



395  
North  
West  
Water

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RF2A18

28 January 1985

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries  
Advisory Committee:  
T A F Barnes (Chairman); J S Bailey;  
R Bailey; A G R Brown; F Bunting;  
J M Croft; P Ecroyd; J H Fell;  
C Holland; R D Houghton; B Irving;  
G Mann; P Neal; J B Oldfield;  
Dr Pugh-Thomas; A Richardson;  
J B Robinson.

Dear Sir,

Please attend a meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
to be held at 2.15 pm on MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 1985 at WATCHGATE WATER  
TREATMENT WORKS, WATCHGATE, NEAR KENDAL for consideration of the  
following business. A map showing the location of the works is attached.

Yours faithfully,

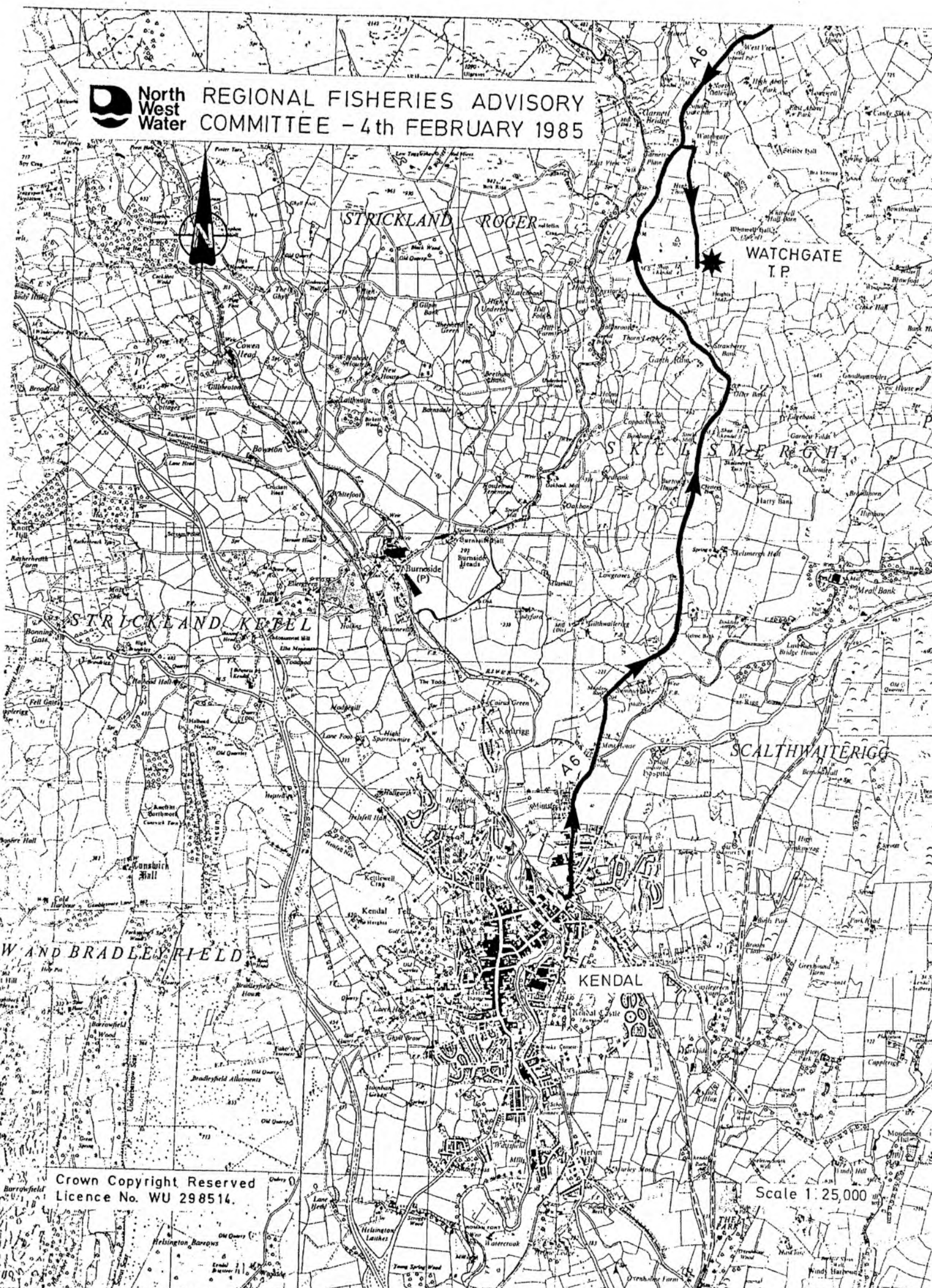
W H CRACKLE  
Secretary and Solicitor

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated and approved by the Board on 29 October 1984).
3. Local Fisheries Liaison meetings.
4. Fishing Licence Duties - 1986.
5. Lead and Swans.
6. Fyke Nets.
7. Grass Carp Field Trials in the Lancaster Canal.
8. Authority Schemes for the benefit of fisheries and fishing.
9. Reserve Bailiffs.
10. River Lune - Total Available Residual Chlorine (TARC).
11. Other business



REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE - 4th FEBRUARY 1985



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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 1984

Present:                   T.A.F. Barnes (Chairman)

R. Bailey	A.G.R. Brown
F. Bunting	J.M. Croft
P. Ecroyd	J.H. Fell
C. Holland	R.D. Houghton
G. Mann	

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. B. Irving, P. Neil, Bryan Oldfield, A. Richardson, and J.B. Robinson. Members noted that Mr. J.S. Bailey had not attended any meetings of the Committee this year, and the Secretary and Solicitor was instructed to write to Mr. Bailey seeking assurances about his future attendance.

28. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 June 1984 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. POLLUTION INCIDENT - FRANKLAW WATER TREATMENT WORKS

Having inspected the works prior to the meeting, members expressed concern about problems at Franklaw which had resulted in discharges from the plant causing fish mortalities in the River Wyre. Officers explained the problems which were being experienced at the plant and listed the steps which had been taken to try and provide a temporary solution. It was accepted that major capital works were essential before the risks could be eliminated and technical staff were investigating the viability of constructing an interceptor chamber to deal with these discharges.

