



Department of
**Culture, Arts
and Leisure**

www.dcalni.gov.uk

Salmon and Inland Fisheries

Annual Report 2007



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SALMON AND INLAND FISHERIES

Background to Inland Fisheries

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is responsible, under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 as amended (the Fisheries Act) for the salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland except the Foyle and Carlingford catchments which are the responsibility of the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission. However the Department retains overall policy responsibility for salmon, eels and certain conservation and development responsibilities in the Loughs Agency area. The Department is also responsible for the Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland (FCB), a Non-Departmental Public Body established under the Fisheries Act with responsibility for the conservation and protection of fisheries. The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) undertake research into salmon and freshwater fisheries which is funded by the Department; this research provides the scientific basis for conservation and management of the resource.

Salmon Conservation

International scientific research has shown that Atlantic salmon populations are currently under threat. Numbers of salmon returning to many Northern Ireland rivers are too low to be sustainable. Research suggests that a range of inter-related factors have contributed to the poor status of the stocks including degraded in-river habitat, pollution, drainage works and predation by cormorants and seals. Significantly reduced survival at sea in recent years gives considerable cause for concern, especially when considered with the other threats to coastal and freshwater survival. DCAL has a responsibility to conserve salmon by managing impacts, including angling and commercial fisheries. Work to manage these impacts is given high priority and is on-going.

This worrying trend is mirrored around the sphere of North Atlantic countries and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), an intergovernmental body established by treaty drawing its membership from USA, Canada, Greenland, European Union and other countries, has encouraged its members to adopt a precautionary approach to salmon management. Officials from the Department, together with fisheries scientists from AFBI, form part of the EU delegation to NASCO.

In response to the call for a precautionary approach the Department pursues a strategic approach to attempt to address the decline. The strategy is based on NASCO resolutions and agreements founded on the precautionary approach and

principles of sustainability. The core concept is to establish spawning targets at a river and regional level to ensure that in most rivers in most years sufficient adult salmon are spawning to maximise output of smolts from freshwater. Rivers are monitored for salmon numbers and where targets are not being attained the reasons are researched and a programme of measures designed to address them is adopted.

Eel Conservation

The European eel stock has been in rapid decline since around 1980. This long term decline continues to show no sign of recovery and is a matter for considerable concern. A number of causes have been suggested including changes in ocean climate, habitat loss, predation, hydroelectric turbine mortality, over-exploitation, pollution and parasites.

The European Commission, following a number of years of consultation, adopted European Eel Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 on 18 September 2007 which aims to establish measures for the recovery of the European eel stock.

The Regulation requires the establishment of Eel Management Plans for each eel river basin, of which there are three in NI, which will demonstrate that at least 40% of the biomass of adult eels from each river basin relative to the best estimate of the potential escapement in the absence of human activities affecting the fishing area or stock are escaping to spawn.

Work is on-going in conjunction with other UK departments, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in ROI and the commercial eel industry to meet the requirements of this Regulation.

Essentially the Department is seeking to arrive at a balance between permitting a level of commercial fishing to continue and ensuring that there are adequate measures in place to contribute to conservation of the species and thus allow for both a sustainable eel stock and a sustainable industry in the future. Accordingly, the Department continued to operate conservation oriented management policies during 2007 through the regulation of commercial eel fisheries.

Public Angling Estate

The Department has powers under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 to acquire and improve facilities for angling. This has been achieved through the provision of a Public Angling Estate. The total number of fisheries available to the public in 2007 was 64 of which 29 were still water trout fisheries with a total area of approximately 633 hectares, 4 wild trout loughs and 14 stretches of game fishing rivers totalling

over 76 kilometres in length. For coarse fishing there were 8 lakes with a total area of 211 hectares and 6 stretches of river and canal fishing totalling 31.5 kilometres. In addition there were 3 mixed fisheries as well as Upper and Lower Lough Erne, which provided a further 15,534 hectares of mixed game and coarse fishing.

