



**North
West
Water**

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

F3/B15

16th April, 1981

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee:
(Mr. T. A. F. Barnes (Chairman);
Mrs. W. Lomas; Messrs. A. G. R. Brown;
F. Bunting; 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); the Vice Chairman
of the Authority (A. Richardson) and the
Chairmen of the Area Advisory Committees
(J. S. Bailey; J. M. Croft; E. P. Ecroyd)
(ex officio).

Dear Member,

A meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY, 27th APRIL, 1981, 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 (previously circulated).
3. Proceedings of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
 - (A) Northern Area - 30th March, 1981.
[Recommendations in the following Minutes:
 11. Representation on the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee.
 12. Fishing Licence Duties (to be considered under Item No.5 of the Agenda).]

(B) Central Area - 1st April, 1981.

[Recommendations in the following Minutes:

16. (3) Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting - Fishery Byelaws (to be considered under Item No.6 of the Agenda).
19. Fishing Licence Duties (to be considered under Item No.5 of the Agenda).
21. Authority Works on headwater becks of the River Hodder and on the River Douglas.
24. Mitton Fishery - River Ribble.]

(C) Southern Area - 8th April, 1981.

[Recommendations in the following Minutes:

12. Membership of the Committee.
 13. Licensing of Angling for Freshwater Fish (to be considered under Item No.5 of the Agenda).
 14. Fishing Licence Duties (to be considered under Item No.5 of the Agenda).]
4. Membership of the Committee.
 5. Fishing Licence Duties.
 6. Review of Fishery Byelaws (Oral Report).
 7. Closure of Preston Docks (Oral Report).
 8. Calendar of Meetings 1981-82.
 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.

RF2/B15

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30TH MARCH, 1981

Present: E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. (Chairman)
 F. Bunting, Esq. J. S. Marshall, Esq.
 E. Cave, Esq. Wm. McKenna, Esq.
 A. C. Findlay, Esq. G. Richardson, Esq.
 A. Gleaden, Esq. J. Thompson, Esq.
 A. Marshall, Esq. G. N. F. Wingate, Esq.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T.A.F. Barnes, Mr. A.E.I. Bell, Mr. B. Irving, Mr. G. Mann, Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. G.B. Sedgewick.

10. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee discussed the administrative procedures in respect of the despatch of Minutes and Agenda of meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Director of Administration be requested to arrange for the despatch of the Advisory Committee Minutes as soon as practicable after the meeting of the Regional Committee to which those Minutes are presented.
- (2) That wherever possible the Director of Administration be requested to arrange for the despatch of future Agendas to members fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.
- (3) That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. REPRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Arising from Minute No.31 (Membership of the Committee) of the meeting of the Regional Committee held on 2nd February, 1981, consideration was given to the position of the Chairman of the former Derwent and West Cumbria Fisheries Advisory Committee, on the Regional Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

That in the event of the position on the Regional Committee at present occupied by the Chairman of the former Derwent and West Cumbria Fisheries Advisory Committee becoming vacant, that position be filled by a representative from the West Cumbria area.

12. FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

The Authority had requested the Regional Committee to consider the need for and formulate proposals for increases in fishing licence duties to be effective from 1st January, 1982, at its next meeting on 27th April, 1981.

The approved fisheries expenditure for 1981/82 showed an increase attributable to past, present and future price increases and in the light of this inflationary trend an all round increase of 10% in the fishing licence duties as set out below was proposed.

	Present Duty <u>£</u>	Revised Duty <u>£</u>
1. <u>Single Rod and Line</u>		
(a) Salmon		
Season	18.00	19.80
Part Season from June 1st	12.00	13.20
Season concessionary	9.00	9.90
Part Season concessionary from June 1st	6.00	6.60
Seven day	3.00	3.30
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil
(b) Migratory Trout		
Season	6.00	6.60
Season concessionary	3.00	3.30
Seven day	1.20	1.30*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil
(c) Non migratory trout, (brown trout, rainbow trout and char) freshwater fish and eels		
Season	3.60	3.90*
Season concessionary	1.80	1.90*
Seven day	0.60	0.70*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil

Concessionary licences are issued to juveniles (14-16 years), state retirement pensioners and registered disabled persons.

