

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC FCIL 1 (13) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

AQUACULTURE & MARINE MEETING

FOYLE, CARLINGFORD & IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION (FCILC)

CARLINGFORD

3 MAY 2013

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty second North South Ministerial Council Aquaculture and Marine meeting was held in Carlingford on 3 May 2013. The meeting was attended by Pat Rabbitte TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Michelle O'Neill MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fergus O'Dowd TD, Minister of State, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and Nelson McCausland MLA, Minister for Social Development. Minister Rabbitte chaired the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Council received a progress report on the work of the Loughs Agency from the Vice-Chairperson, Alan McCulla, and the Acting Chief Executive, John Pollock. The Vice-Chairperson informed Ministers that Derick Anderson had retired from his post as Loughs Agency CEO and that arrangements are being

put in place to recruit a successor. Ministers thanked Mr. Anderson for the enormous contribution that he made to the development of the Loughs Agency since his appointment as CEO in 2000 and wished him all the best in retirement.

3. Ministers welcomed progress made including:

- the appointment of Mr. Peter Archdale and Mr. Paul O'Donovan as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the 3rd Foyle Area and Carlingford Area Advisory Forum;
- the Agency's ongoing conservation and protection efforts including that the Agency responded to over 100 pollution incidents in 2012 and that there were no fish kills in the Foyle and Carlingford catchment areas in 2012 and that the number of nets seized in 2013 has increased significantly;
- progress made on Marine Tourism and Angling Development including: the agency's prominent engagement with the City of Culture 2013, especially the important promotional opportunity afforded by the partnership with Tate Britain and the Turner Prize; the agency's role in supporting the angling element of the World Police and Fire Games; its involvement with the Flavours of the Foyle Seafood festival and its support for the Carlingford Oyster Festival and the World Youth Fly Fishing Championships.

PRESENTATIONS ON NASCO AND SEAFOOD FESTIVALS

4. The Council welcomed a presentation by Inland Fisheries Ireland CEO Dr Ciaran Byrne on the thirtieth meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) in Drogheda from 4 to 7 June 2013. This international event will bring together managers, scientists and Non Governmental Organisations from a wide range of countries to discuss conservation strategies for North Atlantic salmon stocks and how to increase the profile of salmon conservation.
5. Ministers welcomed the Loughs Agency's support for and involvement in local events in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments and noted the benefit of such events in promoting marine resources and local fisheries and produce of the Foyle and Carlingford catchments.

LOUGHS AGENCY PENSION ARRANGEMENTS

6. The Council was informed that Sponsor Departments have recommended that the Loughs Agency join the North/South Pension Scheme. This is currently under consideration by the respective Finance Departments.

LEGISLATION

7. Ministers approved for a further year, to July 2014, a procedure to support the Loughs Agency in dealing, through regulations, with emergencies such as pollution incidents.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8. The Council agreed to meet again in Aquaculture and Marine format in October 2013.

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