Following a considerable increase in the number of permit sales over the period 2003 to 2005 (11.5%) the demand levelled off in 2006. Permit sales in 2007 began to increase again with an overall rise of 13%.

In 2007, permit sales for annual general season permits increased by 10%; local permit sales increased by 11%; senior citizen permit sales increased by 11% and disabled angler permit sales increased by 4%. Juvenile permit sales increased by 14%. Annual coarse permit sales decreased by 2%.

Overall the value of permit sales rose by 11%.

The operation of the special day ticket salmon beats at Bushmills provides anglers with the opportunity to enjoy first class salmon angling. It also provides reliable information on anglers' catches. The number of day tickets sold on the River Bush Special Stretches increased by 120%. There was a 163% increase in the value of sales. Details of the number of day tickets sold on the special stretches and the number of salmon caught are shown in Tables 1 and 4 respectively.

The Department continued its stocking programme on game waters as in previous years. The production cost of fish stocked into Department fisheries in the year ending 31 March 2008 was £284,656. The sizes and numbers of fish stocked during the year are shown in Table 5 together with the figures for the previous year. Table 5 also provides details of stockings of private fisheries.

A website promoting the Public Angling Estate continued to be developed during 2007. The website www.dcal-fishingni.gov.uk provides a background to angling in Northern Ireland and a guide to all the fisheries in the Public Angling Estate. It is particularly aimed at tourist anglers. It also has publications, educational, travel and permit information and latest news pages. An online permit and River Bush day ticket purchase facility is also available.

The Department continued its programme of works to upgrade the facilities at some of the most popular waters in the Public Angling Estate. New fishing stands were provided on the Erne at Tirraroë with a project started on Killyfole reservoir to provide fishing stands including two for disabled anglers. DCAL involvement in the Coarse Classic and Pike Classic competitions contributes to attracting increasing numbers of anglers.

In the East work at Lough Money was completed to improve disabled parking and access as well as improved access along the western shore. Stiles and footbridges

were improved at Ballykeel. Work to improve the access road and car park at Spelga was carried out. In preparation for a new fish stocking system a slipway was constructed at North Woodburn reservoir. This system will be introduced in 2008 and operate throughout the Public Angling Estate. It will reduce stress and handling of fish and enable fish to settle to provide an improved angler experience.

Promotion and Development

Officers from the Department attend annually a selected number of angling fairs across Europe and the rest of the UK. Experience over recent years has indicated which events represent the best opportunity to promote the Public Angling Estate and angling in general to the widest possible potential customer base. In 2007, DCAL staff attended a total of 8 promotional angling fairs including events in Paris, Holland and England.

Angling Clubs and other fishery owners and operators were supported in improving fisheries during the year both through the provision of advice and guidance and by the issuing of permits under Section 14 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 to capture, culture and stock fish.

The Department continued to work in partnership with the Loughs Agency and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board on a study into the Social and Economic Impact to Northern Ireland and the cross border Foyle and Carlingford Catchments of Recreational Fisheries, Angling and Angling Resources. The main objective of the study is to identify and quantify the economic and social impact, both current and potential to Northern Ireland from angling activities. It identifies the current and potential social and economic contribution of fisheries, angling, angling resources and angling tourism to Northern Ireland and so provides a basis for reviewing and refreshing current strategy in this regard. The Social and Economic Impact of Recreational Angling in Northern Ireland report was published in 2007.

River Bush Salmon Station

The Department supported by AFBI scientists continues to operate the River Bush Salmon Station primarily in support of the River Bush salmon research project. This project was set up in 1973 by the former Department of Agriculture, as a long-term study into the dynamics of a wild salmon population and to investigate the factors influencing those dynamics. The long-term data series on survival of wild salmon during the freshwater and marine phases of the life cycle are used to provide advice to the Department on the status of stocks on this river and provides an index for NI salmon stocks in general. Information from the project on conservation requirements for salmon and on exploitation of salmon stocks at sea is central to the Departments

Salmon Management Strategy and also contributes to assessment of salmon stocks at international level, through the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

Fish trapping facilities at the station allow accurate counts of upstream migrating adult salmon and downstream migrating juveniles (smolts). In 2007, a total of 4,825 adult salmon were recorded at the trap, which represents a major increase over the 2006 total. A total of 2,202 were retained at the hatchery to support the River Bush angling development programme. During the months of March, April, May and June 20,525 wild smolts were recorded passing through the station, compared to 18,785 in 2006. Details of adult returns and wild smolt runs for the last ten years are shown in Table 2.

