



# North West Water Authority

Dawson House, Great Sankey  
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23rd March, 1977.

To: Members of the South Lancashire  
Fisheries Advisory Committee  
(Messrs. R. D. Houghton (Chairman);  
T. A. F. Barnes; T. A. Blackledge;  
R. Farrington; J. Johnson;  
R. H. Wiseman; Dr. R. B. Broughton;  
Professor W. E. Kershaw; and the  
Chairman of the Authority (P. J. Liddell);  
the Vice Chairman of the Authority  
(J. A. Foster); and the Chairman of the  
Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee  
(J. R. S. Watson) (ex officio)).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the SOUTH LANCASHIRE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1977, at the LANCASHIRE AREA OFFICE of the RIVERS DIVISION, 48 WEST CLIFF, PRESTON, for the 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. Fisheries in the Ownership of the Authority (Mitton Fishery - Match Fishing).
4. Radioactive Discharges and Fishery Interests.
5. Income from Fishing licences.
6. River Ribble - Fish Mortality at Henthorne.
7. Report by Area Fisheries Officer on Fisheries Activities.
8. Any Other Business.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30th MARCH, 1977

FISHERIES IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

(MITTON FISHERY - MATCH FISHING)

1. At the meeting on 15th November, 1976 (Minute No. 19) the Regional Committee resolved that the experimental arrangements at the Mitton Fishery should be reconsidered by the Committee after the end of the initial experimental period which terminated on 31st January, 1977.
2. As members are aware the final arrangements for 1976/77 were that on an experimental basis between 1st November, 1976 and 31st January, 1977 (both dates inclusive) and 1st November, 1977 and 31st January, 1978 (both dates inclusive):
  - (1) Groundbaiting and loose feeding was permitted from the white marker post at the top of Hodder Foot to the white marker post at Calder Foot on Sundays only in connection with authorised match fishing.
  - (2) Match fishing was allowed on Sundays only at a charge of 50p per peg per day in the stretch of water defined in (1) above, subject to a maximum of 35 pegs.
  - (3) The price of coarse fish day tickets in the stretch of water defined in (1) above was increased to 50p.
3. The following information on the working of the 1976/77 arrangements may be helpful to the Committee.
4. During the months of November and December, 1976 and January, 1977, five matches were fished. On the 12th and 19th December, 1976 the river was in flood, and conditions for fishing were poor. During these five matches, 144 anglers caught approximately 30 fish. Of these, 4 were trout and 2 were sea trout kelts which were returned immediately to the water.
5. There have been no administrative difficulties nor any complaints from anglers, despite the rather poor level of sport enjoyed. The owner of the land adjacent to the length of the river fished, who is also the permit distributor, has commented very favourably on the general behaviour of match anglers using the water and on the complete absence of litter after matches - an improvement on the behaviour of a proportion of individual anglers who are by no means as considerate.
6. From the very small catches obtained in the few matches fished, there is no indication that ground baiting, loose feeding or the use of maggot is resulting in an undesirably large catch of mature

or immature salmon or trout.

7. The officers do not make any formal recommendations on this matter, as it is anticipated that the Committee will wish to have a general discussion on all aspects of the situation.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYSOUTH LANCASHIRE  
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE30th MARCH, 1977RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND FISHERY INTERESTS

1. The Committee recently expressed concern on the danger of radioactive discharges and their effect, particularly in regard to the threat to migratory fish. This concern was reported to the meeting of the Water Quality Panel on 17th February, 1977. A copy of the report is attached hereto as an Appendix.
2. Following consideration of this report it was resolved that the officers report the results of radioactivity monitoring to the Water Quality Panel at regular intervals.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

WATER QUALITY PANEL

17TH FEBRUARY 1977

RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES AND CONTAMINATION

1. Radioactive Discharges and Fishery Interests

- (1) The South Lancashire Fisheries Advisory Committee have expressed concern regarding discharges from Windscale to the Irish Sea and their possible effects on fish.
- (2) As the Panel are aware, this Authority has no control over radioactive discharges, this power being reserved for Central Government under the Radioactive Substances Act of 1960. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is the body authorised by Central Government to monitor and control radioactive emissions.
- (3) In addition to monitoring, regular surveys of radioactivity in, and the effects on, surface and coastal waters of the British Isles are carried out by the Fisheries Radiobiological Laboratory and reports are published annually. This Authority receives these reports and it is noted that the limits set by the authorising bodies, who are the Department of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, have never been exceeded.
- (4) The Cumbria County Council and the Authority would be consulted should there be any proposals to alter the authorised discharge limits.

