



**North  
West  
Water**

Dawson House, Great Sankey  
Warrington WA5 3LW  
Telephone Penketh 4321

3rd November, 1980

F2/B20

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries  
Advisory Committee:  
(Mr. T. A. F. Barnes (Chairman);  
Mrs. W. Lomas; Messrs. J. S. Bailey;  
A. G. R. Brown; F. Bunting; J. M. Croft;  
E. P. Ecroyd; T. M. Farrer; J. H. Fell;  
E. H. Funk; R. D. Houghton; J. Johnson;  
Wm. McKenna; R. A. Parkin; M. Wareing;  
L. B. Williams; G. Wilson;  
Major J. G. W. Skipwith; and the Chairman  
of the Authority (G. Mann); and the Vice  
Chairman of the Authority (A. Richardson)  
(ex officio)).

Dear Member,

A Meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held  
at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 1980, in the BOARD ROOM,  
DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of the following  
business.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. SHAW,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (enclosed herewith).
3. Review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees
4. Netting off Flimby Beach, Cumbria.
5. Closure of Preston Docks.
6. Review of Fishery Byelaws.
7. Restocking of Fisheries at Authority Reservoirs.
8. Fishing Licence Duties, 1981 (Oral Report).
9. Any other business.

NOTE: Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room  
at approximately 1.00 p.m. The Menu for the day  
is enclosed, and Members attending for lunch are  
asked to indicate their choice of main course to  
the assistant on duty near the Members' Retiring Room.

F2/B26MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH AUGUST 1980

Present: T. A. F. Barnes, Esq. (Chairman)  
 J. S. Bailey, Esq. R. D. Houghton, Esq.  
 A. G. R. Brown, Esq. Mrs. W. Lomas  
 F. Bunting, Esq. R. A. Parkin, Esq.  
 J. M. Croft, Esq. A. Richardson, Esq.  
 E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. Major J. G. W. Skipwith  
 J. H. Fell, Esq. L. B. Williams, Esq.  
 G. Wilson, Esq.

In attendance: E. H. Funk, Esq.

## 14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. G. Mann and Mr. Wm. McKenna.

## 15. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

## RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28th July, 1980, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 16. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

At the last meeting the Committee decided to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the number of Local Committees be reduced from five to three and that this meeting be convened to amplify this recommendation in relation to the boundaries, constitution and frequency of meetings of the proposed new committees to enable the Policy and Resources Committee to consider fully the implications of the Committee's review of the Local Committees (Minute No. 8, 28th July, 1980).

After full consideration of alternative proposals submitted by the officers the Committee having taken into account the recommendation of the meeting on 28th July, resolved as follows and made the following final and consolidated recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee:-

## RECOMMENDED:

(1) That the number of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be reduced from five to three.

(2) That each proposed new committee have two scheduled meetings per Authority year.

(3) That the boundaries of the new committee areas be those of the former Cumberland, Lancashire and Mersey and Weaver River Authorities, and that the new committees be designated the Northern Area, Central Area and Southern Area Fisheries Advisory Committees respectively.

(4) That the maximum number of members on the new committees be fifteen (excluding ex officio members, i.e. the Chairman of the Authority, the Vice Chairman of the Authority and the Chairman of the Regional Committee).

(5) That membership of the new committees be limited to persons representing fisheries interests only provided that where at any meeting advice is considered necessary on matters other than fisheries (e.g. recreation, land drainage, water quality) in addition to that available from the officers, appropriate specialists be invited to attend.

**RESOLVED:**

In order to expedite the formation of the new committees in the event of the foregoing recommendations being approved, but without committing the Authority in any way.

(1) Mr. Ecroyd and Mr. Bunting submit jointly, nominations for membership of the proposed Northern Area Committee.

(2) Mr. Croft and Mr. Houghton submit jointly, nominations for membership of the proposed Central Area Committee.