The hatchery provides fry and parr for stocking if necessary directly into the upper reaches of the River Bush and tagged smolts for release directly from the Station. This stocking programme provides additional information on marine survival of hatchery reared smolts. During the year, a total of 31,000 parr were stocked into the river and 49,366 smolts were released from the hatchery. The hatchery continues to support local angling clubs wishing to improve the fish stocks in their rivers through supportive breeding programmes. Club members from a number of angling clubs, with the assistance of the Department, catch salmon, sea trout and brown trout broodstock from their rivers and transport them to the station where they are stripped of their ova. The resulting fry are then stocked into underutilised habitat in the river of origin. This programme ensures the genetic integrity of the native stock is retained. Details of fish stocked as part of this programme are shown in Table 3.

Over the past year, works have been completed to enable better public access to the station. Interested groups, particularly school parties and angling clubs, are welcome to visit and will be given a conducted tour of the facilities. Bookings should be made in advance by contacting hatchery reception.

Movanagher Fish Farm

Movanagher Fish Farm is located on an island between Movanagher Canal and the Lower River Bann, near Kilrea. The farm covers an area of about 4 hectares, comprising long concrete raceways, concrete and fibreglass tanks, a substantial hatchery facility and a small administrative building.

The farm produces brown and rainbow trout to supply the Department's angling estate. A Carp breeding program has also been established and the first generation of Carp were spawned from broodstock on site in summer 2007.

In addition the farm continues to run an Irish Pollan (*Coregonus Autmunalis*) culture program as part of the all Ireland species action plan for the fish's conservation.

Water is supplied directly from the River Bann by gravity to the various tanks, supplemented with borehole water pumped directly into the hatchery. An aeration tower ensures that the latter is well oxygenated and dissolved nitrogen removed before use. The borehole water, being very clean and of constant temperature, is used primarily in the hatching and early development of the fry. It is also of considerable value during the warm summer months in order to keep fish cool. Ova are produced annually from brood fish, which are specially selected for the purpose. When the young fish are suitably developed, usually one or two years old, they are transported live in oxygenated tanks and stocked into various fisheries which make up part of the Public Angling Estate around Northern Ireland. All fish stocked were "catchable sized" (25 cm +) and contribute directly to angling opportunities for both local and visiting anglers. Details of fish stocked from the fish farm are shown in Table 5.

The farm also supplies small quantities of fish to private angling clubs and fisheries. Additionally, the Department, to support the work of various voluntary, disabled and community groups, also supplies fish on a charitable basis for a variety of angling competitions.

Staff at the fish farm offer free technical advice on fish husbandry techniques, stocking and conservation issues to organisations and interested members of the public.

Visitors have always been welcomed at the farm, particularly school groups. Prior appointment is necessary in order to ensure that all health and safety requirements are in place and to ensure staff are available on specified dates.

Work has been completed to enable visits from people with disabilities. This provides suitable access to some areas of the farm. A picnic area with tables and seats has been provided which can accommodate around thirty people.

Advisory Work

Department technical staff routinely provide advice and guidance on matters relating to the conservation, protection, development and improvement of salmon and inland fisheries to angling clubs, fishery owners, and a range of other water users and interested parties. Advice is provided to the range of authorities who control and regulate activities that might impact on salmon, eels and freshwater fish and to the two statutory fishery conservation and protection authorities. This includes providing input to the development of environmental policies and regulations generally across government that have the potential to improve fisheries.

