



**North
West
Water**

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
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F2/A30

24th March 1982

To: Members of the Central Area
Fisheries Advisory Committee:
(Messrs. J. M. Croft (Chairman);
W. Bailey; R. Barratt; R. A. Challenor;
J. H. Fell; R. Harper; A. L. Harris;
R. D. Houghton; J. Johnson; G. Jones;
J. P. Lord; H. B. Whittam; G. Wilson;
Dr. R. B. Broughton; Professor W. E. Kershaw;
and the Chairman of the Authority (G. Mann);
the Vice Chairman of the Authority (A. Richardson);
and the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries Advisory
Committee (T. A. F. Barnes) (ex officio)).

Dear Member,

Will you please attend a meeting of the CENTRAL AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE to be held at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 31ST MARCH 1982, at the SOUTH CUMBRIA AREA OFFICE of the RIVERS DIVISION, BEATHWAITE, LEVENS, KENDAL 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 meeting held on 14th October 1981, together with the minutes of the joint meeting of the Central and Southern Areas Fisheries Advisory Committees held on 18th January 1982, (previously circulated and approved by the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee on 9th November 1981, and 1st February 1982, respectively. Enclosed herewith are the minutes of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee for 9th November and 14th December 1981, and for 1st February 1982).
3. Fishery Improvement Grant and Fishery Equipment Loan Schemes.
4. The River Leven Smolt Rearing Scheme.
5. Annual Report on Match Fishing - Skerton and Mitton Fisheries.
6. Report by the Area Fisheries Officers on Fisheries Activities.
7. Calendar of Meetings 1982-83.
8. Rod and Line Fishing Licences Format (to be tabled).
9. Any other business.

F1/B24

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9TH NOVEMBER 1981

Present:

T. A. F. Barnes, Esq., (Chairman)	
J. S. Bailey, Esq.	J. E. Gouldbourn, Esq.
W. S. Bell, Esq.	R. D. Houghton, Esq.
A. G. R. Brown, Esq.	J. Johnson, Esq.
F. Bunting, Esq.	I. Jones, Esq.
H. Caunce, Esq.	J. E. Redhead, Esq.
E. P. Ecroyd, Esq.	A. Richardson, Esq.
J. H. Fell, Esq.	Major J. G. W. Skipwith
	G. Wilson, Esq.

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. J. M. Croft, Mr. G. E. Lowe, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. Wm. McKenna.

24. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21st September 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. MINUTES OF AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

(A) Northern Area

The Chairman of the Northern Area Advisory Committee submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 1981.

RESOLVED:

(1) That with the exception of minute no. 12 the minutes be approved.

(2) That the recommendation in minute no. 12 (Restructuring of Rod and Line Fishing Licence Duties) be considered under the appropriate agenda item.

(B) Central Area

In the absence of the Chairman of the Central Area Advisory Committee, Mr. J. H. Fell submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 1981.

RESOLVED:

(1) That with the exception of minute no's. 10 and 12 the minutes, be approved.

- (2) That the recommendation in minute no. 10 (Restructuring of Rod and Line Fishing Licence Duties) be considered under the appropriate agenda item.

Following consideration of the recommendation in minute no. 12 (Proposal for a fish trap on Forge Weir, River Lune) and of the factors taken into account by the Area Committee when formulating this recommendation, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That the recommendation of the Central Area Committee be not approved and that the construction of a fish trap at Forge Weir be carried out at the same time if and when permanent repairs to that weir are undertaken.

(C) Southern Area

The Chairman of the Southern Area Advisory Committee submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 1981.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That with the exception of minute no. 9 and subject to the deletion of the words 'at Ribchester' where those words appear in line 8 of minute no. 14 (Bostock Hall Stock Pond) the minutes be approved.
- (2) That the recommendation in minute no. 9 (Restructuring of Rod and Line Fishing Licence Duties) be considered under the appropriate agenda item.

26. RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

Further to minute no. 12 of the meeting held on 13th July 1981, it was noted that the report on the restructuring of rod and line fishing licence duties had been considered by the three Area Committees. The Committee considered a report (attached hereto as an appendix) incorporating the recommendations of the Area Committees under the headings of A, B and C, and set out on the first page of the appendix. After a full debate on all the available options and in accordance with recommendation B(1) of the Central Area it was proposed and seconded that:

Subject to the cost of anti-poaching work being excluded from the activity analysis the four-tier licence structure whereby the unit price of season fishing licences would be: salmon £25.50; migratory trout £8.50; non-migratory trout £4.70 and coarse fish £3.45, be adopted by the Authority to take effect on and from 1st January 1983.

The following amendment was then proposed and seconded:

That the four tier licence structure as presented to the three Area Committees whereby the unit price of season fishing licences would be: salmon £36.00; migratory trout £12.00; non-migratory trout £3.60 and coarse fish £2.60, be adopted by the Authority to take effect on and from 1st January 1983.

There was an equality of votes on both the amendment and the substantive proposal: neither was therefore carried.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED:

- (1) That subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee the four tier rod and line fishing licence structure comprising separate licences for salmon; migratory trout; non-migratory trout and freshwater fish and eels be adopted by the Authority to take effect on and from 1st January 1983.
- (2) That further consideration of licence duties be deferred to a special meeting of this Committee to take place at 2.15 p.m. on 14th December 1981, at Dawson House. In the interim the advice of the Policy and Resources Committee be sought on this matter.
- (3) That recommendation A of the Northern Area Committee be disapproved.
- (4) (i) That recommendation B(2) of the Central Area Committee be disapproved because the weekly close time for fishing for salmon and trout (other than with rod and line) in force in the River Lune by virtue of the River Lune Fishery Byelaws had been extended, to the detriment of the netsmen.

(ii) That the officers investigate and report on recommendation B(3) of the Central Area Committee.
- (5) That recommendations C(1) and (2) of the Southern Area Committee be approved.

27. COMMERCIAL EEL TRAPPING ON LAKE WINDERMERE

Further to minute no. 20(A)(3) of the last meeting and in accordance with instructions from the Policy and Resources Committee, the Committee received a detailed report on regulation, costs and effects on fisheries likely to result should the application by a professional eel trapper to fish with fyke nets for eels in Lake Windermere be granted.

The Committee was informed that since the report had been compiled, the applicant had been reported for alleged fishing offences including the use of fyke nets for which prosecutions were pending.

RECOMMENDED:

That no further action be taken on the application.

28. FISH TRAP ON ST. JOHN'S BECK, NEAR KESWICK, CUMBRIA

The Committee noted the Authority's intention to make formal application to MAFF to renew the existing approval to work a fish trap on St. John's Beck, near Keswick, Cumbria, for a further five years.

29. DRAFT NET LICENCES - RIVERS DERWENT AND ELLEN

It was noted that the Authority had approved the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee that a decision on fixing duties for the use of draft nets in the estuaries of the Rivers Derwent and Ellen be deferred pending the Minister's decision on the proposed new Fishery Byelaws.

30. OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Consideration was given to a recommendation of the Recreation Sub-Committee that half price mid-week coarse fishing permits be made available at Worthington and Rivington for purchase by unemployed persons with rod licences on production of their unemployment card.

It was felt that should this concession be granted only persons living nearby would be able to take advantage of it. Those living further afield could create demands for equivalent or other concessions which the Authority would be unable to grant.

RECOMMENDED:

That no further action be taken on this matter.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE9TH NOVEMBER 1981RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

1. The report which follows was submitted to the three area committees at the October round of meetings. The recommendations of these committees are contained in their respective minutes, but for the convenience of members a summary of these recommendations is given below:-

A. Recommendation of Northern Area Committee

"That the present three tier rod and line fishing licence structure, incorporating the part season salmon licence, be retained and that the Authority continue to apply, as at present, annual inflation increases to all existing rod and line fishing licence duties."