(3) Mr. Bailey submit nominations for membership of the proposed Southern Area Committee.

(4) Prior to submitting nominations the members concerned carry out such consultations as they consider necessary.

(5) Nominations be submitted to the Director of Administration for consideration by the Regional Committee.

F1/B6

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE10TH NOVEMBER, 1980REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1. On 29th September, 1980, the Policy and Resources Committee considered and approved the consolidated recommendations made by this Committee at the meeting held on 26th August, 1980, concerning the review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees and on 13th October, 1980, these recommendations were confirmed at the meeting of the Authority.
2. Nominations for membership of the three proposed local committees have now been received and these are set out in the appendix to this report, for the Committee's consideration.
3. Subject to the approval of the nominations by the Committee, it is proposed to convene meetings of the new Committees early in the new year.

NORTHERN AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing and/or originally nominated by</u>
Mr. A. E. I. Bell, (formerly member of North Cumbria FAC) 12 Hallpath, Langholme, Dumfriesshire.	Border Esk area
Mr. F. Bunting, (formerly member (Chairman) of Derwent and West Cumbria FAC), 30 Dent Road, Mirehouse, Whitehaven.	Egremont Anglers - River Ehen
Mr. E. Cave, (formerly member of the North Cumbria FAC), 9 Brunton Crescent, Carlisle, Cumbria.	Carlisle Anglers/ River Eden area
Mr. E. P. Ecroyd, (formerly member (Chairman) of North Cumbria FAC), Low House. Armathwaite, Carlisle, Cumbria.	Eden and District Fisheries Association
Mr. A. C. Findlay, (formerly member of North Cumbria FAC), Buccleugh Estates, Irvine House, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire.	Buccleugh Estates Limited/ Border Esk area
Mr. A. Gleadon, (formerly member of Derwent and West Cumbria FAC), 12 Meadowfield, Gosforth, Cumbria.	South and West Cumberland Fisheries Association
Mr. B. Irving, (formerly member of North Cumbria FAC), 11 Avon Close, Moreton West, Carlisle, Cumbria.	Border Coarse Anglers/ Coarse fishing
Mr. A. Marshall, (proposed new appointee - nominated by Mr. F. Bunting, and Mr. E. P. Ecroyd), West View, Becker Met, Cumbria.	Egremont Anglers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing and/or originally nominated by</u>
Mr. J. S. Marshall, (formerly member of North Cumbria FAC), Little Cross, Appleby, Cumbria.	Appleby Anglers/ River Eden area
Mr. Wm. McKenna, (formerly member of North Cumbria FAC), 6 Spencer Street, Carlisle, Cumbria.	Solway netsmen
Mr. P. F. Murray, (proposed new appointee - nominated by Mr. F. Bunting and Mr. E. P. Ecroyd), Low Wood, The Hill, Near Millom, Cumbria.	Millom Anglers
Mr. G. Richardson, (formerly member of Derwent and West Cumbria FAC), 14 Ellerbeck Lane, Workington.	Salmon and Trout Association and South and West Cumberland Fisheries Association
Mr. G. B. Sedgewick, (formerly member of Derwent and West Cumbria FAC), 8 Belle Vue, Cockermouth, Cumbria.	Cockermouth Anglers
Mr. J. Thompson, (formerly member of North Cumbria FAC), 'Inglenook', Rockcliff, Carlisle, Cumbria.	Solway Haaf Netsmens Association
Mr. G. N. F. Wingate, (formerly member of Derwent and West Cumbria FAC) Bridge End House, Cockermouth, Cumbria.	Salmon and Trout Association/ game fishing/water space

