Third level education support in the Higher National Certificate in Fisheries Management and other programmes;
- Management Development.

The first cohort of 15 students from the Higher National Certificate in Fisheries Management course graduated successfully in November 2005 at the Institute of Technology in Sligo. The Fisheries Service provided a significant expert input to the course with many lectures on key subjects given by specialists from within the organisation. The second cohort will complete their course in September 2006.

Other key training events in 2005 included the development of a number of staff by the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) at their new state of the art facility in Ringaskiddy in the skills associated with sea patrol work.

The total number of training days for the C&RFB for 2005 was 2,898 which was an average of 6.5 days per staff member.



Freedom of Information (FOI) 2005

There were 14 new requests for information made to the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards in 2005, under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003. The breakdown of requests was as follows:

- Business/Interest Groups: 3
- Staff: 1
- Clients: 1
- Others: 9

The decisions made by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards on the release of information under the FOI Acts 1997 & 2003 throughout 2005 were as follows:

- 14% Granted
- 79% Part-granted
- 7% Refused

1 decision was appealed internally and 1 appeal went to the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Employee Relations

Further progress was made during 2005 with the staff and Trade Unions across a range of issues. These included the following:

- The relocation of the Central Fisheries Board HQ to another building on the Swords campus. This was particularly notable because of a previous relocation late in 2004 from Glasnevin to Swords.
- The issue of employment status and incremental progression of various grades of long-term temporary staff was brought to a conclusion.
- The modernisation agenda under Sustaining Progress was progressed further, with input from management and unions, and the separate 'parallel benchmarking' process for General Operative Grades was finalised and implemented.
- Temporary/contract staff were admitted to the Boards' pension scheme in line with legislation.
- The Minister's announcement in November on the implementation of the FGS Review created a high level of uncertainty among the staff. Management has worked closely with staff and unions to ensure that business proceeded as usual.

Partnership

A Partnership framework was developed in the Central Fisheries Board and a Steering Group set up to oversee the Partnership process. A number of projects were undertaken and completed using the Partnership approach.

Health & Safety

Specific activities covered during 2005 included:

- A review of the safety statement format leading to the future introduction of a corporate safety statement and ancillary safety statements.
- Completion of Safety Assessment of LPVs
- Introduction of LPV medical cert template
- Completion of VDU assessments in the CFB
- Implementation of Vaccination Programme
- Contribution to the RNLI Angling Safety Guide
- Nationwide launch of Employee Assistance Programme

THE CENTRAL FISHERIES BOARD

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2005

	2005		2004	
	€	€	€	€
Income				
State and EU Funding				
Operating Grants	6,239,538		5,115,000	
Less: Allocated to Regional Fisheries Boards	<u>498,382</u>	<u>5,741,155</u>	636,714	<u>4,478,286</u>
Other Income		1,524,419		1,478,777
Transfer from / (to) Capital Account		<u>(183,607)</u>		<u>(59,014)</u>
		<u>7,081,967</u>		<u>5,898,050</u>
Expenditure				
Administration		2,448,674		2,640,474
Operations		<u>4,959,503</u>		<u>4,094,866</u>
		<u>7,408,177</u>		<u>6,735,340</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		(326,210)		(837,290)
Surplus / (Deficit) at 1 January		<u>(929,556)</u>		<u>(92,266)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) at 31 December		<u>(1,255,766)</u>		<u>(929,556)</u>

Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

2005 was a dynamic year for the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board. With the co-operation of the many stakeholders in the Region, implementation of the Board's Strategic Development Plan 2003-2006, continued through the Board's business plan for the year. Mr. Alan McGurdy, CEO retired in 2005 after 40 years service with the Fisheries Boards. He had a long and distinguished career and was instrumental in modernising various elements of the Fisheries service. Mr. Sean Murphy also retired with 36 years service.

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Habitat enhancement works

2005 was characterized by a major instream and enhancement programme with a total investment of €224,823 on 13 rivers. An outstanding 43km of rivers and streams were developed which is five times the amount developed in 2004. Works took place on the Liffey, Slaney, Dee, Fane, Glyde and Castletown rivers. This is in part due to investment from EU Programmes such as the Interreg IIIA Ireland – Wales programme, which funded the establishment of the Slaney Rivers Trust project and the cross border Peace and Reconciliation programme which saw the completion of works along the River Fane.

Environmental Management and Control

The Board carried out investigations in relation to environmental issues and assessed the potential impacts of developments on fishery habitats. 737 submissions were made to the relevant local authorities in relation to planning applications, which may impact on fisheries. These applications relate to a variety of proposals from residential, agricultural and commercial developments. 8 submissions related to IPC licences, 22 Waste Management applications and 91 water pollution licences. Comments were also made on 10 local authority development plans in the Region.

574 inspections were carried out during 2005, 222 of these were in response to complaints received by the Board. As a result of these inspections 2 prosecutions were initiated. 10 fish kill incidences occurred, the most notable being on the Tolka river in Dublin where 7kms was affected. The offender was successfully prosecuted and undertook to pay €10,000 to the Board in respect of restocking.

Infrastructural development continued in 2005 throughout the Region, with a large emphasis on road developments. 7 national road projects were under construction and a further 9 were at the planning stage. From the outset the Board advised on the installation of fish friendly culverts and river channel diversions. 2,794 fish were salvaged from 14 rivers and tributaries affected by motorway/industrial developments during the year. As a result of consultation and the distribution of the Board's excellent guidelines (published in 2004), the negative impact on fish stocks and fisheries habitat has minimised while the Board achieved some positive features in new channel creation.

Product Development / Resource Investment

Access

The largest number of projects took place in 2005 with 15 angling facility enhancement projects with a total investment of €81,000 creating 92 additional angling spaces. This work took place on the Rivers Liffey, Slaney, Fane, Dee, Glyde, and Castletown Rivers. Under the Peace II programme funding was acquired for the Monaghan Lakes of Moynalty, Lisnashannagh and Lough Derry. This enabled ancillary services to be provided for a number of angling venues in the form of fishing stands and increased access. 36 fishing stands were constructed including a number for disabled anglers. A car park was constructed at Drumkeary Lake to accommodate 6 vehicles and a boat slipway at Lisgrey Lake. The OPW were instrumental in assisting the Board with these works in 2005.

Surveys

Electro fishing works were carried out on many of the Region's rivers with 45 salmonid surveys and an investment of €100,864 during the year. This included surveys on the Rivers Liffey, Rye, Boyne, and selected rivers in Dundalk district. The Board also assisted the ESB with its salmon smolt impingement survey at ESB estuarine thermal generating stations and the CFB with its salmonid, estuarine, bass and coarse fish surveys.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Marketing and Promotion

The Board attended a resounding 14 angling promotions at home and abroad in 2005 and a record 17 journalists visited the region. The new products of fly fishing for pike and bass continued to be developed. Press and media coverage during the year was very successful with a total of 120 items of coverage. This included editorial coverage in national newspapers, radio and TV along with a number of overseas publications. This successful combination of shows followed up by journalist trips and editorial coverage greatly boosts the development of tourism angling in the Region. This was reflected in the increased number of visitors to the Region including anglers from France, Belgium, Holland, UK, Germany and USA.

Education and Fisheries Awareness programmes

The Dublin Angling Initiative had a successful year with 120 students participating in its Fish friendly educational programme in secondary schools and over 200 young people participating in DAI's angling courses. There are now 4 fishing clubs actively running independently with the support of the DAI. 10 angling festivals were organised including a North/South juniors workshop at Darndale pond which received coverage on BBC TV Newline programme. Other events included youth workshops for Recreational Angling Ireland, a trout angling competition for schools and for the third year running a celebrity media event at Annamoe, Co. Wicklow.

NETWORKING / CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Avoca Catchment Management

After 250 years of pollution on the Avoca River from the abandoned copper mines, the most polluted river in Ireland is on course for rejuvenation as a salmonid fishery. Following on from the recommendations of the University of Newcastle's report in 2003, an application was made and approved for €296,820 under the Ireland / Wales Interreg programme (3A). This will see the installation of a pilot plant to remediate the acid mine drainage pollution at both sites which will run for three months. Its findings will establish the requirements for an overall active treatment system as the way forward for Avoca.

REGULATION

Commercial Salmon season

The total allowable catch (TAC) for the Region for salmon and sea trout in 2005 was 3,717. The total reported commercial catch for the year was 2,521. This represents a decrease in the reported catch of 40% from 2004, when the total reported catch was 4,252. Of this, the commercial catch for salmon was 2269, and for sea trout 252. The decrease in catches was most notable in the Dublin and Wexford districts.

These figures are in line with a continuing trend over the last ten years or so and the total reported catch for the region now constitutes less than 1.8% of the national reported catch. Since the start of the tagging season in 2001, there has been an overall decrease in the catch by almost two thirds (58%) when the total reported catch was 6,076, which is a cause for great concern.

Angling Season

Salmon and sea trout angling was reported as fair, whilst brown trout angling was reported as very good throughout the Region. Anglers accounted for 1,287 salmon and sea trout (over 40cm) in 2005. This figure is based on angling returns of 83%. Coarse and pike fishing was reported as very good with the lakes of Cavan and Monaghan producing specimen bream, tench and hybrids. Pike fishing was excellent with a new Irish record pike of 42lbs caught at White Lake. Similarly, sea angling was very good with notable catches along the Wicklow and Wexford coastline including specimen tope and a variety of species around the Kilmore Quay area.

Prosecutions

Following the trend of recent years, overall there was a decrease in the number of illegal salmon fishing detections in 2005. However there was an increase in the Drogheda district with 2,500 yards of nets seized and 15 prosecutions initiated. 1,520 man hours were completed on carrying out sea patrols and inland boat patrols. 92 on the spot fines were issued for non return of angling logbooks for the 2004 season, 7 prosecutions were initiated and 5 cases won.

Pressures on coarse fish stocks

This year saw an increase in the number of callouts in relation to incidences regarding anglers in breach of coarse fish byelaws and the widespread killing of coarse fish. Many incidences occurred in the lakes of Counties Cavan, Monaghan and Meath and the Grand and Royal Canals in Dublin and Kildare. In one incidence, 80 yards of monofilament net was seized on Lough Ramor which contained approximately 100 coarse fish. For many years the Board has been seeking the introduction of a coarse fish byelaw to protect coarse fish stocks. It has been one of the forerunners in working with the Coarse Fish Review group and the Board is hopeful that a byelaw will be introduced in 2006 for the protection of all coarse fish species.

Aquaculture

Aquaculture continues to be carried out in parts of the region particularly Dundalk Bay and Wicklow and Wexford on the South East coast. The situation remains that there are a large number of boats involved in harvesting cockles in Dundalk Bay. This fishery is currently unregulated and a report was published by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in 2005.

ADMINISTRATION / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board discharged its statutory functions, struck the fishery rate, issued licences, collected rates, prepared estimates and accounts and co-operated with new and pending legislation. It met with its statutory, administrative, financial and corporate governance duties in 2005. The appointment of internal auditors has aided the Board's systems of internal controls.

Board Fisheries

There was a decrease in the number of permits issued on Board Fisheries during the year. There were approximately 3,480 rod days on the Board's waters this year with €2,664 revenue created. 2,500 brown trout and rainbows were released into Emy and Bracken Lakes during the angling season.

Eastern Fisheries Development Society

The Eastern Fisheries Development Society met 4 times in 2005. The Society received applications for grant in aid from 4 angling clubs and associations. Grant in aid totalling €1941 was allocated to the society for works carried out in 2004.

Health and Safety / Training

Safety continued to be of paramount importance within the Board. Three staff began the second round of the Fishery Management Diploma course in Sligo RTC. All staff attended further PMDS training, courses were conducted for First Aid, Manual Handling Control and Restraint and GIS.