B. Recommendations of Central Area Committee

"(1) That the cost of anti-poaching work be excluded from the fisheries budget and that subject thereto the four tier licence structure (option 1) be adopted by the Authority to take effect from 1st January 1983.

(2) That should the Authority seek to renew the present River Lune Fishery Byelaws (due to expire on 1st April 1983) then because of the extended close season for fishing for salmon with rod and line extant in the River Lune by virtue of those byelaws, the Authority create a special River Lune rod and line salmon licence at a discount of 25% of the normal full licence cost then in force within the Authority area, to be available annually for the full period of retention of the said byelaws.

(3) That in order to reduce the costs incurred by the Authority in printing and issuing fishing licences, the following procedures be investigated: blank, standard fishing licences together with self adhesive stamps indicating the type of licence and cost be printed and issued to distributors who on payment of the requisite fee by a purchaser would affix the appropriate stamp to a blank licence."

C. Recommendations of Southern Area Committee

"(1) That the Authority adopt the proposed four tier licence structure comprising separate licences for salmon; migratory trout; non-migratory trout; freshwater fish and eels.

(2) That following the new fisheries committee structure approved by the Authority on 13th October 1980, whereby meetings of area committees take place twice yearly, the membership of any area committee member be reviewed on his failure to attend three consecutive meetings."

(It should be noted that (2) above arose because only five members were present.)

2. The effect of accepting the Central Advisory Committee's recommendation would be to alter the ratios produced by the previous analysis of activities and the way in which the expected income of £430,000 is shared by the different classes of anglers. These effects are shown below:-

	<u>Original Analysis</u>		<u>Revised Analysis</u>	
		£'000	(excluding anti-poaching)	£'000
Migratory Fish	51.2%	220	36.5%	157
Non-Migratory Trout	22.0%	95	28.5%	123
Coarse Fish	26.8%	115	35.0%	150
		<u>430</u>		<u>430</u>

The unit prices of season licences would then become:-

Salmon	£25.50
Migratory Trout	£ 8.50
Non-Migratory Trout	£ 4.70
Coarse Fish	£ 3.45

The Committee is now requested to make its own recommendations on this matter.

3. At the meeting held on 1st April the Central Area Advisory Committee requested details of other water authorities licence structures, the amount of expenditure which is transferred from Fisheries account to be recovered from the Environmental Service Charge, and the revenue from the sale of freshwater fish licences in 1979 compared with the income from the combined freshwater fish and brown trout licence in 1980. These details are to be found in Appendices I and II.
4. At the 13th July meeting the Regional Committee was reminded that a former resolution provided that in any future restructuring prime consideration be given to the introduction of a single tier rod and line whole area licence but the committee resolved that this report be based on the following guidelines:-
 1. a four tier structure comprising separate licences for salmon, migratory trout, non migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels;
 2. a three tier structure, comprising separate licences for salmon and migratory trout, non migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels;
 3. a three tier structure comprising separate licences for salmon, migratory trout and non migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels;
 4. that the part season salmon licence be excluded from the structures;
 5. that the nil duty licence for juveniles aged 10-13 years inclusive be excluded from the structures.

5. To assist in this restructuring exercise the Fisheries Department has prepared an analysis of their activities to show how their time and resources are deployed with the following results:-

Migratory fisheries	51.2%
Non migratory trout	22.0%
Coarse fisheries	26.8%

The detailed analysis is shown in Appendix III

6. No new licence structure can operate before 1st January 1983 therefore the full impact will not be felt until the financial year 1983-84. When the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the structure review they made the proviso that the level of contribution towards working expenses should at least be maintained. It is estimated that the income from rod and line licence duties to obtain such a contribution in 1983-84 should be £430,000 being 47.2% of the total estimated direct costs of fisheries. The direct costs are those costs directly controlled by the Regional Fisheries Officer.
7. When this amount is apportioned in accordance with the Fishery Department's time and resources analysis the result is:-

	£'000
51.2% to be met from migratory fish licences	= 220
22.0% to be met from non migratory fish licences	= 95
26.8% to be met from freshwater fish licences	= 115

and the appropriate unit prices per licence, expressed in terms of a full season licence, are as follows:-

1982 Unit Prices (including 10% applied for) £p		Estimated Sales (in terms of Full Season) No	4 Tier £p	3 Tier £p	3 Tier £p
19.80	Salmon	5,400	36.00)		36.00
)	28.90	
6.60	Migratory Trout	2,200	12.00))	
)	4.30
	(Non Migratory)	
	(Trout	26,100	3.60	3.60)	
3.90	(
	(Freshwater Fish				
	(and Eels	43,400	2.60	2.60	2.60

To facilitate presentation the estimated number of licences to be sold has been based on the assumption that concessionary licences for juniors and pensioners and seven day licences will be fixed in the same ratio to a full season licence as at present e.g. juniors and pensioners at 50% of the full season licence and the seven day salmon licence at 1/6 of the full season duty. If these ratios were increased it would have the effect of reducing the full season licence duty.

8. In the past when restructuring of licence duties was under discussion there has been considerable argument about what costs the Authority should bear and what licence income should cover. In this exercise direct costs only are under consideration and administrative overheads, financing charges etc. have been left out of account. This is in accordance with the requirement of the Policy and Resources Committee that the contribution from licence income towards operating costs should be at the same level as at present. That contribution is estimated at £430,000 in 1983-84 and the above unit licence duties are set at a level to produce that income being only 47.2% of direct costs. There can therefore be no argument about licence income contributing to some activities to which it should not contribute. Any suggestion to reduce any of the above unit licence duties could only be met by a commensurate increase in the other licence duties in order to achieve the overall target income of £430,000. This is the first time that income from the various types of licences has been related to the manner in which fisheries resources are deployed. It is a firm basis which can be justified to all classes of anglers.
9. In 1979, the year before the last restructuring, there was a combined salmon and migratory trout licence. There was considerable objection to this which resulted in separate licences being proposed and included in the new structure which came into operation on 1st January 1980. As a result the number of licences sold increased and there was a consequent increase in revenue as the following figures show:-

	1979			1980		
	Price £p	No.	Amount £	Price £p	No.	Amount £
Salmon - season	15.60	1723	26,957	15.00	1862	27,930
Salmon to 31st May	7.80	25	195			
Salmon from 1st June	9.00	3040	27,360	10.00	2673	26,730
Salmon season - reduced duty	6.50	686	4,459	7.50	644	4,830
Salmon to 31st May - reduced duty	3.25	7	23			
Salmon from 1st June - reduced duty	4.00	583	2,332	5.00	571	2,855
Salmon 7 day	2.60	3174	5,652	2.50	2013	5,032
Migratory trout - season				5.00	1867	9,335
Migratory trout - reduced duty				2.50	305	763
Migratory trout - seven day				1.00	956	956
		<u>9238</u>	<u>66,978</u>		<u>10891</u>	<u>78,431</u>

It would be a retrograde step to introduce a combined salmon and migratory trout licence.

10. If there was a combined migratory trout and brown trout licence the migratory trout angler would be paying a lesser amount than under the separate licence proposals and the brown trout anglers would be paying more. This would be contrary to the basic principle that the total licence revenue should be equitably shared by the various classes of anglers by reference to the way in which the fisheries resources are deployed.
11. This basic principle is a fair and rational basis which can be justified to all classes of anglers. It would be totally unjustifiable to seek a greater or lesser contribution from any one particular class of angler. For this reason and the ones outlined above it is recommended that the revised structure should be a four tier structure comprising separate licences for salmon, migratory trout, non migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels.