Discussion took place about the value of an interceptor chamber in the course of which members emphasised that, while such an arrangement might eliminate discharges of sludge, it could not, unless frequently pumped out, eliminate discharges of dissolved chemicals. It was agreed that the chairmen and secretaries of fisheries societies affected by the discharges should be invited to visit the plant at Franklaw, when the necessary remedial work had been approved and the approximate costs were known.

30. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the dates selected by the Board for meetings of this Committee in 1985 and agreed that the meetings should be held in different locations within the region so the Committee could visit sites of particular relevance to items on the agenda. Officers were asked to pay particular attention to the venue and timing of the

winter meeting to reduce the need for long distance travel.

31. GRASS CARP FIELD TRIALS IN THE LANCASTER CANAL

Members noted a report of a project carried out by the University of Liverpool to investigate the effects of grass carp on the vegetation, water chemistry, sediment, other fish species and invertibrate fauna in a non-navigated canal. This project had received financial support from the National Environment Research Council and practical help from the Authority and the British Waterways Board. Whilst members were pleased with both the investigation and the report, regret was expressed that the exercise finished in May and that the investigation did not, therefore, show the effects of the unusually long, hot summer of 1984 on weed consumption by these fish.

32. MEETINGS WITH SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEES

Members received a report which outlined the results of meetings with the sea fisheries committees operating in the area covered by the Authority and expressed their satisfaction at the considerable progress which had been made towards better co-operation.

33. ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW OF RIVERS DIVISION

Members were informed that consultants engaged by the Board had reviewed the work and activities carried out by the Rivers Division and had subsequently recommended the full integration of the division's functions into the Authority's Head Office and dual purpose divisions. The Board had accepted the broad principles of the consultants' report and consultation on the proposals was proceeding with a view to final implementation early in 1985.

34. RIVERS LEVEN AND CRAKE - MIGRATORY FISH STOCKING

Members were informed that in February 1978 the Committee had agreed that for a period of 5 years no salmon should be removed from the Rivers Leven and Crake for stripping and no stocking of these rivers with migratory fish should be carried out except for the introduction into the Leven of cage reared, freeze branded salmon smolts. Furness and South Cumbria Fisheries Association had requested that the restriction be formally rescinded and the arrangements outlined in the report operated in its place.