* rounded down to nearest 10p

2. Commercial Eel Fishing

Fixed eel trap per annum	30.00	33.00
Eel or fyke net per annum	0.60	0.65
Traps, putcheons or baskets (per 25 or part thereof) per annum	6.00	6.60

	<u>Present Duty £</u>	<u>Revised Duty £</u>
3. <u>Nets and Fixed Engines</u>		
(Area within the boundaries of former Cumberland River Authority)		
Whole area Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	125.00	137.50
River Eden, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	300.00	330.00
Whole area Heave or Haaf net	25.00	27.50
River Eden coop	117.00	128.70
River Derwent coop	260.00	286.00
South West Cumberland garth	130.00	143.00
4. <u>Nets</u>		
(Area within the boundaries of former Lancashire River Authority)		
River Ribble, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 140m in length when wet)	80.00	88.00
River Lune, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 300m in length when wet)	133.00	146.30
River Lune, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	116.00	127.60
River Duddon, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	110.00	121.00
River Lune Heave or Haaf net	51.00	56.10
River Kent Lave net	60.00	66.00
River Leven Lave net	50.00	55.00

It was explained that only by increasing the licence duties in the manner proposed could the Authority ensure that the real value of the contribution from licence duties towards the cost of fisheries would be maintained.

Although appreciating the need for licence duties to take account of inflation, the Committee drew attention to the fact that on 15th February, 1979, (Minute No.40) the Regional Committee had recommended that in the event of a future restructuring of licence duties, prime consideration should be given to the introduction of a single tier licence duty for rod and line throughout the Authority area. It was felt that this was a matter worthy of consideration with a view to its introduction as from 1st January, 1983.

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the proposals to increase the rod and line, net and fixed engine licence duties as set out above be approved.
- (2) That consideration be given to the introduction of a single tier licence duty for rod and line to take effect from 1st January, 1983.

13. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee. The report included items on river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, Holmwrangle hatchery, stocking by angling associations, fish disease, serious poaching incidents and details of monthly catches of salmon and sea trout for the 1980 season.

The Area Fisheries Officer further reported that in his opinion the fish mortality which occurred in the River Esk during June, 1980, when the river from Dalegarth to the estuary had been affected, was due to low pH levels in the river following heavy rainfalls, after periods of drought, which had flushed out humic acids from the peat bogs into the river system. A current phenomenon was the general acidity of most rivers, which appeared to be a world wide problem, a contributing factor being the pollution of the atmosphere from industrial areas increasing the acidity of the rainfall over a wide area.

pH levels in rivers and rainfall were being monitored.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be received and approved.

14. FISHING PROSECUTIONS

Reference was made to the apparent delay in bringing to Court alleged offenders against the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1975, which it was felt tended to inhibit the Magistrates in the imposition of realistic penalties. The Regional Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that for the last twelve months, staff who dealt with the processing of cases had been and still were under strength due to prolonged illness. Other factors leading to the delay in the prosecution of cases were availability of possible hearing dates, availability of witnesses both for the prosecution and defence and the adjournment of cases for various reasons once a hearing date had been set. Allowing for these factors, cases were brought to court as

soon as possible after the detection of offenders. Wherever practicable outside solicitors were instructed on behalf of the Authority in outlying areas. At the request of the Committee the officers undertook to investigate the benefit of instructing outside solicitors more frequently.

15. CATCH RETURNS

Discussion ensued on the accuracy of catch returns and the officers undertook to explore means whereby it could be made quite clear to fishermen that catches of 'smelts', 'white trout' and 'herling' had to be included in returns of migratory trout caught.

16. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1981-82

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees for the 'Authority Year' 1981-82 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Area Committee being noted as follows:-

Monday 12th October, 1981
Monday 29th March, 1982

17. BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION -
ABSTRACTION FROM RIVER DERWENT AT MILLFIELD

The Committee noted that discussions were taking place between the officers and British Steel in relation abstractions by the Corporation from the River Derwent at Millfield.

18. FISH COUNTER - RIVER DERWENT

The Area Fisheries Officer reported that investigations were taking place in respect of the operation of the River Derwent fish counter. Problems were experienced at times of very high tides which caused waters to back-up over the crest of the weir, thus enabling fish to swim upstream over the weir, and avoid the counter.

CENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1ST APRIL, 1981

Present: J. M. Croft, Esq. (Chairman)
 W. Bailey, Esq. J. Johnson, Esq.,
 Dr. R.B. Broughton, G. Jones, Esq.
 R. A. Challenor, Esq. Prof. W.E. Kershaw,
 J. H. Fell, Esq. J. P. Lord, Esq.
 A. L. Harris, Esq. H. B. Whittam, Esq.
 R. D. Houghton, Esq. G. Wilson, Esq.

13. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO MEMBER

The Chairman welcomed Mr. G. Jones to his first meeting of the Committee.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T.A.F. Barnes, Mr. R. Barratt, Mr. R. Harper, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. A. Richardson.

15. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 8th January 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

(1) Fishing Stocking

In response to questions concerning the mortality amongst coarse fish on the River Ribble (Minute No.4) the Area Fisheries Officer (South) informed the Committee that there had been an outbreak of perch disease at the Bostock Hall stock pond, although roach stocked at that locality were still apparently disease free. If these fish survived the outbreak, then a quantity could be transferred to the Ribble.

(2) Report on Pollution

The Regional Fisheries Officer undertook to investigate the difficulties encountered by anglers on the River Ribble at Walton-le-Dale arising from quantities of paper tissue in the water.

(3) Fishery Byelaws

In relation to Minute No.10(4), (Review of Fishery Byelaws - Proposed byelaw 17 - Prohibition of taking undersized fish) the Committee gave further consideration to its previous recommendations.

RECOMMENDED:

That proposed byelaw 17 (Prohibition of taking undersized fish) be amended as follows:

"Brown trout and char 200mm (8 ins)."

17. DISTRIBUTION OF COMMITTEE PAPERS

RESOLVED:

That wherever possible the Director of Administration be requested to arrange for the despatch of the Agenda to members twenty one days prior to the date of the meeting.

18. MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 1981.

In response to questions concerning Minute No.30B(2) (Fishing Permits on Authority owned River Fisheries) the Committee was informed that negotiations with the Lonsdale Angling Club were currently taking place for the lease of the course fishing rights on the Skerton Fishery.

In relation to Minute No.36 (Angling at Stocks Reservoir) the Committee was informed of the current situation in respect of the promotion of a trout fishery at the reservoir by the private sector.

19. FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

At the request of the Authority the Regional Committee would be considering the need for and formulating proposals for increases in fishing licence duties to be effective from 1st January, 1982, at its next meeting on 27th April, 1981.

The approved fisheries expenditure for 1981/82 showed an increase attributable to past, present and future price increases and in the light of this inflationary trend an all round increase of 10% in the fishing licence duties as set out below was proposed:

	Present Duty £	Revised Duty £
1. <u>Single Rod and Line</u>		
(a) Salmon		
Season	18.00	19.80
Part Season from June 1st	12.00	13.20
Season concessionary	9.00	9.90
Part Season concessionary from June 1st	6.00	6.60
Seven day	3.00	3.30
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil

	Present Duty £	Revised Duty £
(b) Migratory Trout		
Season	6.00	6.60
Season concessionary	3.00	3.30
Seven day	1.20	1.30*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil
(c) Non migratory trout, (brown trout, rainbow trout and char) freshwater fish and eels		
Season	3.60	3.90*
Season concessionary	1.80	1.90*
Seven day	0.60	0.70*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil

Concessionary licences are issued to juveniles (14-16 years), state retirement pensioners and registered disabled persons.

* rounded down to nearest 10p.

2. Commercial Eel Fishing

Fixed eel trap per annum	30.00	33.00
Eel or fyke net per annum	0.60	0.65
Traps, putcheons or baskets (per 25 or part thereof) per annum	6.00	6.60

3. Nets and Fixed Engines

(Area within the boundaries of former Cumberland River Authority)

Whole area Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	125.00	137.50
River Eden, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	300.00	330.00
Whole area Heave or Haaf net	25.00	27.50
River Eden coop	117.00	128.70
River Derwent coop	260.00	286.00
South West Cumberland garth	130.00	143.00

4. Nets

(Area within the boundaries of former Lancashire River Authority)

River Ribble, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 140m in length when wet)	80.00	88.00
River Lune, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 300m in length when wet)	133.00	146.30

	Present Duty £	Revised Duty £
River Lune, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	116.00	127.60
River Duddon, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	110.00	121.00
River Lune Heave or Haaf net	51.00	56.10
River Kent Lave net	60.00	66.00
River Leven Lave net	50.00	55.00

It was explained that only by increasing the licence duties in the manner proposed could the Authority ensure that the real value of the contribution made by licence duties towards the cost of fisheries would be maintained.