1. SUMMARY OF ROD LICENCE STRUCTURES IN OTHER COMPARABLE WATER AUTHORITIES

<u>South West</u>	Three Tier	
	1. Salmon and migratory trout	
	2. Non-migratory trout	
	3. Freshwater fish and eels	
<u>Northumbria</u>	Three Tier	
	1. Salmon and migratory trout	
	2. Non-migratory trout	
	3. Freshwater fish and eels	
<u>Wales</u>	Three Tier	
	1. Salmon and migratory trout	
	2. Non migratory trout	
	3. Freshwater fish and eels	
<u>Wessex</u>	Three Tier	
	1. Salmon	
	2. Trout (including migratory)	
	3. Freshwater fish and eels	
<u>Southern</u>	Three Tier	
	1. Salmon	
	2. Trout (including migratory)	
	3. Freshwater fish and eels	
<u>Severn Trent</u>	Two Tier	(Proposals for 1982-83)
	1. Salmon and migratory trout	
	2. Non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels	
<u>Yorkshire</u>	Two Tier	(Proposals for 1982-83)
	1. Salmon and migratory trout	
	2. Non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels	

2. FISHERY EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CHARGE (1981-82 Revised Estimate)

		£'000
Fisheries Gross Expenditure		1,351
<u>Less</u> Licence Income - Rod and Line	344	
Nets	10	
Other Income	<u>8</u>	<u>362</u>
Balance charged to ESC		<u>989</u>

APPENDIX II

LICENCE SALES 1979 AND 1980

1. To make the figures comparable, the 1979 figures include the sales of non-migratory trout licences.

2. <u>1979</u>	<u>Licence Duty</u> £p	<u>No. Sold</u>	<u>Value</u> £p
<u>Non-Migratory Trout</u>			
Full year	2.60	23,878	62,082.80
Reduced duty	1.25	4,382	5,477.50
Seven day	0.65	13,245	8,609.25
		<u>41,505</u>	<u>76,169.55</u>
<u>Freshwater Fish and Eels</u>			
Full year	1.25	29,840	37,300.00
Reduced duty	0.65	5,937	3,859.05
Seven day	0.35	3,979	1,392.65
<u>Mersey and Weaver Area</u>			
Full year	0.65	11,961	7,774.65
Reduced duty	0.35	3,294	1,152.90
		<u>55,011</u>	<u>51,479.25</u>
		<u>96,516</u>	<u>127,648.80</u>
		=====	=====
<u>1980</u>			
<u>Non-Migratory Trout & Freshwater Fish</u>			
Full year	3.00	57,459	172,377.00
Reduced duty	1.50	12,740	19,110.00
Seven day	0.50	18,944	9,472.00
		<u>89,143</u>	<u>200,959.00</u>
		=====	=====

DIRECT COSTS OF FISHERIES - 1981-2 ESTIMATES

1. Subjective Analysis		2. Activity Analysis		Mig.	Non	Coarse	Total	
	£			Fish	Mig.	Fish	Fish	%
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Employees:								
Salaries	471,292	1. Patrols, licence						
Wages	3,625	checks & enforcement	51	74	68	193	27	
Other	9,830	2. Anti-poaching	168	1	-	169	23	
Running Costs:		3. Propagation	85	38	10	133	18	
Electricity	4,042	4. Coarse fish -						
Other power	101	removal & transfer	-	-	46	46	6	
Rents	1,370	5. Fish surveys	20	17	37	74	10	
Rates	1,295	6. Advice to clubs	2	6	8	16	2	
SESC	20	7. Offences and other						
Chemicals	12,575	reports	23	11	14	48	6	
Materials	6,880	8. Fish mortalities and						
Hired & Contracted Services	920	pollution	6	7	8	21	3	
Transport and Plant		9. Stocking consents	-	6	5	11	2	
Own Vehicles and Plant	32,186	10. Fish counters	18	-	-	18	3	
Car allowances	87,345							
Telephones	150							
Travel subsistence	11,563							
Other	32,185							
Inflation Provision	54,000	% of Total Cost	51.2	22	26.8		100	
	729,379		====	===	====		===	

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 1981

Present: T. A. F. Barnes, Esq., (Chairman)
 A. G. R. Brown, Esq. R. D. Houghton, Esq.
 E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. G. E. Lowe, Esq.,
 Major J. G. W. Skipwith

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. J.S. Bailey, Mr. W.S. Bell, Mr. F. Bunting, Mr. J.M. Croft, Mr. T.M. Farrer, Mr. J.H. Fell, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. I. Jones, Mr. G. Mann, Mr. Wm. McKenna, Mr. J.E. Redhead and Mr. G. Wilson.

32. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th November 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

On 9th November 1981, the Committee had resolved, inter alia, that the advice of the Policy and Resources Committee be sought on the restructuring of the rod and line fishing licence duties and on 30th November that Committee had made the following recommendations which had been approved by the Authority this day.

(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 netsmen.

(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.

Copies of these recommendations together with a report thereon had been sent to all Members of Area Committees on 8th December 1981, (the date the meeting agenda was despatched) seeking their views on the proposals, and the Committee was apprised of the nature of all replies.

Consideration was also given to a supplemental paper including a schedule of proposed licence duties (attached hereto as an Appendix) derived from the seasonal licence duties, as approved by the Authority, which were in accordance with previous decisions of the Committee.

Concern was expressed at the sharp contrast between the cost of the proposed salmon only and the migratory trout only rod and line licence. It was felt that this could be reviewed once the effect of the new duties could be truly assessed.

RESOLVED:

That recommendations (1) to (6) of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 30th November 1981 as approved by the Authority this day, concerning restructuring of rod and line fishing licence duties be noted.

RECOMMENDED:

(1) That without prejudice to the agreed establishment of a four tier rod and line fishing licence structure, the cost differential between the salmon only and the migratory trout only licence duties be reviewed once the effect of the new duties on the sales of such licences is known and in any case not later than two years from the agreed date for commencement of the new duties, 1st January 1983.

(2) That the proposed duties for the season concessionary and the seven day fishing licences for salmon and for migratory trout, set out in paragraph 1(1) and (2) of the Appendix to these minutes be approved, viz:

(1) Salmon

Season concessionary	£13.50
Seven day	£4.50

(2) Migratory Trout

Seasonal concessionary	£4.50
Seven day	£1.50

(3) That because as indicated in paragraph 3 of the Appendix, 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 all fishing licence duties.

(4) That having regard to (3) above, the proposed duty in respect of the season concessionary licence for non-migratory trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char) set out in paragraph 1(4) of the Appendix to these minutes be approved but that the duty in respect of the seven day licence for such fish be increased to £1, viz:

(4) Non-migratory trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char)

Season concessionary	£2.00
Seven day	£1.00

(5) That a special joint meeting of the Central and Southern Area Committees be convened at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 18th January 1982, at West Cliff, Preston, to obtain the views of the coarse fish anglers 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 for freshwater fish and eels as set out in paragraphs 1(5) and 2 of the Appendix to these minutes (the duty for seven day licences in this category being a minimum of £1 in any event in view of recommendation (3) above) and that their recommendations on this matter be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

(6) That the Fishery Advisory Committee of the National Water Council be asked to consider the possibility of an approach being made to police authorities seeking contributions to the expenditure incurred by water authorities on anti-poaching activities.

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 *
Season 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.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1ST FEBRUARY 1982

Present: T. A. F. Barnes, Esq. (Chairman)
 J. S. Bailey, Esq. J. E. Gouldbourn, Esq.
 W. S. Bell, Esq. R. D. Houghton, Esq.
 F. Bunting, Esq. J. Johnson, Esq.
 H. Caunce, Esq. I. Jones, Esq.
 J. M. Croft, Esq. J. E. Redhead, Esq.
 E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. Major J. G. W. Skipwith,
 J. H. Fell, Esq. G. Wilson, Esq.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. A.G.R. Brown, Mr. G.E. Lowe, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. Wm. McKenna.

35. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th December 1981, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
AREAS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

RESOLVED:

(1) That with the exception of minute no.3 the minutes of the joint meeting of the Central and Southern Areas Advisory Committees held on 18th January 1982, be approved.

