To: Members of the Mersey and Weaver Fisheries Advisory Committee

Dear Sir,

Please attend the first meeting of the Committee at 2.30p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1974, at the offices of the NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY, DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

R. E. WOONWARD,

Director of Administration

AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening remarks by the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee.
2. Appointment of Chairman.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Role and constitution of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee.
5. Role and constitution of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
6. Water quality representation on Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
7. Members' Allowances.
8. Fisheries Estimates 1974/75
11. Proposed structure of fisheries for the Mersey and Weaver River Unit.
12. Licence Duties.
13. Coarse Fish Unit.
15. Pollution.
16. Date, time and venue of next meeting.
17. Any other Business
The following information relating to the role and constitution of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee is detailed for the information of members of this Committee:—

(a) **Role**

Section 18 of the Water Act, 1973, makes it the specific duty of every Water Authority to maintain, improve and develop the salmon, trout, freshwater and eel fisheries in the area for which they exercise functions under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts 1923-1972 and it is interesting to note that the expression, "improve and develop", appears in place of the traditional "conserve".

That section of the Act also makes it obligatory for each Authority to establish a Regional Advisory Committee for the whole of the area of the Authority and in addition such Local Advisory Committees as the Authority consider necessary to represent fishery interests in different parts of the area.

As members are aware, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee does not possess executive powers, but may act in an advisory capacity only. Such matters as the maintenance, improvement and development of fisheries are to be communicated to the Water Management Committee (the Committee which controls the operational functions of the Authority), whilst recommendations in connection with fishing licence and permit duties will be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee whose responsibility it is to fix such duties.

Similarly the Authority will refer to the Regional Advisory Committee, through the Policy and Resources or Water Management Committee, matters within the scope of the Advisory Committee's functions.

(b) **Constitution**

The Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee comprises fifteen members, as follows:—

1. **Chairman**: Mr. J.R.S. Watson, M.A., elected to the Chair of this Committee by the Authority on 3rd October, 1973.
   (Mr. Watson is the member of the Authority appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—"with special knowledge of Fisheries").

Representatives from the following areas:—

2. Eden — E.P. Ecroyd
3. S. & W. Cumberland — W.F. Hobson
5. Lune & Wyre — T.M. Croft
6. Ribble — R.D. Houghton
7. Lancashire Fisheries - T.A. Blacklodge
8. Mersey & Weaver - P.W. Jennings

In addition to the above eight members the Constitution of the Committee is completed by -

9. A representative of the Netsmen - Wm. McKenna.

The following five members of the North West Water Authority and the fishery member of the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority:-

11. The member appointed for recreational interests - R.A. Parkin
12. A member representing an area in the south where pollution is an issue - A.E. Hall
13. A member representing an area in the North where abstraction is an issue - G.B. Robinson
14. A member of the Authority - E.H. Fleming Smith
15. The member for fisheries on the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority - F.R. James
The policy adopted by the North West Water Authority relating to the role and constitution of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees is detailed here-under for members' information.

Role

The establishment of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees is delegated, under the provision of Section 18 of the Water Act, 1973, to the Water Authority whose responsibility it is to appoint such Local Committees as they consider necessary to represent fishery interests in different parts of their area.

The Local Committees are in a position to discuss and formulate recommendations with regard to fisheries for their own area and such recommendations will then be forwarded for consideration by the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee and will subsequently be submitted to either the Policy and Resources or the Water Management Committee.

It is the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee's intention that the Local Committees shall be encouraged to play their part in formulating the Fisheries Policy of the Authority and Local Committees should, at all times, feel free to consult with the Unit Fishery Officers within their area. No Unit Fishery Officer has as yet been appointed within the Mersey and Weaver River Unit area and, pending such appointment, members should, as and when the necessity arises, consult the Regional Fisheries Officer, Mr. J.E. Kelsall.

Constitution

On 3rd December, 1973, the North West Water Authority resolved to establish the following Local Advisory Fisheries Committees:

(1) Eden
(2) South and West Cumberland
(3) Lune, Wyre and Furness
(4) South Lancashire
(5) Mersey and Weaver

At the meeting of the Authority held on 25th March, 1974, it was resolved to invite the persons listed below to serve on these Local Committees. In every case the numbers have been kept to a minimum compatible with the geography of the area and the interest
concerned. Each Local Committee contains at least one member of the Regional Advisory Committee and each Local Committee will appoint its own Chairman. In order to maintain a maximum degree of liaison between each Local Committee and the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee it is considered that the Chairman of the Local Committee should be chosen from such members of that Committee as are also members of the Regional Committee.

