



**North
West
Water**

Dawson House, Great Sankey
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F1/B1

8th December 1981

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee:
(Messrs. T. A. F. Barnes (Chairman);
W. S. Bell; A. G. R. Brown; F. Bunting;
H. Caunce; T. M. Farrer; J. H. Fell;
J. E. Gouldbourn; R. D. Houghton;
J. Johnson; I. Jones; G. E. Lowe;
Wm. McKenna; J. E. Redhead; 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,

Will you please attend a SPECIAL MEETING of the REGIONAL FISHERIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE to be held at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER,
1981, in the BOARD ROOM, DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for
consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. CRACKLE,

Secretary and Solicitor.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
3. Restructuring of Rod and Line Fishing Licence Duties.

NOTE: To Members of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee
who are not Members of the Authority.

As a full meeting of the Authority is taking place on 14th December it will not be possible to accommodate those Members of the Advisory Committee who are not Members of the Authority for lunch in the Members' Dining Room.

In these circumstances, Members concerned are advised that lunch will be available between 12 noon and 1 p.m. from the staff self-service restaurant situated on the first floor of Dawson House adjacent to the Members' suite.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

Item No. 3

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE14TH DECEMBER 1981RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

1. Further to minute no. 26 of the last meeting, on 30th November 1981 the Policy and Resources Committee accepted the Committee's recommendation for a four tier rod and line fishing licence structure and considered a report (attached as an Appendix) concerning, inter alia, the duties to be charged for such licences.
2. The Policy and Resources Committee's recommendations which are as follows will be submitted to the meeting of the Authority on the morning of this meeting and accordingly any comments that the Authority makes will be reported:-

"(1) That the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee's recommendation for a four-tier rod and line fishing licence structure to take effect on and from 1st January 1983, comprising separate licences for salmon; migratory trout; non-migratory trout; and freshwater fish and eels, be approved.

(2) That a target total income from rod and line fishing licences be determined for 1983-84 and thereafter; and that that total income figure be borne by the various angling interests according to the way in which fisheries resources are deployed, after excluding 50% of the cost of anti-poaching and 15% of the remaining costs of migratory fisheries to reflect the benefit derived by netmen.

(3) That to implement this policy, on and from 1st January 1983 seasonal licence duties for migratory fisheries be based on £27 (i.e. £27 for salmon and £9 for migratory trout), for brown trout £4, and coarse fish £3, with a view to recovering £399,000 as the target total income in 1983-84.

(4) That the views of the coarse fish anglers be obtained on the provision in 1983-84 of cash grants for approved fishery improvement schemes and the free loan of equipment, and their willingness to pay for that provision by an appropriate increase in the licence duty.

(5) That having regard to the above proposals for income from rod and line licences, further consideration be given to the appropriate proportion of fisheries operating costs which should be met by net licence duties and to discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food about such duties.

(6) That the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee be informed accordingly and further, be asked to consider the possibility of an approach to police authorities seeking contributions to the expenditure incurred by the Authority on anti-poaching activities."

3. In accordance with the Committee's instructions, copies of the report to the Policy and Resources Committee together with that Committee's recommendations have been sent to all Members of Area Committees who have been advised to pass any observations they might have to the respective Chairmen for them to be brought to the notice of the Committee.
4. The Committee is now requested to formulate final recommendations on this matter for submission to the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee budget meeting to be held on 25th January 1981, with a view to the new structure's introduction on and from 1st January 1983.

PR1/A18

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYPOLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE30TH NOVEMBER 1981RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

