



Central Fisheries Board

An Príomh-Bhord Iascaigh

**Report to the Minister for Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources**

From the

Central Fisheries Board

**On its activities during 2007 and those of each
Regional Fisheries Board and Fisheries Cooperative
Society**



April 2008

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, recreational amenity and job creation.

The Fisheries Boards

The Fisheries Boards are the statutory agencies responsible for inland fisheries in Ireland and operate under the aegis of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

The principal functions of the Central Fisheries Board are to:

- advise the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources on policy relating to the conservation, protection, management, development and improvement of inland fisheries;
- support, co-ordinate and provide specialist support services to the seven Regional Fisheries Boards; and,
- advise the Minister on the performance by Regional Fisheries Boards of their functions.

The seven Regional Fisheries Boards have responsibility for conservation, protection, development, management and promotion of inland fisheries in their regions. They have a duty to co-ordinate and co-operate in the delivery of a national fisheries service, observing principles of sustainability, biodiversity and the conservation of all species in inland water ecosystems.

Central Fisheries Board Members

Mr. David Mackey (Chairperson)

Ms. Mary Bohan

Mr. Éamon de Buitléar

Mr. Paddy Byrne

Mr. Eamon Cusack

Ms. Paula Carroll

Mr. John Henry McLaughlin

Mr. Myles Kelly

Mr. Naul McCole

Senior Management Team

Mr. John O' Connor	Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Cathal Gallagher	Director of Field Services
Mr. David Byrne	Director of Promotion and Marketing
Mr. Kieran Murphy	Director of Human Resources
Ms. Nuala O'Byrne	Director of Finance and ICT
Dr. Ciaran Byrne	Director of Research and Development

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Chairmans Statement

Welcome to the 2007 Annual Report for the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards. This report presents a summary of the services and programmes provided by the Boards during 2007.

I am pleased to report that the Chairpersons and CEOs of the Central and Regional Boards, have in partnership, developed a proposal aimed at optimising the structure and operation of our fisheries service. This initiative is well advanced and we look forward to the introduction of a new management model for inland fisheries in the near future.

When penning this report last year we outlined the significant conservation changes proposed for salmon and the introduction of a new regime for management of the commercial and angling catches. As a result of the Minister's decision and the associated legislation in relation to conservation of salmon, the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards successfully implemented a new salmon management regime in 2007. This was an exceptional achievement, successful due to the expert coordination, communication and planning of the management and staff of the Boards.

The Board also recognised the significant contribution made by tourism and recreational angling to the Irish economy and to improving the quality of people's lives. In 2007 the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards continued to work in a coordinated manner with their tourism partners, government agencies and the industry in delivering the Angling Tourism Marketing Strategy and the development of recreational angling for all.

The Central Fisheries Board conformed to all corporate governance requirements as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This was achieved while coordinating and delivering specialist research and development support services to the Regional Fisheries Boards in accordance with the Board's business plans. All of the services delivered were completed while recognising the Board's "value for money" ethos, an example of which was the use of centralised procurement facilities for purchasing fleet and patrol boats which enabled significant savings to be achieved. In

support of good business practice the CFB produced a Strategic Plan which sets out in detail the objectives and measures of success for the organisation over the next 3 years.

The Board published a compendium of reports on the current research & development projects. These reports are written and produced in a manner that is attractive and understandable to all stakeholders.

Work on the Water Framework Directive project, in its second year, will intensify significantly during 2008. This research is very significant as it will give an insight into the status of inland fish species and their environment on a national basis. The challenges and potential benefits from this research programme are of an unprecedented scale and will require a coordinated effort from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards. Regular updates on the Water Framework Directive are available on the Board's website along with updates on other research.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members, the CEO and staff of the Central Fisheries Board for their expert and excellent contribution over the past year. I would also like to thank our colleagues in the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and in the Regional Fisheries Boards for their continued cooperation and support.



David Mackey

Chairman

April 2007

Comment of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr John O' Connor

This report sets out what the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and the Fisheries Cooperative Societies have been engaged in during 2007 to advance the management of the inland fisheries and sea angling sectors in Ireland. It was a very successful year for the Boards with a number of major new initiatives initiated and delivered. This annual report details these achievements. .

All of the Boards adopted the Government's Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in 2006 and they continued to abide by its principles in 2007. The 2006 annual accounts were cleared and signed off by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2007. The fisheries service received a vote of €28.6 million from the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources of which the Central Fisheries Board received a €5.7 million grant.

Under the 'Towards 2016' agreement the Fisheries Boards developed a comprehensive and challenging modernisation programme and work on this programme continued in 2007. The Board maintained stable industrial relations, delivered the National Training Programme and also provided Health & Safety support to the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards. One of the main challenges going forward is the restructuring of the Inland Fisheries sector while continuing delivery of the Modernisation Programme and maintaining existing supports and services to all Regional Fisheries Boards. The Central Fisheries Board worked with the Chairmen and CEO's of the Regional Fisheries Boards and the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources to advance the restructuring of the inland fisheries sector.

The Boards applied Research and Development programme focused on delivering an enhanced understanding of our diverse fresh water and diadromous fish species and their environments. Over 50 Research & Development projects were progressed by staff in the Division during 2007. Many of these projects were undertaken in cooperation with colleagues in other state agencies including Waterways Ireland, the Office of Public Works, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Marine Institute. In addition, scientists in the Division provided a comprehensive advisory and support service to the Regional Fisheries Boards. As the scope of the projects worked on by

Board scientists is extensive, to support an understanding of their work the Board has published summaries of each of the projects in their Research Project Summary document which is available on the Boards website on www.cfb.ie .

In 2007 scientists with help from Regional Fisheries Boards staff commenced the Water Framework Directive fish sampling programme. 15 lakes were sampled in the Eastern, North Western, Western and Shannon Regions. The estuaries of the River Barrow, Nore and Suir were also sampled. Over the three year cycle of the programme scientists from the Water Framework Directive team along with Regional Fisheries Board staff will sample the fish communities from 179 river sites, 76 lake sites and 40 artificially modified waters. While 2007 was a very successful year for the Water Framework Directive the main body of the programme will commence in 2008 when the scientific team will be at full complement.

2007 was a very productive and successful year for the Angling Marketing Division who worked in partnership with a range of other agencies involved in angling promotion including Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, the Loughs Agency and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure Northern Ireland and Waterways Ireland. Angling promotion staff from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards attended an expanded programme of 15 specialist shows in Ireland, the UK, Holland, France, Germany and the USA and had significant success in promoting Ireland as a premier angling destination.

Board staff also produced a suite of angling brochures for a range of species and products, including salmon and sea trout, wild brown trout, pike, coarse angling, and sea angling. These brochures highlighted the best Ireland has to offer for each species / product through the promotion of centres of excellence. As well as being produced in English many of the key brochures have also been translated in to French.

These marketing initiatives were further supported by an increased focus on e-publishing and many of the brochures are currently available on the Central Fisheries Board website. In 2007 the Central Fisheries Board piloted a suite of angling marketing websites in French, Dutch and German in addition to the English language

site. This innovative marketing programme resulted in over 1.5 million page views in 2007.

2007 was also a successful year for fisheries education. Staff from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards worked in partnership with educational centres throughout the country to communicate the importance of the fisheries resource and its place in our natural heritage to young people through the “Something Fishy” programme. This collaborative approach to active learning has transformed the way the curriculum is experienced by teachers and students alike by providing hands on learning opportunities to all concerned. It is planned to extend and develop this programme in 2008 and beyond.

The strong focus on conservation of the wild Irish Salmon continued in 2007 with the move to management of salmon stocks on an individual river basis. This involved setting salmon harvest limits for a river based on a scientific assessment of available stocks for that particular river. 148 rivers have been identified as salmon rivers. In 2007, 36 of these rivers were opened for recreational salmon angling and of these 22 had a commercial fishery on them and only 17 had a recorded catch. An additional 8 rivers were opened for catch and release angling on the basis that these rivers all achieved at least 65% of their conservation limit. The remaining 104 rivers were closed for all exploitation. The salmon conservation measures and policy changes introduced in 2007 required a coordinated and positive approach by all stakeholders. The successful implementation of this new salmon management regime is a credit to all involved.

The impact of the new policies was a 73% decrease in the wild salmon catch from 108,661 in 2006 to 28,454 in 2007. The Boards also focused on salmon enhancement with a large number of projects funded via the new Conservation Stamp fund. This fund was collected from a 50% conservation levy introduced in the 2007 angling licence. The Central Fisheries Board liaised with the Regional Fisheries Boards to develop and manage the 2007 fisheries protection programme for the Large Patrol Vessels (LPV), and manage a joint patrol program with the Air Corps and Naval Services. In 2007 126 LPV patrol days were completed resulting in 6,500m of illegal nets being seized and eight prosecutions being initiated. Fisheries Board staff completed 60 patrol days with the Naval Service and participated in 17 Air Corps surveillance flights. The real success

of these programmes and initiatives will be measured by the availability of wild Irish salmon for the generations to come.

Finally, I would like to thank my chairman David Mackey, my Board members, the Regional Fisheries Boards and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources for their guidance and support over the past year. I would also like to compliment the staff of the Central Fisheries Board who continue to bring excellence and dedication to the work of the Board. I look forward with optimism to the challenges of the year ahead comforted by my knowledge of the support and expertise available throughout the service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Connor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John O'Connor
CEO
Central Fisheries Board.

Central Fisheries Board

Field Services

The Field Services Division of the Board delivered against its key targets outlined in the 2007 Business Plan. The National Programmes dealing with fisheries protection, salmon and sea trout tagging for which the division has operational responsibility were delivered on time and in line with budgets. The 2007 salmon conservation measures required the introduction of a new salmon management regime. In the development and implementation of salmon management tools the CFB played an important role in provision of advice, support and various services. The major policy change was a move to management of salmon stocks on a river catchment basis. The resulted legislation closed mixed stocks commercial fisheries and closed many fisheries to angling based on the salmon stock not meeting its conservation limit. The successful implementation of these difficult measures was achieved through excellent planning and coordination between all the stakeholders.

The protection and conservation of all inland species was supported by the continued development of policy and through the enactment of legislation in partnership with the RFBs, DCENR and other interested parties.

The continual strong focus on value for money in service delivery resulted in significant benefits accruing to the Central and a number of the Regional Boards, the most significant of which was delivered through the process for the centralised purchasing for fleet and boats.

In 2007 the CFB Strategic Plan was delivered which outlines the goals and objectives for our organisation for the period 2008 to 2010. The CFB coordinated with the Regional Fisheries Boards in delivery of quarterly performance metrics, as defined in the Service Level Agreement between the Central & Regional Boards and the Department, was implemented.

National Fisheries Protection Service

The Board coordinates the development and operation of the national fisheries protection plan which incorporates the inshore fisheries protection function of the Regional Fishery Boards, Naval Service, Air Corps and An Garda Siochanna.

The national protection plans' operations and strategies are both preventive and reactive and include the following:

- Intelligence driven deterrent ensuring the maximum visible presence in waters where the threat of illegal activity is greatest.
- Enforcement of legislation through prosecution of offenders and confiscation of illegal nets, equipment, tackle and catch.
- Effective coordination of all sea going protection capabilities (LPV, Naval Service, Regional RIB patrols) and maritime protection flights.

Boards Large Patrol Vessels (LPVs)

The Board manages the operation of two Large Patrol Vessels (LPVs) An Bradan Beatha and An Cosantoir Bradan. Both LPVs are an integral part of the national protection plan and operate within the regions with the support of the RFB fishery officers. In 2007 the number of LPV patrol days was reduced due to budgetary restrictions. See table 1. The Boards management of the LPVs includes:

- Provision of a contract with a shipping agency for the supply of professional crew and other marine services.
- Servicing of systems and equipment including the conformance with the requirements of the Marine Survey Office certification and all mandatory servicing of life saving equipment.
- Management of the budgets in relation to all aspects of the day to day running of the vessels.
- Management of the day to day patrol operations.

	2005	2006	2007
No of LPV Patrol Vessel Days	316	308	126
No of Naval Service Patrol Days	72	64	60
LPV No of Sightings/Checks	770	870	340
LPV No. of Miles on Patrol	18,242	17,350	10,556
No of Air Corps Maritime Patrols	14	16	17
Illegal Net Seized LPV (m)	14,500	11,500	6,500
LPV & Naval Prosecutions	19	13	8

Table 1: Details of the National Protection Programme Operations 2007.

Procurement Services

The Board coordinates the procurement through the Government Supplies Agency (GSA) of all vehicles for the Central & Regional Fishery Boards. This represented a saving of approximately 22% on the equivalent retail price (€248k) of the vehicles purchased in 2007. The Board also provided a central purchasing service for the Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs), in 2007 the regional boards received 7 RIBs delivering them over €30k in savings. Central procurement ensured:

- Value for Money for the Central & Regional Fishery Boards
- Compliance with corporate governance
- Non duplication of the tender process

Field Services coordinates the purchase and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), safety equipment and general field equipment for the Central Fisheries Board. This ensures the availability of functional serviced equipment for the field operational staff.

The Central Fisheries Board also provides the following support services for the Regional Boards:

- Provision of marine safety notices and marine advisory service.
- Technical certification & safety of all sea going Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs).

- Design and build consultancy for all new boats.
- Design and specification of weather proof clothing and dry suits.
- Coordination of fleet vehicle purchase
- Technical specification of specialist equipment.

Wild Salmon and Sea trout Tagging Scheme

This is the seventh year of the wild salmon and sea trout tagging scheme for which the CFB provides a service in planning, implementation and monitoring. The 2007 salmon season has delivered a new salmon management regime¹ driven by the need for conservation and based on scientific advice. The Board was involved in strategy development, advising, reviewing legislation, and provision of service to enable the roll out of the changes in salmon management.

The move to “single stock management” necessitated management of salmon catches on a river by river basis, where fishing (commercial & angling) is only permitted where the river has met its salmon conservation limit. River conservation limits resulted in the closure for salmon and sea trout fishing of 103 rivers², with 7 open for catch and release³. The introduction of single stock management led to the cessation of drift netting or any other form of harvesting outside rivers and estuaries⁴. These decisions were supported by government with the introduction of a “Hardship Scheme” which allowed a voluntary buyout to all commercial salmon licence holders who held a licence for the 2006 season. This “Hardship Scheme” was administered by BIM and the Regional Fisheries Boards.

As an additional conservation measure a system of brown gill tags⁵ was introduced where it was considered necessary to protect stock of multi sea winter salmon and to closely monitor the angling quotas to ensure river based quotas are not exceeded.

Full details on commercial and recreational salmon and sea trout catches can be found in the 2006 & 2007 Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics report.

¹ (s.i. no. 672 of 2006) wild salmon and sea trout tagging scheme (no. 2) regulations 2006.

² Conservation of salmon & sea trout bye-law no. c.s. 290, 2007

³ Conservation of salmon & sea trout bye-law no. 815, 2007.

⁴ Salmon and trout conservation (driftnets, snapnets, and other engines) bye-law no. 822, 2007

⁵ (s.i. no. 209 of 2007) wild salmon and sea trout tagging scheme (brown tags) regulations 2006.

Salmon Catch		
	2006	2007
Total salmon catch	108,661	28,240
Total commercial salmon catch	86,176	8,843
Salmon angling catch	22,485	19,397
No. caught & released	5,409	13,000

Table 2: Details of the Salmon Catch.

Licence & Logbooks		
	2006	2007
Angling licences sold	27,341	19,879
% Logbook return	68%	65%
No of nationalities who purchased licence	55	55

Table 3: Details of the licence sales and log book returns.

The Bradán Database is the IT tool used to capture salmon licensing and catch information. In 2007 the Board continued development of this database with its integration with an online licensing system (see table 3). This web based tool offers the angler the capability to purchase a salmon licence from the comfort of home at any time of the day or night with the licence and tags despatched to the customer by the chosen Regional Board. In 2008 a further development is planned where an online system will be made available to the larger retail outlets.

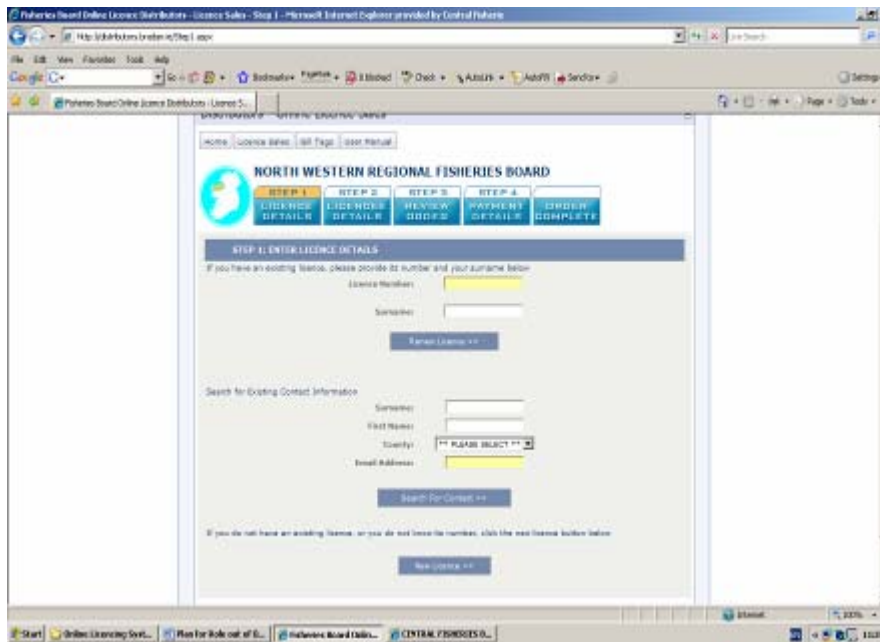


Table 4: Online licensing system.

The online licensing system is another step in moving toward real-time data management and in automation of management reports; a goal of the CFB is the generation of real-time angling catches to facilitate better and more efficient decision making for all stakeholders involved in Salmon Management. The CFB continued to provide a Secretarial Service to the National Salmon Commission in 2007.

Salmon Conservation Stamp Process

On December 4th 2006, the Central Fisheries Board received a Ministerial Direction under section 18A, 19(4) and 20(3) of the Fisheries Act 1980 directing the Board to coordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for rehabilitation of salmon stocks giving priority to rivers below their conservation limits in special areas of conservation which have the greatest prospect of recovery..

This programme was to be funded by the proceeds of the salmon conservation stamp component of the salmon licence fees. In 2007 the salmon license fee was doubled for all classes of license to provide funds for the conservation programme. A Class 'A' license which had cost €64 in 2006, cost €128 in 2007, €64 for the license fee and €64 for the Salmon Conservation Fund.

An Implementation Committee made up of representatives from Central Fisheries Board, Shannon Regional Fisheries Board and North Western Regional Fisheries Board received project proposals from the Regional Fisheries Boards. Each project was assessed according to the criteria identified in the terms of reference, and a numeric score between 2.0 and 10.0 was attached to each criterion.

The Implementation Committee decided on a cut off point at a score of 7.5, below which projects would be re assessed prior to being funded.