Staff contribute to inter-departmental groups taking forward the implementation of the EU Water Framework and Habitats Directives, for example.

Arrangements for the provision of technical advice, guidance and support to DARD Rivers Agency to ensure protection of fisheries from possible damage arising from their drainage maintenance programme were operated successfully in 2007. This is a key relationship in ensuring the productive capacity of wild fish stocks is maintained.

Opportunities to restore or enhance fish habitats are taken forward through the co-operative approach established under the terms of the Service Level Agreement formalised in 2004. The Agreement builds on arrangements in place since the early 1990's and makes explicit the role of Fisheries Officers and the obligations on both parties to ensuring its effective implementation.

Water Abstraction and Fish Passes

Section 54 of the Fisheries Act requires persons who wish to build dams and weirs or repair existing weirs in rivers to construct fish passes for the free passage of fish. All fish pass designs and specifications must be submitted to the Department for approval before a pass is constructed.

Sections 58 and 59 of the Fisheries Act impose certain closure periods where water is being abstracted from a river or lake to facilitate the passage of fish and require grids and gratings to be placed at water abstractions and return points. The Fisheries Act also allows the Department to issue exemptions certificates from these requirements. The exemptions are used to introduce modern fishery protection measures.

In 2007 the Department continued its review of exemption permits issued under Sections 54, 58 and 59 of the Fisheries Act to ensure that the most appropriate fishery protection measures were included in the permit conditions. The Department refreshed guidelines in this regard during 2007.

Advice and assistance was provided to colleagues in Environment and Heritage Service who administer complementary powers under water abstraction and impoundment regulations in 2007.

Scientific and Technical Investigations

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) salmon and freshwater fisheries scientists work closely with the Departments technical staff to provide scientific support and advice across a range of policy and management issues.

River Bush Marine Survival Project

Monitoring and enumeration of adult salmon and wild smolts from the River Bush along with a tag recovery programme in the coastal fisheries around NI was successfully completed in 2007.

Advice from the Bush marine survival project enables DCAL to inform future fishery management requirements.

Investigation of the factors influencing the survival at sea of salmon smolts migrating from the River Bush until their return as adult salmon continued throughout 2007 by the assessment of:

- marine survival of cohorts of juvenile wild salmon through trapping and sampling programmes;
- exploitation patterns on hatchery reared and wild salmon smolts through micro-tagging and coastal tag recovery programmes;
- incidence of escaped farm salmon in NI coastal fisheries and freshwater; and
- salmon stock through the production of a working paper on annual project data for ICES to fulfil international (NASCO) and local (DCAL) requirements.

The work being conducted for this project is also important in the context of international understanding of marine survival through NASCO and the SALSEA project.

Other Salmon Management Activity

Fish counters were operated on the Rivers Blackwater, Main, Glendun and Moneycarragh during 2007 to assess compliance with river specific conservation limits derived from the River Bush stock recruitment studies. Spawning success on the Shimna River was also assessed using rod catch data. Electric fishing surveys were also conducted on these rivers during 2007 to determine juvenile salmon abundance as a measure of freshwater performance. This data combined with information on catch from logbook returns and on habitat quality and quantity, informs actions required to rationally manage stocks.

River Lagan Salmon Reintroduction Experiments

The River Lagan salmon reintroduction experiments have been running since 1991. This project has taken the River Lagan salmon population from a period of 200 years of extinction to the beginnings of a self sustaining stock. Wild salmon are now breeding at a number of sites. The level of stocking and intervention is kept to a minimum to maximise the potential for natural regeneration.

The project has resulted in highly positive publicity with the salmon being adopted by Belfast City Council and Laganside as a symbol of health and regeneration. River Lagan salmon will now be managed as part of the NI resource.

Eels

During 2007 work continued to provide advice to the Department on eel conservation and fishery management, based on;

- measuring glass eel input, yellow & silver eel catch and silver eel escapement through mark-recapture experiments;
- reporting on catches, trends and forecasts; and
- monitoring recruitment and entry sites of glass eels to Northern Ireland estuaries.