2. Radioactive Contamination at Windscale

- (1) In view of the alarm which was created following the Windscale incident referred to by Mr. A. Wedgwood Benn in December last, an account of the incident was prepared and published by British Nuclear Fuels Limited. Members of the Local Liaison Committee established by the Company received copies and a summary of extracts from that account is set out in the following paragraph.
- (2) "On 10th October when a routine survey of the excavation for a silo extension found an increased radiation level, in one corner of the trench, work on construction was stopped and following a review of the situation a more detailed survey was undertaken on 17th October. Samples were taken to enable the nature of the contamination and the age of the isotopes involved to be established. The tests showed that the activity was mainly from caesium isotopes, at least five years old. At this stage, although the levels involved did not require a report to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive, it was decided to inform them and to discuss with them whether there should be any change to the plans for construction of the silo extension. They were informed on 22nd October and visited Windscale for a discussion on 26th October.

It was then agreed that there should be a discussion with the Radiochemical Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment about whether construction could continue."

"Investigations continued and results were passed to both Department of the Environment and Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and further meetings were held on 8th November and 1st December, at the latter of which it was agreed that construction could be resumed, although in fact the Company has not acted on this."

"As the investigation proceeded, the evidence began to point to underground seepage through the silo wall as a probable cause. The silo in question is used to store magnox debris arising from the decanning of irradiated magnox fuel. To remove any fire risk this material is stored under water and some of the fission products which adhere to the cans dissolve into the water. It is estimated that the total activity in the 100,000 gallons of water in the silo is about 1,000 curies. Even if the whole of this escaped, no way is seen in which it could create a hazard either to the workforce or to the public."

"It has not yet been positively established that the contamination is coming from this source. Seepage from the silo below ground level does, however, seem to be the most probable explanation and efforts are being made to pinpoint its location as quickly as possible, consistent with radiological safety of the people doing the work."

"There is no question of an earlier public announcement about the matter having been considered and deliberately withheld. It never occurred to anyone in the Company that, having duly informed the NII and Radiochemical Inspectorate, a public announcement should be made until the investigation had reached a point where some definite conclusion could be drawn. The situation is one which requires action and this is being taken; but the contamination is very localised within the controlled area of the site and presents no hazard either to employees, the public, or the environment."

- (3) The Authority has two representatives serving on the Local Liaison Committee; Mr. J. J. Colligan, who acts as Vice Chairman, and Mr. H. J. Smith (Assistant Divisional Scientist North) Rivers Division. Mr. J. W. Atkinson (Assistant Director, Scientific Services), also attended the last meeting which took place on 12th January, 1977.
- (4) The Authority has assisted in the preparation of the updated BNFL emergency procedures manual which is now due for publication. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the appropriate Authority staff are included therein.

Immediately following the incident, the Chief Executive, wrote to BNFL expressing his concern that the Authority had not been informed officially earlier.

- (5) At the present time, Eastern Division staff carry out a radioactivity monitoring service on their main sources of supply; Thirlmere, Haweswater and Longendale and also monitor the major sources of the former Preston, and Stockport Water Boards.

