

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC FCIL 1 (14) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

AQUACULTURE & MARINE MEETING

FOYLE, CARLINGFORD & IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION (FCILC)

ARMAGH

21 FEBRUARY 2014

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty-fourth North South Ministerial Council Aquaculture and Marine meeting was held in Armagh on 21 February 2014. 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.

SECTORAL PRIORITIES

2. Ministers considered a paper on Sectoral Priorities and also discussed other priorities within their respective sectoral areas. It was agreed that these priorities would be communicated to the Joint Secretaries in line with the Plenary decision of 8 November 2013.

PROGRESS REPORT

3. The Council received a progress report on the work of the Loughs Agency from the Chairperson, Winston Patterson, and the Acting Chief Executive, John Pollock.
4. Ministers welcomed progress made including the Loughs Agency's partnership with Co-operation Ireland in developing the Foyle River Ambassadors Citizenship Scheme and the Agency's efforts to contain *Bonamia ostreae* within Lough Foyle. In addition, Ministers congratulated the Agency on the successful delivery of an international conference on salmon stocking and are looking forward to the distribution of the film "Atlantic Salmon – Lost at Sea" which the Loughs Agency had participated in.
5. The Council also noted progress on:
 - the Loughs Agency's Financial Statements 2012 & 2013;
 - the Loughs Agency's Corporate Plan 2014-16 and Business Plan 2014; and
 - the Loughs Agency's Pension Arrangements.

ACOUSTIC TRACKING OF SALMON

6. The Council welcomed the presentation on the movements of Atlantic salmon in the River Foyle in response to man-made barriers and noted the valuable contribution these research projects will make to the management and development of this important fishery.

ALL-ISLAND AQUACULTURE SHELLFISH CONFERENCE

7. The Council recommended that the competent authorities in each jurisdiction consider jointly hosting an All -island Aquaculture Shellfish Conference.

MARKETING THE LOUGHS' RESOURCES

8. Ministers welcomed the report on the activities of the Loughs Agency in promoting and marketing Foyle and Carlingford Loughs and encouraged the further development of this work.

LOUGHS AGENCY PENSION TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS

9. The Council approved amendments to the Loughs Agency's Pension Scheme.

FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD CEO RECRUITMENT PROCESS

10. The Council noted the process for the recruitment of a Chief Executive of the Food Safety Promotion Board (*safefood*).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11. The Council agreed to meet again in Aquaculture and Marine sectoral format in June 2014.

Joint Secretariat
21 February 2014

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