(2) That the recommendations contained in minute no.3 (Restructuring of Rod and Line Fishing Licence Duties) be considered under the appropriate Agenda item.

37. RESTRUCTURING OF ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

On 14th December 1981, the Committee had resolved, inter alia, that a paper containing proposals in connection with the introduction of a Fishery Improvement Grant Scheme and a Fishery Equipment Loan Scheme be submitted to a joint meeting of the Central and Southern Areas Advisory Committees. That paper is attached as an Appendix to these minutes.

On 18th January 1982, (minute no.3) the joint meeting considered the proposals and made the following recommendations which the Committee was invited to approve:

"(1) That the Fishery Improvement Grant Scheme and the Fishery Equipment Loan Scheme (as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes) be approved.

- (2) That having regard to (1) above, the proposed duty in respect of the full and concessionary season licences for freshwater fish and eels be increased by 20p and 10p respectively on and from 1st January 1983, viz:

Freshwater fish and eels

Season	£3.20
Season concessionary	£1.60

- (3) That subject to the approval of (1) and (2) above by the Regional Committee and by the Authority, the officers prepare a detailed paper on both schemes for submission to the three Area Committees at their meetings in March/April 1982."

It was agreed that once the schemes had been finalised they should be fully publicised amongst the coarse angling bodies; Mr. Johnson agreeing to liaise between the Authority and the National Federation of Anglers in this respect.

Discussion took place upon the feasibility of the Authority liaising with Local Authorities within the region with a view to such Authorities providing additional waters which could be used for angling.

RESOLVED:

That the officers carry out a feasibility study of co-operative development of angling by the Authority and District Councils and their findings be reported to the Area Advisory Committees for comment prior to submission to this Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

(1) That recommendations (1) to (3) of minute no.3 of the joint meeting of the Central and Southern Areas Fisheries Advisory Committees (as detailed above) be approved.

(2) That the Policy and Resources Committee be invited to approve the proposals to increase the rod and line fishing licence duties, in accordance with recommendation (1) above and with previous decisions of the Committee, as set out below, to come into force throughout the region on and from 1st January 1983:

PROPOSED ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCE DUTIES
ON AND FROM 1ST JANUARY 1983

	<u>Duty on and from</u> <u>1st January 1983</u> £.p.
<u>Single Rod and Line</u>	
(1) Salmon	
Season	27.00
Season concessionary	13.50
Seven day	4.50
(2) Migratory Trout	
Season	9.00
Season concessionary	4.50
Seven day	1.50
(3) Non-migratory trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char)	
Season	4.00
Season concessionary	2.00
Seven day	1.00
(4) Freshwater fish and eels	
Season	3.20
Season concessionary	1.60
Seven day	1.00

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

(3) That subject to the approval of recommendations (1) and (2) above by the Policy and Resources Committee, the Secretary and Solicitor be authorised:

- (a) to publish a notice of the Authority's intention to fix these fishing licence duties in appropriate newspapers, as required by para. 3 of Schedule 2 to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975;
- (b) to take all such steps as may be necessary, including representation at a public inquiry, in the event of objections to the proposals being received by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

38. FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Chairman referred to the fact that on 13th September 1977 (minute no. 63) the Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee had considered a report of an officers working party on the relationship between fisheries income and expenditure and had recommended, inter alia:

- "(1) That expenditure on fisheries account be contained for the immediate future by imposing a cash limit on expenditure, related to the £658,000 working expenses of the Rivers Division for 1977-78, plus an adjustment for future inflation."

The recommendation was approved by the Authority on 10th October 1977.

The Chairman expressed the view that in the past there had been no logical basis for the licence duties charged. Now, following a thorough assessment of how the resources of the Fisheries Department were deployed, the licence structure had been drastically revised so that types of fishery where more resources were deployed should expect to produce correspondingly more licence revenue than where less resources were deployed. The proposed structure now had a logical basis which could be supported by facts and figures.

He felt it was wrong that fisheries had been singled out for discriminatory treatment in the way of a frozen budget, and that in view of the agreed licence restructure as well as already increased licence revenue, the arbitrary freeze should be removed by formal resolution. There were in any case plenty of other constraints in force.

After full discussion the Committee

RECOMMENDED:

That the present "freeze" on the Fisheries revenue budget be rescinded by the Authority.

39. ANGLING AT STOCKS RESERVOIR

The Chairman reported that investigations were still being carried out into the possible promotion of a trout fishery at the reservoir by the private sector.

40. FISHING LICENCE DISTRIBUTORS

In response to questions concerning the appointment of agents to sell fishing licences on behalf of the Authority, the Regional Fisheries Officer undertook to investigate and clarify appointment procedures.

F2/A12

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
CENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

31ST MARCH 1982

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND FISHERY EQUIPMENT LOAN SCHEMES

1. In parallel with the introduction of a new rod licence structure in 1983, a small surcharge is to be made on the freshwater fish and eels licence. The amount involved will be 20p on the full, and 10p on the concessionary, season licences. The 7 day and 'block' (match fishing) licences will not carry any surcharge. The additional revenue will be used to finance two special schemes. One will deal with the provision of grant-aid, in approved cases, to club projects likely to benefit coarse fisheries. The other scheme will involve the setting up of a pool of miscellaneous fishery equipment which will be available on loan to clubs proposing to use it for the benefit of coarse fisheries. The surcharge on freshwater fish licences is expected to yield some £10,000 per annum and the division of this sum between two schemes will be flexible and varied according to demand.
2. In order to protect both the Authority and participants certain conditions will be required in administration of the schemes. The following conditions shall apply in relation to the fishery improvement grant scheme:-
 - (i) The scheme will be administered by the Regional Fisheries Officer, in collaboration with the Finance Officer, Rivers Division.
 - (ii) Applications for grant-aid will be accepted only from clubs and associations within the region in respect of any waters in the region.
 - (iii) Grant-aid will be given only for projects which are aimed at benefiting coarse fisheries. Preference will be given to small localised projects on waters greater than those of 1 hectare in area, the latter being waters for which no rod licence is required. However, at the RFO's discretion, and subject to availability of funds, limited expenditure on worthwhile schemes on waters under 1 hectare could be approved.
 - (iv) Grant will not be payable for purchases of fish for stocking.
 - (v) The rate of grant may vary, at the discretion of the Authority, having regard to the worthwhileness of the project. In no case shall grant-aid exceed 50% of the authorised or incurred expenditure whichever is less.
 - (vi) Applicants for grant-aid will be required to complete an application form, available from the Regional Fisheries Officer, giving details of their project and of relevant associated matters. Grant-aid will not be payable for projects started without approval. Upon receipt of approval of scheme proposals, work shall commence within two months and be

completed with in fifteen months thereafter. Failure to meet these requirements may result in all or part of the grant being withheld. There shall be no limit to the number and timing of projects submitted for approval, but no club or association would normally be permitted to have more than one approved project underway at any one time.

- (vii) Projects will need to satisfy the Regional Fisheries Officer and, if engineering works are involved, the Operations Manager, Rivers Division, that they are practicable, worthwhile and eligible for grant under these general conditions. Where the applicant does not own the fishing rights or the land involved, confirmation would normally be required of security of tenure for not less than 7 years ahead, and of the fishery/landowner's agreement to the work proposed. Should waters for which grant-aid is given be sold or transferred to other interests within a period of two years of completion of the project then the Authority may require reimbursement of all or part of the grant-aid.
- (viii) Applicant clubs which do not already do so would be required to make available on completion of an Authority grant-aided project a number of day tickets (to be agreed with the Authority) for the benefit of the public on any fishing water involved in the project. Alternatively, a club with unrestricted membership and where there is no waiting list for entry may be deemed by the Authority to meet this requirement.
- (ix) Payment of grant will be made by the Authority only on its being satisfied that the project has been completed properly in accordance with the approval and on production, by the club or association concerned, of receipted invoices for all work on the project. No payment will be made in respect of club labour or personal expenses by club members.