The first allocation of Conservation Stamp funding took place in early October 2007 when €181,275 was distributed to the Regional Fisheries Boards on the basis of the project scores. This allowed for all projects with scores of 10.0, 9.5, and 9 to be fully funded.. The remaining funding, €48,286, was divided between projects with a score of 8.5 on a pro rata basis, meaning that each project was 49% funded.

Region	River	Project	Est cost (€)	Funding (€)
S	Dinan	Fish pass	29,000	29,000
E	Mattock	Rehabilitation	20,000	20,000
E	Avoca	Smolt rescue	10,000	10,000
NW	Glenamoy	Nursery enhancement	30,000	30,000
N	Glen	Spawning enhancement	4,500	4,500
N	Glen	Erosion remediation	8,000	8,000
N	Glen	Erosion remediation	5,000	5,000
S	Drish	Rehabilitation	10,000	10,000
E	Dargle	Spawning enhancement	1,500	1,500
Sh	Annageeragh	Fish passage assessment	10,000	10,000
W	Carrowniskey	Bank protection	5,000	5,000
E	Urinn	Spawning enhancement	5,000	2,488.50
E	Bann	Rehabilitation	3,000	1,493.10
Sh	Maigue	Walk over survey	12,000	5,972.40
Sh	Maigue	Rehabilitation	50,000	24,885.10
N	Claddy/Crolly	Bank protection	4,000	
E	Dundalk district	Spawning enhancement	23,000	1,990.80
N	Eske	Pruning and enhancement	2,500	11,447.10
TOTAL				181,276.90

Table 5: Details of the first allocation of Conservation Stamp funds

The second batch of Conservation Stamp Funding was allocated in December 2007. On this occasion €160,728 was allocated between the Regional Fisheries Boards. Projects

with a score of 8.5 received the remaining 51% of funding outstanding from the first allocation, projects with a score of 8.0 were fully funded and projects with a score of 7.5 were 52% funded. .

Region	River	Project	Est cost (€)	Funding (€)
E	Urinn	Spawning enhancement	5,000	2,511.50
E	Bann	Rehabilitation	3,000	1,506.90
Sh	Maigue	Walk over survey	12,000	6,027.60
Sh	Maigue	Rehabilitation	50,000	25,115
N	Claddy/Crollly	Bank protection	4,000	2,009.20
E	Dundalk district	Spawning enhancement	23,000	2,009.20
N	Eske	Pruning and enhancement	2,500	11,552.90
E	Liffey	Spawning enhancement	2,000	2,000
E	Vartry	Spawning enhancement	1,500	1,500
W	Gleninagh	Bank protection	2,500	2,500
W	Costello	Fencing	2,500	2,500
W	Glencoghan	Bank protection	2,500	1,301.23
W	Erriff	Bank protection	2,500	5,204.90
W	Owenmore	Bank clearance	5,000	2,602.45
N	Gweebarra	Bank enhancement	12,000	6,245.88
N	Gweebarra	Bank stabilisation	5,000	2,602.45
SW	Blackwater	Bankside work	123,000	64,020.27
W	Recess	River enhancement	10,000	5,204.90
W	Lough Inagh	Bank protection	5,000	2,602.45
W	Owenmore	Spawning enhancement	2,500	1,301.23
W	Sreebe	Spawning enhancement	5,000	2,602.45
S	Allow/Dalua	Spawning enhancement	15,000	7,807.35
TOTAL				160,727

Table 6: Details of the second allocation of Conservation Stamp funds

Given that the two allocations of conservation stamp funding took place in October and December 2007, when it was not possible to do any rehabilitation works in salmonid rivers (as fish spawn in the rivers during this period) most of the Regional Fisheries Boards did not commence their programme of works until early 2008.

As a result scientists from the Central Fisheries Board made a proposal to the National Fisheries Management Executive (NFME) to use the third allocation of Conservation Stamp funds to progress a number of studies (originally started in 2007) looking at the assessment of attainment of conservation limits (CL) in a range of catchments throughout the country. The proposal identified two key areas of research, 1) using

catchment wide electrofishing to build up an index of juvenile salmon abundance which can then be used to assess attainment of the conservation limit and 2) using PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tag and radio tag technology to assess full salmon runs where there is only a partial counter in place and also assess the survival of salmon caught and released by angling. This proposal required €200,000, €15,000 to fund Central Fisheries Board scientists to undertake catchment wide electrofishing and conduct various PIT / Radio tag experiments, and €5,000 to resource and train up Regional Fisheries Board teams in the catchment wide electrofishing process. A summary of the income received from each Board and paid out to each Board in 2007 is provided in Table 7.

Regional Fishery Board	1st Allocation of Funding	2nd Allocation of Funding	3rd Allocation of Funding	Total Funded to RFB's	Total Received from RFB's
Eastern	€46,929	€9,528		€56,456	€31,026
Southern	€39,000	€7,807		€46,807	€71,562
South		€4,020		€4,020	€18,667
Western					
Shannon	€40,857	€1,143		€42,000	€49,831
Western	€5,000	€5,820		€10,820	€69,354
North – Western	€30,000	€0		€30,000	€189,641
Northern	€19,491	€2,410		€21,901	€103,779
Central			€200,000	€200,000	
Total	€181,277	€160,728	€200,000	€542,005	€636,016

Table 7: Details of Conservation Stamp funds received from and paid out to RFB's in 2007

Conservation Stamp funds will be collected again in 2008. It is envisaged that a similar amount, approximately €636,000 will be collected for salmon rehabilitation projects, however as many Boards are not in a position to remit funds until the last quarter of the year this funding will not be available for use until early 2009.

The first portion of the funds collected in 2008 will be used to fund the remaining 48% of projects with a score of 7.5. Once this happens all of the projects above the threshold will have been fully funded. At this point the implementation committee will invite

Regional Fisheries Boards to submit further projects for consideration. These additional projects will be assessed and funded accordingly.

Catch & Release Incentive Scheme



The Central and Regional Fishery Boards introduced a national incentive scheme to encourage anglers to participate in catch and release when angling for wild Atlantic salmon. The scheme is intended to acknowledge anglers who practice catch and release during the 2007 angling season. Catch & Release merit pins (see pictures below) were awarded on the following basis:

- Gold for fifteen salmon caught and released.



- Silver for between ten and fourteen salmon caught and released.



- Bronze for between five and nine salmon caught and released.



During the 2007 season the Catch & Release Incentive Scheme received 46 applicants who released in total 732 salmon. Based on this success it has been decided to continue this programme for 2008.

Policies

2007 saw the Board continue its policy development in keeping with the modernisation programme under T2016. With the new CFB warehouse coming online a specific warehouse management policy is being drafted in partnership with all stakeholders. To continue the 'value for money' ethos achieved by the central procurement of vehicles, a fleet management policy has also been drafted in partnership with all divisions in the CFB. A number of freshwater fish policies have also been drafted including brown trout, pike, coarse fish and hatcheries. These are currently under review awaiting final implementation.

State Fisheries

The CFB has approximately 166 state fisheries under its control. Through a standard and transparent process we have successfully licensed 78 fisheries to 44 Angling Clubs and Associations during 2007. Based on the salmon conservation limit 52 of the licensed fisheries were open and 26 were closed for angling. For the 2008 season the board of the CFB agreed to reduce the licence fee for closed rivers to an administration fee of €100 plus the rates fee associated with the river.

In late 2007 the Minister set out the Terms of Reference for a review into the management of state fisheries. This review will look at the management of all state fisheries, not just the fisheries currently under the ownership and management Central Fisheries Board. The Board will manage this review and provide secretariat. It is expected that this review will deliver its report late in 2008.

Customer Service

The Central Fisheries Board had a successful year in Customer Service delivering on the government service Modernisation Programme and Quality Customer Service initiative (QCS). All customer queries in 2007 were responded to in a timely manner to comply with our commitments under the Central Fisheries Board's customer charter

and in line with the Public Service Modernisation Programme and Quality Customer Service initiative (QCS).

In 2007, the Board's Customer Service Officer answered one hundred and ninety nine Customer requests which represents an increase of 82% from 2006.

The Board will continue to progress Quality Customer Service for the coming year in line with our Customer Charter, and improve further the delivery of a service reflecting customer satisfaction and value for money.

Human Resources

Training & Development

The Central & Regional Fisheries Boards (C&RFBs) invested €135k in their National Development & Training Programme in 2007. The plan, developed annually, with input from the Central & Regional Fisheries Boards addresses the key developmental and training needs of the organisation.

The key areas of development and training addressed in the national training plan were:

- Health & Safety training
- LPV & RIB Training with the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI)
- Induction training
- Job Skills development;
- Third level education support in the Higher National Certificate in Fisheries Management and other programmes;
- Management Development programme

The third cohort of 14 students attending the Higher National Certificate in Fisheries Management successfully completed their course in Sligo I.T. in June 2007.

The total number of training days for the C&RFB for 2007 was 2,373 which was an average of 4.5 days per staff member (including days attributed to attendance at Sligo I.T.) Excluding attendance at the HNCFM at Sligo I.T. the average training per person in 2007 was 1.6 days.

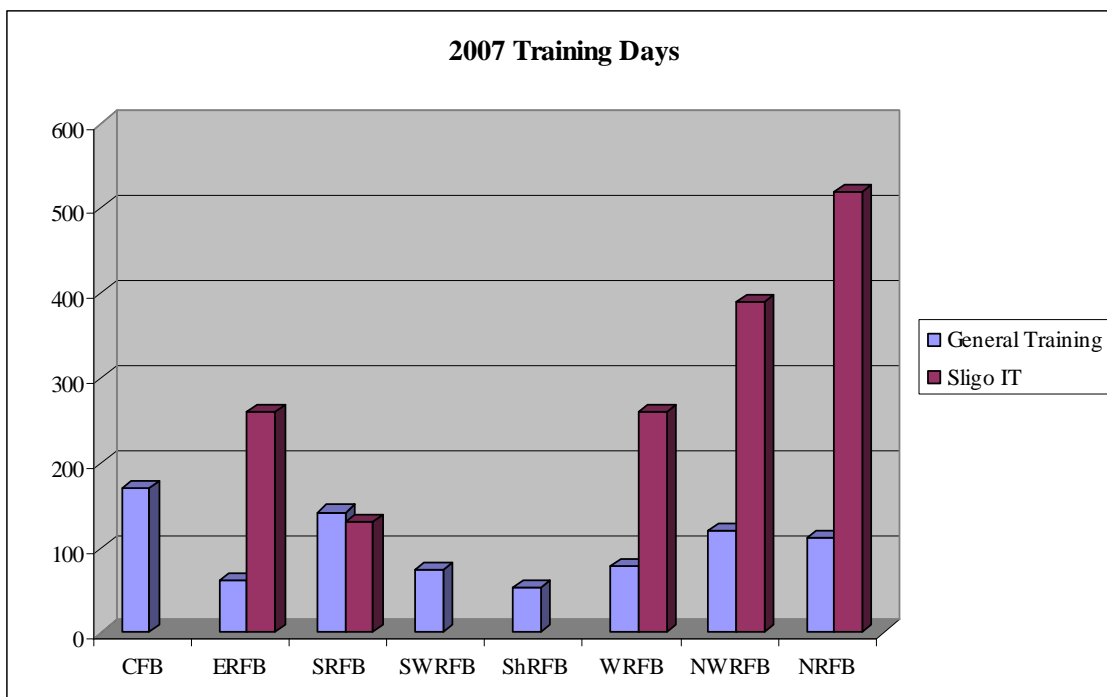


Figure A: Number of training days for 2007.

Freedom of Information (FOI) 2007

There were 34 new requests for information made to the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards in 2007, under the *Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003*. The breakdown of requests was as follows:

- Clients: 25
- Others: 9

The decisions made by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards on the release of information under the *FOI Acts 1997 & 2003* throughout 2006 were as follows:

- 28 were Granted
- 4 were Part-granted
- 4 were Refused

2 decisions were appealed internally.

Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Fisheries Board is in accordance with the Principal Officer (higher) scale which ranges from €2,913 to €14,581. The remuneration of Chief Executive Officers of the Regional Fisheries Boards is in accordance with the Principal Officer (standard) scale which ranges from €5,353 to €105,807

Employee Relations.

2007 saw continued progress being made with our staff and Trade Unions across a broad range of issues, including:

- The development of an approved revised modernisation template under the terms of Towards 2016 National Agreement during the first quarter of 2007.
- The successful submission of the first update report of advances made against modernisation targets set in the template, during the third quarter of 2007.
- The development of 20 revised Human Resource Policies, to final draft stage in partnership with the Trade Unions.
- Maintained and built on our excellent working relationships with staff and Trade Unions thus maintaining stable industrial relations.
- Provided input to the manpower planning aspect of the Water Framework Project proposal.

Recruitment

2007 again proved to be very busy on the recruitment front with a total of 22 recruitment campaigns conducted on behalf of the Central Board. Staff also assisted a number of the Regional Boards in recruitment campaigns, ranging from the appointment of Assistant Chief Executive Officer to Fishery Officer.

One significant matter to report is that during 2007 the full complement of five Directors were recruited to the Central Board, thus providing a strong management base to drive the business forward into the future.

Partnership

The Partnership framework established in 2006 in the Central Board continued in 2007. A number of ongoing topics were progressed including the development of a draft work / life balance policy. Other areas where a partnership approach was adopted was the fit out of the new laboratory and the development of an initial specification / layout for the new warehouse.

Health & Safety

Since the introduction of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005 and more recently the implementation of the General Application Regulations, 2007, the challenge of Health & Safety Risk Management has become an ever greater. Undaunted the Board has shown its commitment to promoting health & safety by not only complying with standards; but promoting and encouraging the continual improvement of workplace safety and health. The board endeavours to create a culture in which safety, health & welfare are intrinsic in the tasks accomplished in a diverse range of working environments. The foremost achievements in 2007 have included:

- The drafting of a new Safety Statement for the Central Fisheries Board.
- Implementation of an on-going risk management system for the Boards fish farms.
- An extensive occupational health screening programme was co-ordinated for the regional boards.
- The on-going management of the Employee Assistance Programme nationally with continuous promotion of the service to staff.
- The redevelopment of the staff health & safety induction programme to meet the most recent changes in legislation.
- Co-ordination of the Departmental Sectoral plan has led to the successful training and appointment of Access Officers to all boards.
- A new safety statement for the regional boards was adopted to comply with recent changes in health and safety legislation.
- Vaccination programmes are on going in compliance with the Biological Agents Regulations.
- Noise monitoring risk assessments were conducted for the Boards.

- Ergonomic assessments were conducted for regional office staff.
- Support, advice, investigations, hazard identification, risk assessment and recommendations were made to the regional boards as requested throughout the year.

Finance & ICT

Financial Management

General Financial Management

The Boards accounts were prepared and submitted under full compliance with our statutory obligations under paragraph 10.2(iii) of the Code of practice for the Governance of State bodies

Financial Accounts

The audit process commenced, on the 2006 financial accounts in June 2007, and was fully signed off by October 2007.

Internal Audit

Deloitte & Touche reported on four areas of internal audit in 2007 (fish farm operations, other income, procurement and internal financial controls) a further audit on Corporate Governance took place with the findings report due at the 1st audit committee meeting of 2008.

Funding for 2007

In 2007 the Fisheries Boards received an exchequer grant of €28.6 million, of which €18.3 million or 64% of the total grant received was allocated towards pay costs. €1.25 million was allocated to salmon stock rehabilitation and €1.3 million was allocated to national programmes, which were co-ordinated by the Board. The Boards also generated €6.7 million from other sources which was reinvested in the management, conservation and protection of Inland Fisheries.

The Boards also generated €0.636 million from the new Salmon Conservation Stamp fund. Of this €0.542 million was disbursed in 2007 for reinvestment in the management, conservation and protection of Inland Fisheries.

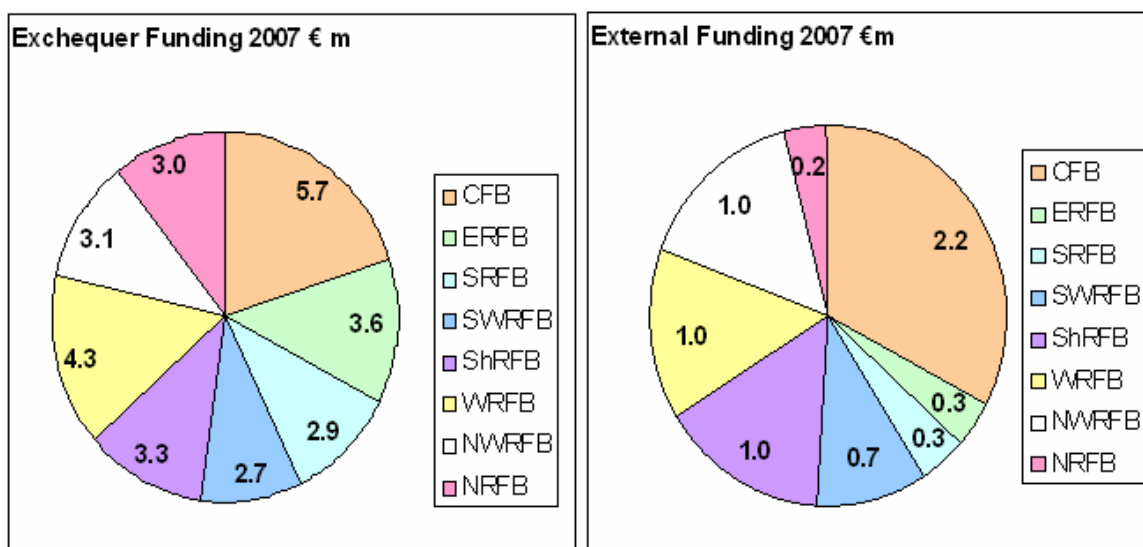


Figure B: Central and Regional Boards funding for 2007.

Property Management

In 2007 work was completed on the fit out of the new laboratory facilities in Swords Business Campus on schedule and within budget. Work commenced on the new warehouse facility in the last quarter of 2007 with a completion date for the fit out works scheduled for the end of the first quarter of 2008.

Information and communications technology

ICT Strategy / Systems

The Board has continued to develop, enhance and invest in its ICT systems as identified in the ICT strategy.

With the new Water Laboratory coming on line, the Board internal data infrastructure has been expanded and supported by the addition of new technology. Communications between head office and the laboratory now operates over a dedicated fibre optic link, which provides fast and secure data transfer.

Roscrea fish farm has been upgraded to communicate via a VPN remote link to the Board offices based in Swords. This enables instant secure communication of E-Mail traffic between the two sites. With the addition of wireless broadband to the farm,

future expansion to the farm data network without the cost of cable installation throughout the site is a viable and real prospect.

Recently the Board has expanded its data recovery and backup routine. Every evening critical data is backed up via secure encrypted links to off site locations in mainland Europe. This encrypted data is archived and indexed for easy retrieval in the event of a disaster.

Research and Development

The Research and Development Division has four principal functional areas: provision of an advisory service, fish stock assessment, national obligations under two key European Directives the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Habitats Directive (HD), and the fisheries environment and biodiversity programme.