1. The present licence structure came into effect on 1st January 1980 and since then it has been the practice to seek annual increases to maintain the real value of the licence income. When these increases have been discussed at the Fishery Advisory Committees the argument has always been put that the burden of licence duties is unfairly shared between game and coarse fish anglers. Recognition of the force of this argument led to the decision earlier this year to revise the structure.
2. When this Committee agreed to the restructuring it made the proviso that the contribution from rod licence duties towards operating costs should be maintained at the same level as under the present structure. In 1981-82 the estimated direct costs of fisheries are £729,000. These are the costs directly controlled by the Regional Fisheries Officer and exclude central overheads e.g. administrative costs and financing charges. If 21% is added to this figure to cover price increases in 1982-83 and 1983-84 (as the revised structure will not come into effect until 1st January 1983) the estimated direct costs will be £882,000. The estimated income from rod licences in the current year is £344,000 which, expressed as a percentage of the direct costs for this year, is 47.2%. 47.2% of £882,000 is £416,000 - so this is the target income figure to be obtained from the restructured licences.
3. There remains however the problem of how the target income figure should be equitably borne by the various angling interests. It has been proposed that this could best be achieved by using an allocation based on the manner in which the resources of the fisheries department are deployed, which resulted in the following:-

<u>Type of Expenditure</u>	<u>Migratory</u>	<u>Type of Fishery</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Non-Migratory</u> <u>Trout</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	
Patrols & licence enforcement	51	74	68	193
Anti-poaching	168	1	-	169
Propagation	85	38	10	133
Other	69	47	118	234
	<u>373</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>729</u>
Target income contribution	213	91	112	416
Required unit price of licence	£35*	£3.50	£2.58	

(*for salmon, the migratory trout licence duty would be 1/3rd thereof)

Given a fixed income target, any attempt to alter the ratio produced by the above analysis by excluding any part or the whole of an activity relating to one type of fishery, will have the effect of increasing the share of the total burden on the other types of fishery.

4. The proposals described in paragraph 3 have now been debated by the Local and Regional Fishery Advisory Committees. The coarse fishermen were delighted but the game fishermen were strongly opposed as the salmon season licence would increase from £19.80 as at 1st January 1982 to the proposed £35. Moreover the Regional Committee had resolved that the proposals for a new structure should not provide for a part season licence which would mean that those who usually took out a part season licence would be faced with an even greater increase (from £13.20). Many members voiced the opinion that such a large imposition would result in fewer sales and the target income would not be achieved. The game fishermen also pointed out that it was unfair to base their share of the target income on the total costs of resources deployed on migratory fisheries without having regard to the benefits which the netsmen derive from the efforts of the fisheries department. They also felt that anti-poaching should be excluded altogether as this was a policing activity and should be borne by the community. They were not persuaded by the counter arguments that they were only being asked to make a 47% contribution to these activities and if resources are committed to migratory fisheries they are excluded from being used on other types of fisheries. Although the Regional Committee agreed to recommend a revised four tier structure i.e. separate licences for salmon; migratory trout; brown trout; and coarse fish (under the present three tier structure there is a combined licence for brown trout and coarse fish), they were unable to agree the unit prices of the licences either as proposed, or a compromise proposed by the Central Committee, that anti-poaching should be left out of account in the comparison of inputs to the various fisheries which would have resulted in:

	<u>Migratory</u>	<u>Non-Migratory</u> <u>Trout</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Total</u> £'000
Revised total allocation	205	159	196	560
Target income contribution	152	118	146	416
Required unit price of licence	£24.92	£4.52	£3.36	

5. The aim is to find an acceptable basis for fixing licence duties which can be seen to be objective and rational. The proposals in their original form could be viewed as the "broad brush" approach and the comments made by the Advisory Committees may be seen as seeking to refine the original proposals. Anti-poaching has some of the characteristics of a policing activity but it is also an activity designed to protect fish stocks and maintain the fisheries. To this extent the rod and line anglers do derive benefit from the activity and in view of this it is suggested that it should not be wholly excluded from consideration but should be abated by 50%. Netsmen also derive benefit from the activities of the fisheries

department and so some allowance should be made to reflect this. The officers assess this benefit at 15% of the net cost of migratory fishing activities. The effect of making these adjustments, which can be seen as a more refined measure of the benefits enjoyed by the various classes of rod and line anglers, is as follows:-

	<u>Type of Fishery</u>			<u>Total</u> £'000
	<u>Migratory</u>	<u>Non-Migratory</u> <u>Trout</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	
Original allocation of direct costs	373	160	196	729
<u>Less 50% anti-poaching</u>	<u>84</u>			<u>84</u>
	289			645
Less 15% netsmen benefit	43			43
	<u>246</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>602</u>
Target income contribution	170	111	135	416
Required unit price of licence	£27.87	£4.25	£3.11	