RECOMMENDED:

That the following arrangements should operate in the Rivers Leven, Crake, and Duddon:-

(a) River Leven

For the next 3 to 5 years, salmon should be allowed to spawn naturally and the results be observed.

(b) River Crake

- (i) Fish should be allowed to spawn naturally, but any fish trapped at Nibthwaite Weir (where there is a dead-end millrace) should be removed and stripped if fully ripe and weakened. If not ripe or weakened, trapped fish should be removed from the millrace and placed in the river upstream where they would be able to spawn naturally in due course as had been normal practice hitherto. In view of the proven abundance of juvenile salmon in the Crake, the fry resulting from fish which were removed and stripped at Nibthwaite Weir should be released in the margins of Coniston Water.
- (ii) Dependent upon the availability of adequate numbers of sea trout fry, following two cymag incidents on the Crake, sufficient sea trout fry should be introduced to compensate for the loss of potential spawners.

(c) River Duddon

A policy of stocking those beckes known to be capable of supporting juvenile salmon (in relation to the "acid rain" problem) should be maintained.

35. MIGRATORY FISH STOCKING POLICY

Members considered a paper which had been prepared by the Regional Fisheries Officer based on the findings of a National Water Council working party on salmon propagation which dealt with the effectiveness of stocking with juvenile salmon and sea trout. Members felt that despite problems in identifying the effectiveness of a stocking policy, there were areas where stocking was essential in order to ensure production of smolts which would otherwise not occur. The officers were asked to find out whether any other water authorities or other public bodies had established a re-stocking policy or had evidence of the effectiveness of re-stocking in maintaining stocks of migratory fish.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the paper be circulated to all consultative associations in the region as soon as possible with a view to its being discussed at the next round of fisheries liaison meetings.
- (ii) That the Regional Fisheries Officer prepare a paper about coarse fish stocking to accompany the paper at (i).

RF(3)A4

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4 FEBRUARY 1985LOCAL FISHERIES LIAISON MEETING

1. Following the abolition in 1984 of the formal Local Fisheries Advisory Committees, as new arrangement was introduced under which there would be an annual fisheries liaison meeting, on a rather less formal basis, with representatives from the various fisheries consultative associations in the region. Two meetings were scheduled, one with representatives of the Esk and Liddle, Eden and District, South and West Cumbria, Furness and District and Lune and Wyre Fisheries Associations, and the other with representatives of the Ribble Fisheries Association, the Lancashire Consultative Association and the Mersey and Weaver Consultative Association.
2. At the first meeting of these two groups, held in May 1984, the new arrangements were warmly welcomed by those present. However, at both meetings the point was made that members wanted two meetings a year for each group rather than one only, preferably on fixed dates. As this would run counter to the original intention of the Regional Fisheries Committee that liaison meetings should be on an annual basis, the Committee may wish to reconsider the matter, bearing in mind that in the original proposals, provision was made for the calling of additional liaison meetings should there be anything urgent requiring consideration at local level.
3. The next local fisheries liaison meeting will be held in late April on dates and at venues yet to be agreed.

RF(3)A1

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4 FEBRUARY 1985FISHING LICENCE DUTIES - 1986

1. On 11 February, 1985, the Board will be considering its budget and charges for 1985/86. Amongst the items to be considered is a recommendation that fishing licence duties be increased by some 5% in line with the current rate of inflation, and it is certain that this committee will be asked for its observations on this recommendation.
2. The effect of the proposals, if accepted, would be as follows:-

	<u>Present Duties</u>	<u>Proposed Duties</u>
<u>SINGLE ROD AND LINE (whole area)</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
(1) Salmon		
Season	25.00	26.25
Part Season from 1 June	18.75	19.75
Season concessionary	12.50	13.10
Part season concessionary	9.40	9.90
Seven day	6.00	6.30
(2) Migratory trout		
Season	10.50	11.00
Season concessionary	5.25	5.50
Seven day	2.75	2.90
(3) Non-migratory trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char)		
Season	4.50	4.70
Season concessionary	2.25	2.35
Seven day	1.50	1.60
4) Freshwater fish and eels		
Season	3.40	3.60
Season concessionary	1.70	1.80
Seven day	1.00	1.00