Under the National Fish Stock Assessment Programme a range of studies dealing with many different species were undertaken, including monitoring conservation and transitional waters fish species and tagging marine sportsfish. In 2007 significant advances were made by the CFB, (the agency nominated for monitoring fish species in the governing legislation), with regard to the management and delivery of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Irish legislation for the implementation of the Habitats Directive identifies the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, along with the Minister for the Environment, as having a role in undertaking investigations on the status of qualifying fish species. This task has been advanced by the CFB, working closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Externally funded research collaborations continued in a range of areas during 2007 and these are reported on in more detail in the Research & Development Divisions summary of projects presented separately. The research staff of the CFB produced a number of publications in 2007 including several scientific papers.

In the following pages a short summary of the key projects undertaken by the staff of the Research & Development Division in 2007 is presented. The projects are sorted in accordance with the principal functional areas outlined in the business plan, namely the

fish stock assessment programme, national obligations under European Directives and the fisheries environment and biodiversity programme. Due to the transient and temporal nature of providing advice the scientific advice provided by the staff of the Research & Development Division has not been reported on, however it would be appropriate to say that the staff of the Division provided advice in a range of forums to a range of interest groups, including Regional Fisheries Boards, other state agencies and the public throughout 2007.

National Fish Stock Assessment Programme

1) Conservation Fish Programme

Environmental Drainage Maintenance Programme

The Office of Public Works (OPW) retained the CFB's services in 2007 in an interim capacity prior to developing a new 5-year maintenance programme with a revised focus. This programme – the Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP) – was announced by the OPW in autumn 2007 and the CFB was requested to carry out this project. The programme has two main strands; commencing and rolling out an annual channel enhancement programme and continuing to implement, at an accelerated rate and more robust manner, a program of enhanced or environmentally-sensitive maintenance.

Lamprey & Crayfish

This programme ended in 2007. The findings clearly indicated potential and actual adverse impacts of channel maintenance practises on both target taxa (Lamprey, Crayfish). Although the project ended in 2007 the importance of the findings is such that further monitoring of the trial sites will be required in 2008 and beyond to identify the rate and degree of recovery of the target species.

Transitional Waters Fish Species

A full suite of autumn fish sampling was undertaken in the series of transitional water bodies comprising the Waterford Harbour – Suir-Nore-Barrow estuaries with the Southern Regional Fisheries Board. In addition, the CFB continued to share datasets with EU Northeast Atlantic (NEA) working group on fish in estuaries and participated

in an international gear intercalibration exercise in September in the Gironde estuary, France, with 8 other EU member states.

2) Marine Sportsfish Programme 2007

The Central Fisheries Board's Marine Sportfish Tagging Programme was initiated in 1970. The aim of the programme is to determine trends in the distribution, abundance and life history of marine sportsfish species to allow us to provide scientific information for their management. Tagging programmes provide valuable information regarding the movement and growth rates of fish, in addition to providing information about stock structure, stock mixing and data for fisheries management. Long-term datasets, such as this, provide information on population dynamics and can help to identify trends in populations or in localised areas. The programme is operated jointly by the staff from the Angling/Marketing Division and the Research & Development Division.

The census of angler caught cod, being conducted for the EU, continued and was expanded to other coastal areas in 2007, and the annual juvenile bass assessment survey was also completed in 2007. Both of these studies are being conducted jointly with the Marine Institute.

3) Coarse Fish Programme

The Central Fisheries Board (CFB) is commissioned by Waterways Ireland to conduct scientific research aimed at understanding and improving habitat conditions for fish and aquatic life on the Royal Canal, Grand Canal (Main Line & Barrow Line), the Barrow Navigation and the Shannon-Erne Waterway. The CFB have also been commissioned by Waterways Ireland to conduct such work as may be required to assess and insure compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

In 2007, fish stock assessment operations were conducted on a number of sections of the Royal Canal, Grand Canal and on a number of lakes on the Shannon-Erne Waterway. Generally, surveys revealed abundant and healthy fish stocks although there is some concern that pike stocks may be locally depleted.

Water quality monitoring at 219 main channel and feeder stream sites on the Royal and Grand Canals, the Shannon-Erne Waterway and Barrow Navigation were monitored

three times during 2007. Results for this period indicated generally good water quality in the Royal and Grand Canals and the Shannon-Erne Waterway.

Physico-chemical sampling was carried out at forty canal sites on four occasions during 2007, in compliance with the obligations of the WFD. Aquatic emergent and submerged plant communities were also assessed at these sites in 2007. Invertebrate samples were collected from an additional five WFD sites in the Barrow Line of the Grand Canal and in the canal section of the Shannon-Erne Waterway. Data collected from 35 sites where invertebrate communities were assessed in 2006 was compiled and submitted to SNIFFER (Scottish and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) as part of the WFD61 project to develop an ecological classification tool for UK and Irish canals to enable WFD compliant monitoring.

4) Salmon, Sea Trout & Eel Programme

Catch and Release Salmon Project

Resulting from the new salmon angling regulations introduced in 2007, a number of rivers were only opened on a catch & release basis. A project was undertaken to assess the success of catch & release angling in Irish rivers and to provide confidence in the use of the method. Rod caught salmon were tagged with radio tags and returned to the water, and using radio tracking equipment fish were tracked over the autumn and winter spawning season. Survival of fly-caught salmon to spawning was 98%, compared to 55% survival to spawning for salmon caught on lures. This work was carried out in the Owenmore River, Co. Mayo and the River Feale, Co. Kerry. The results of this research demonstrate that, when the correct procedures are followed, there is a very high survival to spawning of salmon caught 'on the fly'.

Development of a Juvenile Salmon Index

The abundance of salmon fry close to salmon redds in riffle areas has been used previously as an index of salmon abundance on the River Bush in Northern Ireland. An electrofishing technique based on these principles is now being developed for Irish salmon rivers to provide an index of juvenile salmon abundance on a catchment-wide basis which can be used to assess attainment of salmon conservation limits.

Catchment-wide electro-fishing was undertaken in 31 catchments in 2007 to assess the distribution and abundance of salmon fry. The technique has good potential for salmon stock assessment and is likely to be more reflective of salmon stock status in rivers where rod catch could not be used to estimate salmon stock size. Several years of data will be required to compile a robust dataset against which individual catchment performance and trends can be assessed. Catchment-wide electro-fishing is also important in providing managers with information on the distribution and abundance of salmon fry. The absence or low density of salmon fry may be related to water quality issues, obstructions, or habitat damage and areas of low abundance can be investigated.

National Salmon Genetics programme

This project entailed the identification and mapping of discrete spawning areas within tributaries of the salmon bearing rivers in Ireland and collection of juvenile Atlantic salmon from these rivers at locations close to the principal spawning areas for establishment of a genetic baseline. Genetic analyses were carried out by the Zoology Department in University College Cork (UCC). The principle application for this project was to use this genetic baseline to determine the river of origin from salmon scale samples broken down from any location around the coast. The degree to which commercial salmon fisheries and specific inshore commercial fisheries exploit mixed stocks will be determined.

Ferox trout Study

Ferox trout are large lake trout known to be genetically separate from the normal brown trout stock. These fish are being heavily exploited by angling and little is known of their biology or spawning locations in major Irish lakes. A radio telemetry project began in 2005 to tag ferox trout in Lough Corrib in an attempt to determine spawning locations with a view to protecting the stock for the long term. 82% of tagged trout recorded were recorded in the Cong River. This tributary of Lough Corrib has been shown to be the primary spawning location for ferox trout in the Corrib catchment. As a result of the findings of this study, the WRFB have sought to have a conservation bye-law introduced on the Cong River to protect the spawning trout population.

Eels

Data were collated from archived datasets, historical survey records and current surveys on eel populations nationally for input into the process to develop National Eel Management Plans.

CFB and WRFB collaborated with scientists from the Danish Institute for Freshwater Research and the Norwegian Institute for Fisheries Research in an eel satellite tagging study to investigate the spawning location of European eels using satellite technology. The spawning location of eels at sea has never been found and this project aims to track eels in the Atlantic Ocean using satellite technology to gain information of migration and spawning location. Large eels were fitted with miniature satellite tags on their seaward migration. The tags record depth, temperature and light on the eel migration route across the Atlantic. This information would be crucial to understanding the reasons for the collapse of European eel stocks. Data were retrieved from 15 of the 22 eels released and is currently being analysed. The greatest distance a tagged eel traveled before tag pop-off was 1,050km. Funding has been secured under the European Union 7th Framework Programme to expand the eel tagging programme and undertake a larger eel research programme over the next three years.

5) Brown Trout Programme

Fish Stock Surveys

Annual fish stock surveys were carried out on Loughs Arrow, Ennell and Sheelin as part of the ongoing long-term monitoring programme on wild trout lake fisheries. A review of the long-term monitoring data on pike stocks in managed trout lakes commenced in late 2007, the aim of which is underway to update and advise management on both the necessity for, and effectiveness of, pike control in these fisheries.

Lake Survey Digitization

All of the trout lake fish stock survey data compiled for Irish waters over the last thirty years was digitised during 2006 and 2007. This will allow more detailed analysis in relation to establishing complete trends in all fish stocks over long periods of time.

European Directive National Obligations

Habitats Directive (HD)

The Habitats Directive lists Atlantic salmon, three species of lamprey, and three species of shad and pollan as qualifying fish species. The Irish Habitats Directive implementing legislation identifies the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, along with the Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government, as having a role in undertaking investigations on the status of qualifying fish species. During 2007 a draft discussion document, outlining the proposed roll-out of the Habitats Directive fish requirements using a similar model to that developed for fish under WFD, was developed. This is to be advanced during 2008 with relevant Government Departments.

Under the Directive a status review on qualifying fish species, with reporting requirement to the EU, was due to be produced in 2007. The CFB delivered this review document, with significant inputs from the Regional Fisheries Boards, to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the lead agency reporting on the Habitats Directive. In addition, the CFB was commissioned to compile reviews on the 'Conservation Fish' group – lamprey, shad and pollan during 2007. All four reviews were delivered to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2007.

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003). The Directive specifies that fish shall be monitored at all sites selected for Surveillance Monitoring (SM) (SM list includes 180 river sites, 73 lakes in RoI and various transitional waters).

In consultation with the Regional Fisheries Boards an extensive, fully costed WFD fish monitoring programme was developed and submitted to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government for funding. Despite the delays in finalising the funding, monitoring of fish stocks by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards commenced in 2007, on a limited basis using European standard methods at specified sites on lakes and estuaries.

A total of 15 lakes were surveyed for fish in 4 regional fishery board areas (3 in the ERFB, 2 in the NWRFB, 8 in the WRFB and 2 in the SHRFB). Surveys were also conducted in the Barrow, Nore and Suir estuaries. The lakes and river datasets compiled have been provided to the European database as part of Ireland's contribution to the International Intercalibration process.

National Environment and Biodiversity Programme

1) Invasive Species

Aquatic Weed Control in Irish Canals

Aquatic plants play a fundamental role in the functioning of aquatic ecosystems. However, excessive growth can have negative ecological impacts and prevent access to and use of the amenity by a diverse range of end users. In 2007 an Agreed Aquatic Weed Control Programme was developed to facilitate navigation and amenity use, while preserving habitat diversity and function. Particular attention was paid to the distribution, abundance and impact of two non-native invasive plant species: New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) and Nuttall's Pondweed (*Eloдея nuttallii*) in the Grand Canal.

Status and distribution of Chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*) in the River Inny

Chub is a non-native fish that was recently introduced to the River Inny. 25 specimens were captured using electric fishing in 2006 and 2007. An examination of the specimens captured revealed that the fish were healthy and most were in spawning condition. The survey further revealed that long sections of the River Inny provide a habitat that is suitable for the establishment, growth and proliferation of the species. The fact that chub can spread naturally from the River Inny to other major river systems *via* Lough Ree and the River Shannon means that the species has the potential become more widespread in Ireland.

In 2007 chub were recorded at two sections on the River Inny that were separated by 32 km. This suggests that either the fish were introduced to the river at two locations or that they have spread within the water corridor. All of the chub captured were removed from the river and euthanized.

***Lagarosiphon major* in Lough Corrib**

Lough Corrib is the second largest lake in Ireland. It is of major conservation importance and is a nationally important angling resource. The recent arrival of the highly invasive submerged plant species, *Lagarosiphon major*, in the lake has the potential to compromise the environmental, social and economic value of this unique natural resource.

Lagarosiphon was recorded from 64 sites in 2007, compared with 24 in 2006 and 9 in 2005. In Rinerroon Bay, where the founder population was recorded, *Lagarosiphon* has expanded its range by 7.4 ha and its standing crop by *circa* 1,000 tonnes in the two years since 2005. Where *Lagarosiphon* was well established within an area, no native aquatic plant species could survive beneath the canopy.

Pilot control trials on *Lagarosiphon* were conducted in January 2007 and monitored through September 2007. The most successful result was achieved using a large V-blade trailed on a chain behind a boat. Divers estimated that in excess of 95% of the *Lagarosiphon* was removed from the test plot during this operation. The percentage bottom cover present in the plot in September, eight months after the cut was applied, was less than 8%. An extended trial was conducted in Rinerroon Bay in September 2007. During this operation, contractors removed *circa* 300 tonnes of *Lagarosiphon* from 4.7 ha of the bay in five days, at a cost of almost €40,000.

Public Awareness

A photographic 'Field Guide to the Identification of Aquatic Invasive Species' was produced in 2007 to aid field operatives in the Fisheries Boards and other related organisations in the accurate identification of the most potentially harmful species currently present in our watercourses. The Guide provides photographs and a brief description for the 15 most prominent invasive species in Ireland. The Guide has been widely distributed within the country.

2) Salmonid River Rehabilitation

Riverine Enhancement

All of the data relating to monitoring the effectiveness of salmonid riverine enhancement programmes was digitised in 2007 and subsequently subjected to rigorous

statistical analysis in order to validate the effectiveness of such programmes. This exercise, funded by the Programmes of Measures (POMs) national committee, showed that statistically significant gains in juvenile salmon and juvenile and adult trout were evident following the implementation of habitat enhancement programmes. The only failures were in channels where water quality values, post-enhancement fell below Q3/4 (for salmon) or Q3 (for trout). This report (O'Grady & O'Leary) was published in May of 2007. During the year riverine enhancement programmes were designed for the Killmastulla River, a part of the Ballinahinch system and tributaries to the Slaney and Laney Rivers.

Q-Values and Riverine Enhancement

In 2007 the Engineering Services Section of the Office of Public Works committed to commissioning enhancement programmes on all drained salmonid channels under their remit in 2008. As a preface to this programme a GIS based study, linking high gradient areas in drained rivers (where enhancement could be carried out) were linked to known water quality Q values compiled by the EPA. This allowed one to define the river zones where enhancement could commence immediately – i.e. where water quality values were at Q3/4, or higher.

3) Water Analysis

Laboratory services

The laboratory was moved to its new location in Swords. 3866 water samples from rivers, lakes and canals throughout the country were analysed in 2007. Long term monitoring of major game and coarse fish lakes was also continued; these data have been provided to the Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion in the National database.

Fish Kills

Twenty two fish kill incidents were reported by the Regional Fisheries Boards during 2007, down from 34 and 45 in 2006 and 2005 respectively. The sources of pollution leading to fish kills were attributed as follows: Local authorities – 10; agriculture – 4; Industry – 2; Eutrophication – 3; other causes – 3 and unknown – 1. This represents a significant reduction in pollution incidents associated with agriculture and eutrophication but an increase in those caused by Local Authority sources.

Fish stocks and water quality

The final reports for the EPA ERTDI project (20000-MS-4 -M1) which demonstrated a relationship between river fish communities and water quality were published and are available on the EPA website. As might be expected, salmonids are associated with high, good and moderate water quality; juvenile salmon (1+ and older) were significantly more numerous in good than in moderate water quality. Few or no salmonids occur in areas with poor and bad water quality where sticklebacks may be numerous.

Research continued towards the development of an ecological classification tool for lakes using fish communities. Several interim reports were published and are now available on the NS SHARE website. This INTERREG IIIa funded project, administered by Donegal Co. Co., is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2008 when the final report will be published. This project was conducted jointly with AFBI (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute) the fisheries research section of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Northern Ireland.

Publications (Papers / Books / Referenced Reports)

Caffrey, J.M. & Callaghan, D. (2007) Field Guide to the Identification of Aquatic Invasive Species. Central Fisheries Board, Swords Business Campus, Swords, Co Dublin. 31pp.

Caffrey, J.M., Hayden, B & Walsh, T. (2007) Dace (*Leuciscus leuciscus L.*): an Invasive Fish Species in Ireland. *Irish Freshwater Fisheries, Ecology and Management* No. 5. Central Fisheries Board, Dublin, Ireland. 15pp.

Promotion & Marketing

Marketing and Angling 2007

The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards recognize the significant contribution made by tourism and recreational angling to the Irish economy and to improving the quality of people's lives. In 2007 the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards have continued to work in a co-ordinated manner with our tourism partners, government agencies and the

industry in delivering the Angling Tourism Marketing Strategy and the development of recreational angling for all. The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards again demonstrated their commitment to implementing the Angling Tourism Marketing Strategy 2007-2010 (ATMS) and to working in partnership with our tourism partners Failte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the industry. The Boards improved marketing planning process in 2007 has led to developments which included an expanded calendar of promotional events for overseas markets, the launch of three new pilot websites on angling in Ireland in French, German and Dutch and the development of a new suite of national angling brochures which promote all product areas through “centres of excellence”. These and other developments have assisted in making it easier for visitors to come to Ireland to fish by improving the depth, breadth and timeliness of information available to customers. Closer working relationships were also established with the Loughs Agency, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in Northern Ireland and the industry with a view to advancing the ATMS and developing joint working programmes where appropriate.

The Board also continued to support and develop recreational angling in Ireland by providing information on, when, where and how to fish to anglers throughout the country. The CFB website and the accompanying expert advice provided by the staff of the Board continue to be vital in delivering this service to Irish anglers. The Board has also harnessed the assistance of the voluntary sector in developing this area and 16 youth angling training courses and events were delivered nationwide.

The Boards have worked closely with our education partners in 2007 and the importance of our fisheries resource and its place in our natural heritage was successfully communicated to young people countrywide through the National Educational Programme “Something Fishy”. This collaborative approach to active learning has transformed the way the curriculum is experienced by teachers and students alike by providing hands on learning opportunities to all concerned. It is planned to extend and develop this programme into 2008 and beyond.

Overseas Promotional Events 2007

In 2007 the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards, in association with Tourism Ireland and Failte Ireland, attended a number of targeted angling promotions in the UK, France,

the Netherlands, Germany and the USA. A new calendar of events was developed by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards for 2007 and subsequent years which will deliver on the goals and objectives as set out in the ATMS.

The Boards actively promoted Ireland as a leading tourist fishing destination at these events by promoting the best of what we have to offer to target segments in each of the markets identified under the ATMS. There was an increase in the number of overseas promotions attended by the Boards in 2007 including 5 events in France (up 4 on 2006), 4 events in the UK (up 2 on 2006), 2 events in Holland (no change), 2 events in USA (no change), and one event in Germany (new event). Where possible and appropriate the Boards also worked and engaged with industry members.

