

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC FCIL 2 (10) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

AQUACULTURE & MARINE SECTORAL FORMAT

FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION (FCILC)

NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES, ARMAGH

9 SEPTEMBER 2010

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The sixteenth North South Ministerial Council meeting in Aquaculture and Marine sectoral format was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh on Thursday 9 September 2010. The meeting was attended by Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Michelle Gildernew, MP, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Junior Minister Robin Newton, MLA. Minister Ryan chaired the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Council welcomed a progress report on the work of the Loughs Agency, presented by the Agency's Chairperson Tarlach O Crosain and the Chief Executive, Derick Anderson.
3. Ministers welcomed the developing partnerships on marine tourism between the Loughs Agency, Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Louth County Council. They noted the

effectiveness of the Agency's response to pollution incidents on the Foyle system and the positive impact of the regulation of the Lough Foyle oyster fishery including improving the catches in the 2009-10 season. Ministers also noted that the Agency's new monitoring vessel, the MMV Ostrea, is now operational and has facilitated the surveying of the seed mussel areas in Carlingford Lough and the native oyster fishery in Lough Foyle.

2010 FOYLE AND CARLINGFORD CATCHMENT STATUS REPORTS

4. The Council welcomed a presentation by the Loughs Agency on the 2010 series of Catchment Status Reports. Ministers noted the practical use of this information and how it is applied by the Loughs Agency to ensure continued and effective conservation and protection of the freshwater fisheries and aquatic resources of the Foyle and Carlingford systems.

LEGISLATION

5. The Council approved a set of regulations which reduce the fee charged for an oyster fishing licence in Lough Foyle.
6. Ministers considered the Agency's legislation implementation plan, welcomed progress in its delivery and noted that further regulations will require NSMC approval during 2010 and 2011.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7. Ministers noted the Loughs Agency Annual Report and draft Financial Statements for 2009 and that these will be laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas once the Financial Statements have been certified by the respective Comptrollers and Auditors General.

NEXT MEETING

8. The Council agreed that the next meeting in the Aquaculture and Marine Sectoral format will take place in December 2010.

**Joint Secretariat
9 September 2010**