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

<u>£</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL EEL FISHING</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
0.00	Fixed eel traps	38.10 per trap per annum	40.00
0.80	Eel or fyke nets	0.75 per net per annum	0.80
8.00	Traps, putcheons or baskets	7.60 per 25 (or part thereof) per annum	8.00

<u>£</u>	<u>NETS AND FIXED ENGINES</u>	<u>£</u>
	(Area within the boundaries of the former Cumberland River Authority)	
	Whole area drift, hang or whammel net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	159.00 167.00
	River Eden, draw, draft or seine net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	381.00 400.00
	Whole area heave or haaf net	31.50 33.00
	River Eden coop	149.00 156.00
	River Derwent coop	331.00 348.00
	South West Cumberland garth	165.00 173.00

<u>£</u>	<u>NETS</u>	<u>£</u>
	(Area within the boundaries of the former Lancashire River Authority)	
	River Ribble, drift, hang or whammel net (not exceeding 140m in length when wet)	102.00 107.00
	River Lune, drift, hang or whammel net (not exceeding 300m in length when wet)	169.00 177.00
	River Lune, draw, draft or seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	147.00 154.00
	River Duddon, draw, draft or seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	140.00 147.00
	River Lune: heave or haaf net	65.00 68.00
	River Kent: lave net	76.50 80.50
	River Leven: lave net	63.00 66.00

- NOTE: (1) Fishing for freshwater fish and eels by rod and line in enclosed waters having a surface area of not more than one hectare (2.47 acres) is exempt from the licensing system.
- (2) Fishing for eels with rod and line in tidal and estuarial waters seaward of the high water mark (as defined on the Ordnance Survey Map : 1 to 50,000 series) is exempt from the licensing system.
- Any variation of licence duties requires local consultation and public advertisement within the region and, subsequently, the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
  - It is, therefore, recommended that the fisheries liaison meetings in March/April be asked to comment on these proposals and that their comments be taken into consideration by this Committee at its meeting on 20 May, 1985 when it formulates its observations for the Board.



REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th FEBRUARY 1985

LEAD AND SWANS

1. A national working group was set up in 1979, under the auspices of the Nature Conservancy Council, to investigate the effects of lead fishing weights on swans. The evidence before the group, whilst not explaining why swan deaths by lead poisoning has only assumed importance during the past decade, clearly showed that significant numbers of swans died from lead poisoning every year, and that the source of that lead was weights used by anglers. The problem is not so much a national one as affecting urban flocks in certain areas. In England and Wales the population had declined between 1961 and 1978 by 8% to 15%, but some urban flocks had declined to a fraction of their former size.
2. In their report, published in 1981, the group drew together the initiatives of the angling organisations, tackle trade and research organisations in a series of recommendations. One of these was that "... the Group would like to see the phasing-out of split-lead shot within five years."
3. Three alternatives to lead shot for angling purposes are now on the market. They are:-
  - (i) A tungsten powder in a polymer base, moulded in two hemispheres with a copper wire hinge, made by Wimet Limited, and sold under the name "Sandvik Safeweight".
  - (ii) A dense mastic, capable of being moulded by the fingers into almost any size and shape, and of adhering to fishing line, known as "Angler's Mate" and produced by Evode Limited.
  - (iii) A small steel coiled spring.

All these products have been tested by anglers in various ways and are considered to be environmentally safe. There is little doubt that, given adequate encouragement, other comparable substitutes will be produced. The alternatives, particularly those based on tungsten, are at present considerably more expensive than lead.

The next step would be to introduce these substitute materials in place of lead. Legislation may be a future possibility, and a hint in that direction has already been given by Government. Meanwhile the Working Group has met twice to review progress since their report appeared and has expressed the view that "... any change from lead shot was contingent not only upon the acceptability of alternative products, but also upon supplies of them being available at retail outlets".

