



**North
West
Water**

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Our ref AW/js
Your ref

NOTICE OF MEETING

6th February, 1980.

To: Members of the North Cumbria
and the Lune, Wyre & Furness
Fisheries Advisory Committees.

Dear Sir,

Review of Net and Fixed Engine Licence Duties.

This matter was discussed by Advisory Committees at their meetings last month, and following consideration by the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee on Monday last (4th February), it was agreed that the two Advisory Committees should meet at an early date for their final consideration of the review, so that the Chairman of the Authority and the Regional Chairman could approve recommendations for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Accordingly, the respective Chairmen have agreed that the two Advisory Committees should meet jointly at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 14th February 1980 in the Rivers Division's Area Office at "Beathwaite", Levens, Kendal.

... The report considered by the Regional Committee on Monday last, is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

GWS Director of Administration.

George Mann *Chairman*

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4TH FEBRUARY, 1980NET AND FIXED ENGINE LICENCE DUTIES

1. In reviewing Net Licence Duties, the aim is to achieve an increase in revenue of approximately 50%, in line with the increase which, it is anticipated, will be produced by the new rod licence duties which came into force on 1st January, 1980.
2. At the meeting of the Committee on 12th November, 1979 (Minute No. 22), it was suggested that comparative figures for salmon net licence duties should be obtained from Scotland and from Ireland. Scotland, where there are no "public fisheries", has no system of licensing salmon fishing either by net or by rod, the requirement being a permit from the proprietor of the fishery, for which a charge would normally be made. This, however, is in no sense a "licence" as would be applicable in England, and represents what a rod fisherman in England would pay for a rod on a fishing beat. Information has been obtained from Eire and Northern Ireland on the scale of licence duties which is applicable in those countries.
3. Duties in Eire for nets comparable with those used in the North-West are considerably less than those duties applied by the Authority. The Northern Ireland duties are in some instances more closely related to those levied by the Authority.
4. Information was also sought from the seven other water authorities, where salmon occur, on the current rates of net licence duty. However, when this paper was prepared on 21st January, 1980 only four replies had been received. All the above information is summarised in the appendix attached to this paper, which also shows present rates of duty in this Authority's area and revenue derived therefrom, together with suggested new rates and anticipated revenue.
5. The Irish figures, overall, are, however, of no great help in deciding whether the Authority's present duties are pitched in the right general range, since information on the relative abundance of migratory fish, and on catches made and their market value, is lacking.
6. The net most commonly operated in the North-West is the heave, or haaf net, of which 46 were licensed on the Lune in 1978 and 177 on the Solway. (1978 is the latest year for which complete figures are available). On the Lune the duty is £39, while on the Solway it is only £16.90 (or 43% of the duty for the Lune). A new Net Limitation Order on the Lune now limits the number of these nets to 26. There is no limit on the Solway. Catch returns have, for a number of years, been obtained from all the Lune netsmen; in the case of the Solway netsmen, this level of return was not achieved until 1978, but it is hoped that it will now be maintained.

7. The relationship between average catch per net on the Lune and on the Solway respectively in 1978, on the basis of returned catches, was 4.1/1 in the case of salmon and 0.7/1 in the case of sea trout. Netsmen on the Lune fish for a livelihood while those on the Solway (with the exception of about half-a-dozen) are said to fish primarily as a recreation. To some extent, this situation has for long been reflected in the relative level of licence duties levied for a haaf net licence on the two fisheries. Despite that, there can be little argument that a licence duty of £16.90 which enables a man to fish for salmon in a tidal estuary where the quality of the fish taken is likely to be better than if they are taken up-river is unrealistic. A substantial increase thus appears justifiable in this particular case.
8. For the remainder of the instruments, an increase in the region of 50% aimed at achieving an overall increase in revenue comparable with that expected to be derived from the new rod licence duties, appears reasonable.

APPENDIX

Net	No. & Location	Present duty £	Revenue rec'd £	Suggested new duty £	Anticipated revenue £	Eire duty £	Foyle Fish conservatory duty £	N.Ireland Fish Conservatory duty £	North-umbrian W.A. £	Southern W.A. £	Welsh W.A. £	Severn-Trent £
Drift	4 (Cumbria coast) (NLO)	78	312	125	500				119 (N. area)	60 to 195.50 (by area)		
	10 (Lune) * (NLO)	104	1040	150	1600	50	55 (sea) to 66 (else where)	52 (tidal area)	55 (S. area)			
	6 (Ribble) (NLO)	52	312	80	480				Both incl. T-net (Fixed eng)			
Draft	2 (Eden)	195	390	300	600		72 (tidal waters)	28 (Lough Neagh)		3 nets £1 each	34 50 to 84 (by area)	67
	3 (Duddon)	71.50	214.50	110	330	30	55 (other)	70 (fixed tidal)				
	1 (Lune)	91	91	140	140		85 (fixed Draft net)	420 (estuary) 52 (tidal)				
Haaf	26 (Lune) * (NLO)	39	1014	60	1560	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	175 (Solway)	16.90	2957	30	5250							
Lave	6 (Leven) (NLO)	32.50	195	50	300						6	25 (per season 12.50)
	8 (Kent) (NLO)	39	312	60	480							
Fixed engines	1 (Eden coops)	117	117	175	175	20 (box or crib)		209 (box or crib)			1.65 (putts) to 45 (basets) (fishing welt)	2.25 (putts) 17.50 (putchers) 41 (stop net)
	1 (Derwent coops)	260	260	390	390							
	1 (Ravenglass garth)	130	130	195	195							
			7344.50		12,000							

* These are the reduced numbers of nets permitted under the 1979 new Net Limitation Order