Attendance at these shows has enabled the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards to further assess the market potential in each market and develop product offerings for specific target groups and segments in each of these markets. The important information obtained will assist in growing market share in each of these markets and will result in an increase in visitor numbers. This will lead to increased economic and social benefits accruing to local and rural communities in Ireland. Participation in these events has also assisted in the development of 'shoulder' and 'off peak' business and has assisted in addressing the issues of regional spread and rural and coastal development.

Promotional Events in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2007

Attendance at promotional shows in Ireland and Northern Ireland allowed the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards to communicate with a number of target audiences including, game, coarse, sea and pike anglers, young people, children and students, educators, the agricultural community, other government agencies, the industry and the general public. Participation in these events allowed the Boards communicate with these audiences in a positive and interactive manner. From a communication perspective the angling shows in Ireland and Northern Ireland provided the perfect vehicle to communicate the new pike and coarse and salmon and sea trout legislation to anglers.

Promotions attended in Ireland and Northern Ireland during 2007 included the Ireland Angling Show, the Birr Country fair, the BT Young Scientist Exhibition, the National

Ploughing Championships, the Northern Ireland British Association for Shooting and Conservation fair, the Loughs Agency Show and the Belfast Show.

Attendance at promotional events was funded by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and with the assistance of Failte Ireland through the Trade Support Scheme.

Website Development and Performance

The website continues as a successful marketing tool for Irish angling abroad. It is also useful for raising the profile of the Board at home and amongst its international peers. It remains the premier website for Irish angling and freshwater fisheries research information. Website statistics indicate that 755,109 visits, up 24% over last year, were made to the website.

Users of the site accessed over one and a half million pages. In particular, anglers downloaded the equivalent of 27,000 Sea Angling brochures, 21,000 [Coarse Angling](#) brochures, 20,000 [Pike Angling](#) Brochures, 19,000 [Game Angling](#) brochures and 18,500 [Trout Angling](#) brochures.

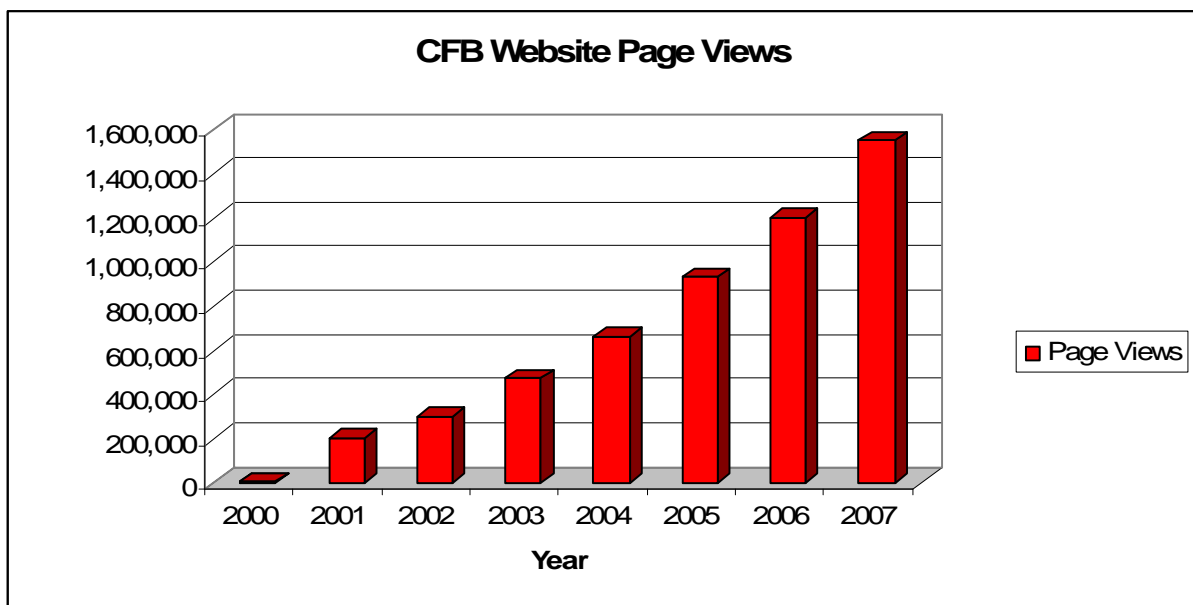


Figure C: Number of CFB website views 2000 - 2007.

When the CFB website was launched in late 2000 visitors viewed 4,995 pages over 30 days. In 2007 the website often had that many page views in a single day.

Almost 700 angling and site content queries were directed to the website during the year. In addition just under 1,000 completed online “Catch and Release” quiz entries were received.

The Board also undertook the development of the French, German and Dutch versions of the site during the summer of 2007. The sites have performed very well and within days of going online were listed in the top 10 of many search engine rankings. Visitors to these new sites have commented positively about the new resource. The French, German and Dutch sites have significantly increased the number of angling queries from these markets.

The websites of the Northern, South Western, Southern and Eastern Regional Fisheries Boards were maintained and managed by the CFB during the year. Advice and support was given to the North Western Regional Fisheries Board in maintenance and management of its website.

National Publications

Information was compiled by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards for a new suite of angling brochures under the headings salmon and sea trout, wild brown trout, pike, coarse and sea angling. These brochures will be produced early in 2008 and will present overseas visitors with the best of Irish angling through centres of excellence.

Regional Publications

A new sea angling guide was produced by the Central Fisheries Board on behalf of the Northern Regional Fisheries Board. Two other sea angling guides were written for the Eastern and Southern Boards respectively. The angling guide to sea fishing in the Northern Region represents a considerable step up in quality from previous publications as it is a full colour production which features not only excellent photographs but also top quality tackle and rig graphics.

The National Education Programme “Something Fishy”

“Something Fishy” was developed as a collaborative venture between the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and Blackrock and Monaghan Education Centres. It was

originally launched in 2005. In February 2006 regional board staff underwent training in child protection, risk assessment and group management to ensure delivery in line with best practice for working in this sector.

To streamline the delivery of the programme in 2007, two dedicated coordinators from the Central Fisheries Board and Blackrock Educational Centre were appointed. To attract additional participants (and to maximise the promotional potential) it was agreed to run a competition at both Regional and National level. Each school taking part in “Something Fishy” was asked to produce a class project based on the lessons in the pack and focused on one of four main themes:

- Art,
- Literacy,
- IT and
- Practical Conservation.

162 schools took part and from this it is estimated that the programme reached 4050 students. The two top schools in each region qualified for the National final. The winning projects were awarded with individual certificates, a school certificate and an array of prizes. On 7th December 2007 the joint winners of the “Something Fishy” national prize, St. Josephs National School Sligo and St. Josephs National School Terenure presented with their well deserved prizes by Dublin footballer Mark Vaughan at the Central Fisheries Board HQ in Dublin. This collaborative approach to active learning has transformed the way the curriculum is experienced by teachers and students alike by providing hands on learning opportunities to all concerned. It is planned to extend and develop this programme into 2008 and beyond.

Press/Communication

Press and media coverage to highlight the Boards activities and successes were targeted at appropriate media including national and local newspapers, TV, radio and overseas publications.

Brochures were made available online and in print to create awareness and educate anglers about the new legislation.

The Irish Angling Update was produced regularly during the angling season with angling reports being supplied from the Regional Fisheries Boards and other angling sources. It was circulated to Tourism Ireland offices worldwide, Irish and foreign angling journalists, angling tour operators and the tourist angling trade in Ireland. It continues to be an important part of the CFB Website. The new catch of the week award scheme developed in conjunction with the RTE radio 1 programme Seascapes has proved extremely successful. During 2007 pictures of each weekly winner were published on the RTE and CFB websites (on the CFB site in English, French, Dutch and German) and winners were announced on the Seascapes radio programme.

Product Development 2007

Despite the inclement weather during the 2007 season the Board advanced its proactive programme to develop the tourist angling product in Ireland. Research and development continued on a number of specialised angling techniques for species such as bass and sea trout as well as for new species including gilt head bream and golden grey mullet which are now found in Irish waters and are of great interest to anglers. These developments will provide marketers with new and exciting products with which to promote Ireland as a first class tourism destination into the future.

Sea Angling Logbook and Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme

The Regional Fisheries Boards were involved in jointly delivering these schemes for the first time in 2007 with the Central Fisheries Board. These schemes provide the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards with important scientific and marketing information. The 2007 results for both programmes are provided below.

Sea Angling Logbook Statistics 1978 - 2007

There was a decrease in the number of charter skippers who completed an angling logbook in 2007. This was due to changes in the running and delivery of the programme in 2007 and a number of other extenuating circumstances. However, the programme has been completed for 2007 and reports issued. The number of rod days recorded was 25,404. with Irish anglers accounting for 57%, followed by the U.K anglers at 16% and Dutch anglers at 10%. Additional details on the findings of the programme are appended to this report.

Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme

Over 50 charter skippers and a few dedicated anglers took part in the 2007 Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme. Over 1,000 fish were tagged and released including blue and porbeagle shark, tope, common skate and ray. Since 1970, a total of 39,919 sea fish have been tagged and released including 18,801 blue shark. This programme is the largest of its kind in Europe and the second largest in the world after the USA.

Training and Courses

The CFB assisted in running of the National Angling Guide Course (Open College Network (OCN) accredited course) over 12 days in Belturbet Co. Cavan and Baronscourt, Co. Tyrone. This course was funded jointly by Cavan Monaghan Rural Development and the Loughs Agency. This has produced approximately 18 additional qualified angling guides.

The Central and Eastern Regional Fisheries Boards with the support of the Slaney Rivers Trust ran 3 very successful beginners fly fishing days for ladies over the summer months. Although the days were free, participants were asked to donate to Breast Cancer Awareness which raised €2,765.

Staff Recruitment

The Central Fisheries Board appointed a new PR/Communication Officer in 2007 and the successful candidate has brought a new range of skills and experience to the Board that will complement the current skills base. The filling of this position will assist in raising the profile of the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and the work that they do.

Angling Report 2007

Sea Angling

2007 was a great year for sea angling with some notable records broken. Shore fishing was excellent around the southern, south west, and western coasts in particular with good catches of a wide range of species including bass with more of these now recorded 'on the fly'. One concern is the continued decline of shore fishing on most of the east coasts. There was some good fishing reported from parts of Wexford but the rest was

generally poor. As ever, the boat fishing continued to be superb despite the fact that frequent periods of windy weather throughout the summer led to some cancellations of charters. It was a great year for tope and blue shark, with 261 fish being tagged. Deep water species led the way and wreck and reef fishing in general was excellent. Among the notable catches were new records for albacore tuna and gilthead bream with both fish doubling the existing records. There were further records of red mullet and garfish established also. Another notable fish was the capture of a 17.01kg cod at Courtmacsherry Bay, the second biggest ever landed on rod and line since the record of 42 lbs. in 1921. Many other species were recorded in this great year for boat fishing in Ireland.

Sea Angling Promotion

The Board developed a number of promotional programmes for overseas journalists who visited most regions. These programmes kept Ireland to the forefront of the sea angling tourism industry. Twenty seven full colour features appeared in 2007 with one hundred and fourteen pages being devoted to marine sport fishing particularly the continued development of small boat angling and saltwater fly-fishing. These “newer” products are creating a lot of overseas interest and look set to become established as future mainstream attractions.

In 2007 sea angling journalist visits concentrated on the two top selling UK magazines which are ‘Total Sea Fishing’ with a monthly circulation of circa 70,000 and the market leader ‘Sea Angler’ which has, on numerous occasions, topped 100,000 copies per month.

In monetary terms, a full page advertisement in these magazines would cost in the region of £2,000 while a cover would be worth £5,000. This year we have achieved 84 pages of articles and 2 covers representing circa £178,000 (€247,000).

Sea angling articles were also secured in France and Holland. One visit from Pêche en Mer/Partir Pêcher yielded 28 pages of editorial in three issues. A further article is planned for June 2008.

Coarse Angling

It was a poor year for specimen coarse fishing around Ireland with smaller numbers of specimen fish recorded than in the previous ten years. There was however plenty of activity and better catches of bream were recorded nationwide. While roach and roach

bream hybrids continue to dominate both pleasure and match angling catches, bream are now showing up in better numbers. There were many 100 lbs + and several daily catches over 200lbs of fish reported from several venues in Co. Cavan, on the Erne system and on many parts of the River Shannon and its associated lakes. In September the annual angling festivals were well attended by English visitors and there were good catches recorded at all of these including 4.5 tonnes of fish recorded at the Annual King of Clubs competition in Co. Cavan.

Pike Angling

It was another great year for pike angling and while there are now more anglers from home and abroad fishing in Ireland for pike, sport has flourished. The good fishing was also due to more anglers taking care of the fish and good conservation by laws. All the major pike rivers particularly the River Suck and River Inny regularly produced fish over 20 lbs. and there were many fish over 30 lbs. recorded. There were many well organised pike boat competitions held during the year like the Easter festival in Lough Key and European Pike Challenge in Lough Derg in October.

Pike and Coarse Angling Promotion

The 'BEET' pike trail involved journalists from the BEET magazine fishing for pike in a number of areas around Ireland. BEET magazine is the continent's foremost angling magazine with a large readership in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The visit produced a magazine article along with a day by day updated website. There were a number of good fish caught, highlighting Ireland's potential as a pike angling destination. We were also accompanied by a Polish film crew who produced a DVD of the trip, which will be translated into a number of different languages.

Julien Lajournade from Voyages de Pêche visited the Donegal area where he fished for sea trout and pike. This resulted in a five page article.

Brochet Sandre magazine also visited the Arva-Gowna area in 2007 to highlight the quality of pike fishing available in this centre of excellence. A five page article followed.

Game Angling

Salmon

It was a great start to the year with a reasonable run of spring salmon with fish caught and released on the opening day on the River Drowes (1st January). All east coast rivers were closed for salmon fishing due to new conservation measures. The wettest summer in years ensured that the grilse run on the River Moy was well spread throughout the system and many fish were taken in the middle and upper reaches due to the constant high water levels. Many catchments were subject to new conservation measures and the rod catch was well down on previous years. Generally anglers were happy to catch and release salmon where conservation measures were introduced.

Sea Trout

The sea trout season was moderately better in 2007 than in previous years. Besides Lough Currane, the River Bandon, the Erne and Moy estuaries all provided some good returns during the year. There was a good number of specimen sea trout over 6lbs. recorded in 2007 and a new record fish for the lake of 11.51lbs was recorded by Dennis Bennet from Cork in April. Overall there was an improvement in the sea trout fishing on many waters.

Brown Trout Loughs

The early season buzzer fishing was quiet good on many of our trout lakes in the midlands and on the great western lakes. The mayfly season was very early due to good weather and fishing in the first two weeks was consistent on Loughs Derg and Ree in the midlands while in the west Mask, Conn, Carra and Corrib provided good sport with plenty of 'green drake' flies reported. The season ended quickly with cold weather disrupting the mayfly hatch with very poor spent gnat fishing on most of our big trout lakes. Nonetheless some very big trout were recorded and several specimen trout over 10 lbs. were recorded on fly on Loughs Corrib and Mask in particular. In July the traditional 'green peter' fishing on Lough Owel was the best in years but elsewhere the very wet summer led to very high water levels and poor fishing during July and August. Over 800 anglers fished the popular World Cup competition in early August and the fishing was reasonably good for most of the competitors over the 4 days of the

competition. September brought some good end of season fishing on most lakes with good hatches of olives reported.

Brown Trout Rivers

Although it was a good spring up to May, there were only a few reports of good river fishing on the Rivers Boyne and Suir in particular. As in other years 2007 saw some huge brown trout recorded from the Cong River by anglers spinning and worming. There was better fishing in May with good hatches of olives and some mayfly on the River Boyne and tributaries most notably the Kells Blackwater. Some notable specimen trout were recorded on fly from the Clare (Galway) in the middle of the summer. In July however the second biggest trout ever taken on fly in Ireland was landed on Cong River weighing 7.845kg (17 lbs. 5 oz.).

Game Angling Promotion

The Central Fisheries Board assisted with the visit of writer was Chris McCully and photographer Rod Calbrade from 'Trout and Salmon Magazine' in the U.K.

The trip was centred on the theme of 'Salmon and Sea trout in Galway and Mayo.' The outcome was 4 articles which were published in Trout and Salmon

- October '07 (4 pages) – article Salmon Conservation in Ireland.
- November '07 (6 pages) – article on Sea trout in Connemara and Ballynahinch.
- December '07 (4 pages) – Grilse on the Erriff.
- January '08 (6 pages) – Grilse in Connemara and Costello.

Magazines in France and Holland were also targeted and Pêche Mouche and freelance writer Francois Grebot also visited the South Western and Western Regions respectively to cover salmon, sea trout and wild brown trout in Waterville, Erriff and Galway respectively.

The Central Fisheries Board

DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Notes	2007		2006	
		€	€	€	€
Income					
State and EU Funding					
Operating grants		5,786,508		7,119,021	
Net deferred funding for pensions	12b	633,016		322,707	
Less: Allocated to Regional Fisheries Boards	1b	<u>(152,000)</u>	<u>6,267,524</u>	<u>(324,928)</u>	<u>7,116,800</u>
Other Income	2b		2,166,743		1,910,057
Transfer from / (to) Capital Account	10		<u>(648,120)</u>		<u>218,856</u>
			<u>7,786,147</u>		<u>9,245,713</u>
Expenditure					
Administration	3		3,475,862		3,261,435
Operations	4		<u>5,157,113</u>		<u>5,356,497</u>
			<u>8,632,975</u>		<u>8,617,932</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year			(846,828)		627,781
Surplus / (Deficit) at 1 January			<u>405,363</u>		<u>(222,418)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) at 31 December			<u>(441,465)</u>		<u>405,363</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 15 form an integral

part of these Financial Statements.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

Board Member

Date

Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

2007 was a challenging year for the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board with the closure of the commercial salmon fisheries and the majority of rivers in the region for salmon angling. However with the co-operation of the many stakeholders in the region, implementation of the Board's Strategic Development Plan continued through the Board's business plan for the year. Mr. Pat Doherty was appointed Chief Executive Officer in November.

Habitat enhancement works

2007 was characterized by instream enhancement programmes with a total investment of €182,275 on 18 rivers. A remarkable 24km of rivers and streams were developed, this included works on the Rivers Mattock, Slaney, Liffey, Avoca, Vartry, Gas and Milltown Lakes in Monaghan. This is in part due to investment from EU Programmes such as CASA for the cross border projects and The Interreg IIIA Ireland – Wales programme which was completed this year for the River Slaney. Dublin and Kildare local authorities funded works on the River Liffey and the Heritage Council provided funding for works on the Slaney.

Environmental Management and Control

The Board carried out investigations in relation to environmental issues and assessed the potential impacts of developments on fishery habitats. 978 submissions were made to the relevant local authorities in relation to planning applications, which may impact on fisheries. These applications relate to a variety of proposals from residential, agricultural and commercial developments. Comments were made on 16 local authority development plans in the Region and 29 submissions were made to the DCENR Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) working group, with regard to screening, scoping and environmental reports for the various relevant plans as overseen by public bodies.

688 inspections were carried out during 2007, 181 of these were in response to complaints received by the Board. As a result of these inspections, 36 warning letters

were issued and 2 prosecutions initiated. 5 fish kill incidences occurred, the most significant of which was on the Castletown River where approximately 200 fish were killed.