4. The Working Group has appealed to Water Authorities to assist in achieving a voluntary phasing-out of split lead shot, and other lead items, and the industry should consider how best to respond. Some Authorities' fishing licences already carry a warning about the damage which discarded lead shot can do and a few Authorities have gone further by way of leaflets, special fishing matches etc.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4th FEBRUARY 1985FYKE NETS

1. On 30th January 1984, the Committee asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to give consent to a request from Mr Evans, of the Stone Jetty, Marine Road, Morecambe, for permission to use fyke nets during the period 1st April to 25th June for the capture of eels on sites adjacent to the Stone Jetty. Certain conditions concerning net locations and regular monitoring of catches were imposed. Monitoring of the nets during the period 1st April to 1st June (when smolts might be expected to be most at risk), revealed both a reasonable catch of eels and the complete absence from the catch of any smolts.
2. Mr. Evans has made a proper catch return for his eel netting for the season and has requested that he be permitted again to net eels during the same period in 1985. He has explained that, as in 1984, he wishes to avoid having his large mussel purification tank lying idle and to use it for holding eels. He has added that the period is a particularly difficult one in which to earn a living, as the mussel season has finished.
3. In view of the lack of any adverse effect upon migratory fish in 1984, it is recommended that the consent of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food be sought to enable Mr. Evans to fish for eels with fyke nets off the Stone Jetty, Morecambe, during the period 1st April to 25th June 1985, subject to the same conditions as in 1984.

RF(3)A5

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4 FEBRUARY 1985GRASS CARP FIELD TRIALS IN THE LANCASTER CANAL

1. At the meeting on 15 October 1984 the Committee received a report about weed control work carried out by Liverpool University on the Lancaster Canal during the two-year period ending in May 1984. This work completed a project carried out during the tenure of a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) sponsored post-doctoral fellowship. Regret was expressed by some members that research had not continued through the unusually long and hot summer of 1984 when water temperatures were particularly well-suited to grass carp and would have given a rare opportunity to observe the feeding habits of these fish in the weedy conditions which exist on that length of the canal.
2. Members will be pleased to learn that in view of the encouraging results obtained during the period of the NERC project, the University decided to continue the project on their own in order to further investigate the longer-term effects of grass carp grazing on production of aquatic weed.

In June 1984, some four weeks after the removal of the surviving stock of grass carp, three of the experimental compounds were restocked with grass carp at the same biomass densities which existed when the original experiment was terminated in May. Tench which had been removed from the experimental compounds in May were redistributed at the same time as the grass carp. Monitoring of weed growth was then recommenced and continued throughout the summer and autumn.

3. Control of weed by the grass carp was much less effective in the summer/autumn of 1984 than had been the case in 1982 and 1983 and in only one of the three compounds was the effect of the fish really significant. It is considered that this situation resulted principally from the fact that the grass carp were absent from the compounds during the critical period (mid-May to early June) when vigorous weed growth was beginning to develop, and this allowed the spring regrowth to continue unchecked. They were unable subsequently to graze-down the extensive stands of weed which had developed. This view is supported by the observation that a fourth compound, in which all the fish were held throughout May and early June, and which held only a light stocking of grass carp during the remainder of the year, showed virtually no growth of weed in 1984.
4. These results suggest that for effective weed control it is essential to have a high density of grass carp present during the spring regrowth period, but that for the rest of the year control could be maintained by much lower densities. The University intend to continue the investigation throughout 1985, carrying out estimates of weed biomass every two or three months and with a fish sampling operation scheduled for early May.

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4th FEBRUARY 1985AUTHORITY SCHEMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF FISHERIES AND FISHING

At its meeting on 26th April 1982, the Committee approved proposals by the Regional Fisheries Officer for the Institution of two schemes, one a Fisheries Improvement Grant-Aid Scheme and the other a Fisheries Equipment Loan Scheme. The first was intended to provide grant-aid up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost, to clubs to assist them in carrying out improvements to coarse fishing waters. The second scheme was to enable coarse fishing clubs to borrow fishery equipment from a central pool maintained by the Authority with a view to enabling them to carry out simple fisheries management work. Both schemes included safeguards for the Authority's interests. The following brief reports indicate progress made under these schemes during the past year.

1. Fisheries Improvement Grant-Aid Scheme

Progress was slow initially but increased interest in the scheme developed during the year. Unfortunately, of the applications received, several related to work which could not be regarded as coming within the scope of the scheme. By mid-January 1985, grants totalling £712.00 had been paid on two projects while two further projects had been approved for grants totalling £1,950.00 making a total of £2,662.00 spent or committed.