The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2005

Income	2005	2004
	€	€
Oireachtas Income	2,822,034	2,065,216
Other Income	520,798	518,286
	<u>3,342,832</u>	<u>2,583,502</u>
Transfer (to) / from Capital Account	<u>(280,487)</u>	<u>(33,575)</u>
	<u>3,062,345</u>	<u>2,549,927</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	668,073	612,831
Operations	2,548,042	1,856,297
	<u>3,216,116</u>	<u>2,469,128</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(153,771)	80,799
Surplus/(Deficit) at 1 January	<u>135,184</u>	<u>54,386</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) at 31 December	<u>(18,587)</u>	<u>135,184</u>

Southern Regional Fisheries Board

Board Member Reappointments

The Minister of State at the Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources invited all the current members to remain as members for an indefinite period. The Board met 11 times with an 80% attendance record. At the Board's AGM on January 18th 2005, Mr. Joe Teesdale was elected chairman and Ms. Mary Ferns as Vice-Chairman.

Corporate Governance

The Comptroller and Auditor General's office carried out its annual audit of the Board's financial operations and systems. No management letter issued. The Audit Committee met four times during 2005 and its minutes and recommendations were adopted each time by the Board.

An Internal Audit was also conducted during the year and its report and recommendations were duly circulated and implemented. The Board is aware of and its members fully compliant with the provisions of the standards in the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995-2001 and also the S.I. No. 699 of 2004. Ethics in Public Office (Prescribed Public Bodies, Designated Directorships of Public Bodies and Designated positions in Public Bodies) Regulations, 2004. To comply with Financial Reporting Standards FRS 17, the Board engaged an actuary to value the liability of the Board's Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme. The Results of the valuations are included in the 2005 accounts.

Staff

The Board has a fulltime compliment of 32 staff. The Board employed 8 temporary staff to carry out specific projects during 2005. Two employees were out on long-term illness.

Health and Safety

The CEO is an active member of the South Eastern Regional Advisory Committee. The Board successfully defended a claim in the Circuit Court and when appealed to the High Court, it was eventually withdrawn by the employee. The Board held two sessions with all employees dealing specifically with the new Health and Safety and Welfare at Work 2005 Act. Three accidents were reported, plus one RTA.

Catchment Management

The Barrow Steering Group met four times during 2005 and it participated with the CFB who undertook a review of all the pilot catchment management programmes in the country. The group, supported by the Board's executive, publishes an annual newsletter on activities relating to the Barrow Catchment area.

Marketing and Promotion

The Board works closely with SERTA in developing and promoting angling in the region. The Board's website, after recent revamping, has started to play an extremely important part in attracting anglers to the Region.

EU Projects

The Board is actively participating in the Watertour Project with the Midland Authority, one of five partners in the EU. This is an INTERREG 111C project and is aimed at improving competitiveness of SMEs and Regions involved in Water Tourism Activities by innovative strategies and technologies.

Southern Trout and Coarse Fisheries Development Society

The Southern Trout and Coarse Fisheries Development Society had another very successful year. Developments costing €116,598 were undertaken in the period. Funding of €80,819 was approved as a grant to be paid against 2004 expenditure. This Board, in conjunction with the other Boards is in joint negotiations with the Co-Ops in implementing mutually agreeable procedures for 2006.

Board Lakes

The Board, with Waterford City and County Trout Anglers Association, has initiated a management plan for Ballyshunnock and Knockaderry Lakes. Revenue amounting to €4905 invested in the lakes. This arrangement has opened up the four Waterford reservoirs to local and visiting anglers alike. Further development proposals to increase access and improve fishing will be implemented in 2006.

Equality

Access for people with disabilities was commenced at Headquarters in Clonmel in 2005 and will be completed in 2006.

Customer Charter

The Board will carry out a Customer Survey in 2006.

Freedom of Information

The Board received 3 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and responded within the time parameters to all of them.

Weirs

The Board, in conjunction with Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources drew up amelioration proposals for Clonmel, Fermoy and Kilkenny Weirs. The Board continued extensive monitoring on the Lacken Weir in Kilkenny and outlaid appropriate resources to ensure salmon could navigate the Weir. The Board, with Newmarket Co-Operative, completed the refurbishment of the weir on the Dalua River.

Salmon Management

Commercial 2005

The total allowable catch for both Waterford and Lismore was not met.

	TAC	Catch
Waterford	9622	7574
Lismore	8495	5249

Salmon Angling numbers were as follows for 2004:

Barrow	233
Nore	777
Suir	975
Blackwater	2465

The Board received only 70% of anglers' returns for the 2005 season. The Board, in conjunction with the CFB, completed a two-year survey on salmon stocks on the River Suir. The results will be published in 2006.

Protection

Prosecutions – 10 prosecutions were initiated.

Convictions – 4 convictions in relation to previous years were achieved.

Development

A regional survey of all weirs and obstructions has been undertaken, the report will issue during 2006. Investigations, surveys and development proposals in relation to fisheries, invasive weeds and the Water Framework Directive were undertaken. Development staff have been actively promoting best practice in the area of Drainage in various parts of the region. Clubs and Local Communities throughout the region have been advised and assisted in relation to fishery development and habitat improvement.

Catchment Management, Habitat and Environmental Quality

In view of their potential impact on the fisheries resource, forest sector proposals entailing timber felling, planting, fertilisation and forest road network construction proposals were critically examined. Guidance was provided on the timing and carrying out of works in an environmentally friendly manner. Throughout the region attention was given to monitoring the ever increasing number of planning applications submitted to local authorities, where developments proposed might adversely impact on the fisheries environment. Detailed submissions recommending the imposition of planning conditions necessary for the continued protection and improvement of the aquatic environment were made, and where necessary, objections and appeals as appropriate lodged. A very considerable amount of time was given in the assessment of road construction projects. Working in consultation with the NRA and local authorities, the various tendering consortia were met so as to ensure that fisheries requirements particularly as regards habitat protection and fish movement were understood and adequately provided for. On the ground monitoring of road construction works was maintained, and a generally satisfactory level of co-operation received. Inadequate sewage treatment infrastructure at many locations in the region continued to be of concern, and pressure was maintained on local authorities to upsize and upgrade treatment facilities where required. Due to delays in progressing treatment plant modifications at a number of locations, the Board continued submitting objections against the granting of further planning permissions so as to prevent increased effluent loadings to already overloaded treatment systems. Eutrophication of fisheries waters as a consequence of excess nutrient inputs from various sectors continued to be of concern, and the Board through membership of various technical and strategic policy committees, environmental monitoring and working groups, working in co-operation with the various local authorities, river basin district management groups, Teagasc, EPA and others, continued to highlight problem areas with the intention of achieving an overall improvement in the quality of the fisheries environment throughout the region. Proposed licences under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 and 1990 together with licences under Foreshore, EPA and Waste Management and other relevant legislation were examined in cases where discharges or licensable activities had potential to negatively impact on the fisheries environment. Technical submissions were made to the Agencies concerned advising on numeric and descriptive conditions necessary to safeguard fisheries.

Southern Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2005

Income	2005 Euro	2004 Euro
Oireachtas Income	2,420,810	1,917,801
Other Income	<u>367,463</u>	<u>488,691</u>
	2,788,273	2,406,492
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	(193,600)	113,899
	<u>2,594,673</u>	<u>2,520,391</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	827,677	663,116
Operations	<u>1,844,324</u>	<u>1,431,433</u>
	2,672,001	2,094,549
Surplus for the year	(77,328)	425,842
Surplus at 1 January	328,407	(97,435)
Surplus at 31 December	<u>251,079</u>	<u>328,407</u>

South Western Regional Fisheries Board

The Board had a successful year in 2005 and continued to successfully develop its fisheries. Salmon counter data indicated positive increases in the number of salmon running into the regions river systems. Environmentally stakeholder attitudes towards the inland fisheries environment appear to be improving and in 2005 the Board received many information calls from the general public. This information greatly assisted the operations of the Board.

The commercial salmon sector continues to work well with the Board in the development and management of its industry.

Corporate Governance

Board staff

In 2005 the Board had 32 full time staff and employed 5 temporary staff.

The Board carried out its functions in accordance with, and as laid down by, the 'Ethics in public Office' directives. Corporate governance and 'value for money' are viewed as core principles by the Board, management and staff.

The Boards Audit Committee continued to function efficiently.

Five year development plan

The Boards five-year development plan, with its emphasis on safeguarding the environment through sustainable development continues to be applied with educational programmes forming its backbone.

Annual Business Plan

The Board successfully achieved the components of its business plan for 2005. While there were many challenges throughout the year the Board succeeded in delivering its objectives and bringing the programme home on budget.

South West Trout and Coarse Fisheries Development Society

The Society had an uneventful year in 2005

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Sustainable development

The Board made considerable headway in its sustainable development initiatives and continued with its education awareness programme and multi stakeholder processes generally. The Holistic Management Model developed for the Kerry Blackwater continues to function well.

Aquaculture

The Board continued to keep a watching brief on the regions sea lice monitoring programme, while higher than recommended lice levels were once again noted on some salmon farms during the year compliance was in the main met.

The Board assisted the Tralee Oyster Society.

On The Spot Fines

The Board issued 50 OTSF in 2005.

Mobile Protection Unit

The Board's mobile Protection Unit proved to be a considerable deterrent to illegal fishing activities in 2005. The Unit provides a valuable rapid response facility to the Board that greatly assists its protection operations. The Unit was well received by the general public and anglers.

Fisheries Protection

Through the work of the Board's protection staff a number of prosecutions were initiated and a substantial quantity of illegal fishing equipment seized in 2005. The 'On the Spot fines' system is continuing to prove effective. The general public continued to feed information into the Board which is of considerable assistance in tackling illegal activities in the region.

Cork Region

Total nets seized	5 nets – 1,300 m
Fish seized	7 salmon, 2 boxes bass
Prosecutions initiated	16
Equipment seized	11 items

Kerry Region

Total nets seized	35 nets – 5,000 m
Fish seized	16 salmon, 4 bags oysters
Prosecutions initiated	7
Equipment seized	3 rods, 1 boat

National fish counter programme

The following counters operated in the region during the year;

Waterville fishery
Kerry Blackwater
River Laune (problematic)
River Bandon
Smolt trap River laune

The Board counter programme continues to deliver quality data on salmon and sea trout movements in the SW.

Tags and Quotas

The Tagging programme ran smoothly throughout 2005. Disappointingly there was only a 62% return of anglers log books. There was a 99% commercial logbook return.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Submissions

Submission were made in relation to the following

- a) 14 Water Pollution Act, (Discharge to Waters), Licence Applications.
- b) 83 Waste Management Permit Applications.
- c) 4 Dumping at Sea Permit Applications.
- d) 99 Forestry submissions relating to establishment, clear fell and native woodland schemes.
- e) 25 Aquaculture Licence Applications.
- f) 5 Policy Papers and Guidelines.

Section 18 Authorisations EIS + Research

8 authorisations were issued during the year.

Civil Works

163 civil work proposals were assessed, which involved inspections, meeting, consultations and or submissions as appropriate.

Educational/Awareness Programme

10 schools were visited and a total of @ 365 students addressed. Presentations were given at 8 REPS and 4 Teacher Training Courses. A day course was organised with Coillte engineering staff on civil works and fisheries and a presentation on aquatic biology was given at the SALAR course. Several field trips were organised in conjunction with the above.

Planning

A total of 11459 planning applications were assessed in relation to their potential impact on fisheries with 490 submissions made to the relevant planning authorities. In many instances preplanning consultation with developers took place and fishery requirements were included in development design. Three decisions were appealed to an Bord Pleanála during the year.

Freedom of Information Act

Two requests under the Freedom of Information Act were dealt with in 2005.

Energy requirements

The Board, a member of the Lee Valley Ecolabel Project, continued its programme of energy improvement.

Training

Board staff attended a number of training courses during the year.