3. The following conditions shall apply in relation to the Fishery Equipment Loan Scheme:-

- (i) The Scheme will be administered for the whole region by the Area Fisheries Officer (South) at Bancroft House, Liverpool Road, Great Sankey, Warrington (Tel: Penketh 4161, ext. 3428) to whom all applications for loan of equipment should be addressed. The AFO (South) will also be responsible for ensuring that any necessary consents (e.g. for the use of nets or electric fishing gear) are issued to the borrower, and will liaise on this point with AFO(N), where equipment is to be used in his area.
- (ii) A list of equipment available in the pool will be available on request from the Area Fisheries Officer (South).
- (iii) Loan of equipment will be restricted to clubs intending to use it for the benefit of coarse fisheries. No charge will be made for loan of equipment unless transportation to/from site is required, or the equipment is returned in a damaged

condition and requires repair. Equipment will not be loaned for use on enclosed waters of less than 1 hectare in area, (these being waters for which no rod licence is required), except in circumstances specially authorised by the Regional Fisheries Officer.

- (iv) Electric fishing gear and chain-saws may not be used unless a member of the Fisheries Department, experienced in their use, is present and all proper safety precautions are observed.
- (v) Equipment will not normally be loaned out for a period of more than two weeks. This period may, however, be extended with the approval of the Area Fisheries Officer when in his opinion valid reasons exist.
- (vi) During the continuance of the loan period the borrower shall:-
 - (a) Ensure that when in use the equipment is operated in a skilful and proper manner and by persons who are competent to operate it.
 - (b) Keep the equipment in good repair and condition (fair wear and tear excepted) and will permit any officer of the Fisheries Department, at all reasonable times, to enter any premises in which the equipment is kept, for the purpose of examination.
 - (c) Make arrangements for the safe keeping of the equipment either at the address of the borrower or at some secure place near the site at which the work is being carried out.
 - (d) Not sell, let, loan, or otherwise dispose of, or part with, the equipment.
 - (e) Notify the Area Fisheries officer immediately of any damage to, or breakdown or loss of any of the equipment and seek advice on the necessary action to be taken.
 - (f) Pay to the Authority the cost of replacing, missing, damaged or broken equipment or parts thereof.
 - (g) Pay to the Authority all expenses (including legal costs on a full indemnity basis) incurred by the Authority or on its behalf in ascertaining the whereabouts of, or repossessing, the equipment, and of any legal proceedings taken by or on behalf of the Authority to enforce these conditions.
- (vii) The Authority accepts no responsibility of any kind for any defects in any equipment and does not warrant that it is suitable for the particular purposes for which it is or may be required. All conditions, warranties and representations, whether express or implied in favour of the borrower are hereby excluded.

(viii) No liability whatsoever shall attach to the Authority either in contract or in tort for loss injury or damage (not being loss, injury or damage arising from the Authority's negligence) sustained by reason of any defect in the equipment whether such defect be latent or apparent on examination, or by reason of the use of the equipment by the borrower whether such use be authorised or not by these conditions or any other term of borrowing the equipment, and the Authority shall not be liable to indemnify the borrower in respect of any claim made against the borrower by a third party for any loss, injury or damage (except as aforesaid).

(ix) In these conditions "the equipment" includes all replacements and renewals thereof and all accessories and additions thereto whether made before or after the time and date of the issue of the equipment to the borrower.

(x) No relaxation forbearance or indulgence by the Authority in enforcing any of these conditions or any other term of borrowing the equipment nor the granting of time by the Authority to the borrower shall prejudice or affect the rights and powers of the Authority hereunder nor shall any waiver of any breach operate as a waiver for any subsequent or continuing breach.

4. The conditions above will be set out on the Equipment Issue Note. The provisions in (vi), (g) and (vii) to (x) are specifically for the protection of the Authority in respect of legal liabilities which might arise.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
CENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

31ST MARCH 1982

THE RIVER LEVEN SMOLT REARING SCHEME

1. In response to Members' requests for a report on the progress of this Scheme, this paper which summarises the position to 31st December 1981, is now submitted.
2. Cage-rearing of juvenile salmon was commenced in 1978 at the site near Dalton-in-Furness with the aim of introducing annually into the River Leven considerable numbers of artificially-reared smolts, in an attempt to restore the seriously reduced runs of salmon in that river.
3. The original intention, as recorded in minute 16(i) of the meeting of the former Lune, Wyre & Furness Local Fisheries Advisory Committee on 16th January 1978 was: "That the policy of rearing pre-parr salmon on to the smolt stage, in cages sited in secure suitable waters within the Leven catchment area be adopted in principle as a five-year project." The thinking at that time, which was confirmed when the present site at Dalton was chosen, was that it should be possible to produce smolts at the rate of 10,000 per year, so that a five-year project should lead to the introduction of 50,000 smolts. All these fish were to be freeze-branded before release to ensure that any which later returned as adults would be identifiable. In practice, however, releases of smolts so far achieved have been well below the target figure.

1979	5175 smolts
1980	3444 smolts
1981	4771 smolts

4. There have been three main reasons for this shortfall.
 - (i) When the project began in Autumn 1978, it was not possible to allocate to it a particular quantity of ova because these were laid down in the hatchery in the Autumn before approval of the project. Initial stock for the cages was thus only the small surplus available from other commitments.
 - (ii) At an early stage, problems were experienced with disease and protozoan parasites to which solutions, in a cage-rearing environment, had to be found by bitter experience. There were considerable stock losses.
 - (iii) It was found, again by bitter experience, that stress resulting from the changeover from hatchery to floating cage conditions, coupled with that caused by the inevitable transport over a considerable distance of large numbers of parr, markedly increased their proneness to disease.

5. A further problem which may have obscured any results achieved so far, has been the ineffectiveness of the freeze-branding system used. The techniques employed were based on published literature but the results have proved far less durable than indicated. So far, only one salmon has been recovered which bore an unmistakeable brandmark. This was a 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. fish which had been released into the River Leven on 23rd May 1979, and was recaptured in the River Crake on 25th July 1981. Its growth rate had been remarkably slow, but there seems no reason to suppose that this was associated with its branding. In view of the apparent ineffectiveness of the branding technique used, the equipment was modified in 1981 with a view to achieving a substantially lower temperature on the face of the metal brand.
6. Although only this one clearly-branded fish has been recaptured, Summer 1980 saw better runs of grilse in the River Leven than for several seasons. As there was a possibility that these fish might have been derived from smolts released in 1979, particular care was taken in examining scales of 33 fish taken by anglers. Although there were no visible brand marks on them, a detailed examination of the scales revealed features which suggested that some two-thirds could have derived from artificially-reared smolts.
7. Total rod and net catches on the River Leven for the period 1975 to 1980 inclusive are:-

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Rods	44	61	73	28	39	87
Nets	72	69	44	89	6	89
Total	116	130	117	117	45	176

8. While it is probably no more than a coincidence, it is interesting that in the year after the release of the first batch of cage-reared smolts (1980) the total returned catch for the River Leven was nearly four times that of the preceding year and was 67% greater than the average total catch for the previous five years. Regrettably, this encouraging trend was not maintained in 1981, when the total catch dropped to 64.
9. Consideration of the fish counter figures for the Eels Dam counter is not particularly helpful. The average total count of fish over 4lbs. for the years 1974/76 inclusive was 390; for the five-year period 1977/81 inclusive (up to the end of October 1981) the average was 81, although if the count of 243 in 1978 is omitted, the figure is only 40. These counts are suspect for three reasons.
 - (i) In 1980, when 43 fish were recorded as having passed through the counter, a rod catch of 21 fish was returned from the river upstream of the counter, and 41 dead and 7 live kelts were recovered from the Eels Dam mill-race, making a total of 69 fish accounted for against the 43 recorded by the counter as having moved into that part of the river.
 - (ii) A visual check during 1981 on conditions at Eels Dam during periods of high river flow suggests that even sea trout could readily ascend the weir without needing to use the fish pass and move through the counter.