Ecological Impacts of Zebra Mussels

Scientists from AFBI are currently investigating the actual impact of zebra mussels in the Lough Erne system in relation to the numbers and balance between fish species since invasion.

The potential impacts on other waters is also being considered, most notably Lough Neagh and Lough Melvin.

Lough Erne Fish Populations

A survey was undertaken in 2007 to sample fish stocks according to standard protocols. The fish population in Lower Lough Erne was monitored on behalf of DCAL to assess changes resulting from environmental variances and fisheries management practice. A further survey of rare pollan stock was undertaken using acoustic techniques.

Pollan

Work continued in 2007 on further developing culture techniques for pollan to assess the viability of producing fry or fingerlings for restocking waters. Irish Pollan (*Coregonus Autumnalis*) is found in Lough Neagh, Lower Lough Erne and the Shannon system (L.Ree and L.Derg). Populations in Lough Erne and the Shannon system have declined substantially over recent times, probably due to a combination of habitat loss and eutrophication. The population in Lough Neagh is now widely believed to be the last viable population in Ireland. Culture of the species was unknown locally but had not been developed with any success.

Eggs obtained from adult 2006 stock captured from Lough Neagh in winter 2006 were successfully fertilised and incubated to eye stage in early 2007. Although there were some losses a batch of fry were again hatched and weaned onto food. Fry hatched in 2006 were successfully grown on to 15 months of age and reached an average of 10cm.

Over 2 seasons the project has:

1. captured, maintained, ripened and stripped adult wild broodstock on farm;
2. cultured the fish in a hatchery environment, incubated fertilised ova and hatched them; and
3. weaned larvae onto artificial food and grown fry to a size suitable for a restocking programme.

The success of the project represents a very positive step forward for the conservation of pollan.

Derelict Waters Applications

The Department has powers under the Fisheries Act to approve an application by anyone who wishes to improve a derelict water for angling either for their own use or for public angling. The applicant must submit proof that the owner of the fishing rights cannot be found and provide a scheme for the development of the fishery. The Department having established that no fishery owner can be identified or that no person has substantial objections may approve the scheme for a period up to 15 years.

There were no applications received under this scheme in 2007.

European Union Peace and Reconciliation Programme – The Angling Development Programme

In December 2001 DCAL announced that EU funding of €7.45m (approximately £5m) was being made available under the Water Based Tourism Measure 1.2(a) of EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II) to develop angling and water based recreation projects. Administration of these awards was concluded in 2007. A total of £4.6m grant aid was awarded to 49 angling projects. Technical staff continued to advise these projects to ensure this investment was capitalised upon. These projects were designed to improve game, coarse and sea angling, as well as providing angling facilities.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Salmon

The 2007 commercial salmon catch was 2,647 (6,178kg) compared with 2,419 (5,526kg) in 2006. Table 6 shows the quantities and values of reported commercial salmon catches over the last 5 years. The reduction in the numbers of salmon caught post 2002 can mainly be attributed to reduced fishing effort resulting from the Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Voluntary Buy-out Scheme. In 2007 there were two drift nets, two fixed nets and two tidal drift nets operating in the FCB area. The figures in Table 6 show catches in the FCB area. The catches for the Foyle and Carlingford areas are shown in the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission's Annual Reports.

Eels

The total estimated catch of yellow and silver eels during 2007 was 446,000kg compared with 346,000kg in 2006. Approximately 94% of the Northern Ireland eel catch is taken from Lough Neagh and the remainder from Lough Erne. The eel industry is valued at approximately £2 million and supports up to 130 licensed commercial eel fishermen. The main method of catching yellow eels is by long lines. Many of the fishermen also employ helpers to assist in the fishing operation. The quantity of eels caught is shown in Table 7.

Fishing Vessel Grants

The Department, under the provisions of the Freshwater Fishing Vessels (Grants) Scheme (NI) 1982, operates a grant scheme for new fishing vessels or new engines.