**Eden**

W. Birkett, 8, Skirsgill Gardens, Penrith.
E. Cave, 9 Brunton Crescent, Carlisle.
*E.F. Erroyd, Low House, Armthwaite, Carlisle.
*E.H. Fleming Smith, Hawkesdale Hall, Dalston, Carlisle.
B. Irving, 22 Moss Riggs, Morton, Carlisle.
L. Heyworth, Roseneath, Station Road, Brampton, Carlisle.
J.S. Marshall, Little Cross, Appleby, Cumbria.
*Wm. McKenna, Edens Brows, Armthwaite, Carlisle.
Capt. J.G. Milne Home, Irvine House, Canobie, Dumfriesshire.

**South and West Cumberland**

F. Bunting, 30 Dent Road, Mirehouse, Whitehaven.
*W.T. Hobson, Hillside, Cockermouth.
A.C. Matthews, 6 Wastwater Rise, Seascale.
G.R. Sedgwick, 8 Belle Vue, Cockermouth.
J.C. Wade, Hillcrest, Whitehaven.
R.C. Williams, West Lodge, Rheta, Frizington.

**Lune, Wyre and Furness**

W. Bailey, 10 Mallowdale Road, Lancaster.
R. Barratt, Cowrie Hall, Crosthwaite, Kendal.
R.A. Challenor, White House, Barbon, Carnforth.
Major N. Clarkson Webb, Buckstone House, Carnforth.
*J.H. Croft, Orchard Farm, 115 Whittingham Lane, Barton, Preston.
*J.H. Fell, White Gates, Backbarrow, Ulverston.
A.L. Harris, 12 Eden Park, Lancaster.
L. Hill, 39 Kendal Green, Kendal.

**South Lancs.**

T.A.F. Barnes, Woodplumpton House, Woodplumpton, Nr. Preston.
*T.A. Blackledge, 16 Florence Street, Wigan.
Dr. R.B. Broughton, 194 Langworthy Road, Salford, M6 5PP.
*R.D. Houghton, 13/15 Wincle village, Preston.
J. Johnson, 97 Liverpool Road North, Maghull.
R.H. Wiseman, 5 Ribblesdale Place, Barrowford.
Mersey and Weaver.

J.S. Bailey, 24 Sandyhill Road, Winsford.
F. Egerton, 19 Bowden Drive, Northwich.
* F.R. James, 34 Sweet Briar Crescent, Crewe.
* P.W. Jennings, 34 Alwyn Street, Liverpool 17.
T.N. McLoughlin, 12 High Tree Drive, Henbury, Macclesfield.
A. Ross, 19 Dugdale Avenue, Higher Blackley, Manchester 9.
F.W. Sims, B.V. Sc., M.R.C.V.S., 6 Queen Street, Newcastle-under-Lyne.

* Member of the North West Water Authority.
* Member of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee.
The Authority have agreed in principle that the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be strengthened to include one or two persons knowledgeable in the quality aspects of surface waters in addition to those already appointed with "fishery" experience. This proposal has the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Chairman of the Authority will therefore in due course be inviting such number of persons as, after consulting the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee, he considers it appropriate, to become members of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees for the purpose of considering the quality aspects of surface waters and making suggestions to the Water Quality Panel of the Authority.

However, before taking any action in the matter, the Chairman is anxious to know whether the Local Committees wish to suggest any names for consideration from within their respective areas.
The Authority's policy relating to the payment of members allowances is set out hereunder for the Committee's information:

1. Following guidance received from the Department of the Environment, the Water Authority have considered the question of allowances payable to members of Water Authorities and to representatives on Advisory Committees. As will be appreciated, there will be a variety of Advisory Committees meeting at Dawson House and elsewhere, some of them consisting mainly of people who are not members of the water authority, including, of course, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee and the five Local Committees.

2. The Water Authority have decided that the following arrangements should apply to representatives of Advisory Committees:

   (a) the rates of travel and subsistence would be as set out in the Appendix to this Report.

   (b) financial loss allowance would be claimable in appropriate circumstances by both Authority members and non-Authority members.

   (c) when Advisory Committees meet at Dawson House, meals could be provided, the members paying the cost thereof and claiming an appropriate subsistence allowance.

   (d) when Advisory Committees meet elsewhere, subsistence would normally be paid if claimed.

3. The Appendix attached hereto sets out the approved Travelling Expenses, Subsistence Allowances and Financial Loss Allowance.
Travelling Expenses

1. Travel by Public Service
   First-Class Fare.

2. Travel by Taxi-cab
   In the case of urgency or where no public transport is reasonably available - the actual fare plus reasonable gratuity.

3. Travel by own Motor Vehicle
   The rate for travel shall not exceed 2.5p per mile unless such travel:
   (a) Results in a substantial saving of the member's time; or
   (b) is in the interests of the body; or
   (c) is otherwise reasonable,
   in which case the rate shall not exceed:
   for a motor car exceeding 500 c.c. but not exceeding 999 c.c. 6.4p per mile
   for a motor car exceeding 999 c.c. but not exceeding 1199 c.c. 6.9p per mile
   for a motor car exceeding 1199 c.c. 7.8p per mile.