- (iii) During the Summer of 1981, a considerable shoal of fresh-run sea trout was observed just above the weir, and remained there for some time. The count for the preceding three weeks, however, indicated that only the odd fish had passed the counter.
10. Although the intended yearly output of smolts has never been achieved it seems possible that output in the two remaining years before production ceases may be considerably higher than hitherto. It will, however, remain to be seen whether captures of adult salmon, which are identifiable as being derived from cage-reared smolts, during the years 1984/1985 (i.e. up to two years after the release of the final batch of smolts in 1983) are large enough to justify the continuation of this work, and, if so, on what basis.

F2/A23

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
CENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

31ST MARCH, 1982.

ANNUAL REPORT ON MATCH FISHING -
SKERTON AND MITTON FISHERIES

RIVER LUNE - SKERTON FISHERY

1. Thirty-one Sunday matches and one Saturday match were fished during the year and as usual all the clubs using the water came from Central or Southern Lancashire. Most of the matches were fished from the right bank but those who fished the left bank complained of the continuing silting up of that bank. Lack of suitable access and parking facilities on the left bank also gave rise to comment. These facilities were planned as part of the Halton-Skerton linear park but, unfortunately, this project has been deferred for the time being.
2. The quality of the fishing varied with the water levels, but no complaints were received and during low flows good catches were obtained. It is possible that the lack of interest in Saturday matches is due to poor publicity and this is being remedied in the new edition of the angling guide which is about to go to press.

RIVER RIBBLE - MITTON FISHERY

3. Fourteen Sundays were available for match fishing during the period 1st November, 1981 to 31st January, 1982 but only five of the available dates were booked. No bookings were made for matches during January.

Only two returns showed fish catches, the total number of fish taken amounted to 8 roach, 14 chub, 6 gudgeon and 3 small brown trout.

When match fishing was first proposed in 1976, Committee Members expressed concern that large numbers of trout would be caught by anglers using bait during matches thus causing damage to trout stocks.

4. It is now clear, however, that during the six years that catches at Mitton have been monitored the small number of trout caught during matches (an average of only 1.9 fish per match) cannot be considered damaging to the trout stocks of the river, and it is therefore recommended that the facility for match fishing should be allowed to continue on the same basis as hitherto. Further, in view of the small number of trout caught, it is considered that submission of this annual monitoring report is no longer necessary and the officers recommend that it be discontinued.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYCENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE31ST MARCH, 1982.REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES
SEPTEMBER 1981 - JANUARY 1982

1. RIVER CONDITIONS AND FISHING

The rains finally arrived in the north of the area on the 20th of September after a long period of low river flows, and salmon fishing improved dramatically, with the last few weeks of the season giving the most productive fishing of the year. Very good catches were made in the Kent and Lune, but again the majority of salmon on the Lune moved quickly through the middle reaches giving excellent sport in the Tebay area but poor catches for the traditionally good beats in the middle reaches. Sea trout fishing tapered off towards the end of the season despite the large numbers of fish in the rivers. Apart from being rather "stale" they also matured early and spawning commenced about 10 days earlier than usual.

Coarse fishing has been generally poor in the rivers in the northern area over the winter, partly due to the atrocious weather conditions which have made fishing impossible for considerable periods. During September and October however some good catches were made from still waters, particularly Holehird Tarn near Windermere which was stocked by the Authority two years ago, and pits in the Furness area where some very large carp were taken.

The 1981 catch returns are attached at Appendix 2. Of particular interest is the high average weight of the sea trout caught. The Leven, Kent and Lune all averaged over 2 lbs and it is interesting to speculate whether this indicates a general improvement in the sea trout stocks, or has been caused by one exceptional year class which gave the high numbers caught in 1980, and which has now reached sufficient size to influence the average weights of the catches.

In the southern part of the area, with the exception of a five week spell of exceptionally low temperatures, during December/January river levels were maintained above normal with numerous spates and freshets throughout the period.

Only moderate catches of salmon were reported during the first half of September from the Ribble, Hodder and Wyre, but catches improved later in the month and continued good to the end of the season. The best fish reported caught during the season weighed 32½ lbs taken on the Authority's Mitton fishery at Hodder Foot on the Ribble.

The numbers of sea trout in all three rivers were below those in the 1980 season but nevertheless catches improved during September when 60 and 100 of these fish were taken from the Ribble and Hodder respectively. Some of these fish were quite heavy with individual weights of 6, 6½ and 8 lbs being reported.

The usual fall-off in catches of brown trout occurred towards the end of the season in both river and stillwater fisheries in the south, many anglers turning their attention to salmon fishing.

With the exception of periods of adverse fishing conditions, catches of coarse fish have generally been quite good on rivers and most of the stillwater fisheries. A fishing match held on the River Calder at Whalley produced a winning weight of 20 lbs of chub and individual catches on the lower section of the river have been quite good and reasonably consistent. Catches on the Ribble and Wyre have been reasonable when conditions were good, with match weights of up to 20 lbs and individual weight at 40 - 50 lbs of chub, roach and dace from the lower Ribble. This suggests that the impact of the fish mortality in July 1979 has been less prolonged than was anticipated.

2. MIGRATORY FISH MOVEMENT

Good spawning stocks of migratory fish were present in most of the rivers in the northern area, and reports were received that the stocks of salmon in the Upper Lune were the best for many years. Having said this however, conditions for redd counting were extremely poor, with floods in December and January, and parts of the rivers being frozen over at other times. However it is safe to assume that both salmon and sea trout spawning was more than adequate, but there may have been some flood damage to early redds in the main rivers. Of interest has been the very late salmon spawning reported from both the Lune and Kent, where fish were seen spawning during the last week of January. It is possible that fish delayed spawning because of ice on the gravel beds.

3. HATCHERIES

Middleton Hatchery

Trapping at Broadrairie was successful with the following being the total numbers of ova laid down at Middleton Hatchery:-

Lune salmon	981,000
South Cumbria salmon	71,800
Lune sea trout	65,700
South Cumbria sea trout	122,000

The fact that sea trout could be trapped is another indication of the increased size of the fish present in the river in 1981. Despite serious problems at the hatchery caused by the inclement weather, development has proceeded satisfactorily without any untoward losses.

Salmon Cages - Dalton-in-Furness

10,500 salmon parr were transferred from Holmwrangle Hatchery to the cages on the 20th September. Despite being frozen over in December and January losses have been very low so far and the fish have fed well during the warmer parts of the winter. Many of these fish are already smolt-sized and it is anticipated that these fish will be marked and placed in the Leven in April.

Langcliffe Hatchery

22 hen salmon and 15 hen sea trout were stripped at the Langcliffe Hatchery during November and December and 170,000 salmon ova and 32,000 sea trout ova were laid down at the hatchery for development to the eyed stage. This stock will be distributed for development to unfed or fed fry as follows:-

Salmon

Holmwrangle Hatchery	70,000 to fed fry
Hollingworth Hatchery	50,000 to fed fry
Yorkshire Water Authority (exchange for 30,000 sea trout ova)	30,000
Langcliffe Hatchery - to continue investigations	20,000 to fed fry
	<hr/>
	170,000

In addition 30,000 salmon ova have been purchased from Scotland and these will be developed to fed fry at the Dunsop Hatchery.

Sea Trout

Langcliffe Hatchery - home produced	32,000 unfed fry
- from Whitby Esk	30,000 unfed fry
	<hr/>
	62,000

The above stock will be introduced to suitable tributary streams of the rivers Ribble, Hodder and Wyre.