The projects approved were:

- Whiston Village A.C. - doubling of size of extensively used pool at Whiston. Grant: 40% on cost of £1,765 = £706
- Furness Fishery Assn. - liming of pools to raise pH and increase productivity. Grant: 40% of £15 = £6.00  
(The original estimate submitted by the club was for £225, on which grant of £90 would have been paid. In the event, the work was carried out far more cheaply.)
- Garswood Hall A.S. - extensions to pools at Bryn. Grant agreed: 40% on £2,250 = £900
- Wigan & District A.A. - improvements to weir, overflow and drainage of pool at Abram. Grant agreed: 33.1/3% of £3,141 = £1,050

2. Fisheries Equipment Loan Scheme

As in the case of the Reserve Bailiffs Scheme, on which a separate report is submitted, this scheme ran into trouble with the Union. As a result, it was not until well into 1984 that the scheme came into operation although equipment had been purchased before then. During the year the facility was used by only three clubs. On each occasion a draft net was borrowed while on one of the occasions a boat, trailer and bins for transporting fish were also borrowed.

This represents substantial under-use of the equipment available and it is difficult to justify the scheme on such a level of utilisation. It is considered, however, that the scheme should remain in being for a further 12 months before any final decision is reached on its future.

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4th FEBRUARY 1985RESERVE BAILIFFS

1. At its meeting on 31st January 1983, following consideration of a report by the Regional Fisheries Officer proposing improvements in anti-poaching measures, the Authority approved the appointment of a number of "Reserve Bailiffs" in the Northern part of the Region. However, due to opposition to the scheme by NALGO on the grounds that it represented a threat to the jobs of full-time bailiffs, no progress was made until the late Spring of 1984, when limited introduction of the scheme was agreed, in two Inspectorates only, on a year's trial.
2. A list of potential reserve bailiffs was drawn up on the basis of personal recommendation by full-time staff in the areas where the trial was to take place - the Eden/Border Esk district and West Cumbria. The list included 20 men in West Cumbria (the major trouble spot for poaching) and 6 in the Eden/Border Esk area. A week-end training course was organised by staff of the Fisheries Department at Seascale on 16/17 June 1984 and the response to the training, was impressive.
3. All except two of the bailiffs in the trial areas were prepared to work with the "reserves", and by 9th November, 15 "reserves" had put in a total of 1737 hours' work, always in company with full-time bailiffs at a cost to the Authority of £5,211.00. This sum represents 52% of the total annual cost of a single full-time bailiff. After 9th November the need for the services of the "reserves" diminished rapidly and expenditure for the financial year is expected to be in the vicinity of £6,500 out of the allocation of £10,000.
4. Both the Fisheries Inspectors involved have been well satisfied with the working of the scheme and report that it has enabled them to provide improved coverage and thus increased safety for full-time bailiffs. They consider that the extra manpower on the ground has been an effective deterrent to poachers in relation both to activity and violence towards bailiffs, and they would like to see the scheme continue. "Reserves" have been involved in a number of Court cases and have acquitted themselves satisfactorily. In the light of experience, it is considered that 16 "reserves" in West Cumbria would be adequate for the future, but that in the Eden/Border Esk area the number should be increased from 6 to 8.
5. As a spin-off benefit from its main purpose, the scheme provides a pool of men with potential for employment as full-time bailiffs when vacancies arise. Clearly, a man with some training and practical experience as a "reserve" bailiff must be a strong candidate for appointment by comparison with an inexperienced man.

In view of the satisfactory nature of the past year's trial, there are indications that, other Inspectors, whose men were originally against participation, may now wish to become involved. This is being investigated.

6. On the debit side, experience in West Cumbria has revealed some problems in connection with the two non-participating full-time bailiffs, and it has proved difficult, on occasion, to employ them usefully. The Inspector in that area feels strongly that all full-time bailiffs ought to be involved in the scheme if maximum benefits are to be realised.
7. It is strongly recommended that the scheme continue in 1985, with extension to other Inspectorates if this should prove possible.