The rate of grant is 25%. Table 8 shows the total amount of grant aid paid out in the year ended 31 March 2008.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON FISHERIES

Expenditure and Receipts

The Department's expenditure and receipts under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 for the year ended 31 March 2008 are shown in Table 9.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Review of Public Administration

Following the decision under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) in 2006 to abolish the Fisheries Conservancy Board and transfer its functions to DCAL, work has continued on progressing legislation to achieve this outcome. As the Board was established under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, provisions to amend the Act have been included in the draft Public Authorities Reform Bill, a composite Bill being taken forward by OFMDFM to address a number of RPA issues. It is likely that this Bill can be introduced to the NI Assembly legislative timetable in 2008. Organisational structures and financial provision, as well as all of the issues around the transfer of staff assets and functions, were substantively addressed during 2007.

LEGISLATION

During 2007 the following Byelaws and Regulations came into operation:

The Fisheries (Amendment) Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 2006 (SR 2006 No. 517)

These Byelaws came into operation on 1 January 2007 and increased the level of duties for angling and commercial licences by the rate of inflation (2.2%) for the incoming fishing season. The list of rainbow trout waters for which there is no annual close season was also amended.

Eel Fishing (Licence Duties) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (SR 2006 No. 513)

These Regulations, which came into operation on 1 January 2007, increased the level of duties for commercial eel fishing licences by the rate of inflation (2.2%).

Table 1

DCAL Angling Permit and Day Ticket Sales

TYPE OF PERMIT/TICKET		2006 NUMBER SOLD	2007	% DIFFERENCE	2006 VALUE £	2007	% DIFFERENCE
Permit Sales							
Game Fishing	Annual	1,593	1,752	+10%	78,630	88,721	+13%
	14-Day	49	37	-25%	626	472	-25%
	3-Day	1,653	2,228	+35%	7,042	9,491	+35%
	Local	1,118	1,238	+11%	41,388	46,883	+13%
	Juvenile	3,148	3,581	+14%	5,352	6,088	+14%
	Senior Citizens	1,901	2,103	+11%	24,276	26,855	+11%
	Anglers with Disability	1,429	1,482	+4%	18,248	18,925	+4%
	14-Day combined	241	262	+9%	4,717	5,127	+9%
	3-Day combined	1,247	1,769	+42%	9,020	12,808	+42%
Coarse Fishing	Annual	1,195	1,175	-2%	21,869	21,996	+0.5%
	14-Day	21	8	-62%	161	61	-62%
	3-Day	124	104	-16%	475	398	-16%
	14-Day combined	1,370	1,320	-4%	19,821	19,087	-4%
	3-Day combined	791	867	+10%	5,385	5,904	+10%
TOTAL		15,880	17,926	+13%	237,010	262,816	+11%
Day Ticket Sales							
River Bush	Town Stretch	297	524	+76%	7,025	14,869	+112%
	Leap Stretch	198	472	+138%	2,436	8,432	+246%
	New Stretch	133	403	+203%	2,270	7,739	+241%
	Dundarave Stretch	144	297	+106%	2,070	4,712	+128%
TOTAL		772	1,696	+120%	13,601	35,752	+163%
TOTAL SALES		16,652	19,622	+18%	250,811	298,568	+19%

Table 2

River Bush Annual Adult Salmon Returns and Wild Smolt Run 1998 to 2007

YEAR	ADULTS TO THE TRAP	WILD SMOLTS
1998	3,062	14,819
1999	1,084	11,921
2000	1,192	16,451
2001	1,724	14,853
2002	1,584	11,600
2003	1,112	19,494
2004	1,080	23,389
2005	1,475	22,792
2006	1,527	18,785*
2007	4,825	20,525

* Updated from figure published in the 2006 Annual Report

Table 3

Details of Fish Stocked Out by Dcal in Co-Operation with Angling Clubs in 2007 (Bushmills Hatchery)

	NUMBER OF SALMON FRY
Upper Bann	1,500
Glenarm	22,000
Clady	32,000
Shimna	41,000
TOTAL	96,500