4. The rate may be increased for each passenger not exceeding four:
   (a) where the rate payable does not exceed 2.5p a mile by not more than 0.5p per mile.
   (b) where any other rate is payable, by not more than 0.2p per mile.

5. In the case of absence over-night, not more than 12.5p per night may be charged for garaging a car.

Subsistence Allowances

The rate of subsistence allowance shall not exceed:

(a) In the case of an absence, not involving an absence over-night, from the usual place of residence:
   (i) of more than 4 but not more than 8 hours, £1.35p
   (ii) of more than 8 but not more than 12 hours, £2.40p
   (iii) of more than 12 but not more than 16 hours, £3.40p
   (iv) of more than 16 hours, £4.05p

(b) In the case of an absence over-night from the usual place of
residence, £3.65 with 80p extra for meeting in London.

Financial Loss Allowance

The amount which a member of a Water Authority shall be entitled to be paid by way of financial loss allowance in respect of any one period of 24 hours shall not exceed:

(a) Where the period of time over which earnings are lost or additional expenses (other than expense on account of travelling or subsistence) is incurred is not more than 4 hours, the sum of £2.75, or

(b) Where the said period of time is more than 4 hours the sum of £5.50p.
The relevant extract from the Authority's Estimates for the current year detailing the anticipated income and expenditure on fisheries is set out hereunder for members information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cumberland</th>
<th>Lancashire</th>
<th>Mersey and Weaver</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>49,546</td>
<td>55,235</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>112,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailiff Services</td>
<td>43,624</td>
<td>46,123</td>
<td></td>
<td>89,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance and Development of Fisheries</td>
<td>14,662</td>
<td>16,454</td>
<td>2,097</td>
<td>33,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,724</td>
<td>10,058</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,782</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>111,556</td>
<td>127,870</td>
<td>10,292</td>
<td>249,718</td>
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| **INCOME:**              |            |            |                  |        |
| Licences and Other Income| 26,310     | 42,085     |                  | 68,395 |
| Net Expenditure          | 85,246     | 85,785     | 10,292           | 181,323|

12TH JUNE, 1974.
The Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee, at their meeting held on 29th April, 1974, considered the Byelaws operating at the present time in the areas of the Cumberland and Lancashire River Units. There are no Fishery Byelaws in operation within the area of the Mersey and Weaver River Unit.

The Code of Fishery Byelaws for the Lancashire River Unit was compiled in 1971 by the Lancashire River Authority and came into effect, following a Public Inquiry and confirmation by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on 1st July, 1972.

The Cumberland River Authority produced a new Code of Fishing Byelaws during the latter part of 1973 and these Byelaws are currently awaiting the Minister's confirmation. The Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee has recommended that the Minister be requested to refrain from confirming these Byelaws, since it is intended to carry out a review of all the existing Byelaws within the Authority's area, with a view to achieving as great a degree of standardisation as is compatible with the requirements of the local fisheries interests.

To this end, and as a first step, a Working Party of officers has now been set up to consider this question. This Working Party will, in due course, prepare and submit a report embodying appropriate recommendations to the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee who will no doubt subsequently refer the report to each of the Local Committees for their consideration and comment.

At this stage no action is required by the Advisory Committee and this report is submitted for information.
In October, 1971, the Association through its Executive Council, set up a working party whose terms of reference were as follows:-

(a) To examine the practices and customs relating to the trapping and netting of migratory fish.

(b) To investigate the effects of such practices on the well-being of migratory fisheries.

(c) To review matters relating to the taking of migratory fish and to recommend ways of improving the fisheries in England and Wales in the light of change.

The Working Party has now completed its deliberations and a copy of the published report entitled "Taking Stock" has been circulated to each member of this Committee.

The Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee at their meeting held on 29th April, resolved that:-

"The Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be invited to consider the report and submit their observations thereon to the meeting of the Regional Committee on the 30th September, 1974.

Members will no doubt wish to study the report carefully before commenting thereon and it is, therefore, suggested that consideration of this matter be deferred until the next meeting of this Committee."
The Regional Fisheries Officer at the meeting of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee held on the 29th April, 1974 put forward his proposals in connection with the possible development of a fisheries structure for the Mersey and Weaver River Unit. He indicated that the existing small fisheries organisation centred in the Water Quality Department of the River Unit would need to liaise closely with any newly appointed staff and provided that existing Biological Staff were able to continue their work in the fisheries field, initially it would probably be sufficient to appoint a Fisheries Officer, a Head Bailiff and four Bailiffs. It was envisaged that this staff would broadly cover the following areas:—

(1) The Weaver Catchment
(2) The Wirral and Formby, St.Helens, Warrington area, up to the boundary of the Lancashire River Unit.
(3) The area to the north east of the area shown at 2 above, between Manchester, the Lancashire River Unit boundary in the north and the Yorkshire Regional Water Authority boundary in the east.
(4) The area north east of the M.6 and south of Manchester, bounded on the east by the Yorkshire Regional Water Authority boundary.