Although appreciating the need for licence duties to take account of inflation, the Committee was of the opinion that the whole licence structure should be reviewed with a view to the introduction of a separate freshwater fish licence as from 1st January, 1983, and members undertook to consult their respective associations and submit written proposals to the Director of Administration for discussion at the October meeting of the Committee.

Attention was drawn to the fact that restructuring the licence system on the lines now proposed would be contrary to current Authority policy following the adoption of a recommendation of the Regional Committee of 15th February, 1979, (Minute No.40), that in the event of a future restructuring of licence duties, prime consideration should be given to the introduction of a single tier rod and line whole area licence duty.

On behalf of the netsmen, Mr. Bailey expressed concern at the escalating cost of net licence duties reflected in the proposals, and he emphasised the difficulties being encountered by the Netsmen in earning a livelihood.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposals to increase the rod and line, net and fixed engine licence duties as set out above be approved.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of a new fishing licence structure to come into force as from 1st January, 1983, be deferred to the October meeting and that in the meantime the officers prepare a paper on this subject for submission to that meeting containing details of (i) licence structures presently applicable in other water authority areas, (ii) the current position in Scotland.

(iii) details of income from the environmental services charge on the water rate received by the Authority, and credited to the fisheries account, (iv) revenue that accrued to the Authority from the sale of freshwater fish licences when these were last available in 1979, compared with that received from the sale of the combined non migratory trout/freshwater fish licences for 1980.

20. RIVERS LEVEN AND KENT,
FISH DISTRIBUTION AND WATER QUALITY SURVEYS, 1980.

A report was received concerning surveys undertaken jointly by the Authority and the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee in relation to fish distribution in the Rivers Leven and Kent during 1980. The report also contained data concerning a separate water quality survey undertaken by the Authority in June 1980, as part of a regular monitoring programme. The first of the fish distribution surveys had taken place on 20th - 22nd May, 1980 and the second in early August at a time when local industry was closed down for annual holidays and discharges were therefore minimal.

In recent years increased concern had been expressed in relation to the apparent decline in fish stocks in the River Leven; in particular disappointing rod catches of migratory fish, a situation which had been highlighted by comparisons with the River Kent where the standard of fishing for migratory fish had in recent seasons been very good.

Generally, results of the two fish distribution surveys gave no indication of any obvious major differences between the Leven and Kent estuaries in terms of the occurrence of fish species and their distribution, although it was possible that more subtle differences existed which related to abundance, population structure and distribution.

A decision would be made in due course as to whether detailed surveys to investigate such differences should be undertaken.

Overall, the surveys had provided useful baseline data for comparative purposes although it was still not possible to account specifically for the decline of migratory fish populations in the Leven. The work undertaken had, however, served to highlight particular areas for future study and it seemed clear that in relation to the Leven various short-term and long-term interrelated biological and environmental factors were involved. Since completion of the investigations it was encouraging to note that catches of migratory fish during the 1980 season had improved markedly in the Leven.

21. AUTHORITY WORKS ON HEADWATER BECKS OF THE RIVER HODDER
AND ON THE RIVER DOUGLAS

In accordance with Minute No.11 of the last meeting, the Committee received a comprehensive report explaining the need for and details of, Authority works carried out in the headwater becks of the River Hodder and land drainage works undertaken on the River Douglas.

Exceptionally severe floods in the autumn of 1980 had moved thousands of tons of shingle and gravel affecting most of the becks in the area and causing heavy bank erosion. Accumulation of shingle had caused particular problems in the vicinity of several water abstraction points where concrete collecting basins had been almost filled; trunk mains had also been exposed in places. To alleviate the situation, extensive work had been carried out to re-cover exposed mains and to clear shingle, gravel and silt from the vicinity of intakes.

In respect of the major land drainage scheme presently being undertaken on the lower part of the River Douglas between Newburgh and Hesketh Bank, the Committee was informed that all material removed from the river bed was being used outside the river channel to reinforce the flood banks, consequently there was little danger of it being washed back into the river by anything other than exceptional floods.

RECOMMENDED:

That in order to safeguard fisheries, on all occasions when works of any nature are to be undertaken in watercourses, appropriate consultation should take place prior to commencement of such works with the fisheries interests involved.