There was a decline in the number of housing projects this year, however infrastructural development continued throughout the Region with a large emphasis on road developments. Projects included the M3 motorway project, Kildare and Clonee rail links and the Luas extension works in Dublin. 6 national road projects were under construction and a further 3 were at the planning stage. 4,100 fish were salvaged from rivers and tributaries affected by motorway/industrial developments during the year. 90% of these were salvaged from the Tolka and Boyne as part of the M3 motorway works. Fish stocks in 26 streams were also monitored in the Dublin and Meath area.

Product Development / Resource Investment

Access

A large number of projects took place this year with 18 angling facility enhancement projects with a total investment of €83,654 creating 41 additional angling spaces. This included the creation of new stands at Lough Ramor and Lisgar and the development of angling pools on the River Mattock. A car park, boat slipway, jetty and angling stands with wheelchair access were completed at Gas Lake in Castleblaney which was a cross border project funded by CASA. Funding was also sourced from Louth Leader and Monaghan Tourism.

Surveys

Electro fishing works were carried out on many of the Region's rivers with 119 salmonid surveys and an investment of €25,298 during the year. This included surveys on the Rivers Rye, Dargle, Liffey, Tolka, Slaney, Boyne, Dee and selected rivers in Dundalk district and the Grand and Royal Canals. The Board also assisted the ESB with its salmon smolt impingement survey at ESB estuarine thermal generating stations and the CFB with salmon scale sampling, estuarine, lamprey, bass and coarse fish surveys.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Marketing and Promotion

The Board attended 9 key angling promotions at home and abroad in 2007. Press and media coverage during the year was very successful with a total of 91 items recorded. This included editorial coverage in national newspapers, radio and TV. Television coverage included an article on RTE's programme 'Pobal' covering illegal coarse fishing. The ladies fly casting courses were covered by 'Nationwide' and the Avoca River was featured on the RTE News. The focus of the national marketing strategy was on 'centres of excellence' which were launched early in 2007. Meath and Monaghan Tourism continue to part fund promotional activities.

Education and Fisheries Awareness programmes

The Dublin Angling Initiative had a successful year with over 480 young people participating in DAI's angling courses. 11 angling festivals took place including the Monaghan Pairs coarse fishing competition, the cross border peace initiative juvenile pike event, the Rosslare small Boats festival and the ladies fly casting events.

The Board focused on the introduction of the educational 'Something Fishy' programme to fifth and sixth classes in primary schools. A total of 40 schools participated in this project and it included presentations, school visits, release of trout ova into local rivers and field trips. The field trips involved nature walks along the river which focused on the relationships between the river and the broader environment. Kick samples and electro fishing took place and the children measured the fish, identified the various species and examined at the different age classes. The schools then completed projects which were part of a national competition along with schools from all the regions, which was co-ordinated by the CFB and Blackrock Education Centre. The standard of the projects was very high and the projects ranged from art work, to setting up a web site or making a DVD. The winning school from ERFB was St Joseph's in Terenure and they also went on to become joint winners in the national competition along with St. Joseph's in the North Western region.

NETWORKING / CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Avoca Catchment Management

2007 saw the launch of the report '*Celtic Copper Heritage Project, Avoca Mines Pilot Plant Treatment Trials*' by the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Dick Roche TD in May. Its findings indicated that the pilot treatment plant trials were successful in demonstrating that active treatment would reduce average total metal concentrations in the Avoca River downstream of the mines by 66% to 72%. This reduction would result in significant improvement in river water quality thereby demonstrating that active treatment would enable the Avoca River to achieve a salmon fishery standard. The estimated capital cost to build a full scale treatment plant is €3.6m with an annual operational cost of €0.5m (ex VAT). A smolt rescue programme took place on the river in an attempt to save smolts on their journey out to sea.

The Celtic Copper Heritage Interreg IIIA project continued during the year. As the lead partner for this project the Board has overall responsibility for its implementation. Progress was made on the development of walkways in Avoca, creation of a website and a joint workshop was held with partners in Wales.

As part of the integrated conceptual study at Avoca being carried out by the Geological Survey of Ireland, CDM consultants were appointed to carry out this feasibility study.

REGULATION

Salmon Hardship Scheme

2007 saw the introduction of new salmon conservation laws for the Region, which meant that there was no commercial salmon fishing whatsoever in the Eastern Region.

The hardship scheme was introduced by Board Isaiah Mara and the closing date for uptake of the scheme was 31st December 2007. At the time of writing, 92 netsmen (out of a total of 191 licence holders) have availed of the hardship scheme which is an uptake of 48% and €407,010 has been paid out to date.

The rivers Liffey, Slaney and Boyne were closed for salmon and sea trout angling as they were below the conservation limit required to sustain salmon populations. The only open river for salmon and sea trout angling in the Region was the River Fane, the quota

for which was 223 fish and the angling catch was 48 fish. New regulations were introduced in relation to fishing methods and catch and release.

There was a dramatic decline in the number of salmon licences sold – 771 which is less than one third of the previous year. At the time of writing, 85% of angling logbooks had been returned.

In terms of enforcing the new salmon conservation legislation, most anglers and commercial netmen were compliant with the new legislation. These conservation measures are very necessary in order to ensure the survival of salmon in our rivers in line with scientific advice. There is no doubt that the closures have had huge economic, social and cultural implications for all stakeholders concerned in terms of the loss of tradition, decline in a recreational activity, revenue loss and a decline in a sense of community.

However, initial indications from juvenile population surveys and redd counts are that spawning levels have increased on most rivers, (the most notable increase being on the River Slaney) and the fish returning seem to be bigger and healthier. Funds raised from the Conservation Stamp were €33,190 and these were forwarded to the CFB. An amount of €47k received from the Conservation stamp central fund was reinvested on spawning and enhancement works on the Rivers Liffey, Slaney, Boyne, Dee and Fane. Progress was made in relation to fish counters for the River Fane.

Angling Season

The angling season was characterised by a very dry spell in May followed by a wet summer. Brown trout angling was reported as very good throughout the Region. Coarse and pike fishing was reported as very good with the lakes of Cavan and Monaghan producing good catches with a 22lbs pike recorded at Lisnashannagh lake. Over 80% of Irish recorded bream and tench specimens were captured on Ballyhoe and Rahan's Lake.

Similarly, sea angling was very good with notable catches of tope from Dundalk Bay and excellent fishing along the Wexford coastline with 41 species caught at the Rosslare

Small Boats festival including two new species for this competition – a triggerfish and a gilthead bream.

Prosecutions

There was an increase in effort in patrolling our inland waterways in 2007 and this coupled with high water levels for much of the year meant that there were few breaches of the salmon conservation laws. 1,723 man hours were completed on carrying out sea patrols and inland boat patrols. 845 yards of nets were seized and 8 prosecutions were initiated. 63 on the spot fines were issued.

Pressures on coarse fish stocks

As in previous years 2007 saw an increase in the number of callouts in relation to incidences regarding anglers in breach of coarse fish byelaws and the continued killing of coarse fish. Multi linguistic signage on the new laws was erected on the large lakes in Cavan and Monaghan and on the canals along with the distribution of brochures. In the Drogheda district alone, 48 on the spot fines were issued for coarse fishing offences during the year.

ADMINISTRATION / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board discharged its statutory functions, struck the fishery rate, issued licences, collected rates, prepared estimates and accounts and co-operated with new and pending legislation. It met with its statutory, administrative, financial and corporate governance duties in 2007. The appointment of internal auditors has aided the Board's systems of internal controls.

Board Fisheries

There was approximately 1,745 rod days on the Board's waters this year with €1,056 revenue created. 2,500 brown trout and rainbows were released into Emy and Bracken Lakes during the angling season.

Eastern Fisheries Development Society

The Eastern Fisheries Development Society met twice and received three applications for grant in aid and approximately €3,000 was allocated to clubs for grants this year.

Health and Safety / Training

Safety continued to be of paramount importance within the Board. Two staff completed the Fishery Management Diploma course in Sligo RTC and three staff completed the Middle Management course. All staff attended Team building and courses were conducted for Electrofishing, Something Fishy, Dry suit repairs, child protection, First Aid refresher courses, manual handling, PMDS and Survival at Sea.

The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

Income	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Income	1	3,597,622	3,175,911
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	13(b)	532,990	319,782
Other Income	2	253,950	524,547
		<u>4,384,562</u>	<u>4,020,240</u>
Transfer (to) / from Capital Account	11	<u>(221,499)</u>	<u>(299,948)</u>
		<u>4,163,063</u>	<u>3,720,292</u>
 Expenditure			
Administration	3	624,279	594,660
Operations	4	3,149,500	3,110,501
		<u>3,773,779</u>	<u>3,705,161</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		389,285	15,131
Surplus/(Deficit) at 1 January		<u>404</u>	<u>(14,727)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) at 31 December		<u>389,689</u>	<u>404</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 14 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date

Board Member

Date

Southern Regional Fisheries Board

This 2007 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999. 2007 was an historic year for major changes in the management of commercial salmon, with the introduction of the Hardship Scheme and the realignment of angling quotas to individual rivers. Board staff continued to support, and advance the effective management of the Region's Fisheries. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Joe Teesdale and his Board colleagues for their assistance and cooperation during 2007.

Also a special thanks to all the professional and committed staff for their trojan work, loyalty and service in 2007.

Corporate Governance

Board Member Appointments

All members continue in office on the invitation of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources pending the independent review of the Inland Fisheries Sector and the Ministers direction that the sub-committee of the Liaison Group work with officials of the Department in formulating proposals for Government approval.

At its AGM, the Board elected Mr. Joe Teesdale as Chairperson and Ms. Mary Ferns as Vice Chair. Cllr. R. Alyward resigned after his successful election to Dail Eireann.

Board Meetings

The Board met 11 times.

6 members attended 11 meetings

7 members attended 10 meetings

4 members attended 9 meetings

1 member attended 8 meetings

Overall percentage attendance 94.21%

Ministerial Direction

The Board was issued with a Ministerial Direction under Section 18A of the Fisheries Act 1980, to put in place appropriate measures so as to ensure that the Minister for

Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is consulted in relation to development. The Board is required to report on the consultations undertaken and the outcome of same in the Annual report. The Board is in the process of agreeing appropriate measures.

UCD Seminar

5 Board members and the CEO attended a half seminar on Corporate Governance in UCD. The Minister Deputy Noel Dempsey addressed the attendees.

Sub-Committees

The Board Audit Subcommittee met 4 times. Subcommittees for Eels, Licence allocation and Fishery Districts also met throughout the year. All committees reported to the full Board.

Audits

The Boards 2007 Accounts were audited and await certification by the Controller and Auditor General, and are included in this report.

The Boards Internal Auditors Sheehan Quinn and Co., completed an internal audit of the Boards operations in 2007 in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. All the audits, subcommittee and Board operations complied with the provisions of the Code of Practice for Corporate Governance of State Bodies, the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and the Standards in Public Office Act 2001.

Customer Charter

The Boards website now includes an updated Customer Charter which also incorporates a customer comment card.

Freedom of Information

No requests for information under Freedom of Information legislation were received by the Board during 2007. The Board did assist the CFB in the compilation of information for FOI requests which applied to all Boards.

Equality

During 2006 the Boards Headquarters were audited by external experts, to take into consideration access throughout to both members of the public and to Fisheries Board staff. A final report with the findings of this audit was received during 2007.

Recommendations are currently being costed and considered.

Staff Development & Training

Board staff underwent various development and training programmes during 2007.

The ACEO completed an MA in Public Administration, and three inspectors completed supervisory management training. The Board fully support the Certificate in Fisheries Management Course in Sligo Institute of Technology, and Declan Cullagh and Michael O'Mahony graduated from this in 2007. Teamwork training and building continues. The Board had two half days with all staff participating in the events. Two of the Boards environment staff attended a conference on Limnology in Canada, while the CEO attended a Fish Stock Assessment conference in the Czech Republic.

All new Board staff were inducted and given Manual Handling Training and PMDS training. The Board acknowledges the assistance of the Training Manager and HR at CFB and the Boards own in house trainers.

Health & Safety

Monthly meetings for Health and Safety are attended by all staff in the various work teams and districts. The Safety Committee met quarterly, while risk assessments and audits are ongoing. A new Fire Warden, Ms. Karen Ward was appointed and trained during 2007. There was one accident at work reported during 2007 and this required reporting to the HSA, as this resulted in time off work.

Facilities

The Board are awaiting take over of the half acre site it purchased in Ballylynch Industrial Estate, Carrick on Suir. This site, once developed will house the West Waterford Operational Team and equipment and should be completed towards the end of 2008.

The Board upgraded buildings in the Headquarters site to provide archive and storage facilities, and also refurbished some of the offices.

Review of Activities

Fisheries Management & Protection

In 2007 the River Blackwater had a quota of 4463 while the Barrow was closed and the Suir and the Nore were Catch and Release. 2007 was a busy year for staff working in protection ensuring that there was a high level of compliance with all relevant legislation. Regular river boat, estuary and RIB patrols were undertaken along with a large number of mobile and foot patrols over the entire region. The introduction of Catch and Release in the Waterford District for September made for an extremely busy end of season for staff. The Board issued 227 On the Spot Fines to anglers. The Board also prosecuted anglers for non-return of angling logbooks, and issued On the Spot Fines for the same offence. A total of 60 prosecutions were initiated in the period. The Board confiscated 1950 yards of net and seized 1 boat. The Board met all its targets in relation to its service level agreement dedicating more than 24,000 man hours to lake, river and coastal patrols. Staff also carried out 37 checks on fish dealers, 45 checks on Restaurants and 29 checks on Hotels/Guest houses.

Commercial Sector

There was no commercial catch in 2007. Only 1 draft net was open on the Blackwater and the owner decided not to fish it.

District Committees

The Board as per the 2007 Regulations held 2 joint District Committee, one in Headquarters and the other in Ballyrafter House Hotel in Lismore.

Salmon Management Fund

The Board received sanction to have 4 extra staff for a period of 3 years to implement and manage the new salmon regime. Ms. Michelle Morrissey, Ms Claire Moore, Mr. Michael Goona and Mr. Greg Roche were recruited on 3 year contracts.

Hardship Scheme

The Board's role in implementing this scheme was confined to the verification and collection of commercial nets from the applicant. According to BIM 178 Drift Nets, 33

Snap Nets and 1 Draft Net accepted the Hardship Scheme. The Board bagged all the nets and delivered them to Dunmore East for recycling to Wales.

Angling Catch 2007

In 2007 2,454 salmon rod licences were sold in the Southern region. These generated an income of €143,118 to the Board of which €71,542 was in respect of Conservation Stamp and was remitted to the CFB as per Ministerial Direction under sections 18A, 19(4) and 20(3) of the Fisheries Act 1980.

All Ireland	District	21 Day	Juvenile	1 Day	W	Total No.
281	862	910	82	295	1	2,431

Table 6: Rod licence sales in the Southern Regional Board for 2007

Rod Catch for 2007 is reflected in the Table below both for Salmon and Sea Trout. The River Blackwater (Munster) has the second highest national salmon rod catch, and was the only major river open for angling in 2007.

District	River	Species	Reported Catch
Lismore	Blackwater (Munster)	Salmon	2,515

Table 7: Rod catch in the Southern Regional Board for 2007

Logbook Returns

It should be noted that these figures only reflect the logbooks returned to the Board.

Out of a total of 2,431 licences and logbooks sold, only 2034 were returned to the Board.

Environmental Management

Water Quality

During 2007 the Environmental staff of the Board inspected a multiplicity of local authority, forestry, civil engineering, farm and industrial premises for actual or potential sites of fisheries habitat degradation and water quality concerns. These inspections resulted in a number of fisheries habitats and water quality infringements being detected necessitating various responses from prosecution, to warnings and consultations. The Board undertook a successful prosecution against Laois County Council.

Planning

Board staff also commit a large proportion of their time to proactive and preventative work which includes areas of Physical Planning (planning applications, development plans, SEA etc.), Licensing (IPPC, WPA, Waste, Foreshore, Aquaculture, etc.), Infrastructural Projects (roads, waste water and water treatment plants, landfills, abstraction, etc), Forestry (planting, felling, fertilisation, NWS, roads, etc.) and routine inspections (aerial patrols, spot-checks), participation in various working groups, committees etc.

During 2007 Board staff also gave 22 presentations at training courses, meetings and conferences.

Fisheries Development Societies

The Southern Trout and Coarse Fisheries Development Society

The Co-op agreed to a new 9 point procedure in relation to the disbursement of funds. The Board paid €70,000 to the Co-op during 2007 which relates to matching funding for 2005 and 2006. A further disbursement for 2006 will take place during 2008.

During 2007 the Co-op continued to support clubs with their great work in the region.

Promotion

Staff attended a number of promotional shows throughout the year. For the first time in the Boards history, staff attended shows outside the state. These are beneficial as many anglers attending the shows did follow up with visits and enquiries. A main feature of the agriculture and countryside shows were the angling lessons given by staff. The list of the shows attended included:

Bord Failte Ireland Day, The Hague, Holland.

Country Lifestyle Show, Shane Castle, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Irish Game & Country Show, Birr County Offaly.

Education and Fisheries Awareness

Staff used every opportunity to promote fisheries and the Board, and to inform the general public of good fishery practice.

- Educational packs and posters were distributed at all angling shows attended and sent to schools throughout the region.
- Staff gave talks at 22 REPS courses, 31 schools, and 4 catchment management conferences.
- Presentations were also given by staff on new developments in fisheries such as: invasive weed and plants and the Chinese Mitten crab to the Institute of Fisheries Management, angling clubs and the Barrow Catchment Steering Group.

Surveys

A Large number of qualitative surveys have been conducted to assess rivers for infra-structural programmes, such as road crossings etc. Catchment wide surveys were undertaken with the CFB, for example the Glenshelane Catchment of the Blackwater.

Electrofishing surveys on the Erkina, Drish and Goul in conjunction with UCD were undertaken in order to monitor outfall from mining operations. 10 Small lakes were surveyed to assess coarse fish populations. Canals were surveyed in conjunction with the CFB under contract with Waterways Ireland. Electro-fishing surveys conducted to monitor coarse fish movement with radio tags.

Fishery Enhancement Projects

Some of the main fishery enhancement programmes undertaken by the Board were:

The Board were successful in obtaining €30,000 from the Salmon Conservation Fund. The Board completed works on the River Dinan at the Metal Bridge, and also at the Coan Bridge.

The Board installed rock armour on a small section of the River Clodiagh in the village of Portlaw.

Works have taken place on the Glenary Stream near Clonmel to improve fish passage. On the Dinan river the Board have undertaken works to protect 500 metres of seriously eroding bank.

Partnership Projects

During 2007 the Board in conjunction with the OPW, the National Roads Authority, County Councils/ Local Authorities and road contractors have undertaken many and various works to improve fisheries habitat and fish passage.

Stocking and Hatcheries

200,000 Summerlings from the CFB Fish Farm at Roscrea were stocked into the head waters of the Suir and Nore.

30,000 one year old trout were stocked into various reservoirs and put and take fisheries.

Board Managed Fisheries

The Board manages two lakes in County Waterford with Waterford and District Coarse Angling Club and Waterford Trout Anglers.