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE4 FEBRUARY 1985RIVER LUNE - TOTAL AVAILABLE RESIDUAL CHLORINE (TARC)

1. On 6 February 1984, the Lune and Wyre Fishery Association wrote to the Chairman of the Authority enclosing a report which detailed work carried out under the direction of Professor Potts of the Department of Biological Sciences of Lancaster University. The report indicated that in the summers of 1983 and 1984, levels of TARC derived from farm and dairy washings could have existed in the River Lune between Killington and Hornby. It has been suggested that these levels might have resulted in avoidance behaviour by salmon and the Association felt that this could be a likely explanation for poor rod catches in the middle reaches of the Lune in recent years. They asked for the views of and proposed future action by the Authority.
2. The Association also indicated in their letter that a formal press release would be issued in due course and that the Authority would be furnished with a copy. No such copy has been received and attempts to ascertain whether any general release has been made have been unsuccessful. However, an article appeared in "The Times" of 20 December 1984 attributing a decline in wild fish stocks in Lancashire rivers to chlorine from dairy farms. The article also stated that the University report would be circulated to Government Ministers and it was subsequently learned that the Salmon and Trout Association had been appraised of the findings.
3. Officers of the Authority have examined the report and the Chief Scientific Adviser, on behalf of the Chairman, has responded to the Association. The reply listed objective information about the high water quality of the Lune, set out the current status of fish populations therein and commented on various details in the University report. The Chief Scientific Adviser also presented reasoned scientific arguments to indicate why the Authority is not convinced at this stage that TARC levels have a significant influence on fisheries in the Lune catchment. However, in order to foster a spirit of co-operation the Authority said it would arrange for an examination of TARC levels at selected points in 1985. A copy of this response was requested by the Department of the Environment for information.
4. The Association have now replied at some length to the Authority's letter not accepting "the various specious points" which were made. Professor Potts has also written to the Chief Scientific Adviser to make clear the position of Lancaster University. He had initially suggested to Lune and Wyre Fisheries Association that the University should co-operate with the Authority from the outset but the Association had vetoed this suggestion. He did not wish the report "to go public at this stage in view of the preliminary nature of our (the University) data". He believes there may be a significant

problem with TARC and hopes it can be tackled in the light of scientific enquiry rather than of conflict. Officers of the Authority strongly endorse this sentiment.



NORTH WEST WATER

BOARD MEETING - 10 DECEMBER 1984

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ADDITIONAL CLUB-MANAGED ANGLING

1. This report provides a review of the current situation and makes recommendations for action to:
  - (i) reduce costs and increase income to the Authority;
  - (ii) increase the quantity of reservoir angling available;
  - (iii) provide an opportunity for improvements in the quality of angling at a number of reservoirs.
  
2. Angling is currently permitted on 84 of 198 reservoirs. Clubs or other agencies are responsible for the management of 64 reservoir fisheries whilst 20 are directly managed by the Authority. A further 2 reservoir fisheries (Greenbooth and Foul Water Lodge) are to go out to tender for the 1985 season. Existing rentals from fisheries exceed £24,000 per annum. It is estimated that this could be increased to over £50,000 p.a. over the next two years, with the additional advantage of considerable savings where operational and administrative staff are involved in managing angling.
  
3. The appendix to this report lists details of 35 reservoirs. At 20 of those angling is directly managed by the Authority. The remaining 15 are currently not let for angling. Reservoirs have been allocated to four categories, namely:-
  - (i) reservoirs which could be let on the open market by tender during 1985 (10);
  - (ii) reservoirs to be considered for letting from 1986 onwards (13);
  - (iii) reservoir fisheries to be retained as 'natural fisheries' (no charge) (3);
  - (iv) reservoirs where operational considerations currently do not permit angling. These will continue to be the subject of regular assessment concerning their potential for angling and other recreational purposes (9).
  
4. In allocating each reservoir to a particular category, officers have been concerned to:-
  - (i) avoid reducing rental value by bringing too many reservoirs onto the market immediately in any area;
  - (ii) effectively reduce costs to the Authority;
  - (iii) take into account joint working and consultative arrangements with local authorities and other agencies;

- (iv) ascertain if sufficient technical information exists in each case as to the suitability of the water as a fishery.
5. Bottoms reservoir in Longdendale has been earmarked in the management plan for an educational water sports centre and officers are currently seeking the most appropriate way to achieve this or a similar package. One means of obtaining this would be by lease to a commercial operator, in which case it would be desirable to offer the fishing lease along with other activities in order to provide an attractive business opportunity.
6. Jumbles reservoir became a free coarse fishery for rod licence holders as a result of a decision of the Recreation Sub Committee on 26 October 1981 in recognition of the difficulties of unemployed and other dis-advantaged groups in this area. It is now proposed to manage Haweswater (trout) and Thirlmere (mixed) reservoirs as free fisheries to rod licence holders on the grounds that:
- (i) existing income is minimal;
  - (ii) these are large, biologically unproductive reservoirs, subject to considerable variation in level. Effective stocking would thus be beyond the resources of angling clubs.
7. It is recommended that
- (i) the categories set out in this report and the allocation of reservoirs thereto be approved;
  - (ii) the following reservoirs be let on the open market, by tender, for the 1985 season:  
  