Table 4

Salmon Caught on the Restricted Stretches of the River Bush in 2007

STRETCH	2006 SALMON	2007 SALMON
Town	110	362
Leap	44	126
New	52	72
Dundarave	48	100
TOTAL	254	660

Table 5

Fish Stocked From Department's Fish Farm (Movanager)

	BROWN TROUT				RAINBOW TROUT			
	DEPARTMENTAL WATERS		PRIVATE WATERS		DEPARTMENTAL WATERS		PRIVATE WATERS	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Eyed Ova (Under Yearlings) 0+	0	150,000	40,000	31,040	0	0	0	1,200
Yearlings 1+	100,000	0	1,150	0	0	0	200	0
Older Fish	78,700	101,200	6,588	6,980	50,470	33,456	1,146	0
TOTAL	178,700	251,200	47,738	38,020	50,470	33,456	1,346	1,200

Table 6

Quantities and Estimated Values of Salmon caught in Northern Ireland 1994 – 2007

YEAR	WEIGHT KG	VALUE £	AVERAGE PRICE £/KG
1994	31,188	135,668	4.35
1995	36,184	175,492	4.85
1996	40,655	162,620	4.00
1997	31,353	133,877	4.27
1998	26,881	120,964	4.50
1999	24,012	162,801	6.78
2000	31,900	143,550	4.50
2001	24,400	109,800	4.50
2002	9,794	47,403	4.84
2003	5,088.5	29,258	5.75
2004	5,663	45,304	8.00
2005	8,120	73,080	9.00
2006	5,526	66,312	12.00
2007	6,178	74,136	12.00

These catches do not include salmon caught in the Foyle catchment, which are mainly landed in the Republic of Ireland.

Table 7

Quantities and Estimated Values of Eels caught in Northern Ireland 1994 – 2007

YEAR	WEIGHT KG	VALUE £	AVERAGE PRICE £/KG
1994	734,684	2,835,880	3.86
1995	836,375	4,048,055	4.84
1996	748,480	3,787,309	5.06
1997	702,379	3,090,468	4.40
1998	660,327	2,641,308	4.00
1999	703,456	2,089,264	2.97
2000	599,008	N/A	N/A
2001	548,631	N/A	N/A
2002	535,709	N/A	N/A
2003	544,450	N/A	N/A
2004	493,017	N/A	N/A
2005	434,000	N/A	N/A
2006	346,000	N/A	N/A
2007	446,000	N/A	N/A

Table 8

DCAL Grants to Fishermen (for Boats)

YEAR	AMOUNT PAID £
Total up to 31 March 2006	£5,650.00
Total up to 31 March 2007	Nil
Total up to 31 March 2008	£3,125.00

Table 9

Expenditure and Receipts under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966

	Y/E 31 MARCH 2007 £	Y/E 31 MARCH 2008 £
Expenditure		
River Bush Salmon Station	46,327	169,030
Movanagher Fish Farm	98,015	188,903
Bailliffing of DCAL Waters	73,579	85,191
Public Angling Estate *	-	205,290
Research & Monitoring (including Salmon Management Plan) *	-	756,743
Inland Boat Grant Scheme *	-	3,125
Eel Fisheries Development #	39,750	-
FCB Revenue Support *	-	479,314
FCB – Grant	150,000	150,000
FCB Funding Deficit #	393,623	-
Development of Angling Waters #	120,489	-
Conservation & Protection #	56,871	-
TOTAL	978,654	2,037,596
Receipts		
Sales of Fishing Permits	236,630	261,535
Sales of Fish from Fish Farm	5,834	11,017
Other Receipts	1,970	2,052
TOTAL	244,434	274,604

* Comparison with previous year is not possible.

Comparison with current year is not possible.

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Pictures Front Cover

Picture 1 – Pike caught in 2007

Picture 2 – Movanager Weir

Picture 3 – Coarse fishing at disabled fishing stands, Enniskillen

Picture 4 – Salmon Leap on the River Bush

