



North West Water Authority

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

LOCAL

10th October, 1975.

To: Members of the Mersey and Weaver
Fisheries Advisory Committee
(Messrs. J.S. Bailey; F. Burgess;
F. Egerton; P.W. Jennings;
T.N. McLoughlin; A. Ross;
F.W. Sims; Dr. J.W. Jones; and
the Chairman of the Authority
(P.J. Liddell); the Vice Chairman
of the Authority (T. Hourigan);
and the Chairman of the Regional
Fisheries Advisory Committee
(J.R.S. Watson) - ex officio).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the MERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 22nd OCTOBER, 1975, in COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1, DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

R.E. WOODWARD,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
4. Possible Angling Venues for the North West Disabled and Handicapped Anglers' Association.
5. Report by Divisional Scientist on Fisheries Activities.
6. Importation of Live Freshwater Fish.
7. Land Drainage Representation on Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
8. Fishery Byelaws - Proposed New Code.

9. Fishing Licence Duties.
10. Any Other Business.

NOTE Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room at approximately 1 p.m. The menu for the day is enclosed and members attending for lunch are asked to indicate their choice of main course to the officer on duty near the Members' Retiring Room.

Members are reminded that the cost of lunch, which is now 85p, should be paid on taking the meal and will be reimbursed on receipt of the members claim form for travelling and subsistence.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE22ND OCTOBER, 1975POSSIBLE ANGLING VENUES FOR THE NORTH WEST
DISABLED AND HANDICAPPED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

1. Mr. T. A. Blackledge, a member of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee, attended the National Conference for Disabled and Handicapped Anglers held at the Fishmongers' Hall, London, on 9th July, 1975, and reported on the success of the Conference to the Regional Committee on 21st July, 1975.

The Committee resolved that the Local Committees be asked to consider whether any waters within their respective areas might be suitable for the use of disabled and handicapped anglers.

2. The General Secretary of the Association, Mr. Les Curran, of 50 Kenilworth Drive, Hindley Green, Wigan, has now written informing the Authority that at the present time his members are limited to fishing on canals and he would welcome the Authority's assistance and guidance in seeking suitable fishing on lakes and rivers.
3. Although pursuing enquiries the Regional Fisheries Officer is not aware of any suitable waters in the ownership of the Authority and the Committee are invited to consider this request with a view to asking their association with suitable waters to consider offering a date or dates to the General Secretary of the North West Disabled and Handicapped Anglers' Association.
4. The following points ought to be borne in mind should this request be considered by the Associations:-
 1. A car park should be close to the fishing.
 2. For wheelchair anglers it is important that the access road from car park to waterside is firm and safe and that the bank is level without a slope in either direction.
 3. The provision of a safety rail or ridge for wheelchairs would be helpful.
 4. An excess of overhanging vegetation could make fishing difficult.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE22ND OCTOBER, 1975REPORT BY DIVISIONAL SCIENTIST ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES1ST APRIL, 1975-30TH SEPTEMBER, 19751. General Fisheries Management

Twenty three requests were received for advice on fisheries matters which required site investigations. Other enquiries which were dealt with by telephone or letter are not recorded.

Fishery potential of undeveloped waters	10
Development of fish rearing station	1
Weed control	2
Effects of pollution on fishery	3
General management	7
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	23
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2. Stocking

Applications for consent to introduce the following fish into waters have been approved:-

Brown Trout	1,300(Appleton Reservoir and River Dane)
Rainbow Trout	500(Appleton Reservoir)
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TOTAL	1,800
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Carp	5,200(Dovemere and Sandmere, Allostock)
Bream	1,400(Rochdale Canal and Bridgewater Canal)
Grayling	175(River Sett)
Mixed Coarse	3,000(Ashton Branch Canal, Bridgewater Canal and Pennington Flash)
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TOTAL	9,775
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Furunculosis has continued to reduce the number of fingerling brown trout available for free distribution after surviving toxicity tests. However, 1,930 fish in total have been released, 1,630 to Cogshall Brook and 300 to Borsdane Brook.

3. Electrofishing

Two applications from an angling club for permission to use their electrofishing equipment have been approved.

4. Biological Works

Biological river surveys:

Main Rivers	15
Main River Tributaries	7

Total number of biological samples for all purposes 315

The number of fish toxicity tests carried out in investigations into the toxic effects of discharges to river (using brown trout) are as follows:

Effluent Treatment Works	26
Industrial Premises	18
	—
	44
	—

All tests were carried out on discharges to the Rivers Glaze, Irwell and Tame. A limited amount of fish cage work continued through the summer months.

