

EASTERN REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Re

STRATEGY 2008-2013

Summary

The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board is a statutory authority charged with the protection of the inland fisheries within its jurisdiction and to ensure that these are conserved, promoted, managed and utilised in a sustainable manner.

The region extends from the border with Northern Ireland and the Loughs Agency in the North to the south Wexford coast including all the catchments which enter the sea between these boundaries. It contains many valuable coarse and game fisheries, as a large portion of the area (over 30%) comprises of sea consequently the sea fishery is of particular importance. The following is a list of all of the catchments in the Region: Rivers Fane, Glyde, Dee, Boyne, Liffey, Avoca, Slaney, Big, Ballymascanlon, Termonfeckin, Nanny, Delvin, Turvey, Broadmeadow, Ward, Tolka, Dodder, Shanganagh, Dargle, Potters, Inch, Vartry, Owenavarragh, Sow and Duncormack. The Board is also responsible for a portion of the Monaghan Blackwater within the State.

Functions

- Protection of fisheries and the enforcement of the Fisheries Act
- The Board must plan for the future in five year cycles
- The Board must take special care of the fisheries which are entrusted to it
- It must promote the better management of all the regions' fisheries
- It is required to encourage, promote, market and develop angling for salmon, trout, coarse and sea fish
- It is obliged to promote, organise and encourage development of voluntary Catchment Management within its region

Mission Statement

‘To ensure that the valuable natural resources of inland fisheries and sea angling are conserved, managed, developed and promoted in their own right and to support sustainable economic activity and job creation’. (Central and Regional Fisheries Boards)

Goals 2008-2013

- To design and implement appropriate conservation programmes for all fish species, through a process of consultation with stakeholders
- To improve water quality and preserve, protect and enhance aquatic habitats in rivers, lakes and estuaries in the Region
- To develop our rivers, lakes and estuaries to a high standard
- To market the angling product to appropriate target markets based on market research and in keeping with the Board’s National marketing strategy
- To increase environmental awareness of the fisheries resource
- To increase public awareness of the Board’s functions and services
- To work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver an effective and efficient service within the Board
- To secure funding to implement programmes

Draft Programmes and Objectives 2008-2013

| <i>Programme</i> | <i>Key Objective</i> |
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| <i>Habitat Conservation & Protection</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide information on fish stocks and aquatic habitats on all catchments in order to meet requirements of the Water Framework Directive, in association with Fisheries Boards and River Basin Management Groups• Improve spawning and nursery habitats for salmonids• Monitor the quality of the aquatic environment by improving Q values• Reduce incidences of point and diffuse sources of pollution• Minimise impact of infrastructural developments on the aquatic |

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| | <p>environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce impact of predation on fish stocks • Promote the co-operation of other agencies whose work may impact on inland fisheries • Carry out rehabilitation and restoration works including bank stabilisation, weir creation and tree/ shrub clearance and pruning |
| <i>Resource Investment</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources for staff to ensure the most productive and effective use of time for the benefit of inland fisheries • Maintain the quality of public fisheries • Maintain access to coarse fisheries • Improve the effectiveness of fish counters in the Region |
| <i>Product Development (Marketing & Promotion)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market and promote the Region's premier fisheries to the target markets in accordance with the national strategy and the new salmon angling regulations • Promote and encourage the public to avail of the opportunity to invest in inland fisheries • Educate children in the importance of the aquatic environment • Improve quality of website • Improve Board's profile |
| <i>Networking, Partnering & Communication</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a professional service to the angling public • Develop structures to ensure enhanced co-operation with all agencies • Co-operate and co-ordinate with other Boards for the provision of an effective inland fisheries service • Continue working towards the restoration of the Avoca rivers as a salmon and sea trout fishery |
| <i>Regulation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the stakeholders of the new regulations proposed and in force, game, coarse and sea • Police the Region to ensure compliance with the new fishery regulations on land and at sea • Carry out aerial patrols, check for illegal activity and potential pollution sources • Reduce the cost of enforcement in particular for technical offences |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor quota and ensure it is not exceeded and implement tagging programme, ensuring the various laws are obeyed on the various river systems |
| <p><i>Administration</i> / <i>Corporate Governance</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the Board’s statutory responsibilities are fulfilled • Comply with health and safety requirements • Comply with employment legislation • Operate within the sanctions and resources provided • Comply with general legislation • Maximum benefit and management from own resources • Maintain internal controls • Manage and protect the Board’s assets • Co-operate and co-ordinate with other Board’s the provision of an inland fisheries service • Improve morale and service to staff • Monitor EU programmes • Increase staff usage of GIS and utilize national form for capture of data • Continue implementation of risk management and establish a risk management register |