Bottoms, Vale House, Cote Lodge, Rhodes Wood, Prescott No. 3, Rake Brook, Upper and Lower Roddlesworth, Upper Rivington and Wet Sleddale (all subject to the Authority's standard conditions on angling leases which include the provision of day permits and subject to satisfactory consultations with the relevant joint working parties and other bodies usually consulted by the Authority on recreation matters);
  - (iii) these arrangements be reported to the Water Recreation and Conservation Committee and the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee.

APPENDIX

A. RESERVOIRS WHICH COULD BE LET ON THE OPEN MARKET DURING 1985

Reservoir	Division	Area (Ha)	Notes
Bottoms (High Peak)	E	23.3 )	Directly Managed Day and Season Permits
Vale House (High Peak)	E	25.0 )	
Cote Lodge (High Peak)	E	0.8 )	
Rhodes Wood (High Peak)	E	21.9	No recreational use
Rake Brook (Chorley)	W	5.8 )	Directly Managed Day and Season Permits
Upper Roddlesworth	W	9.8 )	
Lower Roddlesworth (Chorley)	W	6.4 )	
Upper Rivington (Chorley)	W	23.1 )	Nature Reserve restriction on part of banks
Prescot No. 3 (St. Helens)	W	11.0	No recreational use Service reservoir - tight control required
Wet Sleddale (Eden)	N	30.1	Directly managed, no stocking

B. RESERVOIRS WHICH COULD BE LET FROM 1986 ONWARDS

Walkerwood (Tameside)	E	10.9	Directly managed. Season permits only
High Rid (Bolton)	E	9.9	No recreational use
Watergrove (Rochdale)	E	38.8	Available after temporary Hollingworth Lake arrangements
Heaton (Bolton)	E	6.7	Under consideration for repairs
Dingle (Blackburn)	E	6.1 )	
Entwistle (Blackburn)	E	38.1 )	Directly Managed Season permits only
Wayoh (Blackburn)	E	47.4 )	
Heaton Park (Bury)	E	31.4	Empty for repairs - to be let to Manchester City Recreational Dept.
Adlington (Wigan)	W	2.2 )	
Arley (Wigan)	W	7.7 )	Worthington Group all directly managed day & season permits
Worthington (Wigan)	W	6.1 )	Angling/Recreation Warden
Anglezarke (Chorley)	W	74.2 )	Directly Managed Day & Season Permits
Lower Rivington (Chorley)	W	85.4 )	

C. RESERVOIR FISHERIES RETAINED AS NATURAL FISHERIES

Reservoir	Division	Area (Ha)	Notes
Jumbles (Blackburn)	E	24.7	Free Coarse Fishery in intensively used Country Park
Haweswater (Eden)	N	394.5 )	Directly managed with no stocking
Thirlmere (Allerdale)	N	329.0 )	
		)	

D. RESERVOIRS WHERE OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS DO NOT PERMIT ANGLING

Audenshaw (Tameside)	E	101.1	Security and access considerations
Brushes (Tameside)	E	92.5	Under operational review
Cowm (Rossendale)	E	16.4	Polluted, under review
Fernilee (High Peak)	E	34.8	-
Godley (Tameside)	E	6.0	Associated with treatment plant
Castle Carrock (Carlisle)	N	17.5	Copper Sulphate dosing
Guide Storage (Blackburn)	N	5.0	Adjoins treatment plant
Langthwaite (Lancaster)	N	13.0	Copper Sulphate dosing
Pedder Potts (Lancaster)	N	4.0	Redundant

Note a further 97 reservoirs are not listed here. Many of these reservoirs have treatment plant ratings of E or F, which generally excludes access for angling, whilst acid water from moorland catchments renders a considerable number unsuitable as fisheries.