River Bollin

Results continue to show an absence of toxicity, fish surviving for five months at Hale. Floods caused the most interference with tests.

River Etherow

Floods and vandalism continue to disrupt work on this river, and three more cages have been lost. In spite of the difficulties results support the previous suspicion of plugs of toxic matter passing downstream. Intensive chemical surveys for toxic metals have been carried out during the summer and one possible source of waste metal has been located. Investigations are continuing but it is quite clear that at the present time it is not possible to consider the River Etherow for fish stocking purposes.

River Glaze

Fish cages were placed in the river at Glazebury and Cadishead during a long warm spell in June. Fish died overnight on two successive occasions, and a dissolved oxygen probe left in the river for 24 hours showed the water to be completely devoid of oxygen at night. This effect is probably due to a combination of temperature, pollution load and the respiration of heavy growths of weeds. Under these conditions fishery potential cannot possibly be considered.

River Tame

Investigations into the effects of one particular discharge continue.

5. Fish Mortalities Recorded During the Period

Pollution - Confirmed	8
Untraced	7
Natural acidity	1
Parasites	9
Eutrophication	11
Post-stocking	6
Unidentified natural causes	12
Poaching	1
	—
	55 (Including 13 trout incidents)
	—

The long hot summer has produced an unusually large number of fish mortalities. Most of the mortalities classified under eutrophication are produced as a result of a combination of factors:- high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen at night because of the high respiration rates of dense weed or algal growth and high pH values in the day. Several of the mortalities due to unidentified natural causes probably fall into the same category. Most summers, two or three reports of fish-lice (*Argulus*) are received during the warmer months of June and July, but this year appears to have been a highly productive year for the parasite. It has been reported from ten different waters and is thought to have been responsible for eight of the mortalities.

Several serious fish kills have taken place. The spillage of caustic soda from the nationally-reported train crash at Ditton Viaduct caused a total wipe-out of all plant, animal and fish life in Dutton Flash. A discharge of waste brine into the River Croco removed all the fish from a one mile stretch of the River Dane, downstream to the River Wheelock. Several hundred dead fish were seen of many species including pike (to 4 lbs), barbel (2½-4 lbs), roach, dace, perch, gudgeon, stone-loach and sticklebacks. A large number of brown trout were killed by a spillage of formaldehyde into the Harrop Brook at Bollington.

Dead trout were reported from Borsdane Brook at the same time as a storm sewage overflow was operating. This was followed by a long period of warm weather and exceptionally low flows in the brook during which the temperature at Hindley was recorded at 25°C. These conditions probably mean that all the trout which have been stocked by the Authority are now dead.

Other significant incidents each involving hundreds of fish took place in the Huddersfield Canal and River Tame - both untraced pollution; Top Flash, Winsford, and a pool near Sandbach - low dissolved oxygen; Merton No. 1 Lodge, Bolton - natural causes; and Pickmere - natural causes, possibly eye fluke. One other event of note is the killing of trout in a pool on a Cheshire estate by poachers using explosives.

6. Fishing - General Comments on Sport

Several good results have been reported in the angling press during the summer. Total individual catches of 15 lb 11 oz in June followed by 11 lb 10½ oz in July were noted from the River Weaver. An all-roach catch of 3 lbs 7 oz was also taken. A 9 lb 14 oz total in an early morning "Beat the Boats" match on the Shropshire Union Canal in August is said to have established a new record for that stretch.

Individual notable catches are as follows:

July	7 lb brown trout	- Appleton Reservoir
	17 lb 10 oz mirror carp	- Pilsworth Reservoir
	3 lb 10 oz roach	- Billinge Pool, Hartford (Supporting evidence was not taken)
	10 lb 4 oz bream	- Cheshire Mere
	3 lb 4 oz perch	- Leeds/Liverpool Canal
August	4 lb 1 oz tench	- Bridgewater Canal
	2 lb 1 oz roach	- Roddale Canal

Following the adoption of management advice given to Cheshire County Council over the last two years some exceptionally good fish are being taken in Shakerley Mere, Allostock. 7 lb-8 lb carp now weigh 15 lbs after two years and 3 lb-4 lb tench have also doubled in weight. Large bream and roach are showing up, as too are perch of unknown origin.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