These unit prices of licences are designed to produce a contribution of 47% of the estimated direct costs in 1983-84. If the Committee was prepared to relax slightly its original proviso, which was made before the implications of the changed incidence was apparent, licence duties for migratory fisheries (salmon and migratory trout) based on £27, for brown trout £4, and coarse fish £3, are estimated to produce a total income of £399,000, which would represent a contribution of 45% towards the total estimated direct costs in 1983-84. The officers consider this would be a small price to pay for establishing the new principle.

6. At the Regional Committee the coarse fish representatives stated they were prepared to pay an increased licence duty if the level of service was improved (the restructuring exercise having been undertaken as a result of the coarse anglers feeling that the main thrust of fisheries activities was aimed at game fisheries). It is suggested that the estimates for 1983-84 should include a provision of £10,000 which would be used, in part, to make cash grants on a £1 for £1 basis on approved coarse fishery improvement schemes and, in part, to purchase equipment which would be made available to angling clubs on a free loan basis. This improvement in service would be dependent on the the coarse anglers being prepared to meet the additional cost through an increase in the licence duty of 25p.

7. It is recommended that:-

(1) The Regional Committee's recommendation for a four-tier rod and line fishing licence structure on and from 1st January 1983, comprising separate licences for salmon; migratory trout; non-migratory trout; and freshwater fish and eels, be approved.

- (2) A target income from rod and line fishing licences be determined for 1983-84 and thereafter and that total income figure be borne by the various angling interests according to the way in which fisheries resources are deployed, after excluding 50% of the cost of anti-poaching and 15% of the remaining costs of migratory fisheries to reflect the benefit derived by netsmen.
- (3) To implement this policy, on and from 1st January 1983 seasonal licence duties for migratory fisheries be based on £27 (i.e £27 for salmon and £9 for migratory trout), for brown trout £4, and coarse fish £3, with a view to recovering £399,000 in 1983-84.
- (4) The views of the coarse fish anglers be obtained on the provision in 1983-84 of cash grants for approved fishery improvement schemes and the free loan of equipment, and their willingness to pay for that provision by an appropriate increase in the licence duty.
- (5) The Regional Fisheries Committee be informed accordingly.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE14TH DECEMBER 1981RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

1. The following schedule lists the proposed licence duties on and from 1st January 1983, derived from the seasonal licence duties as agreed by the Authority at today's meeting and in accordance with the previous decisions of this Committee.

	<u>Duty as at</u> <u>1st January 1982</u> £. p.	<u>Duty on & from</u> <u>1st January 1983</u> £. p.
<u>Single Rod and Line</u>		
(1) Salmon		
Season	19.80	27.00
Part season from June 1st	13.20	-
Season concessionary	9.90	13.50
Part season concessionary from June 1st	6.60	-
Seven day	3.30	4.50
(2) Migratory Trout		
Season	6.60	9.00
Season concessionary	3.30	4.50
Seven day	1.30	1.50
(3) Non-migratory Trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char) freshwater fish and eels.		
Season	3.90	-
Season concessionary	1.90	-
Seven day	0.70	-
(4) Non-migratory trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char)		
Season	-	4.00
Season concessionary	-	2.00
Seven day	-	0.70 *
(5) Freshwater fish and eels		
Season	-	3.00
Season concessionary	-	1.50
Seven day	-	0.50

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

2. If the offer extended to coarse anglers, regarding cash grants and loan of equipment is accepted, the licence duties in (5) above become:-

Season	3.20 *
<i>Season</i> Seven day concessionary	1.60
Seven day	0.50 *

* Rounded to nearest 10p.

3. The Committee is asked to consider whether, in view of the fact that a 10p commission plus 2% of sales value is paid to licence dealers for each licence sold, a minimum duty of £1 should apply to the seven day licence duties for non migratory trout and freshwater fish and eels.