PMDS

The Boards 2005 PMDS programme continued to gain momentum. Staff stated that they found the process valuable, allowing for additional feedback which assisted them in the delivery of the Boards Development Plan.

Health and Safety

The Board held a number of staff H&S meetings during the year. Comprehensive equipment checks were undertaken to ensure safe operations.

The Board undertook its ongoing remedial works programme on its Board fisheries.

Marketing and Promotion

The Board had a very successful year on the marketing and promotional side producing a number of publications. Five trade shows were attended in 2005, two in the USA, one in the UK and two in Holland. These shows resulted in a number of firm bookings and generated considerable interest.

Angling log book data indicates that the US trade shows have resulted in a very positive growth from USA anglers.

Several promotional articles were written for various publications.

Catchment Management

Catchment Management, a process fully adopted by the Board, continues to gain favour and is widely acknowledged as the most appropriate tool for managing the regions fisheries. While a number of aspects associated with catchment management generated considerable discussion throughout the year, co-management is now well set to become the management tool of choice for fishery managers

Multi Stakeholder Processes (MSP's)

The Board continued to develop and advance the multi stakeholder process in the management of the regions inland fisheries. Considerable effort was applied to the development of systems that would allow for the dissemination of information.

Public Education Awareness

The Board undertook a number of public/school awareness programmes. These are designed to build capacity and foster relations. They were very well received by the groups in question.

Network and partnering

The Board continued to build its network base in 2005. Collaborative management and partnerships are viewed as pivotal by the Board in delivering a stream lined service.

BOARD FISHERIES

Coarse Angling - Inniscarra Lake

Inniscarra Lake, managed jointly by the ESB and the SWRFB, had a very successful year and indications are that visiting tourist numbers are on the increase.

There were several angling competitions held on the lake during the year and by all accounts these had very successful returns.

Managed Trout Lakes

The Boards 13 managed Rainbow trout lakes had a good year. Approximately 50,000 Rainbow trout were stocked into the lakes. Net permit revenue amounted to €104,250. The Creel Census forms indicated that people enjoyed fishing the lakes; especially from a family aspect and that a number of fish were caught weighing over 13 lb. The mobile protection unit was a great help in monitoring and checking for permits. The Jack Charlton Cup proved to be once again a successful event.

Sea Angling

Reports from anglers during the year indicated that sea angling, both from boat and shore, were of a high standard. Good numbers of mainland European anglers continued to visit our shores, especially the Dutch. Similarly there was a good volume of UK anglers. Several specimen fish were landed by the charter boats in 2005.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

European initiatives

The Board was actively involved in an INTERREG programme called SALAR which was successfully completed in December 2005.

No Net Loss

The Board initiated a 'No Net Loss' programme aimed at ensuring sustainable development of the SW. Information material was produced and a national conference held which included a number of overseas speakers.

South Western Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2005

Income	2005 Euro	2004 Euro
Oireachtas Income	2,929,090	2,002,933
Other Income	<u>671,201</u>	<u>498,913</u>
	3,600,291	2,501,846
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	(823,537)	(45,808)
	<u>2,776,754</u>	<u>2,456,038</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	876,641	738,504
Operations	<u>1,867,510</u>	<u>1,694,393</u>
	2,744,151	2,432,897
Surplus for the year	32,603	23,141
Surplus at 1 January	65,855	42,714
Surplus at 31 December	<u>98,458</u>	<u>65,855</u>

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

Through its business plan 2005 the Board achieved elements of its strategic statement and development plan 2003-2006 in a successful year for the Shannon Fisheries Region. The targets set out in this plan were moved forward by its well motivated and professional staff with the assistance of its stakeholders, enabling it to deliver on its remit of protecting and developing the Fisheries resources of the Region.

Product Development and Resource Investment

The Shannon Fisheries Region is vast covering 18 local Authorities and a land area of 17,775.7 sq Km, as such ensuring access to this great resource is a major task.

Over the years the Board has put in place 1850 structures from foot bridges to angling stands. During 2005 a programme was undertaken to update our angling structure database and ensure that each structure continued to be in a safe condition. The funding required to maintain this valuable angling infrastructure, in addition to open up new waters, is considerable and could only be undertaken by State and stakeholder involvement.

Surveys

Fish stock surveys are a very important fisheries management tool giving the Board detailed and factual information enabling it to develop management strategies and development plans for its fisheries. In association with the C.F.B., Research Section, five main surveys were undertaken. Coarse Fish stocks were monitored on the River Shannon between Rooskey and Lough Forbes, where stocks were found to be in a healthy condition. On Lough Sheelin, where Trout stocks have showed signs of recovery, Roche stocks have crashed. This may be associated with the introduction of Zebra Mussels into the Lake in recent years. Studies were also carried out on Lough Derravarragh and Lough Owel and on the Rivers Cross and Feale.

Fisheries Rehabilitation

The final phase of the rehabilitation of the Hind River was completed and brings to an end a three year programme in which over 5 kilometres of river were restored. The indications are that it has been a major success and over the next three years the river will be monitored to assess the impact of the work which was a collaborative effort between the Roscommon County Council, Shannon Regional Fisheries Board, ESB and the local Anglers. Work was also carried out on the Camlim River as part of a three year programme with Longford Co. Council and the Camlin Anglers supported by the ESB.

Further works were also carried out on a Tudenham River which enters Lough Ennell, the Clooneigh River and the Black Water River. In all over 12 Kms of streams were restored. The Board is strongly of the view that this type of programme is required throughout the Region and without the involvement of the Stakeholders the programmes would not have materialised. The Board will continue to seek State funding in association with Stakeholders to bring about the restoration of the numerous Rivers and Streams throughout the Region.

Stocking

In general the Board does not favour the introduction of hatchery reared fish into the wild, except as a result of pollution, where fish stocks have been wiped out or in a small number of Fisheries to provide recreational angling for large numbers of Anglers. As part of our Recreational Angling Programme the Board stocked out 33,000 Adult Brown and Rainbow Trout and some 300,000 fry. While these programmes have been successful down through the years, due to the increased angling pressure, increased stocking in future years may be required and the Board is actively reviewing its commitments in this area.

Throughout its network of 26 Board controlled Fisheries angling opportunities were provided to anglers, who generated an income of €75,000, which was re-invested in the Fisheries through stocking, maintenance and development. Many of our Fisheries are recognised Wild Brown Trout Waters and reports of some excellent catches were made throughout the year. Our Coarse Angling Fisheries also produced some outstanding catches with Pike Angling producing some excellent specimens. The Specimen Fish Committee Report for 2005 states that 54% of the Specimen Pike caught were from the Shannon Region.

Commercial Sector

Salmon

Through the continuation of the Salmon conservation measures, containing the tagging and quota system, the Region received a Quota of 9,336 salmon of which 9185 were caught. This allocation represents 34% on the allocation received in 2001. Despite this the majority of Commercial Fishermen undertook their fishing in a compliant manner during the year. Discussions were held with the sector to seek a way forward through a voluntary "*buyout or set a side*" system to ensure that conservation levels are met and sustainable commercial fishing can be developed.

Salmon runs into most of the Region continued to decline with the exception of the River Feale, where good runs were reported and the Salmon count at Scartleigh fish counter increased from 9,581 to 10,098. This demonstrates that, where water quality and habitat are good, salmon stocks will be maintained.

Eels

Commercial fishing for Eels is the second largest element of the commercial sector in the Shannon Catchment with an annual catch, during 2005 of 37,000 tonnes of silver and brown Eels with the Board issuing 82 eel fishing licences. However, as with the Salmon sector, concerns have been expressed by Scientists monitoring Eel stocks that a major decline is occurring, not just in the Shannon Catchment but throughout Europe. This concern has led the EU to act and prepare a draft Directive which will see a major curtailment of commercial Eel fishing and it is likely to be implemented during 2006.

Regulation Compliance

Enforcement of the Fisheries Regulations continued to be a major element of the Boards business. Through its highly dedicated staff the Boards enforcement remit is carried out throughout the Region and compliance with the numerous regulations was high.

The Board carried out 800 man hours of Boat Patrols, seized 34 nets, many of these short and placed in River Estuaries. The Board greatly appreciated the assistance given by the Garda, Navy and the Air Corp in its enforcement operations.

Concerns at the enforcement effort of the ESB on salmon and eels were expressed by the Board and the angling community. These were addressed in part and further work is to be undertaken in 2006.

While Salmon related breaches of regulations has declined with the decline in Salmon numbers, other areas of fisheries regulations have seen an increase in non-compliance.

The increase in the number of people resident in Ireland and fishing for coarse fish for the table has brought with it an increase in illegal activity through the use of Nets, fix lines etc. It has also raised concerns that small fisheries will see a decline in Coarse fish stocks through the killing of stock. The Board in responding to this new dimension and has proposed that new regulations be implemented and these are presently being examined by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

Angling and Promotions

Website

As part of the Boards programmes to make available information to the Public, Anglers and visiting Anglers the Boards website www.shannon-fishy-board.ie plays an important role. It attracted over 433,891 unique visitors during 2005, providing a One Stop Shop from the provision of information on Angling and Fisheries to buying your Angling licence online and booking your accommodation.

Salmon Angling

Concerns continue to be expressed on most of the regions Salmon Rivers at the decline in the stock of Salmon. The most notable exception to this was the River Feale with excellent runs of fish particularly late in the season. The Rivers Fergus, Maigue and Mulcair and the Lower Shannon provided some good fishing, but numbers were greatly down on previous years. The numbers of anglers taking to the water was on par with previous years with 2085 Salmon rod licences being sold.

Trout Angling

The early part of the season was hampered by wintry weather, nonetheless some good fishing was reported from time to time. The Mayfly season was one of the main angling milestones and 2005 was a good year on the big lakes. While weather didn't always oblige, there was excellent mayfly fishing on Lough Ree which has seen a huge recovery in recent years. Lough Derg fished well also when weather obliged. Buzzer fishing was successful for some on the Midland lakes around Mullingar and on Sheelin. Wild Brown trout angling continues to be the main fishing activity in the Region.

Coarse and Pike

Coarse angling was generally good and from feedback received many anglers had good results with some recording great individual catches. Despite the difficult weather conditions there were good catch returns from select waters in the spring and early summer.

Pike, with specimens aplenty provided good angling throughout the year. Of the pike specimens reported to the Irish Specimen Fish Committee in 2005, 54% were from the Shannon Region. There were also many superb fish recorded region-wide in local competitions, by pleasure anglers and specimen hunters alike over the angling year. One of the hot spots was off Long Island on the River Shannon near Athlone where a German party landed several pike including huge specimens of 37lbs and 29lbs.

Promotions

The promotion of Angling and the Fisheries Resource was actively pursued during 2005, externally the Board participated in trade shows abroad and placed advertisements in the Press while supporting the Angling Tourism Stakeholders in their promotional efforts abroad. Considerable resources were also devoted to assisting in the preparation and running of Tourist Coarse Angling Competitions which attracted 1200 Anglers from Europe.

Domestically the development of our Fishery Awareness Week was a major highlight of the year. The event ran from 4th June to 12th June with the aims of re-iterating the need to protect and conserve fish populations and their aquatic habitat, promoting the personal benefits of angling and highlighting the fun element of our fishery resources. A wide range of events were organised in association with our Stakeholders in over 30 locations throughout the Region.

Over 2,500 people attended the various events such as fisheries open days, angling tuition, fly tying, art and poetry competitions, electro fishing operation demonstrations, displays of live fish etc. The feedback from those participating was excellent with many people for the first time participating in angling and having a

greater understanding of how the fisheries environment works and indeed seeing live trout and coarse fish for the first time.

The Board also, during the year, assisted with domestic angling competitions, provided fisheries awareness talks to schools and to participants in REPs. The presentations were received very well and there is an increasing demand for such work.