- Knockaderry Lake is a trout fishery with seven boats for hire to anglers.
- Ballyshunnock Lake is a mixed fishery mainly used by Waterford and District Coarse Angling Club. This club holds a number of events on the lake each year for juvenile anglers (who can easily catch Rudd), anglers with disabilities, and anglers from St. Paul's School for disadvantaged children and the Garda liaison programme. The Board are proud and fully supportive of these initiatives.

The Southern Regional Fisheries Board

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

Income	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Income	1	2,999,054	2,375,012
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10(b)	526,921	402,026
Other Income	2	<u>261,804</u>	<u>380,720</u>
		3,787,779	3,157,758
Transfer (to) / from Capital Account	9	<u>(167,663)</u>	<u>(179,790)</u>
		<u>3,620,116</u>	<u>2,977,968</u>
Expenditure			
Administration	3	(1,442,632)	(1,354,170)
Operations	4	<u>(2,072,361)</u>	<u>(1,733,494)</u>
		<u>(3,514,993)</u>	<u>(3,087,664)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		105,123	109,696
Surplus/(Deficit) at 1 January		<u>319,042</u>	<u>428,738</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) at 31 December		<u>424,165</u>	<u>319,042</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 13 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Chairperson

Date

Chief Executive Officer

Date

Board Member

Date

South Western Regional Fisheries Board

The Board had a very successful year in 2007. Its office move heralded a new era for the Fisheries Service in the SW.

Environmentally, stakeholder attitudes towards the inland fisheries environment improved with the Board receiving many beneficial information calls from the general public and anglers.

The commercial salmon sector worked well with the Board in the development and management of its industry into the future.

Game, coarse and sea angling was of a very high standard throughout 2007. While the salmon arrived late due to low water, numbers in some rivers were up on 2006 statistics.

There were many notable successes on the tourism angling front. This bodes well for the future of tourism angling in the SW and Ireland generally. Sea angling, once again, was of a particularly high standard and bass angling is continuing to be the premier sea angling product.

Corporate Governance

Board staff

In 2007 the Board had 32 full time staff and employed 7 temporary staff.

The Board carried out its functions in accordance with, and as laid down by, the 'Ethics in public Office' directives. Corporate governance and 'value for money' are viewed as core principles by the Board, management and staff.

The Boards Audit Committee continued to function efficiently.

Five year development plan

The Boards five-year development plan, with its emphasis on safeguarding the environment through sustainable development continues to be applied with educational programmes forming its backbone. No Net Loss and mitigation banking are valuable additions to the plan which continues to gain momentum.

Annual Business Plan

The Board successfully achieved the components of its business plan in 2007. While there were many challenges throughout the year the Board succeeded in delivering its objectives and bringing the programmes home on budget.

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Sustainable development

The Board made considerable headway in its sustainable development initiatives and continued with its education awareness programme through ‘Something Fishy’ and multi stakeholder processes generally. The Holistic Management Model developed for the Kerry Blackwater continues to be applied elsewhere. While not without its challenges MSP’s continue to offer a real opportunity in management of the regions fisheries.

Aquaculture

The Board continued to keep a watching brief on the regions sea lice monitoring programme.

The Board assisted the Tralee Oyster Society.

Fisheries Protection

Through the work of the Boards protection staff a number of prosecutions were initiated and a substantial quantity of illegal fishing equipment and fish was seized in 2007. The ‘On the Spot fines’ system continued to prove effective. The general public continued to feed information into the Board which is of considerable assistance in tackling illegal activities in the region.

On The Spot Fines (OTSF)

The Board issued 31 (Kerry) and 60 (Cork) OTSF's in 2007.

Mobile Protection Unit

The Boards mobile Protection Unit proved to be a considerable deterrent to illegal fishing activities in 2007. The Unit provides a valuable rapid response facility to the Board that greatly assists its protection operations. The Unit was well received by the general public and anglers.

Protection statistics

Cork Region

Total nets seized	6 nets – 1000 m
Fish seized	165 bass, 1 salmon
Prosecutions initiated	16
Equipment seized	26 items

Kerry Region

Total nets seized	63 nets – 4,500 m
Fish seized	6 salmon
Prosecutions initiated	12
Equipment seized	10 items

National fish counter programme

The following counters operated in the region during the year;

Waterville fishery
Kerry Blackwater
River Bandon

The Board counter programme continues to deliver quality data on salmon and sea trout movements in the SW. The Board upgraded its counter programme during the year and now downloads and validates data at time of capture.

Tags and Quotas

The wild salmon and sea trout tagging scheme ran smoothly throughout 2007.

There was a 100% return of logbooks from commercial fishermen.

The return of angler's logbooks stands at 75%, which is a 10% increase on the final 2006 figure.

Commercial Salmonid Catches 2007

For the first time commercial salmon fishing by Draft Net was the only type allowed operate in the South West. The following table shows the rivers where draft netting operated and the total catch reported on those rivers for 2007.

Fishery district	Rivers	Total Surplus	Commercial TAC	Commercial Catch
Cork	Owennacurra	461		
	Lower Lee (Martin, Shornach, Bride)	1,614		
	(as one total)	<u>2,075</u>	1556	1543
	Bandon	1,453	366	169
	Ilen	502	181	159
	Mealagh	63	20	0
	Coomhola	277	114	0
Kerry	Roughy	577	304	40
	Blackwater (Kerry)	236	83	0
	Sneem	84	19	0
	Waterville	672	419	0
	Caragh	751	518	131
	Laune	7,170	6166	1941
	Owenmore R.	109	83	83

Table 9: Total draft net catch in the South Western Regional Board for 2007

Environmental Management and Control

Aquatic Environment

The Board received 278 reports of an environmental nature during 2007. These reports ranged from complaints of the discharge of effluent directly to waters from agriculture, industry and local authority sources, through non-compliance with planning conditions, dumping of materials close to watercourses and physical interference with rivers through drainage and gravel extraction.

Comment: Of note were several incidents involving the removal of riverbed materials affecting salmonid spawning and nursery grounds. This form of aquatic interference continues in rivers and streams throughout the region, compromising river channel and river bank habitat and stability.

Low rainfall throughout the southwest during March and April resulted in unseasonable low water levels and reduction in wetted bed areas along river channels. It was also noted that several streams in karst areas dried up, this impact may have been exacerbated by anthropogenic factors affecting ground water levels. Over abstraction from surface waters was also an issue.

The majority of the reports were received from the general public with the remainder being from fishery officers, anglers and Board members.

Activity	2007 %
Drainage & gravel removal	22
Agriculture (slurry/silage etc)	11
Local Authority Works/Discharges	13
Abstraction/Low Flows	4
Forestry Works	4
Construction Activities Discharges	6
Planning Concerns	7
Fish Health/Disease	3
Eutrophication	3
Miscellaneous*	16

* Includes unsubstantiated reports, odour pollution, fish passage issues and natural events etc.

Table 10: The nature of environmental reports to the South Western Regional Board for 2007

Prosecutions

5 prosecutions were initiated as a result of environmental investigations. These related to fish kills, serious and repeat pollution events and aquatic habitat interference. All five have been successfully concluded.

Fish Kills

4 fish kills were recorded during the year. The cause in one was positively identified and resulted in a successful prosecution; however there was insufficient evidence in two others to initiate court proceedings and the fourth was associated with nutrient enrichment and could not be attributed to any source.

Date:	River:	Location:	Nos.	Type:	Cause:	Prosecution
20.05.07	Chapel Lake (Bandon)	Dunmanway	100	pike + eels	algal bloom	no
07.06.07	Mall River	Dingle	2000	B.trout, st eels (parr and fry)	Water treatment chemical (LA)	yes
27.06.07	Bride River (Lee)	Aherla	200	bt +salmon, (parr and fry)	Ag. Herbicide suspected. nc	no
08.09.07	Brewery River (Bandon)	Dunmanway	200	salmon, (parr and fry)	Water Treatment chemical suspected, nc	no

Table 11: Details of all fish kills in South Western Regional Board for 2007.

Submissions

Submission were made in relation to the following

- 144 Waste Management Permit Applications
- 20 Water Pollution Act Discharge License Applications
- 13 Foreshore/Aquaculture License Applications.
- 109 Forestry Submission on applications relating to establishment, clear fell and native woodland schemes.
- 64 SEA/Draft Development Plans.
- 5 submissions were made on National and Regional Policy Papers and Guidelines.

Section 18 Authorisations EIS + Research

9 Authorisations were issued by the Board during the year.

Civil Works/Fishery Development:

191 civil work proposals were assessed, which involved inspections, meeting, consultations and or submissions as appropriate. Fish removal operations were undertaken to facilitate river diversions and temporary bridge construction.

Educational/Awareness Programme:

9 school environment sessions and a total of 270 students addressed.

5 REPS Presentations were made at Teagasc organised courses.

No Net Loss Presentation at US Corps Annual Conference.

Invasive Species: A meeting was convened by the Board for authorities involved with water resources in the South West to discuss issues of prevention and control of alien species. Dr Joe Caffrey gave a presentation followed by a discussion on responsibilities and actions.

The Board contributed to the preparation of “Guidelines on the Planning, Design, Construction & Operation of Small Scale Hydro-Electric Scheme and Fisheries” which was published during the year.

Planning:

A total of 14,908 planning applications were reviewed with 564 submissions in relation to their potential impact on fisheries made to the relevant planning authorities. In many instances preplanning consultation with developers took place and fishery requirements were included in development design. 1 decision was appealed to An Bord Pleanala during the year.

Freedom of Information Act

No requests under the Freedom of Information Act were received by the Board in 2007.

Energy requirements

The Board, a member of the Lee Valley Ecolabel Project, continued its programme of energy improvement. In addition the Board as part of its sustainable energy initiative modified 7 vehicles to run on pure vegetable oil (PVO) thereby reducing the Boards CO2 footprint. The Board also built two PVO filling stations.

Access

The Board continues to implement its disabled access programme

Training

Board staff attended a number of training courses during the year.

PMDS

The Boards 2007 PMDS programme continued to gain momentum. Staff stated that they found the process valuable, allowing for additional feedback which assisted them in the delivery of the Boards Development Plan.

Health and Safety

The Board held a number of staff H&S meetings during the year. Comprehensive equipment checks were undertaken to ensure safe operations.

Marketing and Promotion

The Board had a very successful year on the marketing and promotional side producing a number of publications. Six trade shows were attended in 2007, two in the USA, one in the UK, one in France and two in Holland. These shows resulted in a number of firm bookings and generated considerable interest.

Angling log book data indicates that the US trade shows have resulted in a very positive growth from USA anglers.

Several promotional articles were written for various publications.

Catchment Management

Catchment Management, a process fully adopted by the Board, continues to gain ground. While a number of aspects associated with catchment management generated considerable discussion throughout the year, co-management is now well set to become the management tool of choice for fishery managers

Multi Stakeholder Processes (MSP's)

The Board continued to develop and advance the multi stakeholder process in the management of the regions inland fisheries. Considerable effort was applied to the development of systems that would allow for the dissemination of information.

Public Education Awareness

The Board undertook a number of public/school awareness programmes. These are designed to build capacity and foster relations. They were very well received by the groups in question.

Network and partnering

The Board continued to build its network base in 2007. Collaborative management and partnerships are viewed as pivotal by the Board in delivering a stream lined service.

Board Fisheries

Coarse Angling - Inniscarra Lake

Inniscarra Lake, managed jointly by the ESB and the SWRFB, had a very successful year and indications are that visiting tourist numbers are on the increase. Pike and bream angling were particularly good during the year. Boat patrols on the lake proved very successful.

There were several angling competitions held on the lake during the year and these had very successful returns.

Managed Trout Lakes

The Boards managed Rainbow trout lakes had a good year. Approximately 50,000 Rainbow trout were stocked into the lakes. Net permit revenue amounted to €95,565. The Creel Census forms indicated that people enjoyed fishing the lakes with some large fish being landed during the year.

Permit Sales for the Boards Fisheries

The total permit sales for the Boards fisheries other than the Managed Lakes was € 29,327

Sea Angling

Reports from anglers during the year indicated that sea angling, both from boat and shore, were of a high standard. Good numbers of mainland European anglers continued to visit our shores, especially the Dutch. Similarly there was a good volume of UK anglers. Several specimen fish were landed by the charter boats in 2007.

Special Projects

European initiatives

The Board actively sought new European programmes during 2007. While it did not initiate any new programmes it engaged in consultation with two prospective leads.

No Net Loss

The Boards 'No Net Loss' programme aimed at ensuring sustainable development of the SW is ongoing. A number of presentations were given during the year.

Tourism angling programmes

The Board in conjunction with both Kerry and Cork county councils undertook development programmes on a number of the regions rivers and lakes in excess of Euro 220,000.

The South Western Regional Fisheries Board

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

Income	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Income		2,695,834	2,788,012
Other Income	1	671,875	506,930
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	12	498,614	464,784
		<u>3,866,323</u>	<u>3,759,726</u>
Transfer to Capital Account	10	<u>(583,146)</u>	<u>139,032</u>
		<u>3,283,177</u>	<u>3,620,694</u>
Expenditure			
Administration	2	(955,857)	(1,025,343)
Operations	3	(2,821,963)	(2,162,759)
		<u>(3,777,820)</u>	<u>(3,188,102)</u>
(Deficit) Surplus for the year		(494,643)	432,592
Exceptional Item			
Profit on disposal of building	4	-	626,509
Revised (deficit) surplus for the year		(494,643)	1,059,101
Surplus at 1 January		<u>1,212,414</u>	<u>153,299</u>
Surplus at 31 December		<u>717,757</u>	<u>1,212,400</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 14 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

The exceptional income received during the year to 31 December 2006 relates to the disposal of property held by the board, see note 4 for details.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

Board Member

Date

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

The Shannon Fisheries Region covers the sea angling and inland fisheries of the Shannon River catchment from the River Feale catchment in North Kerry and the rivers of County Clare flowing westwards to the Atlantic to its source in Co. Cavan. The coastal boundaries stretch from Kerry Head to Hags Head in County Clare. The region covers a land area of 17,776 square kilometres which is serviced by 18 local authorities.

Mission Statement

“To conserve, develop, manage and promote the valuable inland fisheries and sea angling resources of the region in their own right and in a sustainable manner for the benefit of local communities”.

In delivering on the 2007 Business Plan and the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in place with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), the Board achieved its goals in seven main areas. The Board is committed to operating through partnership and delivering on its goals to a high standard, in a professional manner.

Habitat Conservation

Protect the fish habitat through the provision of Fisheries Environmental services in line with needs and available resources, in partnership with our stakeholders.

The conservation of the fish habitat remained a high priority for the Board throughout 2007. The continuing development of the Country's infrastructure has placed increased pressure on the fish habitat. In the case of road construction, the close working relationship with the National Roads Authority has enabled the Board and their staffs to reduce the impact of road construction on the fish habitat and in a number of cases improve and restore sections of spawning streams.

On the other hand the Country's development has led to increasing demands on the State's waste water treatment facilities, increasing the risk of enrichment in lakes and rivers. Greater and timelier investment in this area is required.

A large number of pollution inspections were carried out, resulting in the initiation of twelve prosecutions. There were three minor fish kills recorded in 2007 and fewer serious water pollution incidents were reported. This was no doubt helped by the high flow rates during the wet summer months but it also demonstrates that the awareness programmes and enforcement policies of the Board and Government are having an effect. It is clear also that the REPS farming programme has reduced the point source level of farm pollution. The effluent from waste water treatment plants and the inappropriate spreading, or over spreading, of farm effluent and fertilisers continues to enrich our rivers and lakes.

The Board report *Lough Sheelin and its Catchment, water quality status and nutrients loadings 1998 – 2005* clearly demonstrates that there was just a modest decrease in the total phosphate loading in the lake over that period despite action by all stakeholders within the catchment. It is clear in the case of Lough Sheelin and many other catchments throughout the Region that a determined final effort is required by all those involved to develop a comprehensive management strategy for the catchment, taking into account local conditions and utilising available resources. This approach is in line with the Country's commitment under the Water Framework Directive. The Board is committed to working with the Shannon International River Basin District Group, giving what assistance it can and carrying out, under contract, works such as the lake bathymetry survey on 68 lakes within the Region.

Drainage of rivers and streams continues to cause serious damage to the fish habitat. In seeking to prevent or minimise its effects, the Board consulted with a wide variety of groups - the Office of Public Works, the Local Authorities, local land owners, etc. - and while progress is being made and the groups involved are more aware of the fisheries needs, legislation in this area is required.

The assessment of planning applications requires a large amount of staff time. To address this issue the Board held a number of meetings with the Local Authorities' planning officials to make them aware of the requirements of the Fisheries habitat, not just in our rivers and lakes but also along their banks and riparian zones.

Regulation Compliance

Protect fish and their habitat through ensuring compliance and enforcement of regulations

Salmon

Major changes in the management of salmon were introduced in 2007. Salmon management is now on a river catchment basis and harvesting allowed only in catchments which are above their conservation level and in areas where no mixed salmon stocks are present. Drift net fishing has ended along the coast, as has drift and draft net fishing in the Shannon estuary. The majority of our salmon rivers have been closed with only the Muller and Feale catchments open for harvesting.

The allocation of additional resources by the Minister has ensured that the Board could enforce the new salmon management legislation. It should be noted that compliance was forthcoming from all sectors in this difficult year. The Board worked with BIM to implement a Hardship Scheme for commercial fishermen. In addition to the extra work produced by changes in Salmon Legislation the Board was requested by the ESB to supply enforcement services in the waters managed by the ESB. Additional staff were recruited and trained to carry out the full range of enforcement duties in the ESB waters.

Adverse weather conditions curtailed illegal salmon fishing along the coast and in the rivers during the summer months and at spawning time. There were a number of prosecutions initiated for breaches of the salmon legislation and on the spot fines were issued for minor infringements.

Despite the emphasis placed on enforcement it was apparent that compliance was high and most anglers and commercial fishermen operated within the legislation. Anglers welcomed the additional staff on the river banks and were reassured to see that the waters were being protected and that compliance was seen to be fairly enforced.

Other Species

The Board patrolled throughout the Region ensuring compliance with Trout, Pike and Coarse Fish Bye Laws. While the majority of anglers were compliant we noticed an

increase in the number of complaints from anglers about other fishermen, particularly those new to the Country. We responded to all complaints and found that the majority related to angling activities such as lighting fires, littering, etc., rather than to breaches of the Fisheries Regulations.

The number of breaches of the Trout, Pike and Coarse Fish Fisheries Regulations is increasing; therefore we are focusing additional Board resources on this area. The Board is also addressing this issue by disseminating information on the Fisheries Regulations in different languages to both local and visiting anglers.

Reports were received that Lamprey were removed from a number of rivers in the Region, however on investigation these were found not to be in breach of Fisheries Regulations. Discussions are ongoing with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to remedy this situation, using the EU Habitat Directive.

Resource investment and Product development

Deploy resources effectively to meet operational needs

Maintaining and developing the fisheries /angling resources of the Region is a core activity of the Board. We have embarked on various programmes to ensure that we understand the resources we have, what development is required and how the resources should be managed. The Board carried out projects to enhance and understand the angling resources using its own funding and in conjunction with other agencies/stakeholders.