CENTRAL AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing and/or originally nominated by</u>
Mr. W. Bailey, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), 10 Mallowdale Road, Lancaster.	Lancashire Netsmen (Lune Estuary)
Mr. R. Barratt, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), Cowmire Hall, Crosthwaite, Kendal, Cumbria.	Furness and South Cumbria Fishery Association
Dr. R. B. Broughton, (formerly member of South Lancashire FAC), 9 Victoria Road, Salford.	Salmon and Trout Association/ Lancashire Fly Fishers - Ribble
Mr. J. M. Croft, (formerly member (Chairman) of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), Orchard Farm, Whittingham Lane, Barton, Preston.	Lune and Wyre Fishery Association
Mr. R. A. Challenor, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), Green End, Mansergh, Carnforth, Lancs.	Lune and Wyre Fishery Association
Mr. J. H. Fell, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), White Gates, Backbarrow, Ulverston, Cumbria.	Furness and South Cumbria Fishery Association
Mr. R. Harper, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), Collin Field Farm, Kendal, Cumbria.	Kent (Westmorland) Angling Association

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing and/or originally nominated by</u>
Mr. A. L. Harris, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), Blunt How, 12 Eden Park, Scotforth, Lancaster.	Lancaster Anglers - Lower Lune
Mr. R. D. Houghton, (formerly member (Chairman) of South Lancashire FAC), 13/15 Winckley Street, Preston, Lancs.	Ribble Fishery Association
Mr. J. Johnson, (formerly member of South Lancashire FAC), 97 Liverpool Road North, Maghull, Liverpool.	National Federation of Anglers/ Lancashire Coarse Fisheries
Mr. G. Jones, (formerly member of South Lancashire FAC), 1 Caernarvon Road, Preston, Lancs.	Lancashire Fisheries Consultative Association/ Ribble and Wyre Fisheries Association
Professor W. E. Kershaw, (formerly member of South Lancashire FAC), Mill Farm, Hesketh Bank, Nr. Preston.	Knowledgeable in the quality aspects of surface waters
Mr. J. P. Lord, (formerly member of South Lancashire FAC), Spring Bank, Cow Ark, Via. Clitheroe.	Ribble Fisheries Association
Mr. H. B. Whittam, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), 29 Lyndhurst Road, Ulverston, Cumbria.	Furness and South Cumbria Fisheries Association
Mr. G. Wilson, (formerly member of Lune, Wyre and Furness FAC), 11 Guildford Avenue, Chorley, Lancs.	National Federation of Anglers



SOUTHERN AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing and/or originally nominated by</u>
Mr. J. S. Bailey, (formerly member (Chairman) of Mersey and Weaver FAC), 22 Plover Avenue, Winsford, Cheshire.	Winsford and District Anglers
Mr. D. Bridgewood, (formerly member of Mersey and Weaver FAC), Horsepool Cottages, Mellor, Stockport, Cheshire.	National Federation of Anglers
Mr. A. G. R. Brown, (formerly member of South Lancashire FAC), 10 Dale Road, Golborne, Warrington.	Lancashire Fisheries Association
Mr. F. Egerton, (formerly member of Mersey & Weaver FAC), 19 Bowden Drive, Northwich, Cheshire.	Northwich and District Anglers
Mr. P. Neal, (formerly member of Mersey and Weaver FAC), 16 Kingston Gardens, Hyde, Cheshire.	Mersey and Weaver Anglers Consultative Association
Mr. R. Newton, (formerly member of Mersey and Weaver FAC), 3 Old Park Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire.	Prince Albert Angling Society/game fishing interests
Mr. J. A. Shanahan, (formerly member of Mersey and Weaver FAC), 4 Sunninghill Street, Bolton, Lancashire.	National Federation of Anglers NW Region

RFL/B13

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE10TH NOVEMBER, 1980NETTING OFF FLIMBY BEACH, CUMBRIA.