22ND OCTOBER, 1975

IMPORTATION OF LIVE FRESHWATER FISH

1. At the last meeting of this Committee, held on 21st April, 1975, the Regional Fisheries Officer was asked to prepare a progress report on this matter for the next meeting of the Committee.
2. The views of the Regional Fisheries Officer, as propounded to the Committee on 21st April, 1975, were embodied in a paper presented to the first meeting of the Fisheries Liaison Group of the National Water Council held in London on 30th April last.
3. The meeting welcomed the new controls on imports introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food earlier this year, and the general feeling was that a move towards a total ban on imports was desirable, coupled with the progressive development of adequate native sources to meet stocking demands.
4. This development of local resources is already accepted Authority policy, and it seems unlikely that the Minister would be sympathetic to pressure for a total ban on imports until reasonable supplies can be made available within the United Kingdom.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE22ND OCTOBER, 1975LAND DRAINAGE REPRESENTATION ON
LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

This report is purely for information and to provide members with an up-to-date picture of developments in this matter.

1. The Constitution of the Local Land Drainage Advisory Committees provides for one member to represent fisheries interests on each of the Lancashire and Mersey & Weaver Committees, and two members for those interests on the Cumberland Committee.

The members representing fisheries interests on the Local Land Drainage Advisory Committees until the 1976 Annual Meeting of the Regional Land Drainage Committee are:-

Cumberland Land Drainage Advisory Committee - E. P. Ecroyd
W. F. Hobson

Lancashire Land Drainage Advisory Committee - J. H. Fell

Mersey & Weaver Land Drainage Advisory
Committee - P. W. Jennings

2. During 1974-75 members of the Cumberland and Lancashire Land Drainage Advisory Committees expressed the view that this representation was proving extremely useful and that a reciprocal arrangement for the representation of land drainage interests on the five Local Fisheries Advisory Committees could prove equally advantageous.
3. At the invitation of the Regional Land Drainage Committee the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee on 6th January, 1975, recommended that the proposal be approved in principle but any action be deferred pending consideration of the Authority's Committee structure for 1975-76.
4. At their meeting held on 21st July, 1975, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee resolved that the Regional Land Drainage Committee be invited to nominate one member to represent land drainage interests on each of the five Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
5. At their meeting held on 11th September, 1975, the Regional Land Drainage Committee resolved that nominations be sought as follows:-

Land Drainage
Advisory Committee
to make Nomination(s)

Fisheries Advisory
Committee on which
Nominee will serve

Cumberland

South & West Cumberland
Eden & District

Lancashire

Lune, Wyre & Furness
South Lancashire

Mersey & Weaver

Mersey & Weaver

6. The Local Land Drainage Advisory Committees next meet in November of this year and their nominees will be invited to attend the January meetings of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE22ND OCTOBER, 1975FISHERY BYELAWS - PROPOSED NEW CODE

1. At the last meeting of the Committee held on 21st April, 1975, and at the invitation of the Regional Committee, consideration was given to the proposed new code of fishery byelaws prepared by a working party of officers.
 2. The Committee recommended that the proposals as set out in the combined draft code be adopted for submission to the Water Management Committee.
 3. At the meeting of the Regional Committee held on 21st July, 1975, the final draft, incorporating certain amendments proposed by other Local Committees, was approved for submission to the Water Management Committee, to whom the Authority had delegated their powers for this purpose.
 4. The Water Management Committee on 28th July, 1975, approved the proposals subject to:-
 - (1) Any drafting amendments suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
 - (2) Provision being made for the ancient netting rights on the River Eden at Carlisle.
- The Director of Administration was authorised to advertise the proposals as required by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1972, and submit them to the Minister for confirmation.
5. Difficulty is being experienced at the present time in establishing the boundaries of the ancient netting rights on the River Eden but as soon as these are established, appropriate provision will be made in the byelaws and the proposals advertised. A further progress report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

MERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

22ND OCTOBER, 1975

FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

1. The Committee were asked for their comments on the proposed new structure and scale of licence duties at the meeting held on 27th January, 1975, and the following observations were submitted to the Regional Committee:-
 - (1) That if a regional freshwater fish licence be introduced by the Authority the duty should not exceed 50p and the Juniors and the Old Age Pensioners be accorded a 50% discount.
 - (2) That a brown trout licence be introduced for the area of the Mersey and Weaver River Unit with a duty of 50p for all age groups.
 - (3) That Junior (12-15 years inclusive) Migratory Trout licences carrying the following duties be incorporated in the structure:

Season	£2.00
Part Season to 31st May	£1.00
Part Season from 1st June	£1.00
2. The regional Committee at the meeting held on 24th February, 1975, considered these observations but made no recommendations in connection therewith.
3. At their meeting held on 10th March, 1975, the Policy and Resources Committee were invited to recommend the Authority to approve the new structure and scale of licence duties as finalised by the Regional Committee, but the proposals were referred back for further consideration.
4. Representations had also been received regarding the desirability of introducing a freshwater fishing licence for the Mersey and Weaver area at a reduced duty in view of the condition of the fisheries in that area.
5. At their meeting held on 12th May, 1975, the Regional Committee amended the proposals as follows:-
 - (1) That freshwater fish licensing provisions apply to all waters save enclosed ponds or lakes not connected or communicating with any river and not exceeding 1 hectare (2.47 acres) in surface area.