The Workington laboratory is extending its activities to carry out radioactivity monitoring of the raw water sources within the Northern Division.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYSOUTH LANCASHIREFISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE30th MARCH, 1977FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

1. At the last meeting of the Regional Committee details were given of sales of licences for the 1976 season, and of estimated income and expenditure up to 31st March, 1977. This resulted in a request for the Local Advisory Committees to be circulated with details of the actual sales of licences together with details of the expenditure charged to Fisheries. These details are attached hereto in the form of Appendices, I and II.
2. Appendix I lists details of the actual sales of fishing licences for 1976, whilst Appendix II shows the actual expenditure for 1975-76, the original estimate for 1976-77, the probable out-turn for 1976-77 and the estimated cost of the Fisheries Service for 1977-78. The expenditure on Appendix II is analysed over objective headings in an attempt to indicate how much of the total budget is incurred on Enforcement and Protection, Fish Culture and Conservation, etc.
3. Following the meeting of the Regional Committee, the Corporate Management Team reviewed the financial situation on the Fisheries Account and considered it necessary to report to the Policy and Resources Committee as a matter of policy.
4. The Policy and Resources Committee discussed the matter on 28th February, 1977 (Minute No. 55) and considered it necessary to take action to prevent any further deterioration in the financial situation on the Fisheries Account whilst the overall problems were examined in detail.
5. Accordingly that Committee have recommended as follows:
  - (1) That the structure and scales of rod and line licences and the nature and amount of expenditure charged to the Fisheries Account be referred to a working party of officers for further report in due course.
  - (2) That in the meantime, as interim measures:
    - (i) an application be made for an approximate 30% increase on the present scale of rod and line licences to be effective from 1st January, 1978 to cover inflation since the last application;
    - (ii) the Policy and Resources Committee be authorised to approve the details of such increases to enable the necessary application to be made to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
    - (iii) the provision in the estimates for 1977-78 to take



account of the additional cost arising from  
the new conditions of service of the bailiffs  
be reduced by £16,000.

6. These recommendations were approved by the Authority on 21st March, 1977.

## NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

## FISHING LICENCES 1976 SEASON ROD AND LINE

TYPE OF LICENCE	PRICE £	ACTUAL	
		SALES	VALUE £
Salmon & Mig.Trout Season	12.00	1,897	22,764.00
Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season to 31st May	6.00	63	378.00
Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season from 1st June	7.00	2,301	16,107.00
Salmon & Mig.Trout Reduced Duty Season	5.00	604	3,020.00
Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season I - Junior	2.50	15	37.50
Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season II - Junior	3.00	409	1,227.00
Salmon - 7 day	2.00	1,876	3,752.00
		7,165	47,285.50
Non Mig.Trout - Season	2.00	19,802	39,604.00
Non Mig.Trout - Reduced Duty Season	1.00	3,684	3,684.00
Non Mig.Trout - 7 day	0.50	11,673	5,836.50
		35,159	49,124.50
Freshwater Fish and Eels Season	1.00	18,096	18,096.00
Freshwater Fish and Eels Junior - Season	0.50	4,018	2,009.00
Freshwater Fish & Eels 7 day	0.25	3,456	864.00
<u>Former Mersey &amp; Weaver</u>			
Freshwater Fish and Eels Season	0.50	7,880	3,940.00
Freshwater Fish and Eels Junior - Season	0.25	2,014	503.50
		35,464	25,412.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>		77,788	121,822.50

## NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

## FISHERIES - ESTIMATES 1977-78

ACTUAL 1975-76	HEAD	ESTIMATE 1976-77	PROBABLE OUTTURN 1976-77	ESTIMATE 1977-78
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
	EXPENDITURE			
175	1. ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION	207	270	287
48	2. FISH CULTURE AND CONSERVATION	88	76	79
40	3. TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTROL	56	85	109
102	4. POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINI- STRATION	142	142	140
-	5. INFLATION - UPDATE PROVISION	53	8	43
365	6. TOTAL WORKING EXPENSES	546	581	658
4	7. DEPRECIATION	5	3	7
4	8. INTEREST	17	7	11
	9. CENTRAL ALLOCATIONS			
8	(a) Regional Common Services	12	15	23
3	(b) Contributions NWC & WRC	3	2	4
5	(c) Head Office Costs	5	6	7
389	10. TOTAL EXPENDITURE	588	614	710
	<u>Deduct</u>			
(81)	11. SUNDRY INCOME	(240)	(158)	(158)
307	12. NET EXPENDITURE (transferred to Sewerage and Environmental Services Summary Page 8)	348	456	552

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYSOUTH LANCASHIRE  
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE30TH MARCH, 1977RIVER RIBBLE - FISH MORTALITY AT HENTHORN

1. At their last meeting the Committee were informed of the investigations which had taken place following the fish mortality on the River Ribble in July, 1976, and were advised that a discharge from the Clitheroe Sewage Treatment Works had been identified as the prime source of contamination. It appeared that a strong alkaline trade effluent had entered the sewerage system connected to the works resulting in high pH levels in the effluent. The Committee were further informed that officers of the Authority were pursuing consultations with a firm discharging trade waste to the Treatment Works with a view to preventing a recurrence of the incident.
  