Fish Counters

The two Logi Fish counters operated by the ShRFB on the Feale and Mulkear rivers worked well in 2007. The Mulkear counter is connected since December to the web and counts are uploaded directly to the www.fishcounter.com website. The Feale counter is also working well and it will be connected to the web in 2008. The counters have identified a significant increase in salmon figures running both of these rivers. The Maigne counter will be fully operational in early 2008, followed by the Fergus in late 2008.

Projects

A number of projects were undertaken by the Board, some in co-operation with national studies:

- Salmon radio-tracking on the Mulkear River and Shannon tail race together with a hydro-acoustic survey of the tail race. This information will add to our knowledge of salmon movements and assist in the development of salmon management plans for the Shannon catchment.
- Survey of Salmon distribution in the Maigne catchment.
- Supplying of samples to the national salmon genetic survey in co-operation with the CFB.
- Assisting the CFB in a fish stock assessment survey of the Fergus catchment.
- As part of the fisheries element of the Water Framework Directive a lake bathymetry survey commenced on 68 lakes and is due for completion in early 2008.

Fisheries Development

All of the Board's 755 angling structures were maintained in good condition, catering for over 2,000 anglers.

In partnership with the Local Authorities, as part of the Fáilte Ireland N.D.P. Angling Initiative, a number of infrastructural improvements were completed across the Region. Projects included car park facilities in County Roscommon; access road, car park and disabled angling stands in Westmeath; angling walkways, stream rehabilitation and car park, slipway and mooring facilities in County Leitrim; and parking and slipway facilities in County Clare.

The introduction of Chubb to the River Inny highlights the urgent need for legislation on the importation of alien fish and weed species. The Board continued its programme to remove Chubb and identified other areas which have seen an invasion of non-native plant species.

Fisheries River rehabilitation work was carried out on a number of Trout, Pike and Coarse Fish rivers in association with the NRA, ESB, private industry and angling clubs. This work included:

- Four kilometres of stream was rehabilitated using bank arming and a variety of weirs and deflectors on the Upper Inny.
- The final phase of a four year rehabilitation project on the Tudenham River was completed during the year. This work was brought about due to the road realignment of the N52.
- The second phase (4km) of a full rehabilitation project on the Cross River was completed during the year.
- The third phase of the six year rehabilitation of the Camlin River took place, involving work on the Stonepark river, a major spawning river.
- Technical assistance and supervision of ESB fisheries rehabilitation works on the Camcor, Little Brosna, Cross, Tang and Creggy rivers.
- The system of 27 trout and coarse fisheries which are managed directly by the Board proved popular with 2,000 angling permits being sold, an increase of 10% which was in line with our Business Plan.

Partnership

The Board is committed to the partnership process, involving all stakeholders in a particular catchment in the management of their fisheries. The Mulkear Catchment Management Group has been highly successful in bringing together the stakeholders and has implemented several of the initiatives in the Mulkear River Plan. In addition to this work the Group has submitted a funding application to the EU LIFE + nature programme, focusing on two major fish species occurring within the catchment - sea lamprey and the Atlantic salmon.

The Shannon Salmon Restoration Project was initiated in 2007 to look afresh at salmon management on the Shannon system. The project is reviewing current available information and investigating potential solutions to restore salmon stocks in the Shannon. This project is managed by a Shannon Regional Fisheries Board steering group who receive advice from a Technical Committee made up of scientists and managers from the ShRFB, the CFB, the ESB and the Marine Institute.

Education, Promotion and Marketing

Seek to conserve and protect the fish and their habitat through education and public awareness of the fisheries requirements.

The Board, in accordance with our Business Plan, promoted the angling resource to local and tourist anglers. The fisheries resource of the Region is of great benefit to the tourist sector and the Board worked with Fáilte Ireland, Local Tourism Groups, Local Authorities and others to attract tourist anglers to the Region. Our work included attending trade shows, issuing information leaflets, hosting angling competitions, hosting visiting journalists etc.

The numbers of tourist and Irish anglers was static. The angling product should be addressed and re-positioned in order to make angling more attractive to the wider public. The new salmon regime, particularly the closing of rivers, reduced salmon angling numbers. Sentiment was that the increase in the cost of salmon and sea trout licences due to the salmon conservation stamp levy, has led to many “casual anglers” opting out of salmon angling.

An Angling Centre was constructed in association with the Lough Owel anglers. It was utilized for the provision of training and angling information. During July there were two information seminars held in the Lough Owel Angling Centre. Private water keepers were given information on their powers and on the operations of the Board. Angling club representatives were briefed on water quality, club membership and creating partnerships with the Board. Both seminars were positively received.

The Board welcomes the many new anglers who have taken up residence in Ireland, having moved from other EU States. A brochure was designed for the new Pike and Coarse Fish Bye Laws in eight languages. It is planned to expand the services offered to new residents in 2008, as the Board is mindful of the need to provide information to those who are not fluent in either Irish or English.

The Board’s website has become an even more important component of our promotional strategy. The number of visitors continues to increase, with 53% more visitors than in 2006. During 2008 the site will be remodelled to ensure it meets best standards and provides the information required by our customers.

The awareness by children of the importance of our fisheries is very important to the Board. Staff worked with sixty schools as part of the “Something Fishy” project. The school talks created awareness among primary school children of their water/fishery environment. In association with angling groups children were taken to rivers and lakes and shown the elements of a good fishery and how it can be damaged.

Corporate Governance

Comply with Government code on Corporate Governance and service contract with the DCENR

The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board strives to effectively operate a professional, transparent and accountable service. The Board has put in place the following steps to ensure effective corporate governance.

- The Board members, both elected and Ministerial nominees meet monthly to review the Board’s operational and financial performance, and to formulate strategies and give direction to the Board. The Board members are representative of the stakeholders in the Shannon catchment.
- The Board has established subcommittees, which focus on Policy development, Audit oversight, and Fisheries management.
- The Board engages external professionals to perform an Internal Audit of the Board’s operations, in addition to the regular audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General.
- The Board has clearly defined Policies and Procedures, focusing on professionalism, accountability and segregation of duties.
- The Board adopts an annual Business Plan, which is drafted to ensure compliance with the Board’s service level agreement with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
- The Board has put in place a Risk Register and Risk Management Strategy.
- The Board complied with the Ethics in Public Office Act and has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, 2001

The Performance, Management and Development System is now, fully operational in the organisation. This system provides for the review of each individual's performance and their training needs against objectives which are in line with the business plan of the Board.

The two Fisheries Development Societies based in the Shannon Region, carried out Fisheries development and conservation work on a wide variety of projects. Both Societies provided an annual report and accounts in compliance with their requirements.

The co-operation and assistance of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, other Fisheries Boards, the ESB, An Garda Síochána, The Naval Service, The Air Corp, Angling Clubs, Local and Regional Authorities, Tourism Authorities, the OPW, and its many stakeholders is acknowledged by the Board.

Human Resources

Continue to develop a capable, flexible and effective organization

The key resource of the Board is its staff. Their dedication to the service was evident yet again during 2007. Over a number of years the Board has in collaboration with its staff developed a two pronged approach to staff development, utilising external training services (including that of the CFB) and developing in-house training skills. External courses included Coxswain courses, Management Development and First Aid, while internal training included a number of workshops and coaching courses in legislation and fisheries management techniques, utilising the skills and knowledge of Board staff. Over 500 training days were provided.

Continued focus is placed on promoting health and safety in the workplace. The Board carries out comprehensive reviews of equipment and personal safety.

The Board also worked in partnership with the other Fisheries Boards in delivering the national training and modernisation programme. Items outlined in the Service Level Agreement with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources were addressed.

The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

Income	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Income	3,148,910	3,265,176
Other Income	1,093,527	638,723
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	611,000	574,000
	<u>4,853,437</u>	<u>4,477,899</u>
 Transfer to Capital Account	 <u>6,823</u>	 <u>(291,038)</u>
	<u>4,860,260</u>	<u>4,186,861</u>
 Expenditure		
Administration	434,883	444,711
Operations	4,159,129	3,853,950
	<u>4,594,012</u>	<u>4,298,661</u>
 Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	 266,248	 (111,800)
 Surplus at 1 January	 <u>33,861</u>	 <u>145,661</u>
 Surplus at 31 December	 <u>300,109</u>	 <u>33,861</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 15 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

Chairman

Date

Western Regional Fisheries Board

Headquarters & Corporate Governance

Introduction

The Board undertook its statutory responsibilities throughout the year ensuring that the accounts of the Board were in order and that the necessary obligations were fulfilled.

On the 23rd January the Board discussed the fishery rate and a proposal that the rate be struck at €16.00 in the Euro was sent to the Minister in that regard.

The contents of the Internal Audit for 2006 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and action taken in respect of identified issues. The Board had a new Risk Register in place in advance of the audit.

All declarations in respect of the Ethics in Public Office Act for the year 2007 are in place for all current Board members and the Chief Executive Officer.

New Board Headquarters

On the 3rd May 2007 the Board received written confirmation that the Department had approved €1.0million towards the construction of a new Headquarters for the Western Regional Fisheries Board. This was seen as a landmark decision and welcomed by the Board. This is the first Board to be funded to construct its own purpose built headquarters and was seen as a vote of confidence in the management and Board.

The new headquarters project was progressed by the appropriate consultants during the course of the year and following the placing of the necessary advertisements in the press and the tenders web site in the week of the 11th April 2007.

At the design team meeting on the 21st May 2007, 9 companies were identified as having expressed interest in the project. These companies were circulated with the formal invitation to tender on the 23rd May 2007 with a closing date of the 21st June 2007. On Friday 22nd June a design team meeting took place to officially open the tenders in the presence of the Client. Out of the 9 sets of documents sent out 8 contractors made submissions. The tender summary documents for these were opened.

Cuddy Developments Ltd, Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway were identified as the most competitive and their tender bill of quantities taken by the Board's quantity surveyor to assess whether they had adequately assessed the project and that everything required was contained in their submission. – This assessment took place off site. On the 30th June the Board's quantity surveyor formally wrote to the Architects recommending that the tender of Cuddy's be accepted.

The contracts were signed by the Acting Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman in addition to the contractor on Tuesday 25th September 2007. Work is due to be completed in June / July 2008.



Repairs to Weir Lodge

The Board undertook substantial repairs to Weir Lodge as there were significant problems with the loss of the building's plaster work caused in part by failure of the lintels over the windows. A very painstaking operation took place as the building is a protected structure and the entire work had to be overseen by a conservation architect.



Finance

The Board accounts were prepared by the staff of the Board in conjunction with the Board's accountants Deacy and Associates. The draft accounts were forwarded to the Central Fisheries Board on the 14th March 2007.

A private firm undertook the audit of the Board on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General between the 7th and 12th June 2007. The final accounts were endorsed by the Board at its meeting on the 30th October 2007. It was noted that despite having a deficit for the year the Board was not in deficit as this was offset by a surplus carried forward from the previous year.

The Internal audit of the Board was undertaken on the 26th and 27th November 2007, this report is to be reviewed by the Audit Committee at its first meeting in 2008.

Management of Fisheries

Salmon Hardship Scheme

The salmon hardship scheme was established and the Board committed to ensuring that it was implemented in an efficient manner – this was successfully achieved with a 95% take up by commercial drift net licence holders in the year.

Managed State Fisheries

The Board continued to manage the state fishery assets of the Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge and the Galway Salmon and Eel Fishery. These fisheries were managed and maintained to the highest standards and were also used as scientific experimental research stations. The fisheries are open to the public and bookings are made in advance with care made that all applicants for angling are treated in a fair and equitable manner. The Lodge at Aasleagh is also used for meetings and training and several journalists were accommodated there in 2007.

The Board operates these fisheries as flagship state fisheries and will continue the important salmon and sea trout research being undertaken there.

Salmon Projects

The Board received funding from three sources for initiatives involved with salmon. Under these projects work was done on the Weirs at Galway and the Bunowen. In-stream and bank side work was approved for the Dunkellin and Carrowniskey rivers as well as funding for a VAKI counter at Clifden and a Logie on the Dawros – further funding was received for work on the Casla, Ballynahinch and Screebe fisheries.

Public Consultation – Wild Brown Trout Conservation Measures

The Board undertook a public consultation process in respect of new conservation measures for wild brown trout in Loughs Corrib, Mask and Carra. This involved advertisements in the local and national press, two public meetings chaired by an independent chairperson on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th July in Galway and Clonbur respectively and a report was prepared. On foot of the report several new bye-laws are proposed for 2008.

Ferox Project

The ferox trout monitoring project continued in 2007 with an additional 30 fish tagged and released. The movements of these fish were subsequently monitored during the spawning season.

Development Projects

The Board continued the ongoing management of the wild brown trout fisheries of Lough Corrib, Mask and Carra with stock management and stream rehabilitation and rescue of fry and parr.

During the autumn and winter redd counts were undertaken for both salmon and brown trout.

Sea Trout

The Board was represented on the Secretary General's working group on Sea Lice and several meetings were held in an effort to improve conditions for sea trout in the sea. Unfortunately despite high hopes the recommendations of the group would not seem to have been presented to the Minister prior to the retirement of the Secretary General and the revision of the Government Departments following the general election.

Sea Trout / Sea Lice Monitoring

The Board continued to undertake sampling for prematurely returning sea trout with juvenile lice infestations at the Gowla, Invermore, Casla, Erriff and Delphi estuaries. The number of prematurely returning sea trout with lice infestations in the Invermore estuary was very high this was reflected later in the year with a zero return for sea trout to the fishery. The Erriff and Delphi fish were also fairly badly infested.

Fish Counters

The Board continued to roll out the counters programme with further work on the weir at Louisburgh; the upgrading of facilities at Inagh and the replacement of the sheeting on the weir, the installation of a counter in the fish pass in Galway and preparatory work for counters at Clifden; Dawros and in the longer term Culfin. The Board continued to validate and verify the counts at Casla, Inagh and Ballynahinch.

Fish Traps

The Board continued to monitor the downstream and upstream movements of fish using trapping facilities on the Gowla and Invermore systems and also the Board controlled a trap on the Screebe system previously operated by the fishery owner.

Staff

Recruitment

The competition for the recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive officer for the Board finally took place in October / November 2007. At the meeting of the Board on the 27th November 2007 the recommendation of the Public Appointments Service was accepted and Dr. Gregory Forde was endorsed as the new permanent Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

This then enabled the sanction for the filling of the consequential Assistant Chief Executive Officer post and this was advertised during December 2007.

There were other posts filled during the year including two Assistant Inspectors a number of Fisheries Officers and General Operatives and one Foreman.

Retirements

Three staff retired during the year. Billy Murphy after 45 years service; Tony Burke after 22 years service and John Connor after 19 years service. The Board owes these staff sincere thanks for their commitment and dedication to the Board over many years.

Future of the Fisheries Service

A proposal from the Chairman of the Central Fisheries Board in respect of the future model for the fisheries service was discussed by the Board at its meeting on the 11th September 2007. These proposals are forming the basis for discussions for the service model for the future and it is hoped that the matter can be refined in the first half of 2008 with a view to having the necessary legislation ready for a new structure in early 2009.

Environment

Environmental Incidents

Over 780 incidents were logged on the Boards environmental database during the year 2007. Some of the more significant findings were the cryptosporidium outbreak in Galway City drinking water supply; the confirmation of Zebra Mussels in Lough Corrib and the discovery of Roach in Lettercraffroe lake above an impassable barrier.

Several prosecutions took place against the local authority for a fish kill and pollution, one other has been adjourned by mutual concern to allow for remedial works to take place.

The Board presented its comprehensive bathymetric report for in excess of 100 lakes to the Western River Basin District. A further report on the Owenriff River fish stocks was also being prepared and will be part of the 2008 report.

Seven lakes were surveyed in conjunction with the Central Fisheries Board as part of their commitments under the Water Framework Directive.

A large number of meetings took place with developers in relation to infrastructure projects in particular the N6 into Dublin - Galway.

Invasive Alien Species

The globalisation of the environment continued apace in 2008 with Zebra mussels finally being confirmed in Lough Corrib. The Lagarosiphon major infestation of the

same lake was confirmed in 64 sites. The Board also commenced a major Rhododendron eradication programme in the grounds of Aasleagh Lodge as it was seen as inappropriate for a state agency to have an alien species established throughout the grounds of one of its properties.

Western Fisheries Development Society

The Board continued to work in close association with the Western Fisheries Development Society and several major projects undertaken by the angling Clubs and funded by the Development Society were sub-contracted to the Fisheries Board. This has resulted in excellent value for money. The Co-operative took in €21,548.50 from the sale of share certificates and made grant allocations totalling €63,603. The Co-op also received a total of €38,841.50 for grant aid for 2005 and 2006.

Publications

During the year the Board completed the publication of a new angling guide map for Lough Mask. In addition newsletters were prepared for both the Galway and Erriff fisheries. Copies of these are attached or are available on the Board's web site www.wrfb.ie

Institute of Fisheries Management Conference, Westport 2007

The Board organised the Annual International Conference for the Institute of Fisheries Management in Westport, Co. Mayo between the 15th and 18th October with over 230 delegates attending. The conference was a resounding success.

The Western Regional Fisheries Board

Income and Expenditure Account for the 12 months to 31 December 2007

Income	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Income	1	4,335,723	3,679,802
Other Income	2	955,739	908,154
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10(b)	<u>436,538</u>	<u>473,273</u>
		5,728,000	5,061,229
Transfer to Capital Account	11	<u>(603,402)</u>	<u>(776,545)</u>
		<u>5,124,598</u>	<u>4,284,684</u>
Expenditure			
Administration	3	1,354,798	1,713,788
Operations	4	<u>3,297,257</u>	<u>3,061,287</u>
		<u>4,652,055</u>	<u>4,775,075</u>
Surplus for the year		472,543	(490,391)
Surplus at 1 January		<u>210,246</u>	<u>700,367</u>
Surplus at 31 December		<u><u>682,789</u></u>	<u><u>(210,246)</u></u>

The results for the year relate to continuing operations.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 15 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

Board Member

Date

North Western Regional Fisheries Board

Protection and Conservation of Fisheries

Protection of salmon stocks accounted for most of the Board's work in relation to conservation and protection of fisheries in 2007. The prohibition of indiscriminate drift net fishing at sea, together with the closure of a number of rivers and the restriction to catch & release on others imposed a considerable additional workload. However, there was a very high level of compliance with the prohibition on drift net fishing which enabled staff to concentrate on enforcement of the law on inland waters.

The exceptionally high water levels which prevailed throughout much of the summer made illegal fishing on rivers difficult and this was helpful in relation to enforcement of the new salmon management regime. The Board's Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs) regularly patrolled the coastal area and short duration boat patrols were 52% (2,687 man hours) up on 2006 (1,766 man hours).

Prosecutions were initiated in seventeen cases. At the time of this report, convictions had been recorded in six cases, charges were struck out in three cases on the basis of financial contributions to the court and eight cases were pending. The salmon tagging, bag limit and quota regulations were enforced and 4,986 angling licences/logbooks were checked. In order to conserve stocks, a new bye-law was introduced prohibiting salmon fishing on the River Deel during the month of September.