- (2) The introduction of a Part Area Licence for Freshwater Fish and Eels in the area of the former Mersey and Weaver Authority (not required by the holder of the regional licence) at a duty of 50p, with the same proportion of reduction for Juniors and Old Age Pensioners as apply to the Regional Licences, subject to this Part Area Licence lapsing after a period of three years from its introduction.
 - (3) That in the event of a review of licences before the end of the three year period, the part area licence be reviewed according to the circumstances prevailing at the time.
6. The proposals as amended were endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee and approved and adopted by the Authority at the Annual Meeting held on 23rd June, 1975.
7. The intentions of the Authority were given wide publicity in the press during the first week of August and application has been made to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for confirmation of the proposals, a copy of which, is attached hereto as an Appendix.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYSALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT, 1972FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the North West Water Authority to apply to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food one month from this date for approval to the following new schedule of net, fixed engine and rod licence duties, which if approved will replace the existing duties applying within the area.

ROD AND LINE (WHOLE AREA):Salmon and Migratory Trout

	£
Season	12.00
* Part Season to 31st May	6.00
* Part Season from 1st June	7.00
Season Junior (14-16 years inclusive and man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	5.00
* Part Season Junior to 31st May (14-16 years inclusive and man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	2.50
* Part Season Junior from 1st June (14-16 years inclusive and man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	3.00
7 Days	2.00

A licence marked * will entitle the holder to fish for eels, and for non-migratory trout (brown, rainbow and char) and freshwater fish for the whole of the respective seasons.

Non-Migratory Trout (Brown, Rainbow and Char)

Season	2.00
Season Junior (14-16 years inclusive and man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	1.00
7 Days	0.50

Freshwater Fish and Eels

Season	1.00
Season Junior (14-16 years inclusive and man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over)	0.50
7 Days	0.25

ROD AND LINE (AREA WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE
FORMER MERSEY AND WEAVER RIVER AUTHORITY FOR A
PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE YEARS)

Freshwater Fish and Eels

	£
Season	0.50
Season Junior (14-16 years inclusive and man aged 65 or over and woman aged 60 or over) .. .	0.25

- NOTE: (i) Children aged 13 years and under will not be required to pay a duty for a Rod and Line Licence for any of the foregoing categories;
- (ii) The Authority is seeking permission to exempt from the system of licensing, fishing for fresh-water fish and eels with rod and line in any pond or other water within the region having a surface area of not more than one hectare (2.47 acres) and not connecting or communicating with any river.

NETS AND FIXED ENGINES (AREA WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES
OF THE FORMER CUMBERLAND RIVER AUTHORITY)

	£
Whole Area Drift, Hang or Whammel Net (Not exceeding when wet 275 metres in length)	60.00
River Eden Draw, Draft or Seine Net (Not exceeding when wet 275 metres in length)	300.00
River Esk (Border) Draw, Draft or Seine Net (Not exceeding when wet 275 metres in length)	50.00
Whole Area Heave or Haaf Net	13.00
River Eden Coop	90.00
River Derwent Coop	200.00
South West Cumberland Garth	100.00

NETS (AREA WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF
THE FORMER LANCASHIRE RIVER AUTHORITY)

	£
River Ribble Drift, Hang or Whammel Net (Not exceeding when wet 140 metres in length)	40.00
River Lune Drift, Hang or Whammel Net (Not exceeding when wet 300 metres in length)	80.00
River Lune Draw, Draft or Seine Net (Not exceeding when wet 185 metres in length)	70.00
River Duddon Draw, Draft or Seine Net (Not exceeding when wet 185 metres in length)	55.00
River Lune Heave or Haaf Net	30.00
River Kent Lave Net	30.00
River Leven Lave Net	25.00

Objections to the above proposals may be made in writing to the Secretary of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2AE, during the month immediately following the publication of this notice.

R. E. WOODWARD,
Director of Administration.

1st August, 1975.

Dawson House,
Great Sankey,
Warrington.