4. STOCKING BY THE AUTHORITY

During the review period a total of 20,635 mixed coarse fish were moved from three clubs in the southern part of the area and over 2,000 bream averaging over 1 lb in weight were removed from a drained portion of the Lancaster Canal at Hest Bank and transferred to a section lower down.

5. STOCKING BY ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS

During the review period 38 consents have been issued for the introduction of fish to waters in the area.

6. FISH MORTALITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Cause</u>
3. 9.81	Slipper Hill Reservoir	Bream Pike	300 50	Low dissolved oxygen
9. 9.81	Underbarrow Beck	Brown trout	Not Known	Slurry pollution
16. 9.81	Colne Water	Brown trout Minor species	60 1,200	Spillage of bleach
9.11.81	Whitley Beck	Brown trout Sea trout	30 1	Santobrite
23.11.81	Peasey Beck	Brown trout	200	Diesel fuel
19. 2.82	River Bela	Salmon parr) Sea trout) Brown trout)	450+	Sodium hypochlorite spillage

7. FISH DISEASE

During the review period no outbreaks of fish disease were noted in the south. In the north, the incidence of UDN and spawning fungus increased dramatically during November and December but very few fish died before spawning and the gradual reduction of UDN seems to be continuing.

8. POACHING

The adverse river conditions which prevailed for most of the review period made poaching difficult and only a small number of offenders were reported. In the north of the area poachers were most active during October when 20 offenders were apprehended for offences varying from over sized hooks to the illegal sale of fish.

9. MANAGEMENT WORK

During the review period 22 site visits were made in the southern part of the area to give fisheries advice. In addition one fishery investigation involving the use of electrofishing equipment was carried out.

The Stainton end of the Lancaster Canal has been sectioned off with a number of "pens" in order to carry out an experiment into the effects of stocking with grass carp in collaboration with BWB and Liverpool University. This section has been electrofished and the existing coarse fish population recorded so the effects on indigenous fish can be assessed.

FISH COUNTER DATA

	Yearl R.Derwent		Basinghyll R.Kent		Duddon Hall R.Duddon		Haverthwaite R.Læven		Halton R.Lune		Skerton R.Lune		Broadraine R.Lune		Winckley Hal R.Hodder		Waddow Weir R.Ribble		Locks Weir R.Ribble	
	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb	Under 4lb	Over 4lb
1981																				
March	174	32	6	4	-	-	-	-		12		4	78	-	(28th-31st)		-	-		-
April	88	19	9	7	3	1	-	-		68		35	70	9	3	2	(14 th -30 th)			-
May	1595	734	196	85	13	4	7	3		694		51	140	21	182	22	120	108		-
June	2353	405	11909	418	140	11	51	11		1850		97	150	44	437	63	473	64		33
July	5980	5867	3608	605	261	29	125	10		1195		179	466	56	1313	203	1248	479		32
August	4005	1912	199	236	137	18	99	9		926		114	363	37	394	58	1097	204		-
Sept.	797	471	1754	168	61	5	70	12		1408		402	44	72	353	100	478	476		64
Oct.	645	237	338	159	43	2	10	1		1764		4	346	56	60	33	242	42		141
Nov.	1425	466	119	73	22	4	7	0		4163		108	*	221	108	113	96	33		118
Dec.	185	57	11	4	23	10	0	1		1064		27	*	7	0	0	0	0		10
1982 Jan.	861	143	8	2	-	-	-	-		12		2	10	-	-	-	-	-		-
TOTAL	18108	10343	18157	1761	703	84	369	47		13156		1023	1667	523	2850	594	3768	1418		398
	Counter out of action from 14.4.81 to 28.4.81								Halton crest counter operational from 18.9.81				*No small fish count from 16.10.81							

Garstang fish counter in the River Wyr is now in commission, and performance trials carried out in November and December 1981 indicate

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

RIVERS DIVISION

MONTHLY SALMON CATCHES ROD AND LINE 1981 SEASON

River	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Total	Average Weight
	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	No. Wt.	(lbs)
Border Esk	- -	4 49	4 45½	- -	- -	- -	8 80	7 60½	52 563½	39 471	114 1269½	11.13
Eden	13 193½	26 345½	45 510½	45 551½	45 443½	33 351½	32 291½	29 232	69 675½	116 1558	453 5152½	11.37
Derwent	- -	1 18	2 16	2 17	2 15½	34 375	83 715½	88 741½	187 1541½	209 2237½	608 5676½	9.33
Cocker	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	5 26½	5 44½	13 97	30 263½	53 431½	8.13
Ellen	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 7½	4 19½	3 20	8 55½	22 151	38 253½	6.67
Ehen	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 33	5 39½	4 37	13 89½	10 71½	36 270½	7.50
Calder	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 5	- -	- -	6 32	12 89½	19 126½	6.67
Irt	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 17½	8 43	14 85½	16 116	24 187½	64 449½	7.02
Annas	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 3½	1 4	1 6	3 13½	4.50
Esk	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 10	4 33	8 96½	15 139½	9.30
Duddon	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 25½	2 15½	5 41½	8.25
Leven	- -	- -	- -	5 61½	- -	3 39½	3 20	- -	10 69	13 85½	34 275½	8.10
Crake	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 12½	3 10½	1 4½	4 22	5 35½	14 85½	6.10
Kent	- -	- -	- -	- -	8 80½	16 155	23 175½	31 244½	28 171½	37 238	143 1065	7.44
Bela	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 2½	1 3½	2 6	3.00
Lune	- -	- -	- -	- -	11 122½	38 403½	34 294½	50 470½	172 1951½	151 1766½	456 5008	10.98
Ribble	- -	- -	3 38½	5 75½	24 300½	44 503	43 423½	53 534½	136 1298½	187 1866½	495 5040½	10.18
Hodder	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 48	9 77½	15 163½	60 654½	122 1464½	209 2408½	11.52
Wyre	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 14½	2 12½	3 12½	7 57½	21 127½	35 224½	6.42
Keer	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-
TOTALS	13 193½	31 412½	54 610½	57 705½	90 962½	182 1965½	262 2229	307 2665½	790 7459½	1010 10734½	2796 27938	9.99

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

RIVERS DIVISION

MONTHLY SEA-TROUT CATCHES ROD & LINE, 1981 SEASON

RIVER	MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		TOTAL		AVERAGE WEIGHT lbs
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	
Border Esk (Eng)	15	30½	153	299½	371	666½	164	264½	125	171½	152	78½	980	1510½	1.54
Eden	36	63½	176	364½	370	726½	174	393½	58	97	17	38½	831	1683½	2.02
Derwent	28	55½	128	394	200	378½	165	275	78	152½	7	13	606	1268½	2.09
Cocker	-	-	-	-	5	7½	3	10	3	11½	-	-	11	29½	2.66
Ellen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	4	8½	7	15½	2.25
Ehen	-	-	10	20½	40	49½	66	92½	21	31½	3	7	140	201½	1.44
Calder	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	4½	2	7½	5	16	3.20
Irt	-	-	8	17	40	86½	28	71½	18	42	1	1½	95	218½	2.30
Esk	-	-	-	-	26	46	28	58½	24	34½	7	14	85	153	1.80
Duddon	-	-	2	7½	8	13½	17	21½	16	20½	-	-	43	62½	1.45
Leven	5	10½	15	41	78	159½	110	229½	93	181½	52	110½	353	732½	2.07
Crake	-	-	1	3½	35	59	14	14½	9	9½	8	9½	67	95½	1.43
Kent	14	18½	38	70½	58	150½	61	117	47	96½	10	13½	228	466½	2.05
Lune	19	44	175	483½	376	866½	399	720	287	558½	54	132	1310	2804½	2.14
Others	-	-	2	7½	17	30	57	47	29	30½	9	12½	114	127½	1.12
Northern Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ribble	6	8	34	78	109	263½	82	172	38	89	22	61	291	671½	2.30
Hodder	-	-	20	67	106	269½	96	218½	46	86	12	35½	280	676½	2.42
Wyre	-	-	1	1½	3	4½	10	17½	27	41	17	24½	58	88½	1.52
TOTAL	123	230½	763	1856	1842	3776½	1476	2727	923	1663½	377	568	5504	10821½	1.97