22. BRITISH GAS CORPORATION - NEW PIPELINE

It was reported that the British Gas Corporation was in the process of laying a new pipeline in the Lune valley within a half mile distance of their existing pipeline. The Regional Fisheries Officer reported that a liaison officer had been appointed to ensure that the fisheries interests would be safeguarded, particularly in respect of river crossings.

23. MATCH FISHING - SKERTON AND MITTON FISHERIES

The Committee received a report on match fishing on the Mitton and Skerton Fisheries during the 1980 season. This indicated that the income derived from match fishing on both fisheries had fallen substantially during the 1980 season from that derived during 1979. In the case of the Skerton Fishery the reasons for the decline in interest could have been caused by the siltation near the left bank causing shallow water under normal flow conditions which deterred fish from approaching that area, coupled with a general, probably temporary decline in the coarse fisheries of the lower Lune which could be connected with the wet summers experienced in the last two years.

In the case of the Mitton Fishery very high water levels had persisted throughout the period which had probably caused some of the matches to be abandoned.

24. MITTON FISHERY - RIVER RIBBLE

In accordance with Minute No.7 of the last meeting of the Committee and Minute No.30 B (3) of the Regional Committee held on 2nd February, 1981, it was reported that following consultations between the officers and Padiham and District Angling Society, rules mutually

acceptable to both parties, governing their fisheries on the River Ribble at Mitton had now been formulated. The Committee was requested to recommend their acceptance to the Regional Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

That in addition to the rules presently applicable on the Authority's Mitton Fishery, the methods of angling known as long trotting and ledgering and the use of shrimp or prawn as bait be prohibited provided that in the case of disabled persons, where the disablement severely restricted mobility, the method of angling known as ledgering be permitted.

25. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICERS ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officers presented their report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee. The report included items on river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, hatcheries, stocking by the Water Authority, stocking by angling associations, fish mortalities, fish disease, poaching, management work which included agreed dates for canoeing at the Authority's Halton Fishery, and details of monthly catches of salmon and sea trout for the 1980 season.

The Area Fisheries Officer (North) reported that investigations were taking place in relation to miscounts at the River Leven fish counter which it was felt could be attributed to fish being able to avoid the counter. The electrodes of the fish counter at Forge Weir, would be connected as soon as water conditions permitted.

It having been reported that rubble from a recent landslide near the Whitewell Hotel on the River Hodder, had later been deposited in that river, the officers undertook to investigate.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and approved.

26. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1981-82

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees for the 'Authority Year' 1981-82 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Area Committee being noted as follows:-

Wednesday 14th October, 1981
Wednesday 31st March, 1982

The Committee requested that the October meeting be held at the South Cumbria Office of the Rivers Division.

27. CLOSURE OF PRESTON DOCKS

Professor Kershaw informed the Committee that he was serving on a Working Party examining the possible implications of the closure of the Port of Preston, and for the benefit of the Committee he reported briefly on the progress made by the Working Party to date.

SOUTHERN AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE8TH APRIL, 1981

Present: J. S. Bailey, Esq. (Chairman)
D. Bridgewood Esq. P. Neal, Esq.,
A. G. R. Brown, Esq. Dr. M. Pugh Thomas
J. A. Shanahan, Esq.,

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T.A.F. Barnes, Mr. F. Egerton, Mr. G. Mann, Mr. R. Newton and Mr. A. Richardson.

11. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

In relation to Minute No.8, (Rod Licences for Fishing for Freshwater Fish and Eels - Exemption for certain waters) concern was expressed that anglers fishing waters of less than one hectare believing they were not connected to or communicating with any river might find themselves liable to prosecution should the contrary prove to be the case. The Committee was advised that whilst the onus was on anglers to ascertain the true position, the Authority recognised the possible difficulties facing the anglers and would continue to apply the limitations of the excusal in a sensible manner.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th January, 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed Dr. M. Pugh Thomas, to this, his first meeting of the newly constituted Committee.

It was reported that the Regional Committee had approved the recommendation that the Mersey and Weaver Anglers' Consultative Association be invited to nominate a further member to serve on this Committee and the Association had since nominated Mr. C. Holland of 121 Northgate Road, Edgeley, Stockport.

It was felt that it would be beneficial if a representative of the angling interests in the Stoke-on-Trent area would be willing to serve on the Committee and it was agreed that the Chairman would report back on the result of enquiries into this matter.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Regional Committee be invited to approve the appointment of Mr. C. Holland to this Committee.