Habitat Conservation

Despite highlighting the problems and indeed being to the front in taking legal action, pollution and habitat damage, particularly our nursery streams, continues to be the single greatest challenge facing the restoration of our fisheries.

Through its day to day inspections of local Authority Water and Sewage Plants, Farms and Industrial Plants, the Board seeks to identify, prevent and detect pollution problems. In 2005 the Board undertook 878 inspections and while point source pollutions have decreased there are concerns that Local Authority Waste Water Treatment Plants are becoming increasingly overloaded with housing and commercial developments outpacing the capacity of the WWTP to cope. Development applications, in such areas, were closely monitored to ensure they met good environmental principles.

Despite new legislation, EU Directives and given the significant efforts made by Local Authorities to control nutrient inputs on agricultural land, waters such as Lough Sheelin, which is still considered to be highly eutrophic, a full recovery of such Fisheries is not considered imminent.

The fact that many other rivers particularly the Mague and the Deel, are still regarded as amongst the most eutrophic in the country highlights the enormity of the problem. The Board investigated 15 Fish kill incidents during 2005 which is an increase over 2004. This again indicates that while the water quality issues are being tackled, progress is frustratingly slow.

The increasing development of road network across the Region has required the Board to make available considerable resources to ensure that these developments will not have adverse impacts on our Fisheries. In an effort to ensure that all parties involved in Road Construction are aware of the Fisheries requirements a document has been drawn up and is due for publication in early 2006. While the Board is confident that the NRA have adopted good practice in relation to the preservation of Fisheries, the Private Consortiums which deliver the infrastructure on the ground, continue to be less impressive and much of the Boards scarce resources are being devoted to ensuring that they comply with the Fisheries requirements.

Corporate Development

The SHRFB complied with the Ethics in Public Office Act and is fully committed to complying with Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies. In association with all Fisheries Boards, the Board provided input to the development of a formal Performance Contract with the DCMNR setting out what was required of the Board.

Inland Fisheries Review

The delay in the publication of the Farrell Grant Sparks Review on the Inland Fishery Sector was a source of uncertainty within the organisation and its final publication in November resulted in increased uncertainty as to the future role of the Board. The Board in developing a response to the Review maintained its focus on achieving the key objectives of its business plan.

A high level of importance was given to the implementation of the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act through the implementation of the Boards Safety Statement and monitored by the

Boards Safety, Health and Welfare Committee. Ongoing training and monitoring of risk were undertaken to ensure that the occupational health and safety of all employees and the Public was maintained and updated.

Mr. Michael Callaghan was elected Chairman by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Board in January 2005 for a one year period. The Board met on 14 occasions during the year to carry out its statutory remit and review and implement its corporate governance.

The Audit Committee worked effectively during 2005 meeting four times and engaging external consultants to provide an internal Audit service. The Audit Committee reviewed the internal Audit recommendations, agreed a plan to implement their recommendations.

The 2004 Audit was completed by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Chairman's statement of internal financial control, as required under paragraph 10.2 (3) of the Code of Practice of the Governance of State Bodies was incorporated in the 2004 accounts.

Staff Development and Training

Staff development was a high priority with the Board during 2005. Through its programmes of training, modernisation and development of a high quality work environment the Board was enabled to deliver on its key objectives

The final phase of the Performance, Management and Development System was rolled out during 2005 to all staff and is now fully integrated with the organisations annual planning cycle. The system involves the reviewing of performance of individual staff against objectives set at the beginning of the year together with delivery on individual training needs.

In partnership with other Fisheries Boards our training programme provided 328 training days in areas such as First Aid, power boat level 2, safety representatives, safety at sea and the Fisheries Management Certificate course held at Sligo I.T.

Fisheries Development Societies

The two Fisheries Development Societies based in the Shannon Region undertook Fisheries development and conservation work on a wide variety of projects. A total funding of €23176.11 was issued, €7112.76 to the Upper Shannon Fisheries Development Society and €16063.35 to the Lower Shannon Fisheries Development Society. Both Societies provided an annual report and their accounts in compliance with their requirements.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Acts 1997

The Board in dealing with its suppliers of goods and services seeks to ensure prompt payment of all invoices as soon as invoices have been received. Under the provision of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Acts 1997 as amended by the European Communities (late payment in commercial transactions) Regulations 2002 seek to ensure that payments are made promptly and where they are not penalties are applied. The total amount of penalties interest paid in 2005 was €91.82 in 7 cases. These payments amount to .006% of the total payments made to suppliers in that year.

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2005

Income	2005 Euro	2004 Euro
Oireachtas Income	2,940,469	2,434,750
Other Income	<u>665,966</u>	<u>430,434</u>
	3,606,435	2,865,184
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	(265,668)	31,325
	<u>3,340,767</u>	<u>2,896,509</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	461,967	340,067
Operations	<u>2,911,681</u>	<u>2,507,484</u>
	3,373,648	2,847,551
Surplus for the year	(32,881)	48,958
Surplus at 1 January	210,840	161,882
Surplus at 31 December	<u>177,959</u>	<u>210,840</u>

Western Regional Fisheries Board

Staff

Despite efforts to get approval for the replacement of the C.E.O. approval has not been forthcoming for the filling of this vital position, the Assistant Chief Executive Officer is continuing to provide the services of both senior positions.

Facilities

During the year the Board purchased a new store for the Galway District staff and equipment. This has followed a very long period when the Board had no suitable facilities for the Board staff and the storage of equipment under proper conditions. Over the next year it is hoped that the facility can be upgraded to include proper storage of equipment and shower and meeting room facilities for staff.

Western Co-Operative Society

The Western Fisheries Development Co-operative Society continued to have regular meetings throughout 2005 and funded many projects primarily on the Great Western Lakes. An increasing number of these projects were done in conjunction with the development programme of the Board. The Co-op disbursed €58,456.80 in grant aid and received a grant of €21,756.51 - all relating to projects for the 2004 project year. The Co-operative accounts for the project year 2005 will be completed by July 2006. One of the main accomplishments in the year was the removal of the impassable barrier on the Lough Kip River jointly undertaken in conjunction with the Western Regional Fisheries Board. This dam had been in place for many years and had been constructed to facilitate a small private hydroelectric power station. Following the construction of the dam no migratory fish were able to access the Lough Kip River. This has now been rectified and the river is now available for both upstream and downstream migration of salmonids – both salmon and brown trout as well as eels.

Protection and Development

A very significant effort was made during the year to ensure that all fish were protected. Staff were deployed counting redds, improving river habitat, rescuing fish in low water, stock management in key wild brown trout fisheries, implementing the salmon carcass tagging and quota scheme patrolling rivers, estuaries and the sea. The Board also undertook sea lice inspections in conjunction with the Marine Institute staff and where deemed necessary stripped fish for enhancement and ranching purposes.

Over the past year the exploitation of coarse fish for human consumption has continued to be an issue with coarse fish stocks in many lakes under threat from both rod and line as well as illegal activities. The Board is extremely concerned about this activity and, in conjunction with the other Board, is seeking the introduction of a bag limit for coarse fish species.

Aquaculture

The Board remains deeply concerned that the problems in the aquaculture industry are not being properly addressed in particular the deleterious affect that lice from marine salmon farms can have on wild salmonids – both sea trout and salmon. The Board wishes to see the introduction of salmonid sanctuary areas in the sea as a matter of urgency to protect these valuable species.

The Board noted that a trial cod farm had been established in Bertraghboy bay. It was notable that in 2005, with the absence of salmon farming in this bay, the nearby fisheries saw one of the best runs of wild sea trout in many years, although the fish were only finnock, the signs were encouraging. If no salmon are introduced to farms in the bay in 2006 there will be a great opportunity for these sea trout to grow possibly to

spawning size without running the gauntlet of a bay with a high sea lice level. Cod are not hosts for the sea louse that infests salmonid fish.

Aquatic Environment

During the early part of the year weather conditions were generally favorable for fish life but sunny weather and low rainfall put pressure on fish stocks.

A total of 622 water samples were tested, including 562 spot samples and 60 mid-lake samples. 376 incidents, complaints and referrals were processed.

The Board were actively involved in planning in the region and made numerous submissions on planning applications to tighten up on the environmental protection measures.

Deficiencies still remain in a number of sewage treatment facilities in the Region most notably in Headford, Clonbur, Oughterard, Claregalway, Clifden, Ballindine and Dunmore. The Board is continuing to try to get the replacement of these works fast tracked.

Hatchery

The Board's hatchery at Cong continued to produce smolts for ranching operations on the Bunowen and the Corrib. In addition a significant number of smolts were raised for the SUMBAWS project. These fish were released in the Gowla, Invermore and Erriff systems in Connemara and Ballinakill and their survival and return will be monitored in 2006. The first salmon of 2005 caught at Galway, an 18lbs spring salmon, was a micro-tagged fish which had been released from Cong in 2003. It was one of many Cong fish which continue to augment the good salmon fishing on the Corrib.

FAS Programmes

The Board continued with its FAS schemes and during the period two staff members were dedicated to the supervision of FAS schemes on a full time basis. The schemes operated in Louisburgh and Oughterard. Considerable work was done in the area around Louisburgh and Westport particularly on angling bridges and stands on the Bunowen and Erriff rivers. The FAS staff in Oughterard undertook substantial works on Board property improving the working conditions for staff. In addition significant work was undertaken on small rivers and streams in the region.

Angling Information / Promotion / Sea angling

The Board continued with the development of its web site, and news and angling reports were updated regularly. In addition Board staff answered a diverse number of angler enquiries over the period both from the Head Office in Galway but also from the regional stores and bases around the Region. In excess of 4,000 angler enquiries were catered for in 2005. In addition a comprehensive weekly angling update was prepared and circulated widely to newspapers and angling journals. The profile of angling in the west was maintained, with regular items featuring in the Irish Times and other national papers. Board staff assisted overseas angling journalists and TV researchers. Angling articles and photographs were published in angling magazines.

Commercial Catches – Salmon / Eels / Molluscs

Commercial salmon trapping in the Galway Fishery remained suspended in 2005. Salmon fishing was restricted by further cuts in quotas, and the quota was not caught by commercial fishermen.

	Galway		Connemara		Ballinakill		Region	
Method	TAC	Catch	TAC	Catch	TAC	Catch	TAC	Catch
DRIFT	3,351	3,075	2,277	1,867	4,376	3,737	10,004	8,679
DRAFT	110	70	0	0	1,307	677	1,417	747
TOTAL	3,461	3,145	2,277	1,867	5,683	4,414	11,421	9,426

Anglers were also restricted to 20 salmon in a season but no more than one fish per day up to the 1st June.

Commercial eel fishing was continued, but eel catches remained low. The Board remains concerned about the lack of eel recruitment to the Great Western Lakes. The Board is seeking the funding of a full scientific appraisal of the eel stocks and exploitation levels and for long lines and other licensed engines to be reduced.

Erriff Fishery, Aasleagh Lodge and the Galway Fishery

Bookings at the Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge were down for the season, and the recorded salmon catch was down 15% on 2004, with 250 fish taken. This was due, in part, to dry weather in the summer and a poor grilse return. Sea trout catches were extremely disappointing with just 79 being recorded on the fishery - this was the fifth year in a row when the sea trout catches continued to decline. Furthermore sea trout with high lice levels were taken in the lower reaches of both the Erriff and Delphi fisheries in the summer of 2005.

The Galway Fishery had a very encouraging season, almost reaching the previous year's total with 691 salmon landed. This was in spite of very high water spoiling fishing during the peak season in early June, but low water levels later on at the Weir kept fish in the fishery for longer periods rather than the fish running up to Lough Corrib immediately on entering the system.

Bunowen River

Unfortunately, the weather conditions were unsuitable over a long period with low water levels for much of July and August. As in the previous year the salmon fishing improved notably in September. The total reported catch was less than 100, with a significant number of fish believed to have been caught and not reported to staff.