1. Members will recall the discussion at the Committee's meeting on 28th July 1980 arising from Minute 40 of the meeting of the Derwent & West Cumbria Advisory Committee on 23rd June.
2. Since then arrangements with the Flimby sea fish netmen and their M.P. have been settled and appear to be working well. They were embodied in a letter signed by the Area Fisheries Officer (North) and distributed to the Flimby netmen and the bailiffs during July 1980. The object of the arrangements is to overcome the suspicions which had developed between the netmen and the bailiffs. The letter is reproduced as an appendix to this report.
3. Recently a letter was received from the Salmon and Trout Association expressing their concern at the interpretation by the Authority's Solicitors of section 6(1)(a) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and the decision not to prosecute for the placing of a fixed engine unless there is sufficient evidence to show that the engine had been placed deliberately to take or facilitate the taking of migratory fish. In fact there is no dispute between the S&TA and the Authority on the interpretation point; the dispute (if such it be) is on the decision not to treat the mere placing of a fixed engine to catch sea fish as an absolute offence against section 6(1)(a). The S&TA look upon this as a consent from the Authority to the netmen thereby enabling the netmen to catch migratory fish with impunity. The Authority looks upon it as a common sense method of operation which enables sea fish netmen to fix their nets for the lawful exercise of their rights to catch sea fish. The arrangements made (see appendix) are such that the law is being sensibly applied, the sea fish netmen can go about their lawful task of catching sea fish and the Authority continues to enforce the 1975 Act. A full reply was sent to the S&TA.
4. The latest Parliamentary question and answer of which the officers are aware were reported in Hansard on 14th February, 1980. In reply to Mr. Campbell - Savours, Mr. Buchanan-Smith (on behalf of the Minister) said that the legal and administrative aspects of salmon protection and the implications of other types of sea fishing were already under review by MAFF. This was drawn to the attention of the S&TA in the reply mentioned at para. 3 above.
5. In accordance with the Committee's instructions a letter has been sent to MAFF expressing concern about the present legal position. The Flimby problem and the arrangements made have been explained and the concern of the S&TA mentioned. The letter requested an amendment to Section 6 either to restore the law to what it was in Section 11 of the 1923 Act or to make it abundantly clear what the present law is. It is hoped to report the initial reaction of MAFF at the meeting.

Fishing off Flimby,

This letter arises from the meeting on 10th April 1980 at Maryport and the letter from the Authority Chairman to Mr. Campbell-Savours, M.P.

In order to explain our intentions Inspector McCartan will visit you to discuss any areas of doubt about netting which may remain. The operating arrangements will be as follows:-

- (1) Nets which are not marked with the owner's name and address or registered number, may still be seized by bailiffs if they contain migratory fish or if in our opinion they are set with the intention of taking migratory fish. Any gear seized will be reported to the local police station and then placed in storage at Carlisle to await the owner's claim.
- (2) Every net used will have two "markers" securely and permanently fixed to it, one to a buoy and the other to the headrope. If a bailiff finds migratory fish in a marked net the owner will be informed, the fish removed in his presence (if available), and a receipt given for any fish seized. If in our opinion the net has been set with the intention of taking and has taken migratory fish the owner will be asked to move it within 24 hours. If the net is not moved and further migratory fish are found in it the bailiff may submit the facts in the form of an offence report for further consideration as to whether an offence has been committed, and may seize the net and fish as evidence.
- (3) A bailiff will not remove migratory fish from the nets without the owner being present (unless the owner is not available within the following 24 hours). If a fisherman normally empties his net on the beach, it would be in his and the Authority's best interests if any salmon or sea trout accidentally caught were not removed from the net until a bailiff is present. If a fisherman normally empties his net at sea he should remove any salmon and sea trout accidentally caught, leave them in his boat, come ashore and notify a bailiff as soon as possible but in any event within 24 hours. The fish should be handed to the bailiff at the boat. As necessary and to comply with these arrangements fishermen should contact a bailiff at one of the telephone numbers provided, or if outside normal working hours telephone Workington Police (Tel. No. Workington 2422). The Police will then telephone the duty bailiff who will immediately go to the beach, meet the fisherman and issue a receipt for the fish handed over. This will avoid the risk of any fisherman being unfairly prosecuted for "taking" migratory fish.
- (4) The bailiffs will give receipts for all fish handed over. Books of receipt forms will be provided for them.
- (5) When examining nets, bailiffs must reset them in the same way as they are found, and ensure at all times that no damage is done to them.
- (6) The duties of the bailiffs are generally to enforce the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. These include observation, inspection, enquiries, searching and, if necessary, seizure. Their powers are contained in Sections 31 to 36 of the 1975 Act.