13. LICENSING OF ANGLING FOR FRESHWATER FISH

In accordance with Minute No.5 of the last meeting, a report was submitted detailing the numbers of freshwater fish licences sold and the revenue that accrued to the Authority from their sale when they were last available in 1979, compared to similar information in respect of the sale of the combined non-migratory trout/freshwater fish licence for 1980. It was pointed out that any restructuring of the licensing system with a view to the reintroduction of a separate freshwater fish licence would be contrary to the agreed objective of a single licence, which had been supported by the former Mersey and Weaver Advisory Committee, and to current Authority policy. Any proposed new structure would need to produce in total revenue terms, an amount at least equal to that derived from the present structure. It was recognised that if the duty on a freshwater fish licence were to be pitched at a lower level then the shortfall would have to be made good by increasing the cost of other classes of licences.

The Committee felt that due to the limited level of fisheries staff based in the southern area the Fisheries Department was unable to provide the necessary service to the area and suggested that a transfer of resources from the areas which were adequately staffed and equipped should be considered. Until this was done it was felt that a concession in licence duties should apply to the area.

RESOLVED:

That the restructuring of licence duties throughout the Authority area, with a view to the introduction of a new structure from 1st January, 1983, be considered at the next meeting of the Committee and that in the meantime the officers prepare a report with a view to the introduction of a separate freshwater fish licence.

RECOMMENDED:

That with effect from 1st January, 1982, the non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels licence be issued at a concessionary rate of duty for the southern area.

14. FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

The Authority had requested the Regional Committee to consider the need for and formulate proposals for increases in fishing licence duties to be effective from 1st January, 1982 at its next meeting on 27th April, 1981.

The approved fisheries expenditure for 1981/82 showed an increase attributable to past, present and future price increases and in the light of this inflationary trend an all round increase of 10% in the fishing licence duties as set out below was proposed:-

	Present Duty £	Revised Duty £
1. <u>Single Rod and Line</u>		
(a) Salmon	18.00	19.80
Part Season from June 1st	12.00	13.20
Season concessionary	9.00	9.90
Part Season concessionary from June 1st	6.00	6.60
Seven day	3.00	3.30
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil
(b) Migratory Trout		
Season	6.00	6.60
Season concessionary	3.00	3.30
Seven day	1.20	1.30*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil
(c) Non migratory trout, (brown trout, rainbow trout and char) freshwater fish and eels		
Season	3.60	3.90*
Season concessionary	1.80	1.90*
Seven day	0.60	0.70*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil

Concessionary licences are issued to juveniles (14-16 years), state retirement pensioners and registered disabled persons.

*rounded down to nearest 10p

2. <u>Commercial Eel Fishing</u>		
Fixed eel trap per annum	30.00	33.00
Eel or fyke net per annum	0.60	0.65
Traps, putcheons or baskets (per 25 or part thereof) per annum	6.00	6.60
3. <u>Nets and Fixed Engines</u>		
(Area within the boundaries of former Cumberland River Authority)		
Whole area Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	125.00	137.50
River Eden, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	300.00	330.00

	Present Duty £	Revised Duty £
Whole area Heave or Haaf net	25.00	27.50
River Eden coop	117.00	128.70
River Derwent coop	260.00	286.00
South West Cumberland garth	130.00	143.00

4. Nets

(Area within the boundaries of former Lancashire River Authority)

River Ribble, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 140m in length when wet)	80.00	88.00
River Lune, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 300m in length when wet)	133.00	146.30
River Lune, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	116.00	127.60
River Duddon, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	110.00	121.00
River Lune Heave or Haaf net	51.00	56.10
River Kent Lave net	60.00	66.00
River Leven Lave net	50.00	55.00

It was explained that only by increasing the licence duties in the manner proposed could the Authority ensure that the real value of the contribution from licence duties towards the cost of fisheries would be maintained.

Whilst appreciating the need for licence duties to take account of inflation the Committee felt that the proposed increase would be considered an imposition by coarse anglers in the southern area and stressed that due to the limited staff available in that area the service provided by the Fisheries Department was inadequate.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee reluctantly accept the necessity for the proposal to increase all licence duties, as set out above, but at the same time urge the Authority to consider the special needs of the southern area with a view to issuing the non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels licence at a concessionary rate of duty for the southern area and improving the fisheries service in that area.

15. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee. The report included items on river conditions and fishing, hatcheries,

stocking by the Water Authority, stocking and/or restocking by angling associations, fish mortalities and fish disease. Referring to the recent outbreak of perch disease at the Bostock Hall stock pond the Area Fisheries Officer explained that he was now unable to carry out all his restocking plans.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and approved.

16. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 1981-82

The proposed dates for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees for the 'Authority Year' 1981-82 were submitted for information, dates for meetings of the Area Committee being noted as follows:-

Wednesday	21st	October,	1981
Wednesday	7th	April,	1982

RF2/A25

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

27TH APRIL, 1981

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1. On 2nd March, 1981 (Minute No. 35) the Policy and Resources Committee approved the recommendation made at the last meeting of this Committee (Minute No. 31) that the Chairmen of the three new area committees, should serve on this Committee in an ex officio capacity.
2. The recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee was approved by the Authority on 16th March, 1981.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE27TH APRIL, 1981FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

1. The principal items of expenditure in the Fisheries function are employees, transport and plant. These items are the ones most affected by inflation. For this reason the Authority at its meeting on 16th March approved a recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee that the Regional Committee should consider the need for and formulate proposals for increases in fishing licence duties to be effective from 1st January, 1982, related to forecast inflation up to an including 1982. Only in this way can the Authority ensure that the real value of the contribution made by licence duties towards the cost of fisheries is maintained.
2. The Fisheries probable outturn of gross expenditure for the year ending on 31st March, 1981 is £1,186,000. The approved Fisheries budget for the financial year beginning on 1st April, 1981, which allows for inflation provides for a gross expenditure of £1,351,000, an increase of 13.9%. The whole of this increase is attributable to past, present and future price increases, and is very similar to the annual rate of inflation as reflected by the January 1981 Retail Price Index, 13.0%. This latter figure may be expected to increase by one or two points when the Chancellor's recent budget proposals work themselves into the calculation but in view of the Government's declared intention to reduce inflation it is suggested that all licence duties, including nets and fixed engines, be increased by 10% as from 1st January, 1982. The effect of this proposal is as shown below:-

	<u>Present Duty £p</u>	<u>Revised Duty £p</u>
<u>1. Single Rod and Line</u>		
(a) Salmon		
Season	18.00	19.80
Part Season from June 1st	12.00	13.20
Season concessionary	9.00	9.90
Part Season concessionary from June 1st	6.00	6.60
Seven day	3.00	3.30
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil
(b) Migratory Trout		
Season	6.00	6.60
Season concessionary	3.00	3.30
Seven day	1.20	1.30*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil

	<u>Present Duty £p</u>	<u>Revised Duty £p</u>
(c) Non migratory trout, (brown trout, rainbow trout and char) freshwater fish and eels		
Season	3.60	3.90*
Season concessionary	1.80	1.90*
Seven day	0.60	0.70*
Junior (10-13 years inclusive)	nil	nil

Concessionary licences are issued to juveniles (14-16 years), state retirement pensioners and registered disabled persons.

* rounded down to nearest 10p

2. Commercial Eel Fishing

Fixed eel trap per annum	30.00	33.00
Eel or fyke net per annum	0.60	0.65
Traps, putcheons or baskets (per 25 or part thereof) per annum	6.00	6.60

3. Nets and Fixed Engines

(Area within the boundaries of former Cumberland River Authority)

Whole area Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	125.00	137.50
River Eden, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	300.00	330.00
Whole area Heave or Haaf net	25.00	27.50
River Eden coop	117.00	128.70
River Derwent coop	260.00	286.00
South West Cumberland garth	130.00	143.00

4. Nets

(Area within the boundaries of former Lancashire River Authority)

River Ribble, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 140m in length when wet)	80.00	88.00
River Lune, Drift, Hang or Whammel net (not exceeding 300m in length when wet)	133.00	146.30

	Present Duty £p	Revised Duty £p
River Lune, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	116.00	127.60
River Duddon, Draw, Draft or Seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	110.00	121.00
River Lune Heave or Haaf net	51.00	56.10
River Kent Lave net	60.00	66.00
River Leven Lave net	50.00	55.00

3. The proposals were considered by the Area Committees at the March/April round of meetings and their recommendations are contained in the respective Minutes, but to assist the Committee are now listed below:-

NORTHERN AREA

1. That the proposals to increase the rod and line, net and fixed engine licence duties as set out above be approved.
2. That consideration be given to the introduction of a single tier licence duty for rod and line to take effect from 1st January, 1983.

