



**North  
West  
Water**

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\* PLEASE NOTE THE TIME AND  
VENUE FOR THE MEETING

F2/B20

14th August, 1980

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries  
Advisory Committee

(Mr. T. A. F. Barnes (Chairman);  
Mrs. W. Lomas; Messrs. J. S. Bailey;  
A. G. R. Brown; F. Bunting; J. M. Croft;  
E. P. Ecroyd; T. M. Farrer; J. H. Fell;  
R. D. Houghton; J. Johnson; Wm. McKenna;  
R. A. Parkin; L. B. Williams; G. Wilson;  
Major J. G. W. Skipwith; and the Chairman  
of the Authority (G. Mann); and the Vice  
Chairman of the Authority (A. Richardson)  
(ex officio)).

Dear member,

\* A Special Meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
will be held at 2.00 p.m. on TUESDAY, 26th AUGUST, 1980, at the  
LANCASHIRE AREA OFFICE of the RIVERS DIVISION, 48 WEST CLIFF,  
PRESTON, 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 enclosed herewith.
3. Review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees  
(Please BRING WITH YOU to this meeting, Agenda  
Item No.7 and related documents previously  
circulated with RFAC Agenda papers, dated  
21st July, 1980).

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

28TH JULY, 1980

Present: J. S. Bailey, Esq. R. D. Houghton, Esq.  
T. A. F. Barnes, Esq. J. Johnson, Esq.  
F. Bunting, Esq. Mrs. W. Lomas  
J. M. Croft, Esq. G. Mann, Esq.  
E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. R. A. Parkin, Esq.  
J. H. Fell, Esq. Major J. G. W. Skipwith  
L. B. Williams, Esq.

In attendance: E. H. Funk, Esq.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Mr. T. A. F. Barnes be appointed Chairman of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee for the ensuing 'Authority Year'.

(T. A. F. BARNES, ESQ., CHAIRMAN)

2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO MEMBERS

The Chairman welcomed Mr. F. Bunting, recently appointed Chairman of the Derwent and West Cumbria Local Committee and Mr. E. H. Funk, a Member of the Authority nominated by Lancashire County Council and appointee designate of this Committee, to their first meeting of the Advisory Committee.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. A. G. R. Brown, Mr. T. M. Farrer, Mr. Wm. McKenna, Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. G. Wilson.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28th April, 1980, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MINUTES OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. Mersey and Weaver

The Chairman of the Mersey and Weaver Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 18th June, 1980.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Mersey and Weaver Advisory Committee held on 18th June, 1980, be received.

(2) That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 33 (Rod Licence Duties) be noted, for consideration in any future review of licence duties.

B. South Lancashire

The Chairman of the South Lancashire Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 19th June, 1980.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the South Lancashire Advisory Committee held on 19th June, 1980, be received.

C. Derwent and West Cumbria

The Chairman of the Derwent and West Cumbria Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 23rd June, 1980.

In relation to Minute No. 39 (River Derwent, Effects of A66 Run-off) and Minute No. 40 (Taking of Salmon and Sea Trout in Sea-Fish Nets at Flimby, West Cumbria) Mr. Bunting expressed his appreciation of the two relevant reports submitted to the meeting of the Local Committee.

In relation to Minute No. 43 (Report by the Area Fisheries Officer on Fisheries Activities) concern was expressed regarding the adverse publicity received by the Authority as a result of the two letters published in the 'Whitehaven News' and the 'Cumberland Times and Star', as reported in this Minute. It was felt that the letters should have been answered by the Authority through the columns of those same newspapers. The officers advised the Committee that this had been actively considered immediately following publication, but that in all the circumstances it had been decided not to follow this course although there had been on-site investigations.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Derwent and West Cumbria Advisory Committee held on 23rd June, 1980, be received.

(2) That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 40 (Taking of Salmon and Sea Trout in Sea-Fish Nets at Flimby, West Cumbria) be approved and that:

(a) The officers write to MAFF expressing the concern of the Committee at the present situation and seeking the aid of MAFF towards possible suitable amending legislation.

- (b) That at the end of the year a report be submitted to the Committee on the success or otherwise of the present experimental arrangements with details of any instances involving the illegal taking of salmon and/or sea trout.

D. North Cumbria

The Chairman of the North Cumbria Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 24th June, 1980.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the North Cumbria Advisory Committee held on 24th June, 1980, be received.
- (2) That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 32 (Fishing Offences and Prosecutions 1979/80) be considered under the appropriate Agenda item.

E. Lune, Wyre and Furness

The Chairman of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee submitted the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 30th June, 1980.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee held on 30th June, 1980, be received.
- (2) That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 46 (Fishing Offences and Prosecutions 1979/80) be considered under the appropriate Agenda item.
- (3) That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 50 (Fish Trap at Broadrairie Weir, River Lune) be approved.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

It was reported that Mr. W. F. Hobson, who had served as Chairman of the Derwent and West Cumbria Local Committee since January 1974 had resigned from that Committee in May 1980. His membership of the Regional Committee on which he served as an ex officio member by virtue of his chairmanship of the Local Committee had therefore terminated at the same time.