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

RIVERS DIVISION

MONTHLY SALMON CATCHES NETS AND FIXED ENGINES 1981 - SEASON

	March		April		May		June		July		August		September		Average Weight	Total	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	lbs.	No.	Wt.
Eden & Esk	-	-	29	314½	65	733½	144	1454½	403	3045½	612	5761½	84	876	9.11	1337	12185½
Coastal Drift	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	116½	133	1061	272	2223½	38	411½	8.34	457	3812½
South & West Cumbria	-	-	-	-	5	36	10	79½	24	192½	21	139½	-	-	7.45	60	447½
R. Ellen HAAF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	198½	43	335	-	-	7.73	69	533½
Duddon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	38	2	15	-	-	10.60	5	53
Leven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	136½	9	47	-	-	7.34	25	183½
Kent	-	-	-	-	1	4½	2	22	36	273½	16	150½	-	-	8.20	55	450½
Lune	-	-	-	-	35	361½	221	2273¾	1134	13349½	840	7540	-	-	10.55	2230	23524½
Ribble	-	-	-	-	31	387	139	1651	408	5040	232	2819	-	-	12.22	810	9897
TOTAL	-	-	29	314½	137	1522½	530	5597	2183	23334½	2047	19031	122	1287½	10.12	5048	51087

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

RIVERS DIVISION

MONTHLY SEA TROUT CATCHES NETS AND FIXED ENGINES 1981 SEASON

	March		April		May		June		July		August		September		Average Weight	Total	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	lbs.	No.	Wt.
Eden & Esk	-	-	75	136	804	1978	2225	4873	804	1698½	47	112	-	-	2.22	3955	8797½
Coastal Drift	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	59½	5	20	-	-	-	-	4.68	17	79½
South & West Cumbria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R. Ellen - HAAF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109	269¼	83	168	-	-	2.28	192	437¼
Duddon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5½	9	25¼	1	3½	-	-	3.11	11	34¼
Leven	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3¼	7	25¼	1	6½	-	-	3.94	9	35½
Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3½	9	45	2	8½	-	-	4.75	12	57
Lune	-	-	-	-	123	542½	518	2143½	270	996¼	24	83	-	-	4.03	935	3765
Ribble	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	62	7	37	1	4	-	-	5.72	18	103
TOTAL	-	-	75	136	927	2520½	2768	7150	1220	3117½	159	385½	-	-	2.58	5149	13309½

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NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

CENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

31ST MARCH 1982

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 1982-83

1. On 1st March 1982, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a draft calendar of meetings for the Authority, Committees and Sub-Committees for the 'Authority Year' from June 1982 to June 1983 for submission to the Authority for consideration in accordance with Rule 1(3) of the Rules of the Authority at the Annual Meeting to be held on 14th June 1982.
2. The dates proposed for meetings of the Regional and Area Fisheries Advisory Committees are set out in the appendix hereto for the information of members. Any variations made at the Annual Meeting will be notified.

APPENDIX

REGIONAL AND AREA FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEESCALENDAR OF MEETINGS 1982-83

<u>ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TIME AND DATE OF MEETING</u>	
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	5th July 1982
Northern Area	2.30 p.m. Monday	11th October 1982
Central Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	13th October 1982
Southern Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	20th October 1982
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	8th November 1982
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	31st January 1983
Northern Area	2.30 p.m. Monday	28th March 1983
Central Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	30th March 1983
Southern Area	2.30 p.m. Wednesday	6th April 1983
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday	25th April 1983

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYCENTRAL AREA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE31ST MARCH 1982ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES - FORMAT

1. At their meeting on 14th October 1981 the Central Area Fisheries Advisory Committee recommended:-

"That in order to reduce the costs incurred by the Authority in printing and issuing fishing licences, the following procedures be investigated: blank, standard fishing licences together with self-adhesive stamps indicating the type of licence and cost be printed and issued to distributors who on payment of the requisite fee by a purchaser would affix the appropriate stamp to a blank licence."

2. Two options seem open to the Authority in redesigning the present format. These are to re-design the present licence in a standardised printing arrangement using self adhesive stamps but still with counterfoil or a more radical change to licence cards also using self adhesive stamps. If the stamp system is to be used as an indicator of the category of licence, duty stamps will have to be printed for the 12 categories of licence which the Authority will issue for 1983. That is, the four tier system multiplied by the full, concessionary and seven day options.
3. Distribution and collection costs of the present licence forms (which are fastened together in booklets of 10 licences and 10 counterfoils) are not identified as a separate item in the Division costings, but the total cost of printing licences for 1982 was £4,200.
4. There are approximately 350 approved distribution outlets for the sale of Authority licences and, if the licences are in a re-designed booklet format, the distributors would still be responsible for completing personal details of the licence holder and time and date of issue before affixing the appropriate duty stamp. However, by using this booklet there would still be a carbon copy showing to whom the licence was issued, together with time and date of issue. For financial control each stamp would have to be transcribed to the carbon copy of the licence form. This in effect, would be additional work for licence distributors. With a re-designed format, on the above basis, there would be a marginal saving on printing and distribution costs. The estimated costs for 1982 on such a basis would have been £4,150.
5. The licence card system which has been in use with another Water Authority for several years, has a more attractive layout and sense of durability than the present licence and has advantages in terms of distribution and storage. The procedure used for these cards is that the person requiring the licence completes his/her personal details at the distribution point. The card does not, however, become a valid

licence until the distributor has inserted the time and date of issue, affixed the self-adhesive numbered stamp appropriate to the duty payable and cancelled the stamp manually or with his business rubber stamp. The cost of printing licence cards, including catch return cards, would be considerably less than the existing or re-designed booklet system. However, like the previous alternative, printing of duty stamps would still be necessary. Estimated cost for 1982 - £1,209.

6. There is no copy or counterfoil to be maintained by distributors and this is a significant saving in time taken in issuing and in storage space for distributors. As there is no copy or counterfoil, a warning to the licence holder is printed conspicuously on both sides of the licence to the effect that should the licence be lost or mislaid a duplicate cannot be issued.
7. To the angler who loses his licence this would be cause for apprehension, irritation and another payment. However, it has far greater significance if the angler is asked to produce the licence by a bailiff or other authorised person and is unable to do so. Many anglers when asked to produce a licence claim that they have left it at home. In some cases this is genuine, but in others false and no licence is actually held. Under the terms of section 35(3), Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 they are then granted 7 days to produce their licence or proof of purchase. If they do not produce a licence or proof of purchase within the 7 days prosecution normally follows. The card system without a copy or counterfoil means that the angler who has lost a licence is in no different position from others who have not purchased a licence but claim to possess one when questioned. In considering prosecution it would be virtually impossible for the Authority to distinguish between the cases and both would be at the risk of prosecution. Whether asked to produce a licence or not, the onus would be on anglers to avoid their loss.
8. Apart from this aspect, the use of the licence card and stamp system has considerable advantages over the existing method including simplification of completion at distribution outlets, savings in printing cost and the end of the year records are reduced from a bulk of unused and completed licence forms and counterfoils to unused stamps. The Committee should appreciate that if the simplified licence card system is introduced, reversal to a more complex system in future would probably be met with considerable opposition by distributors. The officers are of the view that the licence card and stamp system has considerable merit and should be introduced in time for the 1983 season. The Committee is invited to consider and comment upon the proposals.