Carrowniskey River

It wasn't until September that salmon showed up in good numbers in the river, the earlier season showing very little activity by anglers fishing the river. The total reported catch was 20 salmon, although this is believed to be a significant under-estimate, with many fish not reported to staff.

Erriff Fishery

Over the last number of years concern has been expressed about the population of ferox trout in Lough Corrib. The increased popularity of trolling and deadbaiting, coupled with the demand for mounted trophy fish, has increased the pressure on this stock. Very little information was available on the size of the stock, fish habits, and spawning distribution. To this end a project was begun in 2005 involving the Western Regional Fisheries Board, Central Fisheries Board, and Fin Oakland from Norway, an expert in radio-tracking fish.

16 ferox trout were caught on rod and line over a 2-week period in August 2005, and tagged with internal radio-tags. The fish were anaesthetized for the procedure, and the tagging usually took less than one

minute. Following release, the fish were tracked periodically over the next few months using radio receivers by staff on the ground and also by air. Results to date have shown that the ferox trout spawn in more than one river, and probably do not spawn every year, as only half of the fish were tracked coming into tributaries during the spawning season. Tracking will continue during 2006, with the possibility of tagging more fish this season

Western Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2005

Income	2005 Euro	2004 Euro
Oireachtas Income	3,296,166	2,739,274
Other Income	<u>1,089,210</u>	<u>979,023</u>
	4,385,376	3,718,297
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	(479,875)	(25,525)
	<u>3,905,501</u>	<u>3,692,772</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	770,808	760,691
Operations	<u>3,127,393</u>	<u>2,844,718</u>
	3,898,201	3,605,409
Surplus for the year	7,300	87,363
Surplus at 1 January	256,147	168,784
Surplus at 31 December	<u>263,447</u>	<u>256,147</u>

North Western Regional Fisheries Board

In line with its five-year strategic development plan, the Board made significant progress across the full range of its statutory remit. Some of the more significant developments included the following:

- Purchase of the Cloongee Fishery on the River Moy;
- Provision of an Angling Centre on the Cathedral Beat, Moy Fishery;
- Publication of Report on water quality at Carrowmore Lake;
- Construction of major weir on Owenmore River (Bangor) to accommodate a new fish counter;
- Report on the operation of the Munhin Fish counter 2003-2005;
- Installation and operation of two experimental fish counters in the Moy Fishery traps;
- Provision of new access, car park and launching facilities at Lough Gill;
- Adoption of Owenduff Catchment Management Plan;
- Publication of new sea angling guide;
- Completion of Phase 1 of the Drumcliff River development
- Provision of new and improved stores at Bangor Erris.

Protection and Conservation of Fisheries

The year was an exceptionally busy one for the protection service with an upsurge in illegal salmon fishing in various parts of the region. The coastal area was patrolled regularly throughout the salmon season and the main salmon rivers and lakes were patrolled throughout the year. Oyster fisheries were patrolled during the dredging season and during periods suitable for hand picking of oysters which is illegal. Patrols were carried out to ensure that regulations were complied with on trout fisheries and eel fishing activity was also monitored to ensure compliance with the law.

There was noticeable increase in illegal fishing on the Moy in late July due to an increase in the price of wild salmon. This probably also accounted for a considerable level of illegal activity by a small number of commercial salmon fishermen along the north Mayo coast following the close of the commercial salmon fishing season. Board staff devoted considerable attention to this problem and a number of prosecutions were pending at the year end. Staff in the Bangor District also had to cope with an upsurge in illegal activity during the August/September period as a late run of salmon, combined with low water conditions, made rivers very vulnerable to poachers. Board staff were viciously assaulted in the course of a patrol in the Glenamoy area and, at the year end, prosecutions were pending in respect of two separate incidents involving assault of staff.

Management of Salmon Stocks

Salmon spawning was monitored in all Districts and, where possible, redd counts were obtained in order to ascertain the level of spawning. Commercial salmon fishing quotas were allocated following consultation with the relevant Fishery District Committees. Tags were distributed and commercial fishermen's licences and logbooks were checked regularly during the fishing season. A total of 3,397 angling licences/logbooks were checked to ensure compliance with the tagging regulations. Catch data in respect of 8,111 angling and commercial licences and 3,901 logbooks was input to the national database. Return of logbooks by anglers, at 47 %, was again very disappointing.

The Board's fish counter on the Munhin River operated throughout the year and a report was produced on the operation of the counter in the years 2003-05. A large weir was constructed on the Owenmore River to accommodate a fish counter which will be commissioned in 2006. Two experimental fish counters were installed in the traps on the River Moy, at Ballina, and plans were advanced, in conjunction with fishery owners, for the provision of counters on the Owenduff and Newport Rivers. The Marine Institute counter on the Ballysadare River was also monitored.

Catchment Management

In accordance with its Strategic Development Plan, 2002-2006, the Board continued to move towards a catchment based approach to management of the major river systems. A Fisheries Catchment Manager was deployed full time in the Bangor District and another officer was deployed part time in the Moy catchment. A Fisheries Catchment Management Plan for the Owenduff River system was adopted by the Board in 2005 and a draft fisheries catchment management plan was also prepared for the Glenamoy River.

Good progress was made on implementation of the Owenmore Fisheries Catchment Management Plan which had been published the previous year. Stakeholders contributed towards the construction costs of a major weir on the Owenmore River. Following two years of research, in conjunction with the EPA and Mayo Co. Council, a comprehensive report on phosphorous discharges to Carrowmore Lake was produced, circulated to stakeholders and the findings presented to various interest groups. In conjunction with Bord na Mona, a rehabilitation plan for those areas of the catchment which have been affected by peat harvesting operations, was implemented.

For the fifth consecutive year, electro fishing surveys were carried out at 37 sites on the Owenmore, Owenduff, Glenamoy and Newport River systems in order to monitor stocks of juvenile fish.

Development and Improvement of Fisheries

A new Angling Centre was constructed at the Cathedral Beat of the River Moy in Ballina. It includes an anglers' lounge together with ghillie's desk, toilet and storage facilities. The Board provided a new access point to Lough Gill at Hazelwood, near Sligo town and, extensive improvement works were carried out on the Drumcliffe River. In conjunction with FAS, a Community Employment Scheme also commenced and, in excess, of 30 km of channel in the Moy catchment was cleared of excessive shrubbery.

A number of enhancement projects were completed in association with other bodies. These included improvements to the Manulla River and Bohaun Stream in association with the OPW and to spawning/nursery streams in the Lough Conn Catchment in association with Lough Conn and Lough Cullin Anglers' Association. The latter works were funded by Ballina Beverages Ltd.

At Lough Arrow, improvement works were carried out on the Aughagowla and Derrylea Streams and small incubation units were operated on the Cartron, Flanagan's and Aughagowla Streams. In the Bangor District enhancement works were completed on the Owenmore and Inver Rivers comprising bank protection, road improvements and the provision of a small parking area.

Water flow was maintained in the River Deel and a number of fish salvage operations were undertaken. Arising from the operation of the Glencullin salmon incubation unit, 111,164 eyed ova were planted out in March, 2005 in tributaries of the Owenmore system and a further 153,800 salmon ova were put to hatch in December, 2005. The Board continued its programme of stocking selected trout fisheries with hatchery reared fish. Stock management on the region's principal trout fisheries also continued and 741 pike, weighing 1.6 tonnes (average 2.2 kg) were transferred to pike fisheries in the region.

Protection of Water Quality

The protection and restoration of water quality was again a high priority for the Board. Disruption of angling on Carrowmore Lake, due to an algal bloom, was again a cause for serious concern. The Board produced a report on a two year study of Carrowmore Lake which found that discharges of phosphorous to the lake were extremely elevated and needed to be reduced by at least 45%. The study confirmed that land use practices, principally agriculture and forestry, were the main contributors to the enrichment problem. The

report also made a series of recommendations aimed at redressing the problem and these were being progressed at year-end.

The Board dealt with a wide range of infrastructural projects which impacted on water quality. Planning applications were monitored and individual applications were reviewed. The Board lodged four appeals to An Bord Pleanála, three of which were successful and one was withdrawn by the Board. Two appeals lodged by the Board in 2004 were also determined, in favour of the Board, in 2005. Three prosecutions were initiated during the year. Two were successful and one, which was dismissed, was under appeal at the year end.

The Board commenced a new water sampling programme in the Lough Conn/Cullin sub-catchment with a view to identifying specific sources of phosphorous. One fish kill was investigated during the year and related to large-scale mortalities of roach on Loughs Conn and Cullin. The fish kill was not pollution related and examination of roach by Marine Institute pathologists failed to establish a definitive cause for the mass mortalities.

Promotion and Marketing of Angling

The Board carried out a range of activities aimed at attracting more anglers to the region and encouraging more young people to participate in angling as well as enhancing the reputation of the area as an angling destination. The quality of fishing on offer in the region was advertised in various angling and tourism publications and favourable articles on angling in the region appeared in a number of Irish, UK and US angling magazines.

A new Guide to Sea Angling in the North Western Region was published. The full colour publication contains a wide range of information on boat and shore angling available throughout the region as well as contact details for angling clubs, boat hire operators. A weekly report was produced during the main fishing season and this was circulated to local and national media and, through the CFB, to international media as well as being posted weekly to the Board's web site, www.northwestfisheries.ie, which received 33,123 visits in 2005 compared with 24,568 visits in 2004, an increase of 35%.

Analysis of angling licence sales revealed that anglers came to the region from at least 31 countries. Of the 7,967 licences sold, 7,002 (70%) were purchased by anglers from outside the region while 4,188 (53%) were purchased by out of state visitors. Six juvenile angling events were organised by the Board and these proved highly popular with boys and girls ranging from six to eighteen years of age. In conjunction with Mayo Education Centre, the *Something Fishy* programme was launched in national schools in Co. Mayo and ongoing support was provided to participating schools.

Management of Board Fisheries

During the year the Board acquired and managed the Cloongee Fishery, on the River Moy. A total of 5,336 rod days were fished on Board fisheries in 2005, an increase of 3% on 2004. Permit and boat hire income on Board fisheries amounted to €255,529 in 2005 compared with €224,261 in 2004, an increase of 14%.

Angling on the Moy Fishery was allocated in accordance with the Board's criteria and 3,725 anglers from 21 countries were accommodated. Booking arrangements were operated for all other Board fisheries and these were advertised on the Board's web site and in angling publications. An extensive, phased stocking programme ensured that the Board's put and take fisheries had adequate trout stocks throughout the angling season.

The Board again utilised its fisheries to promote juvenile angling. As well as the events reported above (Promotion of Angling), the Board allocated 154 rods to juvenile anglers, at a nominal charge, on the Moy

Fishery Cathedral Beat. These young anglers enjoyed excellent sport and caught a total of 49 salmon during the season.

The North Western Fisheries Development Society

The North Western Fisheries Development Society was inactive in 2005.

Fish Catches and Angling

Commercial Salmon Fishing

Commercial salmon fishing was poor in 2005 with fishermen in all three districts failing to catch their allocated quotas. Commercial fishermen recorded a catch of 25,457 salmon in their logbooks, one of the lowest on record. However, the actual catch was believed to be significantly lower as it is known that catch figures were inflated in many cases.

Salmon Angling

Salmon angling was also poor on most of the region's fisheries. As usual, however, the Moy fared better than most rivers and had quite good fishing with the Ballisodare Fishery also doing well. The total rod catch for the region was 11,244 fish of which 8,031 (71%) were taken on the Moy system.

Brown Trout Fishing

Brown trout fishing on the major lakes was again disappointing though Lough Conn continued to show signs of improvement with a further reduction in the average weight (1.1 lbs) of the 2,280 trout caught. A fish stock survey carried out on Lough Conn during the year indicated that, while the stock of trout was still poor, there was much healthier spread of fish across the various age classes. On the regions other main trout lake, Lough Arrow, fishing was extremely disappointing.