At the meeting on 23rd June, 1980 (Minute No. 33) the Local Committee had appointed Mr. F. Bunting as Chairman to succeed Mr. Hobson.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Administration write to Mr. Hobson expressing the Committee's appreciation of his services over the past six years.

7. APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1980/81

At the meeting on 16th June, 1980, the Authority appointed those members set out in the Appendix to these Minutes to the Committee for 1980/81.

It was noted that there were four vacancies on the Committee for members of the Authority. The Chairman of the Authority had indicated his intention to recommend the appointment of the following members to fill two of these outstanding vacancies:

Appointed by

E. H. Funk	Lancashire County Council
M. Wareing	Greater Manchester District Councils

Pending the outcome of the review of Local Advisory Committees, the Chairman of the Authority had approved the continuing membership of Messrs. Bailey, Bunting, Croft, Ecroyd and Houghton, as persons interested in fisheries in the area, as they were currently unable to serve in an 'ex officio' capacity.

8. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

On 16th June, 1980, the Authority considered the appointment of committees for the Authority Year 1980/81, and on appointing the Regional Committee resolved as follows:-

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June 1980."

Accordingly, to assist the Committee with the review a paper was submitted which set out the objective views of the officers on the effectiveness of the present Local Committee structure together with their views on three possible alternative consultation procedures.

A full discussion upon the suggested alternative proposals took place; due notice being taken also of the formal views of the Local Committees together with representations from individual local committee members.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Policy and Resources Committee be informed that in the view of this Committee the number of Fisheries Advisory Committees be reduced from the present number of five to three.

RESOLVED:

That a Special Meeting of the Committee be convened at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th August, 1980, at the Lancashire Area Office of the Rivers Division at West Cliff Preston, with a view to finalising the administrative details in respect of the proposed three new local Committees, in particular their constitution, boundaries and frequency of meetings, for submission to the September 1980 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

9. APPOINTMENT OF FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEES

The constitution of the Land Drainage Advisory Committees provides for one member to represent fisheries interests on each of the Lancashire and Mersey and Weaver Committees and two members for those interests on the Cumberland Committee. A vacancy had recently arisen on the Cumberland Committee due to the resignation of Mr. W. F. Hobson.

Mr. J. H. Fell, the retiring member on the Lancashire Committee and Mr. F. Bunting the nominee to the vacancy on the Cumberland Committee, both expressed a willingness to serve on these respective Committees subject to the agreement of the Committee that in view of the present economic stringencies affecting the Authority, they would only attend those meetings when matters pertinent to fisheries were due for discussion and this was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the existing members, Mr. E. P. Ecroyd, be reappointed to serve on the Cumberland Committee; Mr. J. H. Fell on the Lancashire Committee and Mr. J. S. Bailey on the Mersey and Weaver Committee, and that Mr. F. Bunting be appointed to the Cumberland Committee vice Mr. Hobson.

10. INCOME FROM SALE OF ROD AND LINE LICENCES 1979

The Committee received a report which summarised income received by the Authority from the sale of rod and line licences, during 1979. Compared with the 1978 figures, the actual number of licences sold in 1979 showed an increase of 2.85% with an increased income of 3.36%. There had been increased sales in most categories of season licences in 1979, but sales of 7 day licences for both salmon, freshwater fish and eels showed reductions. Sales of freshwater fish and eel licences for the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority Area had been virtually identical in the two years.

## 11. FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80

A report was submitted which set out the fishing offences and prosecutions undertaken by the Authority for these offences during 1978/79. Detailed reports concerning each committee area, had been submitted to the respective Local Advisory Committees at their June, 1980, round of meetings.

At the meeting on 24th June, 1980, (Minute No. 32) the North Cumbria Committee had recommended:

"That in all cases involving prosecution for an alleged fishery offence, by or on behalf of the Authority, the actual costs incurred by the Authority in bringing the case before the courts be submitted by the prosecutor in an endeavour to obtain reimbursement of realistic costs for the Authority."

The Committee was informed that this was the current practice in all cases brought by the Authority and would continue, but that the award of such costs was at the discretion of the particular court concerned.

It was noted that at the meeting on 30th June, 1980, (Minute No. 46) the Lune, Wyre and Furness Committee had recommended:

"That on future occasions the annual report on fishing offences and prosecutions, incorporate details of all unsuccessful prosecutions relating to fisheries."

### RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 46 of the meeting of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Advisory Committee held on 30th June, 1980, be approved.

## 12. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED FISHERIES BY LOCAL ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS

On 18th June, 1980 (Minute No. 37) the Mersey and Weaver Committee proposed that in view of the current financial situation and the consequent restraints imposed upon the fisheries budget, the Authority should consider the feasibility of transferring their administrative and management duties in relation to selected fisheries to reputable angling associations and had resolved that the views of the Committee be sought on this proposal.

The officers explained that the situation referred to by the Local Committee was in fact already the norm. Certain fisheries were leased to associations who were themselves then responsible for the overall management of that fishery.