Management of Salmon Stocks

The Government decision to limit exploitation of salmon stocks to rivers that were deemed to have a harvestable surplus resulted in major changes in the management of the salmon fishery. The Board's CEO met with various angling groups and the Board also held a general information evening, for commercial fishermen and anglers, to explain the new regulations. A leaflet outlining the changes in the region was published and made available for download on the Board's website.

Board staff decommissioned drift nets in accordance with the Hardship Scheme and all nets taken into possession were sent for recycling. The Board further developed its fish

counter programme with modifications to the Owenmore River counter, further experimentation with counters at the weir in Ballina and development of plans for counters on the Owenduff and Newport Rivers. In order to monitor juvenile fish stocks, electrofishing surveys were carried out on index sites in the Bangor (37sites), Ballina (26 sites) and Sligo (54 sites) Districts.

The Board assisted the Marine Institute with the operation of a smolt trap on the river Deel and with management of an experimental hydro-acoustic counter on the same river during the spawning season. A firm of consulting engineers was commissioned to carry out a study and to produce a Preliminary Report on modernisation and refurbishment of the salmon weir on the Moy in Ballina.

Development and Improvement of Fisheries

With funding provided from the Salmon Conservation Fund, spawning/nursery water improvement works were carried out on a tributary of the Glenamoy River. On the Crumpaun River, a tributary of the Newport River system, a major shrub clearance project was carried out using a special forestry harvesting machine and 4.8 km of completely inaccessible channel was cleared. A further 25 km of river bank was cleared of scrub along various channels in the Moy catchment under a Board sponsored FÁS Community Employment Scheme. Significant habitat improvement works were completed on the Scardaun River, a tributary of the River Bonet. On the Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown) River, 1,565 m² of spawning area was also enhanced.

The Board continued its ongoing development programmes at Loughs Conn, Cullin and Arrow where 1,876 pike (2.119 kg) were removed and 651 of the best fish, weighing 980 kg (average 3 kg), were stocked to designated pike fisheries. Fourteen other fish stocking operations were also carried out involving the release of 3,950 adult brown trout, 20,000 brown trout fry/fingerlings and 3,040 rainbow trout.

Other works completed included improvements to access along various rivers, fish salvage operations, landscaping of two car parks along the River Moy in the Foxford area. Also, the Cathedral Angling Centre, which had been completed by the Board in 2006, won a national architectural award in 2007 for the best leisure building.

Protection of Water Quality

The protection and restoration of water quality was again a very important element of the Board's work. In addition to ongoing sampling programmes in the Loughs Conn/Cullin, Lough Beltra and Lough Doon catchments, a wide range of inspections was carried out, planning applications monitored, forestry proposals assessed, Environmental Impact Statements examined etc. A feature of the work during the year was the installation, on a tributary of Lough Conn, of a new continuous automatic sampler with remote telemetry.

The Board's laboratory operated efficiently and a total of 1,332 water samples were analysed for up to 11 determinants. A total 125 planning applications were examined and three appeals were submitted to An Bord Pleanála. Board staff carried out 113 farm inspections, 27 inspections of waste water treatment plants and 65 inspections of infrastructural projects and action was taken as necessary for the protection of water quality. Environmental presentations were made to eighteen separate groups including REPS (Rural Environmental Protection Scheme) courses.

The Board participated in implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Western River Basin District. Work continued on monitoring the impact on water quality of a bog rehabilitation project being undertaken by Bord na Móna. At the year end, the project was nearing completion and a report was being prepared.

Promotion and Marketing of Angling

The Board's website, www.northwestfisheries.ie, was completely redesigned in conjunction with the CFB Web Master and received a total of 69,969 visits (1,172,477 hits) during the year. A weekly angling report was produced throughout the fishing season and was circulated widely. The Board's Angling Officer dealt with a large number of angling enquiries and attended seven trade shows including four overseas in the UK and Germany. The Board's promotional material was disseminated widely and 38 advertisements were placed in Irish and overseas angling publications and in tourism publications for the Mayo and Sligo areas.

The Board worked closely with Ballina Chamber of Commerce in relation to the Ballina/North Mayo Tourism Marketing Initiative which it supported financially and also participated directly in the work of Fishing Ireland West. Juvenile angling was promoted and the Board organised or directly supported nine juvenile angling events, involving 156 participants. Evening fishing, free of charge, was provided for juvenile anglers on the Cathedral Beat of the River Moy. During 2007, the Board also dedicated considerable resources to the successful delivery of the Something Fishy schools project to National schools in the region.

The origins of anglers who purchased 6,714 salmon angling licences in the region were analysed. The results indicated that 74% (4,968) was purchased by anglers from outside of the region while 52% (3,491) was purchased by anglers from outside the 26 counties and 39% (2,618) of the total was purchased by anglers from outside the 32 counties. Anglers came from 38 countries including Australia, South Africa and the United States.

Management of Board Fisheries

The Board had direct responsibility for management of a number of State owned fisheries in the region and utilised its fisheries to promote juvenile angling.

A total of 4,617 rod days were fished on Board managed fisheries in 2007 compared with 5,317 in 2006, a decrease of 13 %. Permit and boat hire income amounted to €42,902 compared with €64,837 in 2006, a decrease of 8%. The decreases were due to poor fishing on the Moy Fishery as a result of persistent high water levels.

Angling on the Moy Fishery was allocated in accordance with the Board's criteria. and 3,121 anglers were accommodated. Fishing on the Cloongee Fishery improved on 2006 with a recorded catch of 333 salmon in 2007 compared with 219 in 2006 (an increase of 52%).

Booking arrangements were operated for all Board fisheries and boats were provided for hire on four lakes. A stocking programme was undertaken throughout the season to ensure that put and take fisheries had adequate stocks of trout at all times. The Board's

rainbow trout fishery at Ballin Lough was particularly successful with an increase of 22% in the number of rod days and 120% in the number of trout caught, of which, more than 50% were returned alive.

Fish Catches and Angling

Commercial Salmon Fishing

Following the Government decision to prohibit indiscriminate exploitation of salmon stocks and to confine commercial fishing to rivers with harvestable surpluses, there was no drift net fishing in the region in 2007. The only commercial exploitation of salmon stocks occurred in the Tullaghan Bay area (Owenmore and Owenduff River estuaries) where a catch of 1,292 salmon was reported from a quota of 1,406 salmon. Persistent high water levels, combined with a late run of fish, resulted in this quota not being caught.

Salmon Angling

The salmon angling season was dominated by exceptionally high water levels which prevailed throughout much of the summer combined with a continuation in the trend of grilse running later than in the past. The total recorded catch for the Moy was 8,997 salmon which represented a decrease of 8% on the recorded catch in 2006 which was 9,745. In the Bangor District, Carrowmore Lake again enjoyed a good run of spring salmon; however, the run of grilse to the Owenmore River was again very late. In the Sligo District, the Lough Gill/River Bonet system was closed for the entire season but the Ballisodare River enjoyed an excellent run of grilse and a relatively low quota resulted in a large proportion of fish being returned alive.

Brown Trout Fishing

Brown trout fishing in the region's large lakes was again quite slow. Some anglers enjoyed good fishing on Lough Conn during the Mayfly period but, overall, fishing was quite inconsistent. The reported trout catch on Lough Conn was 2,081 trout compared with 2,387 in 2006 (a decrease of 13 %) and, encouragingly, anglers reported reasonably good numbers of small fish which were returned. Fishing on Lough Arrow was again poor for most of the season but some improvement was reported, particularly during the Mayfly season.

Rainbow Trout Fishing

Ballin Lough (near Westport) was managed by the Board as a quality rainbow trout fishery and again proved very popular with both local and visiting anglers. The number of trout caught on the lake was 1,039 compared with a reported catch of 472 in 2006 (an increase of 120%).

Sea Trout Fishing

Due to the ongoing collapse of sea trout stocks in Burrishoole River/Lough Beltra fisheries, as a result of sea lice infestation, sea trout angling was again confined largely to the Owenmore and Owenduff Rivers, Carrowmore Lake and the Moy Estuary. The reported catch on the Moy Estuary was 1,526 sea trout compared with 1,086 in 2006 (an increase of 40%).

Sea Angling

Sea angling in the region enjoyed a successful year with the various clubs reporting good returns in all areas from their annual shore and boat competitions. The arrival of two new charter boats in the region provided a welcome boost to sea angling but the holding of major festival events was still hampered by the lack of sufficient licensed charter vessels. Shore angling in the North Mayo/West Sligo area was reported to be excellent with good catches of various flat fish species, pollack, coalfish, mackerel and conger taken mainly from piers and rocks.

Commercial Eel Fishing

The Board issued a total of fourteen long line licences, of which eight were fished, and six fyke net licences of five which were fished. The total recorded catch was 6.6 tonnes compared with a recorded catch of 7.2 tonnes in 2006.

Corporate Governance

The Board complied with the requirements of the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Sponsored Bodies*. The Board operated within budget and an internal audit confirmed that Board management had implemented an adequate system of internal financial control in the areas which were subject to audit. The Board's audit committee was active and had discussions with both the Board's external and internal auditors. Board members were reminded of their responsibilities in relation to the provisions of

the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 and a new Code of Conduct for Employees was introduced.

Compliance with Disability Act, 2005

A census of staff employed at year end confirmed that the Board had achieved the 3% target for employment of people with disabilities. Considerable attention was paid to the requirements set out in the NDA Guidelines for Web Accessibility and the Board's website conformed with priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the guidelines. Following an accessibility audit of the Board's headquarters carried out in late 2006, significant investment was made in 2007 to implement most of the recommendations detailed in the audit report. An Access Officer was also designated to deal specifically with access issues.

The North Western Regional Fisheries Board

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

Income	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
Oireachtas Income		3,097,390	2,898,944
Other Income		1,040,030	1,017,586
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions		667,000	580,000
		4,804,420	4,496,530
Transfer to Capital Account		6,772	(525,184)
		4,811,192	3,971,346
 Expenditure			
Administration		(1,620,038)	(1,281,261)
Operations		(3,124,651)	(2,842,311)
		(4,744,681)	(4,123,572)
Surplus for the year		66,503	152,226
Surplus at 1 January		434,277	586,503
Surplus at 31 December		500,780	434,277

The Statements of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 17 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Signed:

Chief Executive Officer

Board Member

Date:

Northern Regional Fisheries Board

Corporate Governance

The Comptroller and Auditor General's office carried out its annual audit of the Board's financial operations and systems. The audit sub-committee met four times during 2007 and the minutes and actions arising were adopted in full by the Board.

An internal audit was conducted during the year and its report and recommendations were circulated to the Board and implemented.

In accordance with Financial Reporting Standards FRS17, the Board engaged an actuary to value the liability of the Board's Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme. The results of the valuations are included in the 2007 accounts.

Human Resources

The board has a full time compliment of 41 permanent staff. The Board employed 15 temporary staff to carry out specific projects and additional protection duties during 2007. A further 5 staff were employed on EU funded projects.

The Board continued its commitment towards staff training, development and health and safety. Four staff completed the Certificate in Fisheries Management at Sligo IT.

Protection and conservation of Fisheries

Letterkenny and Ballyshannon districts

From a protection perspective 2007 proved to be quieter than expected given the closure of the drift net fishery, the loop net fishery on the R. Swilly and the major reduction announced in relation to the draft net fisheries. Despite close surveillance of coastal waters the majority of illegal fishing activity detected related to illegal netting of rivers. The high numbers of juveniles engaged in poaching activity in parts of Donegal represents a cause for concern given the impact this type of activity can have on small, spate systems where salmon stocks maybe already depleted.

Angling in 2007 was restricted to four rivers in the Ballyshannon district (Duff, Drowse, Eany and Glen) and four rivers in Letterkenny district (Owenea, Gweebarra,

Crana and Clady). Angler compliance was generally good, although logbook returns remain disappointingly low at below 50%.

The Board conducted a number of fish stock assessment surveys throughout the region in conjunction with the Central Fisheries Board. A comprehensive report on the current status of the major Donegal salmon rivers and remedial measures identified to boost juvenile salmon production is due for completion in early 2008. Meanwhile salmon redd counts, electrofishing surveys and analysis of salmon counter data from the Eany and Eske fisheries generally indicated an increase in the mean size of salmon escaping into Donegal rivers following the closure of the drift net fishery, however the large increase in salmon numbers reported from some other rivers around the country were not observed.

Upper Erne

A number of incidents of illegal fishing activity was reported in the Cavan district in relation to coarse fish, pike and eel through the year necessitating additional allocation of staff time towards protection patrols. A number of successful prosecutions were taken through the District Courts and the imposition of significant fines and costs on defendants with the forfeiture of boats, nets and other equipment. Regular patrols to enforce the pike bye laws were conducted at periods of peak pike angling activity. The majority of anglers are aware of and are compliant with the legislation.

Angling

Letterkenny and Ballyshannon districts

Angling activity was markedly reduced in 2007 due to the closure of several rivers and the additional costs of angling licences due to the salmon conservation levy. Nevertheless, the wet summer and reduced commercial netting resulted in good angling opportunities with higher than average sized salmon taken on many fisheries.

Upper Erne

Coarse angling in the Upper Erne continued to attract UK and Continental tourists. The NCFFI All Ireland Championships was held on L. Oughter with nearly full attendance. Locally organised coarse angling festivals continued to be successful and

significant increases in numbers entering were recorded, most notably Belturbet, Cootehill and Carrigallen. The Irish Ferries and Failte Ireland sponsored British King of Clubs was again successful with a total catch by 108 anglers of 4,310 kg. Average catch per peg weighed in was over 8 kg.

Development and Improvement of Fisheries

Upper Erne catchment (Cavan, Monaghan and Leitrim)

During 2007 approximately €20,000 in funding was secured through Failte Ireland NDP funds for the provision of improved angling access and car parking facilities in Cavan, Monaghan and Leitrim. Working closely in conjunction with the relevant local authorities, major progress was made in upgrading, extending and creating road access and car parking facilities at several key fisheries in the Upper Erne. Integral to two of these projects was the provision of high class facilities for disabled anglers in the form of purpose designed floating pontoons at Gortawinny Lake (Clones) and Cuillaghan Lake (Ballyconnell).

	Center	Works Completed	Total
Cuillaghan L.	Ballyconnell	Access road, Car Park & Disabled Facility	€7,571
L.Gowna	Gowna	Access road & car park	€9,450
L.Gowna	Gowna	Upgrade existing access road & car parking	€24,140
Killybandrick L.	Belturbet	Extend & upgrade existing road. New car park.	€9,998
L. Oughter	Killeshandra	Upgrade existing access road & car parking	€7,591
L. Oughter	Killeshandra	Upgrade existing access road & car parking	€60,897
Corravoo Lake	Ballybay	Access road & car park	€15,000
Drumate Lake	Ballybay	Access road & car park	€42,796
River Finn	Clones	Footbridges, Stiles, Car Parking	€10,000
Gortnawinny L.	Clones	Disabled Facilities	€20,000
Gulladoo Lake	Carrigallen	Access road & car park	€22,000
		TOTAL	€19,443

Table 12: Details of NDP funded works in Northern Regional Fisheries Board for 2007.

Donegal

Further funding of €190,100 was provided by Failte Ireland NDP for the development of angling facilities on three Donegal game rivers; - the Gweebarra, Owenea and Eske. Additional funds (€179,000) secured under the Salmon Rehabilitation fund (from the €1.25 million National fund), and the Wild Salmon Conservation levy (€20,000), has been allocated for salmon stock assessment, habitat improvement and remedial measures on 6 further rivers.

Fishery	Funding	Works Completed	Total
Gweebarra R.	Failte Ireland	Access, car parking, stiles, fencing	€156,000
Owenea R.	Failte Ireland	Entrance & car park at Glenties centre	€26,800
Eske R.	Failte Ireland	Angling access, stiles, walkways, fencing	€7,300
Donegal Rivers	Salmon Rehab.	Salmon Stock assessment with CFB	€34,000
Owenea R.	Salmon Rehab.	Footbridge between Beat 8 and 9	€30,000
Eske	Salmon Rehab.	Bank reinforcement and fencing	€15,000
Leannan R.	Salmon Rehab.	Preparatory works for fish counter	€100,000
Glen R.	Conservation Fund	Fencing and bank reinforcement in upper reaches of catchment	€17,500
Clady R.	Conservation Fund	Fencing and bank reinforcement	€1,960
Eany R.	Exchequer	Bank clearance, walkways, maintenance	€8,000
		TOTAL	€362,560

Table 13: Details of other funded works in Northern Regional Fisheries Board for 2007.

Marketing and Promotion

Major progress was made through the year in marketing and promotion of the fisheries in the Northern region with publication of 'A guide to Sea angling in the Donegal region' by Norman Dunlop of the Central Fisheries Board which provides a detailed account of the rich sea angling available. The Board also published two further guides, for the Eske and Owenea systems, which include detailed beat maps for each of these

salmon fisheries. Board staff attended a number of angling shows in Ireland, Britain and France to promote the angling available in the region.

Education and Fisheries Awareness

During the year the Board continued to roll out the Something Fishy education programme for primary schools. A total of 38 national schools in Donegal and 10 schools in the Cavan region participated in the programme which combines a teacher resource pack with posters, class room and practical sessions providing school children with the opportunity to get 'hands on' experience of the fish, insect life and habitat of their local river.

Catchment Management

The NRFB continued its role as lead agency for the Lough Melvin Nutrient Reduction Programme funded by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme for Ireland/Northern Ireland. Lough Melvin is an internationally significant cross border lake that contains populations of Atlantic salmon, Arctic char and three sub-species of trout. Due to the importance of L. Melvin as an oligo-mesotrophic lake that supports a diversity of habitats and species, it has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. The health of L. Melvin and its unique environmental values is particularly vulnerable to human activities in the surrounding catchment with the main threat being increase in nutrients from housing, forestry and agriculture.

The overall aims of the programme are to identify the sources of nutrient enrichment within the catchment and to develop a Catchment Management Plan with appropriate options, actions and recommendations to reduce these sources of enrichment. The Plan, to be completed by June 2008, incorporates outputs from four project strands. These include assessments of forestry, agriculture and wastewater as well as economic investigations and water quality monitoring. Project Partners, namely Queens University Belfast, Teagasc and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute are responsible for individual strands with the Northern Regional Fisheries Board being responsible for overall coordination of the Programme.

Consultation and engagement has been undertaken with a diversity of stakeholders to gain an insight into the social and economic aspects influencing management of the lake

and the surrounding catchment. This has primarily been undertaken through the cross-border catchment management group and steering committee and focussed public information evenings.

The Northern Regional Fisheries Board

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

Income	Notes	2006 €	2007 €
Oireachtas Income	1	3,343,533	3,040,874
EU Income	2	20,166	356,713
Other Income	3	400,793	249,189
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	15 b	467,292	640,390
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Transfer to Capital Account	11	(-456,259)	74,528
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		3,775,525	4,361,694
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure			
Administration	4	1,436,666	1,421,777
Operations	5	2,316,403	2,958,788
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		3,753,069	4,380,565
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for the year		22,456	(-18,871)
Surplus at 1 January		450,081	472,537
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus at 31 December		472,537	453,666
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Chief Executive Officer

Date

Board Member

Date