Rainbow Trout Fishing

Ballin Lough (near Westport) and Lough Nasool (near Lough Arrow) again proved popular with local and visiting anglers. Ballin Lough accounted for 519 rod days and produced a total of 906 rainbow trout of which 466 were returned alive.

Sea Trout Fishing

Carrowmore was again unfishable for much of the season, due to an algal bloom, but the Moy estuary provided reasonable fishing throughout most of the season with a reported catch of 1,751 trout.

Sea Angling

2005 was a reasonably successful year for sea angling and four national championships were fished in the region. A number of specimens were recorded from Achill, Clew Bay and Killala Bay. Shore angling was also quite popular with good catches of pollack, coalfish, wrasse, ray, plaice, mackerel and sea trout being landed. Rock and pier fishing throughout the region also attracted good numbers of continental anglers.

Commercial Eel Fishing

Eighteen long line and fyke net licence holders caught a total of 11.6 tonnes of eels in 2005 compared with 16.1 tonnes in 2004. The bulk of the catch was taken on Loughs Conn, Arrow and Gill.

Corporate Governance

The Board complied with virtually all of the requirements of the *Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies (CPGSB)* and continued to modernise its corporate governance and management systems. It produced and implemented a Business Plan for the year based on its 5-year Strategic Development Plan. Quarterly reports on the implementation of the plan were prepared and reviewed by the Board. Draft

accounts for 2005 were prepared and submitted to the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) in accordance with the requirements of the CPGSB and to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit in accordance with statutory requirements. The Board operated within budget for the year and submitted accounts monthly to the DCMNR. The Board also reviewed monthly accounts periodically.

An internal audit of the Board's financial management procedures was carried out and the consultants reported that the Board management had implemented an adequate system of internal financial control in the areas which were subject to audit and made some recommendations for improvement. Eleven Board meetings were held during the year and the Board's audit sub-committee met nine times and had discussions with both the internal and external auditors. Board members were reminded of their responsibilities in relation to the provisions of the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001.

The Board's Safety Committee met four times to review safety matters and made recommendations in relation to elements of the Board's Safety Statement and also worked on the preparation and adoption of Standard Operating Procedures. Two accidents occurred which, in accordance with legislation, were reported to the Health and Safety Authority. A number of training courses, on safety related issues, were attended by Board staff.

North Western Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2005

Income	2005 Euro	2004 Euro
Oireachtas Income	2,802,150	2,126,665
Other Income	954,321	787,124
	<u>3,756,471</u>	<u>2,913,789</u>
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	(530,935)	(484,110)
	<u>3,225,536</u>	<u>2,429,679</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	686,278	705,067
Operations	2,462,877	2,132,406
	<u>3,149,155</u>	<u>2,837,473</u>
Exceptional Item - gain on disposal of fixed asset		614,052
Surplus for the year	76,381	206,258
Surplus at 1 January	242,778	36,520
Surplus at 31 December	<u>319,159</u>	<u>242,778</u>

Northern Regional Fisheries Board

Angling

The Northern Region once again claimed the first Irish salmon of the 2005 season. The fish weighed 8lb and was caught at 1.14pm by 14 year old, Andrew Desmond of Dunfanaghy, representing his first ever salmon. The run of spring salmon was good on the Lennon and very good from April onward on the Drowes. The Gweebarra was notable for the poor run throughout the whole season.

The grilse run to Donegal was late due in part to the low water conditions prevalent throughout much of the summer. The grilse run was poor with average weights of the grilse to rod and line down on previous years. Improved rainfall through late August and September resulted in a decent late run of grilse to the Eske and Eany rivers. Other rivers fished reasonably well through the season although low water levels and bright conditions resulted in attendance being down on most fisheries.

Good sea trout fishing was recorded on the R. Lackagh, Eske and Erne fisheries with the Erne estuary in particular yielding exceptional returns of well conditioned finnock and adult sea trout. L. Melvin had a mixed year though the early fishing for brown trout was excellent. Good numbers of salmon were present throughout the season although returns were impacted by frequently difficult angling conditions.

Sea angling was good throughout the season from most ports and marks with some good flatfish angling off some of the beaches. Blue Fin Tuna catches were down on recent seasons, but continues to attract huge interest amongst visiting anglers.

The Board continued to support key local and international coarse angling events throughout the season including the NCFFI All Ireland championships held on L. Oughter in July and the British King of Clubs in September. Services provided by the Board include preparation of swims, signposts, pegging, stewarding and weighing in. Match returns confirm coarse fish stocks in the Cavan-Monaghan area to be abundant, as evidenced by average returns of almost 14 lbs per peg during the King of Clubs. However, concerns persist regarding the decline in numbers of large bream recorded in recent years visiting which are valued by many UK coarse anglers in particular.

Fisheries Development

The Board completed an extensive audit of over 2,000 fishing stands and structures throughout the Northern region. Prioritised remedial repair work was undertaken on the Eany, Eske and Owenea Rivers in Donegal and in selected coarse and game fisheries in the Upper Erne. Whilst significant progress was made in relation to replacement or renovation of angling structures under the TAM, extensive additional funding will be required to bring angling facilities up to a safe standard for public access.

Limited fisheries development was carried out in 2005 due to the lack of funding. A fish pass was installed on Breenagh Falls on the Swilly River. Access roads and car park facilities were provided at L. Rooskey and Natooley. A major upgrade of access and car parking facilities was completed at Rockfield Lake, Killeshandra, with the assistance of Cavan County Council Peace II Task Force funds. Access facilities to L. Scur, Keshcarrigan were also upgraded.

Cross-border funding

In co-operation with the Fishery Conservancy Board (Northern Ireland) and the ERFB, the Northern Board succeeded in securing significant capital and development funding (€400,000) under the EU INTERREG IIIA measure for the enhancement and management of cross-border fisheries.

Protection and Surveillance (Donegal and Upper Erne)

Capital funding permitted purchase of a vehicle, 4.5 m RIB and safety equipment to bolster inshore protection. Purchase of night vision equipment and upgrading of both marine and portable radio communications has significantly increased effectiveness of protection patrols.

Fish health monitoring (Upper Erne)

Purchase of a vehicle, 3m RIB, outboard motor and survey nets greatly enhanced delivery of the Board's ongoing coarse fish health survey in the upper Erne.

Melvin- Catchment management and environmental monitoring

Aerial digital photography of inflowing streams surrounding L. Melvin was completed as part of ongoing catchment management. Purchase of state of the art Trimble Geo-Explorer GPS handheld palm top units, has enabled fisheries and habitat assessment data to be recorded directly in the field with sub-meter accuracy. The Board's GIS system was significantly upgraded.

Melvin- Habitat enhancement of feeder streams

Major habitat enhancement (€80,000) was completed on L. Melvin feeder streams including introduction of spawning gravels, bank clearance, installation of riparian fencing and construction of a stepped fish-pass on the County R.

Northern Regional Development Society

A total of €7,438 was allocated for payment to the Northern Regional Fisheries Development Society in respect of works completed in the public interest in 2005. Works undertaken in 2005 include construction of stone and timber weirs on the Crohyboyle and Crovehy rivers, both of which are owned by the Rosses Angling Association. The Development Society also approved funding for improvement works on selected fisheries in counties Monaghan, Cavan and Leitrim. These projects were part-funded by the EU LEADER programme in support of development of coarse fisheries along the border region.

Counters

A total of 5 fish counters are located in the Northern Region- the Eany, Eske and Dungloe (Rosses) counters are currently managed by the Marine Institute, with the remaining 2 counters installed and operated by the ESB on the Erne and Clady/Crolla systems. Total salmon counts for the Eany was 2,545 upstream and 712 downstream. Incomplete counts were achieved from both the Eske and Rosses counters due to technical difficulties, but indications are that both had good late runs of salmon and sea trout, respectively.

Promotion & Marketing

A new angling brochure was produced for Co. Monaghan in association with Co. Monaghan Tourism Marketing Executive and the ERFB.

A Donegal Game Angling guide containing in depth information on all major fisheries in the Donegal region was once again produced and circulated widely to anglers and tackle dealers. Angling newsletters for the Eany, Eske and Owenea Rivers were circulated to distributors and anglers. Angling reports were provided through the year to the national and local press and CFB and North West Tourism websites. Final preparations were made for launch of the

NRFB website in early 2006. A number of educational talks on fisheries ecology were given to schools, colleges and REPS courses through the year. A series of Something Fishy presentations were given to primary and secondary schools throughout the Northern region.

Protection and Conservation of Fisheries

Good early run of salmon to the Donegal rivers necessitated increased allocation of protection resources to river and estuary patrols. Regular offshore RIB patrols were supplemented by LPV and Naval patrols from May to July. Joint RIB patrols were carried out in conjunction with the North-western Regional Fisheries Board and the Garda Marine unit. The Board continued protection on L. Swilly to prevent illegal hand-picking of oysters.

11 prosecutions were initiated through the year with 8,465 yards of net seized. The return rate of angler logbooks at 50% remain unacceptably low and is compounded by poor returns from 1 day, Foyle extension and Special Local licence holders chiefly from N. Ireland.

Commercial salmon catches from Donegal were low due to a poor run of grilse. Despite a significant reduction in the total allowable catch (Letterkenny 14,639; Ballyshannon 8,747), licensed fishermen failed to catch the district quota with 94% of the TAC landed.

The Aquatic Environment

An extensive programme of lake fish surveys took place throughout the region in association with CFB staff in preparation for requirements under the Water Framework Directive. A total of 28 lakes were surveyed throughout the region in 2005 providing essential baseline data on abundance and population structure of fish communities according to typology, water quality and depth. Further lakes have been identified for inclusion in 2006.

Upper Erne

No cases were taken in relation to water pollution in the Upper Erne in 2005. 160 warning letters were issued following farm surveys. 3 fish kills were recorded in lakes. The Board is actively engaged in a joint project with the Marine Institute and CFB monitoring lake water quality and fish health status to determine the underlying cause of fish kill events.

Issues of environmental concern arose from the high numbers of applications to Local Authorities for planning permission to carry out housing development particularly in relation to the adequacy of mitigation measures to treat effluents from proposed developments. This includes the risk of overloading sewage treatment plants and the adequacy of percolation proposed for developments in areas not serviced by the sewerage system. The lack of phosphorus removal also warrants attention. Additional issues arising include the increased risk of flooding, with attendant pressures for drainage and culverting of watercourses due to the increased run off arising from the loss of field surfaces and wetland habitat and the loss of the water retention afforded by such land.

Donegal, N. Leitrim and N. Sligo

Increased development continues to put severe strain on Board resources regarding planning referrals. An unprecedented number of planning application referrals were made to the Board during the year ranging from single houses in sensitive catchments to major commercial and retail development in more developed and promoted fisheries. The Boards statutory remit in the planning process is an essential one in ensuring that developments as proposed, are sustainable and will not impinge upon the aquatic resource to the detriment of our natural heritage.

Key infrastructural projects requiring monitoring and input from the Board included the Bundoran/Ballyshannon By-Pass, embankment works on Owenea R. as part of a road widening proposal, OPW drainage maintenance programme on the R. Duff, Ardara Sewerage Scheme and proposed water abstraction from L. Greenan to augment the Letterkenny water supply.

Significant increases in forestry issues have arisen relating to harvesting activities by Coillte Teo due to the commercial crop reaching maturity and requiring various levels of harvesting intervention. Following application for a 5 year felling licence (instead of the usual annual licence) a series of meetings were held to identify sensitive sites and agree appropriate harvesting management to protect susceptible fisheries.