2. The firm in question have now agreed in writing to substitute their Trade Effluent Agreement for a Standard Authority Consent once alterations to their trade effluent treatment plant have taken place, these should be completed in twelve to eighteen months time. Meanwhile a constant check will continue to be kept at the Treatment Works on the pH value of the incoming sewage by using pH monitoring equipment specially ordered for this purpose.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYSOUTH LANCASHIRE  
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE30th MARCH, 1977REPORT BY AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES1. Artificial Propagation 1976-1977

As reported to the last meeting of the Advisory Committee, during this period 50 hen salmon and 46 cock salmon from the Ribble and Hodder were stripped. Most of these were small fish in the 6-8 lbs weight range. 190,000 ova were obtained and the resultant fry are being currently reared at the Langcliffe Hatchery.

26 cock sea trout and 50 hen sea trout were taken for stripping and 20,000 ova obtained from them; the fry are currently being reared at the Langcliffe Hatchery.

The Authority has initiated an exchange system with the Yorkshire Water Authority and 30,000 salmon ova were exchanged for 100,000 sea trout ova and again these are being reared at Langcliffe.

2. Fish Mortalities

No fish mortalities have been reported in the area since the last meeting of the Committee.

3. Coarse Fish Transfers

Seven consents were issued for coarse fish transfers, involving 22,300 fish; the species involved were carp, roach, perch, rudd and gudgeon.

4. Silting River Hodder

At the last meeting of the Committee, concern was expressed at the apparent excessive silt loading in the river.

The most common sources of silt in the Hodder system result from discharges from Stocks Reservoir water bank, land drainage operations, land slips and collapse of banks, or erosion of banks. No discharges were made from the water bank and no land drainage operations were in progress during Autumn, 1976. The bailiff on the river has not observed and land slips or significant collapse of banks.

From the information available it appears that the most likely cause of silting would be from bank erosion, possibly aggravated by the dry condition of the catchment, following the exceptional summer drought.

5. Fish Counter, Winckley Hall

Following discussion at the last meeting of the Committee enquiries have been made into the apparent discrepancy between the number of fish recorded by the Winckley Hall fish counter against the number of fish considered, as a result of observation, to be in the river during the months of September, October and November of 1976.

The counting instrument appeared to be operating satisfactorily throughout the period and at no time was any malfunction detected by attendants. It is possible for salmon to surmount the counting weir at Winckley on high river flows and in so doing to avoid the counting area. The Bailiff responsible for the counter did not observe any fish going over the weir at the time in question but was at the site for only short periods each day. It may be that, after being held back for a long period by the drought conditions, a high proportion of the salmon stock in the Hodder moved upstream on high flows with some urgency and over a relatively short period.

The behaviour of salmon at this station will be observed during the coming season with a view to assessing escapement and deciding upon any remedial work which may be necessary, should there be evidence of inaccurate counting.

6. Fish passing through counting stations  
from April, 1976-January, 1977

The numbers of fish passing through the counting stations for this period are as follows:-

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Nos. of fish</u> <u>over 4 lbs.</u>
Waddow Weir	1976 April	1
	May	16
	June	8
	July	105
	August	2
	September	271
	October	326
	November	13
	December	1
	1977 January	3
Winckley Hall	1976 April	0
	May	3
	June	155
	July	140
	August	74
	September	30
	October	43
	November	18
	December	11
	1977 January	0
Locks Weir	1976 April	0
	May	17
	June	3
	July	0
	August	0
	September	17
	October	124
	November	150
	December	11
	1977 January	0