Transport (such as a land rover) and a certain amount of basic equipment (nets, fish tanks, electric fishing gear, etc.) would be required to make the Unit viable.

The Committee resolved that:—

The Mersey and Weaver Fisheries Advisory Committee consider the proposals as set out above and submit their observations and recommendations to the Regional Committee.
Members of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee, at their meeting held on 29th April, 1974 considered the provisions of Section 6 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1972, wherein Sub-Section (2) requires Water Authorities to regulate by means of a system of licensing, fishing for salmon and trout in their area. The same sub-section also requires Water Authorities (except so far as excused by the Minister), to licence similarly, fishing for freshwater fish of any description, and eels. (There is at present no system of regulating fishing by licensing operating in the Mersey and Weaver River Unit area).

The Committee resolved that:-

Prior to the consideration by the Committee of the whole question of licensing, the Mersey and Weaver Fisheries Advisory Committee be requested to consider this matter and submit recommendations thereon to the Regional Committee.

Mr. A. Ross has already been in communication with the Regional Fisheries Officer on the subject of licensing. Mr. Ross has expressed the view that any system of licensing introduced by the Authority should be on a regional rather than a local basis. Members will no doubt, when considering the question of licensing, wish to consider the view expressed by Mr. Ross and to comment thereon.

The table detailed in the appendix hereto summarises the classes of rod and line licences issued at the present time within the areas of the Cumberland and Lancashire River Units.
**NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY**

**Licences Issued in Respect of a Single Rod and Line**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Salmon</strong> (inc. Migratory &amp; Brown Trout, Char, Freshwater Fish and Eels)</th>
<th><strong>Migratory Trout</strong> (inc. Brown Trout, Char, Freshwater Fish and Eels)</th>
<th><strong>Brown Trout</strong> (inc. Char, Freshwater Fish and Eels)</th>
<th><strong>Freshwater Fish</strong> (inc. Eels)</th>
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<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland RU</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancashire RU</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>50p</td>
<td>3 part areas @ 25p</td>
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|                | 2.00       | 37½p       | 75p        | -         | 1.00       | 35p       | -          | 50p        | 12½p
Mr. A. Ross has suggested that a system of stock ponds should be set up by the Authority to hold supplies of fish for replacement of losses. In this connection, members will, no doubt, be interested to know that the Regional Fisheries Officer at the meeting of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee held on 29th April, 1974 reported that there is a need for the establishment of a Coarse Fish Unit, with a small operating staff, based on a number of holding pools in which a stock of coarse fish, either from electric fishing operations or from specific purchasers, is held available to meet demand from within the area. This in fact, would be a kind of "fish bank" which would handle replacement of stocks after pollutions, the provision of new species for Club waters, and short-term retention of batches of fish for which no immediate demand exists.

The Regional Fisheries Officer will be reporting to the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee with detailed proposals at a subsequent meeting.
Mr. A. Ross has raised the question of lines of research which should be investigated and has suggested that the following areas call for investigation and should be included in any programme of research which is initiated:

(i) The accumulation of toxic metals in fish tissues and in invertebrates

(ii) Diurnal variations in D.O. level in hot weather when heavy weed growth is present in the canals and reservoirs.

(iii) The effects of various parasitic infections on fish life.

(iv) The biodegradability of oil and its effect on the flora and fauna of the beds of canals and reservoirs.

(v) The suitability of various waters for fish stocks.

(vi) Any other matters relating to water quality.

The Regional Fisheries Officer reports that, in fact, the areas of research referred to are already included in the Lancashire River Units research plans for the canals within its area.
Mr. A. Ross has indicated that he would welcome stricter control of pollution and suggests that Industry should be given notice that, after 1st January, 1977, no more effluent shall be discharged into any inland water. He suggests that Industrialists reaction would undoubtedly be that such drastic action would have a significantly adverse effect upon the employment situation, but considers that, notwithstanding this, the time has come when Industrialists should be compelled to take practical steps to bring about a substantial improvement in the standards of effluent discharged, particularly in view of the intensive pollution which exists in the highly industrialised Mersey and Weaver Area.

Members will be aware that strict conditions are imposed by the Authority on all consents granted to Industrialists and others, for discharges of effluent.

The Assistant Director, Water Quality, Mr. A.D. Buckley, will be present at the meeting in order to report verbally to members.