Recent warm summers have given rise to increased incidences of marine algal blooms along the coast. Blooms were recorded at Mullaghmore, Rosstown, Coolmore and the Lackagh estuary. Mortalities of shellfish, sand eels, flounder, dogfish, salmon and sea trout subsequently occurred and gives rise for concern. The blooms were not isolated to the Donegal coast and were widespread along the western and southern seaboard. Given the anticipated change in weather patterns, the incidences of large marine algal blooms may become a regular feature in future years.

Staff

The Board continued to invest heavily in the training and development of staff. All staff completed PMDS (Phase 3) training. Additional courses and seminars run included:- power boat handling, drainage operations (CFB/O.P.W.), native woodland restoration (Coillte), G.I.S. (Compass Informatics) and G.P.S. (Survey Supplies). 3 staff members completed courses in Fisheries Management in Sligo RTC and 1 staff member completed a B.Sc. in Environmental Science.

The Board maintained its excellent record in relation to health and safety through an ongoing programme of training, safety committee meetings, risk assessments and remedial action. Safety training carried out during the year included:- Marine Fire Safety, Sea survival, Health and Safety PSSR, and Safety Representative training. Significant funding was allocated for purchase and replacement of safety equipment for staff, for increased security of Board premises and for provision of improved access for the public to Board facilities.

Northern Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2005

Income	2005 Euro	2004 Euro
Oireachtas Income	2,596,823	2,059,450
Other Income	<u>374,292</u>	<u>755,920</u>
	2,971,115	2,815,370
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	(48,992)	(98,036)
	<u>2,922,123</u>	<u>2,717,334</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	582,512	666,839
Operations	<u>2,242,230</u>	<u>1,942,895</u>
	2,824,742	2,609,734
Surplus for the year	97,381	107,600
Surplus at 1 January	353,320	245,720
Surplus at 31 December	<u>450,701</u>	<u>353,320</u>

Appendix 1: Fisheries Development and Surveys

Instream/Spawning Enhancement		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board
No. of Rivers/Streams Enhanced	No.	13	1		8		21	2
Investment In Instream / Spawning Enhancement	Value £	224823	20000		250000		87173	8000
Length of River and Stream Developed	km	43.5	10		12		36.35	2

Angling Development		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board
No. of Angling Facility Enhancement Projects	No.	18	4				5	3
Investment in Angling Facility Enhancement	Value £	81000	50000				251600	83,000
Angling Pools Created	No.	34	30				7	30
Stiles, Footbridges, Platforms, Etc.	No.	36	5		1704		1	47
Additional Fishing Spaces Created	No.	92	80				16	

Surveys		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board
Salmonid Surveys	No.	45	5		6		4	2
Coarse Fish Surveys	No.	2	5		2		1	
Other	No.							
Investment in Fishery Surveys	Value £	100864	20000		25000		15,000	4500

Appendix 2: Pollution Control & Water Quality

Pollution Control		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board
Reported Fish Kills	No.	10	5		18		1	3
Fish Kills Caused By Agriculture	No.	1	1		7			
Fish Kills Caused By Industry	No.	5	1		2			
Fish Kills Caused by Eutrophication	No.	0						
Fish Kills Caused By Local Authority		1	2		5			
Other	No.	3	1		4		1	3
Pollution Inspections	No.	574	573		878		53	573
Warning Letters	No.	43	405		13		16	160
Pollution Prosecutions Initiated	No.	2			6		3	

*None of these fish kills were serious and it was not possible to identify the cause of any

Water Quality		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board
Water Samples Taken	No.	258	77		2397		420	668
Samples Tested by Regional Board Laboratory	No.	184	77		0		270	11
Samples Tested by F.B. Laboratory for T.R.F.B.	No.	169			2325		120	597
Samples Tested Externally	No.	53	1		72		30	60
Total Water Tests	No.	258	77		2397		420	669
Average No. of Determinands Tested	No.	9	4		5		4	18

Appendix 3: Fish Stocking

Fish Stocking	Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
Brown Trout Stocked	70000	10000		253000		3,850	150,000	
Salmon Stocked						0	63,000	
Rainbow Trout Stocked		5000		7700		10,200		
Coarse Fish Stocked/Transferred				181064		1,000	10,000	

BROWN TROUT

CFB STOCKING TO REGIONAL BOARDS - 2004

REGION	Fry	2 Year Spring	Total
EASTERN		0	
NORTHERN			
NORTH WESTERN			
SHANNON			
SOUTHERN			
SOUTH WESTERN			
WESTERN			

RAINBOW TROUT

CFB STOCKING TO REGIONAL BOARDS – 2004

REGION	1+	Total
EASTERN	1000	1000
SHANNON	75000	75000

Appendix 4: Fishing Licences and Board Managed Fisheries

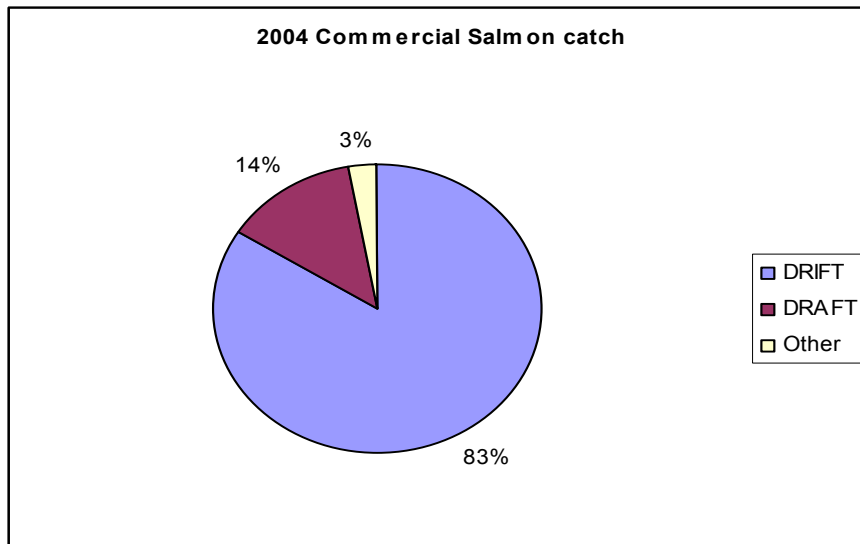
Rod Angling Licence Issues		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
Salmon / Sea Trout		3552	3423		2085		7967	5183	
Share Certificates									

Commercial Licence Issues		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
Salmon									
Drift Net		16	249		86		118	146	
Draft Net		176	9		82		32	87	
Snap Net		0	138						
Trap								1	
Other		28	1		11			47	
TOTALS		220	397		179		150	281	
Eels									
		6	30		107		24	41	
Molluscs									
		1			83		15	26	

Board Managed Fisheries		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
Fisheries Managed	No.	3	2		26		7	5	
Rod Days	No.	3480					5336	970	
Revenue	€	2664	7526		73474		255529	39717	

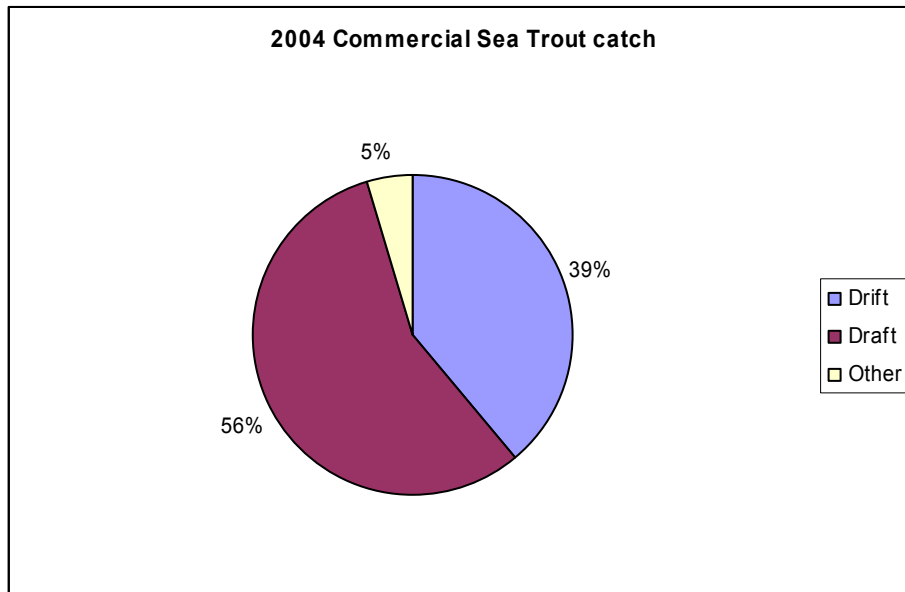
**Appendix 5 – Commercial Salmon and Sea Trout Catches -
2004**

DISTRICT	DRIFT	DRAFT	SNAP	LOOP	BAG	HEAD WEIR	TOTAL
DUNDALK	0	634	0	0	0	0	634
DROGHEDA	0	1,788	0	0	0	0	1,788
DUBLIN	3	7	0	0	0	0	10
WEXFORD	0	1,097	0	0	0	0	1,097
WATERFORD	8,303	0	3,455	0	0	12	11,770
LISMORE	9,173	0	115	0	0	0	9,288
CORK	19,134	2,662	0	0	151	0	21,947
KERRY	17,720	6,279	0	0	90	0	24,089
LIMERICK	9,148	2,005	0	0	0	0	11,153
GALWAY	3,736	63	0	0	0	0	3,799
CONNEMARA	2,626	0	0	0	0	0	2,626
BALLINAKILL	4,026	355	0	0	0	0	4,381
BALLINA	21,023	26	0	0	0	0	21,049
BANGOR	4,143	1,357	0	0	0	0	5,500
SLIGO	2,698	0	0	0	0	0	2,698
BALLYSHANNON	5,271	1,934	0	0	0	0	7,205
LETTERKENNY	13,299	1,236	0	37	0	0	14,572
TOTAL	120,303	19,443	3,570	37	241	12	143,606
% catch by engine	83.77	13.54	2.49	0.03	0.17	0.01	100

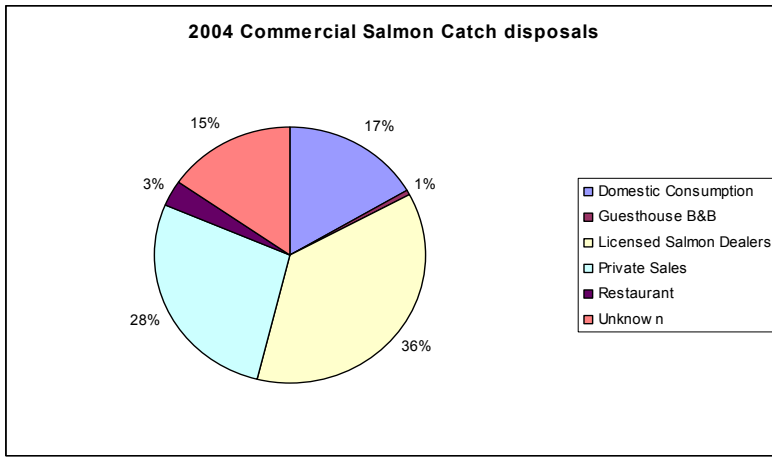


Appendix 5- Commercial sea trout catch 2004

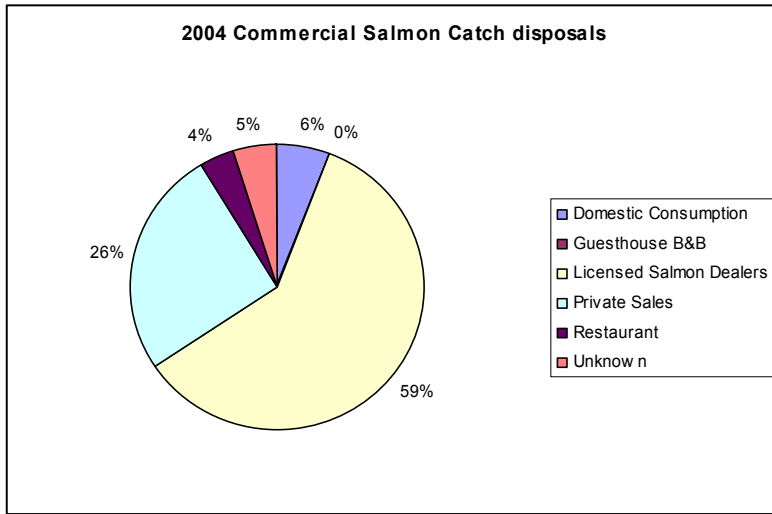
DISTRICT	DRIFT	DRAFT	SNAP	LOOP	BAG	TOTAL
DUNDALK	0	97	0	0	0	97
DROGHEDA	0	62	0	0	0	62
DUBLIN	103	209	0	0	0	312
WEXFORD	0	252	0	0	0	252
WATERFORD	111	0	63	0	0	174
LISMORE	67	0	14	0	0	81
CORK	214	15	0	0	1	230
KERRY	51	207	0	0	0	258
LIMERICK	5	34	0	0	0	39
GALWAY	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONNEMARA	0	0	0	0	0	0
BALLINAKILL	0	0	0	0	0	0
BALLINA	1	0	0	0	0	1
BANGOR	14	5	0	0	0	19
SLIGO	3	0	0	0	0	3
BALLYSHANNON	26	18	0	0	0	44
LETTERKENNY	45	30	0	0	0	75
TOTAL	640	929	77	0	1	1,647