CENTRAL AREA

That the proposals to increase the rod and line, net and fixed engine licence duties as set out above be approved.

SOUTHERN AREA

That the Committee reluctantly accept the necessity for the proposal to increase all licence duties, as set out above, but at the same time urge the Authority to consider the special needs of the southern area with a view to issuing the non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels licence at a concessionary rate of duty for the southern area and improving the fisheries service in that area.

4. The Committee should also note that on 27th February, 1981, the honorary Secretary of the North West Regional Council, National Federation of Anglers, wrote to the Authority enclosing a copy of a letter sent on behalf of the NFA to MAFF expressing the Federation's concern at the lack of a separate coarse angling licence in the N.W. region and giving notice that in this respect the Council had passed a vote of 'no confidence' in the Authority at a meeting held on 25th January, 1981, in the following terms:

'A vote of no confidence be recorded in the workings of the North West Water Authorities who show a complete disregard of the request for a separate coarse licence, resulting in an imbalance against the coarse angler'.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE27TH APRIL 1981CLOSURE OF PRESTON DOCKS

1. At their meeting on 2nd February, 1981 the Committee were informed that officers of the Authority were in consultation with officers of the Preston Corporation in an endeavour to see whether or not a mutually acceptable settlement could be reached without the need to petition against the Bill.
2. However, it was not found possible to reach a settlement and the Authority proceeded with its Petition before a Select Committee of the House of Lords. The hearing before the Select Committee started on 6th April, 1981 and there were two other Petitioners i.e. Fylde BC and Sefton MBC.
3. At the end of the hearing the Select Committee announced that they would be reporting on the Bill on Third Reading with the following amendments:
 - (1) The clauses giving the Secretary of State default powers to require the Authority at their own expense to repair or restore (for unspecified purposes) the training walls upstream of Lytham, and to require the Authority to finance any surveys that the Secretary of State may require, should be deleted.
 - (2) The clause giving the Secretary of State default powers to require Preston at their own expense to carry out works on the training walls downstream of Lytham to remove any new navigational hazards, should be extended to cover the whole length of the training walls.

The effects of these proposed amendments are that the Bill would now merely empower the Authority to carry out works on the training walls upstream of Lytham (which is approximately the extent of the "main river" limit of the Ribble). Any works which they were to carry out, if approved by Preston subject to arbitration, would qualify for contributions from Preston for a period of ten years from closure of the port (2/3 of the cost of the works for the first five years and 1/3 of the cost of the works for the second five years). Preston would be responsible for, and could be so directed by the Secretary of State, any works required to remove any new navigational hazards over the whole length of the training walls.

4. This is a satisfactory result as far as the Authority is concerned. However, it does not entirely meet the objections of Fylde and Sefton who wanted Preston to retain their present duty to maintain the training walls for navigational purposes at least until there had been sufficient time to assess, from further study and experience the likely effects on their areas.

5. It is possible therefore that one or both Councils could oppose the Bill in the House of Commons, in which case the Authority would hold a watching brief to ensure that any further amendments did not adversely affect their interests. If this were to happen a further report would be made to the Committee.

RF3/B14

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

27TH APRIL, 1981

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 1981-82

1. On 2nd March, 1981, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a draft calendar of meetings for the Authority, Committees and Sub-Committees for the 'Authority Year' from June 1981 to June 1982 for submission to the Authority for consideration in accordance with Rule 1(3) of the Rules of the Authority at the Annual Meeting to be held on 15th June, 1981.
2. The dates proposed for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees are set out in the Appendix hereto for the information of members. Any variations made at the Annual Meeting will be notified.

REGIONAL AND AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEESCALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1981-82

<u>ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TIME AND DATE OF MEETING</u>
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday 13th July, 1981
Northern Area	2.30 p.m. Monday 12th October, 1981
Central Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday 14th October, 1981
Southern Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday 21st October, 1981
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday 9th November, 1981
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday 1st February, 1982
Northern Area	2.30 p.m. Monday 29th March, 1982
Central Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday 31st March, 1982
Southern Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday 7th April, 1982
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday 26th April, 1982