The Chairman of the Local Committee having explained that in making this proposal his Committee had been chiefly concerned with the possible creation of new fisheries, the officers again emphasised that as explained to the Local Committee, before any such arrangement could

be contemplated, problems of capital expenditure likely to be encountered by any association in relation to upkeep and safety standards would need to be resolved and that these might run into thousands of pounds. It was highly unlikely that this would be financially viable for any angling association at the present time.

The Committee noted therefore that the proposal was already being implemented where appropriate, and no further action appeared necessary.

13. COOPS ON RIVERS DERWENT AND EDEN

A report was submitted on proposals to permit the Authority to work coops for propagation or for scientific purposes in the River Eden and the River Derwent.



NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1980/81Nominated to the Authority by

T. A. F. Barnes	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
T. M. Farrer	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
R. A. Parkin	Secretary of State for the Environment
Major J. G. W. Skipwith	Secretary of State for the Environment
G. Mann (ex officio)*	Secretary of State for the Environment
A. Richardson (ex officio)*	Secretary of State for the Environment
Mrs. W. Lomas	Greater Manchester County Council
L. B. Williams	Merseyside County Council
4 vacancies	for Members of the Authority

A. G. R. Brown	)	
J. H. Fell	)	
J. Johnson	)	Appointed as persons interested in fisheries in the area
Wm. McKenna	)	
G. Wilson	)	

J. S. Bailey	(ex officio) Chairman, Mersey and Weaver Local Committee
W. F. Hobson	(ex officio) Chairman, Derwent and West Cumbria Local Committee (since resigned)
J. M. Croft	(ex officio) Chairman, Lune, Wyre and Furness Local Committee
E. P. Ecroyd	(ex officio) Chairman, North Cumbria Local Committee
R. D. Houghton	(ex officio) Chairman, South Lancashire Local Committee

\*NOTE: Mr. Mann and Mr. Richardson are ex officio members of the Committee by virtue of their positions as Chairman of the Authority and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively.

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE26TH AUGUST, 1980REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1. At the meeting on 28th July, the Committee decided to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the number of Local Committees be reduced from five to three.

The purpose of this meeting is to amplify this recommendation in relation to boundaries, constitution and frequency of meetings of the proposed committees, so that the Policy and Resources Committee can consider fully the implications of this Committee's review of the Local Committees.

2. Boundaries

The boundaries of the proposed new committees can be fixed in various ways - catchment areas, game or coarse areas, Association areas and so on, but the simplest solution would appear to be for the boundaries to conform with those of the former river authorities. The areas at present covered by the Derwent and West, and North Cumbria Committees are within the former Cumberland River Authority boundaries, and those of the Lune, Wyre and Furness and South Lancashire Committees are within the area of the former Lancashire River Authority. The Mersey and Weaver Committee area, is currently that of the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority.

3. Constitution

In the MAFF consultation document published in 1973, it was envisaged that membership of any Local Committees would be up to 10, and as mentioned in paragraph 4 of item 7 of the agenda for the meeting on 28th July, the original membership of the five committees was South and West Cumberland 7, Eden & District 9, Lune, Wyre and Furness 9, South Lancashire 6 and Mersey and Weaver 7. As further mentioned in the same paragraph, the respective membership at the end of June 1980 was 13, 14, 15, 12 and 12.

If the Mersey and Weaver Committee remains as at present, it would be easy to suggest that the membership of the new committees should be the joint membership of the previous two committees in each case, but this may not commend itself to the Authority in the context of stringent cash limits and a review of the effectiveness of the Local Committee system, as it could appear that the Regional Committee if adopting this line had merely paid lip service to a meaningful review. The possibilities for arriving at a revised constitution appear to be (i) to invite the Chairmen of the former Local Committees to submit names to the Regional Committee for consideration, (ii) to invite names for consideration from the appropriate Associations in the areas or (iii) for the Regional Committee to establish initially the nature of the fishery interests in each area with whom

consultation would be productive in relation to the Authority's fisheries function, and thereafter invite nominations from these interests. A decision should also be taken as to whether specialist interests (e.g. land drainage, pollution) should be represented on the Committees, or whether, apart from ex officio members, membership should be limited to persons with a more direct interest in fisheries.

#### 4. Meetings

Meetings of Local Committees need to be arranged to fit in with the Authority's cycles of meetings to enable any recommendations to be submitted to the Regional Committee, and from there to the Water Management Committee or Policy and Resources Committee and subsequently to the Authority. As members know, there are four cycles of meetings in the Authority year and it has been the practice for the Local Committees to meet in January, April, June/July and October of each year. If the number of meetings is to be reduced to 3, then it is suggested that the June/July meeting could be deleted. If the number is to be reduced to 2, then the January and June/July meetings could be deleted. In any event, as has happened in the past, special meetings can be called if and when required and if there is no business for a particular scheduled meeting, then with the approval of the appropriate Chairman, that meeting can be cancelled.

#### 5. General

In addition to making specific recommendations on Paras 2, 3 and 4 above the Committee may wish to add a general comment on the effectiveness of the local committees, to assist the Policy and Resources Committee, when considering the recommendations.