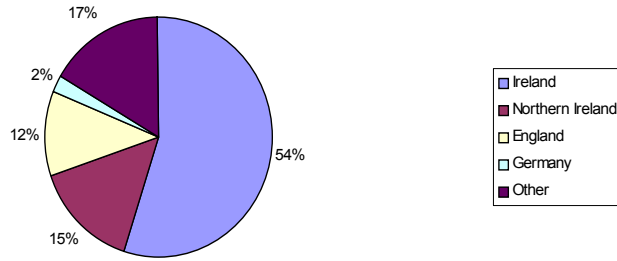
Draft Net fishery disposals



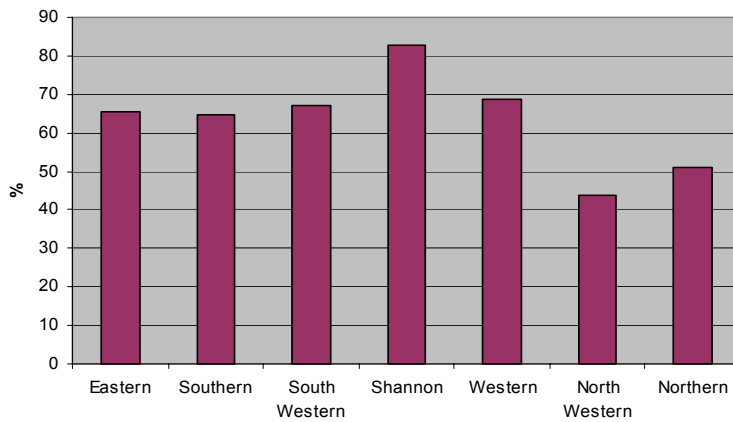
Drift Net Fishery disposals



Licence Sales by Angler Nationally 2004



Percentage Logbook returns 2004



	3 year av. 1978 -1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1999	2000		2003	2004	2005
<i>Centres covered</i>	10	14	19	14	13	12	16	17	20	17	22	21	42	46		63	65	63
<i>Boats making returns</i>	20	18	27	17	16	18	21	21	25	26	35	34	78	88		104	105	104
<i>Angling days covered in sample (boat days)</i>	1185	1069	1234	811	795	868	1160	1298	1535	1763	2177	2371	5167	5569		6659	6269	6282
<i>Shark angling days covered in sample</i>	211	126	102	163	141	74	140	148	139	238	252	320	447	362		284	175	147
<i>Ground angling days covered in sample</i>	974	943	1132	648	654	794	1020	1150	1396	1525	1925	2051	4720	5207		6375	6094	6136
<i>Rod days covered in sample</i>	5538	5479	6202	4024	4006	4414	6759	7145	8319	9999	13212	14662	34873	38343		45399	42518	42313
NO. OF ROD DAYS PER NATIONALITY <i>(% of total)</i>																		
Dutch	2345	1949	1851	1028	587	948	1947	1655	1579	2020	2319	3335	6503	6787		7929	8025	7466
<i>(%)</i>	<i>42.35</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>29.8</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>14.65</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>22.7</i>	<i>18.65</i>	<i>17.71</i>		<i>17.46</i>	<i>18.88</i>	<i>17.54</i>
German	1052	881	1607	645	573	413	464	486	491	696	657	762	2198	2130		2900	1913	1473
<i>(%)</i>	<i>18.99</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>6.96</i>	<i>4.97</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>5.55</i>		<i>6.39</i>	<i>4.49</i>	<i>3.35</i>
British	754	935	739	453	531	738	957	1340	1809	2496	3571	3481	8064	7790		9009	8456	7288
<i>(%)</i>	<i>13.62</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>13.25</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>21.7</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>23.7</i>	<i>23.13</i>	<i>20.31</i>		<i>19.84</i>	<i>19.88</i>	<i>17.12</i>
Irish	797	1051	1514	1429	1468	1615	2028	2486	3061	34.22	4664	4548	15998	19694		22996	22054	23365
<i>(%)</i>	<i>14.39</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>36.64</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>34.8</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>34.2</i>	<i>35.3</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>45.87</i>	<i>51.37</i>		<i>50.66</i>	<i>51.86</i>	<i>55.65</i>
French	285	173	246	207	329	195	523	494	599	442	857	1003	369	468		448	323	367
<i>(%)</i>	<i>5.14</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>3.97</i>	<i>5.14</i>	<i>8.21</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>7.73</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>4.42</i>	<i>6.49</i>	<i>6.84</i>	<i>1.06</i>	<i>1.22</i>		<i>0.99</i>	<i>0.77</i>	<i>0.76</i>
Belgian	136	142	21	69	74	80	317	186	315	325	499	671	531	369		461	453	614
<i>(%)</i>	<i>2.45</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>0.34</i>	<i>1.71</i>	<i>1.84</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>4.69</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>3.78</i>	<i>4.61</i>	<i>1.53</i>	<i>0.96</i>		<i>1.02</i>	<i>1.08</i>	<i>1.35</i>
Others	169	348	224	193	444	425	524	485	465	589	645	862	1210	1105		1656	1294	1740
<i>(%)</i>	<i>3.06</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>3.61</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>11.08</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>7.75</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>5.89</i>	<i>4.88</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>3.46</i>	<i>2.88</i>		<i>3.64</i>	<i>3.04</i>	<i>4.23</i>
NO. OF:																		
Anglers per boat, per day	4.71	5.12	5.03	4.96	5.03	5.08	5.09	5.5	5.4	5.67	6.06	6.18	6.74	6.88		6.81	6.78	6.73
<i>Blue shark per boat, per day (Shark Angling)</i>	2.62	1.34	1.68	3.73	2.74	1.56	2.6	1.86	1.84	2.1	3.6	2.86	1.84	1.59		1.66	0.73	0.97
<i>Cod per boat, per day</i>	1	0.79	1.97	1.66	1.47	1.23	1	3.05	3.93	2.24	0.45	2.12	4.16	5.67		2.15	1.68	4.10
<i>Coalfish per boat, per day</i>	3.77	2.86	4.9	2.21	8.3	11.5	18.14	10.57	14.7	13.88	9.68	9.36	6.19	7.72		6.74	7.74	7.19
<i>Conger per boat, per day</i>	1.64	1.75	1.86	1.58	2.66	1.75	2.2	3.11	2.4	2.52	3.16	2.86	3.15	2.56		2.52	2.31	2.63
<i>Spurdog per boat, per day</i>	2.52	1.87	2.43	1.94	1.47	0.6	1.03	0.4	0.22	0.05	0.12	0.02	0.23	0.2		0.47	0.35	0.26

<i>Lesser Spotted Dogfish per boat, per day</i>	3.57	4.71	5.46	4.83	6.33	7.7	7.6	9	4.93	6.17	5.23	3.56	3.47	2.88	2.87	2.98	2.76
<i>Ling per boat, per day</i>	1.23	1.33	1.68	2.34	3.01	1.95	2.13	1.95	2.02	2.74	1.9	2.04	2.66	2.39	2.33	2.59	2.49
<i>Pollack per boat, per day</i>	6.78	5.35	13.35	10.12	15.04	14.2	13.1	10.5	12.54	13.8	15.54	16.87	16.73	19.26	18.14	20.66	20.88

NO. OF:																	
<i>Cod per angler, per day</i>	0.18	0.16	0.36	0.33	0.23	0.22	0.17	0.51	0.62	0.43	0.08	0.36	0.3	0.44	0.33	0.24	0.6
<i>Coalfish per angler, per day</i>	0.67	0.56	0.89	0.45	1.35	2.07	3.1	1.77	2.32	2.7	1.72	1.62	0.92	1.11	1.05	1.13	1.06
<i>Conger per angler, per day</i>	0.31	0.3	0.34	0.32	0.43	0.31	0.39	0.52	0.38	0.49	0.56	0.49	0.46	0.37	0.39	0.33	0.38
<i>Spurdog per angler, per day</i>	0.49	0.37	0.44	0.39	0.24	0.12	0.17	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.02	0	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.03
<i>Lesser Spotted Dogfish per angler, per day</i>	0.67	0.93	1.00	0.97	1.03	1.38	1.32	1.51	0.78	1.2	0.93	0.62	0.51	0.41	0.45	0.43	0.40
<i>Ling per angler, per day</i>	0.23	0.26	0.31	0.47	0.49	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.32	0.53	0.34	0.35	0.39	0.34	0.36	0.37	0.36
<i>Pollack per angler, per day</i>	1.28	1.06	2.44	2.04	2.45	2.5	2.2	1.76	1.98	2.68	2.76	2.92	2.48	2.78	2.84	3.02	3.08

Appendix 9: TAG AND RECAPTURE OF MARINE SPECIES UP TO DECEMBER, 2005

Species	No.s Tagged To Dec. 2005	Numbers Recapt. to Dec. 2005	% Return	Days at Liberty	Dist. Travelled (Miles)	Numbers Tagged in 2005
BLUE SHARK	17562	773	4.40%	2-2399	0-4250	143
PORBEAGLE SHARK	71	7	9.85%	71-3947	89-2300	1
THRESHER SHARK	1	0	0%	-	-	0
TOPE	4767	360	7.55%	28-6587	0-2185	426
MONKFISH	1027	190	18.45%	0-4525	0-720	0
COMMON SKATE	940	136	14.46%	10-3275	0-120	94
LONG NOSED SKATE	3	0	0%	-	1	0
WHITE SKATE	21	1	4.76%	975	3	0
BLONDE RAY	586	87	14.84%	26-1871	0-45	94
UNDULATE RAY	1073	55	5.12%	0-2676	0-60	13
THORNBACK RAY	8462	267	3.15%	0-2190	0-80	219
PAINTED RAY	261	13	4.98%	13-1398	0-20	3
HOMELYN RAY	312	12	3.84%	294-1373	0-72	6
BASS	1805	56	3.10%	0-1373	0-88	0
MULLET	311	5	1.60%	0-275	0-200	0
FLOUNDER	287	30	10.40%	0-738	0-3½	0
STING RAY	38	0	0%	-	-	1
BULL HUSS	28	3	10.71%	103-1499	0-125	2
DABS	43	2	4.65%	378	2	0
SMOOTH HOUND	14	0	0%	-	-	0
PLAICE	5	1	20%	70	0	0
BLUEFIN TUNA	11	0	0%	-	-	0

TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH TAGGED TO-DATE 37628