If everyone complies with these basic rules the main areas of dispute should be removed. Their operation will be monitored by the bailiffs during 1980 and in the light of experience will be reviewed in the autumn.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE10TH NOVEMBER, 1980CLOSURE OF PRESTON DOCKS

1. Information was received some three years ago that the Port of Preston was to be closed and in view of the effects that the closure might have on the Authority's installations and interests, a technical report on the possible consequences was prepared by officers. A Working Group was formed to consider the matter but this ceased meeting when Preston Borough Council reached agreement with the Departments of Trade and Transport, to keep the Port open for a minimum trial period of two years, with effect from 1st October 1977.
2. In May of this year the Council informed the Authority that experience gained during the trial period had indicated that the Port could not achieve financial viability within a reasonable time and in consequence, the Council had decided to deposit a Private Bill in Parliament in November 1980 to effect the closure of the Port.
3. The cessation of dredging and of maintenance works on the training walls is cause for concern as far as the Authority's functions are concerned. Any substantial build-up of silt could possibly affect the operation of present gravity outfalls to the estuary and break-up of the training walls. This would lead to meandering of the channel with the consequent threat of erosion of the present sea defence works and flooding of fertile agricultural land reclaimed during the past 150 years.
4. These fears, including possible adverse effects on water quality and fishery interests, were put to Preston in June this year. The Council had already commissioned the Hydraulics Research Station to investigate the effects on the river of any cessation of dredging and subsequently engaged Sir William Halcrow and Partners, Consulting Engineers, to investigate the possible effects on land drainage, erosion and river levels that might result from closure of the Port.
5. The Consultants' report is not likely to be received until the middle of November. Preliminary findings by the Consultants have been discussed at a recent meeting held with Preston officials and discussions are in hand regarding the protection of the Authority's interests. Therefore, a further report will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

F1/B5

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE10TH NOVEMBER, 1980REVIEW OF FISHERY BYELAWS

1. Following upon reorganisation of the water services in 1974 the Authority made the present consolidated fishery byelaws which were confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in May 1977 and became operative on 18th June, 1977.
2. The making of these present byelaws was, however, little more than an exercise to combine the existing byelaws of the former Cumberland and Lancashire River Authorities into one document and extend them, where appropriate, to the area of the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority where there had previously been no byelaws.
3. In the light of experience gained in operating the present byelaws over the last 3 years and from observations of the former local fisheries advisory committees and outside fishery interests, it became apparent that the present code should be reviewed.
4. An officers working party has therefore been involved in this task and a new draft code is presently in the final stages of preparation. It is proposed to put the new draft code before the new local advisory committees early in 1981 and to this Committee at its meeting in February 1981. However, in order to give members of this Committee and the local committees as much time as possible to consider the new draft code, it is proposed to circulate it to members at the beginning of December.

RF1/B12

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10TH NOVEMBER, 1980

RESTOCKING OF FISHERIES AT AUTHORITY RESERVOIRS

1. On 13th October, 1980, the Authority approved a recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee.

"That a firm commitment be made to include a sum equivalent to £25,000 at current prices in the Authority's 1981/82 revenue budget for the purchase of trout for restocking Authority managed reservoir fisheries and that authorisation be given for advanced orders up to this sum to be placed".

2. This has enabled preliminary enquiries to be made regarding availability of supplies of trout, and orders will be placed where appropriate to facilitate stocking operations in the spring and summer of 1981.