



INSTITUTE OF
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Accreditation Scheme:

**Performing
fish health checks for
fish movements.**

Supported by the Environment Agency



Version 4
July 2015

1. Introduction

This Scheme has been developed in response to discussions between the Environment Agency (EA) and The Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) about the IFM creating a system whereby the EA could use the IFM's experience in assessing technical and vocational achievement to accredit the skills of those who perform fish health checks for fish stocking. The aim and objective of the scheme is for the IFM to provide a transparent system of evaluating the experience and technical ability of individuals to perform fish examinations to meet the requirements of fish health testing as required under the Keeping and Introduction of Fish (England and River Esk Catchment Area) Regulations 2015 and similar requirements under future legislation. As part of this process some existing people doing fish health checks were consulted.

Those involved in the consultation gave their approval to the outlined detail of the scheme, including 'professional' membership of the IFM and entry into its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme.

2. Accreditation

The accreditation scheme is designed to provide a transparent assessment scheme for people performing fish health checks who currently were previously recognised by the EA and any that may wish to gain entry onto the register that will in the future be maintained by the IFM.

The IFM can be considered to be the competent body to maintain this register of suitably experienced and qualified individuals on the basis of the fact that its Fish Health Module that forms part of the IFM diploma is up to date, relevant and importantly validated as part of the Open University (OU) credit-rating of the IFM Diploma in fisheries management. The scheme will be administered by the Training Committee (TrC) of the IFM who will quality assure the examination procedure and audit results in-line with the system of administration used to run its diploma course.

2.1 Entry for existing fish health checkers.

All existing fish health checkers previously recognised by the EA will be granted automatic entry on to the register under the principle that the EA already recognise them as being suitable. A professional CV showing relevant experience will be required and will be held on record by the

IFM. All those admitted to the register will be required to hold and maintain professional membership of the IFM (MIFM) and once admitted to the IFM to enrol onto the IFM Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme and maintain a record which is subject to audit.

2.2 Entry for those not previously recognised by the EA.

Those individuals wishing to be recognised as ‘suitable and accredited’ Fish Health Checkers to be entered onto the register will be asked to provide a full CV highlighting relevant experience. Assessment for addition to the register will then take the form of:

1. gaining an identification qualification (IDQ) on UK fish parasites. This has still to be confirmed and developed; AND
2. assessment of practical fish dissection skills against the protocol, at the EA office, Brampton.

The CV showing relevant experience will be required and held on record. All those admitted to the register will be required to hold and maintain professional membership of the IFM (MIFM) and once admitted to the IFM to enrol onto the IFM Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme and maintain a record which may be subject to audit.

2.3 Exemptions from full assessment

Following receipt of a full professional CV, the IFM and EA will reserve the right to exempt suitably qualified persons from the need to attend an assessment of their practical skills. This exemption must be agreed fully by both parties and either parties veto on exemption is final. The exemptions can only apply to persons able to show the highest level of practical experience through their CV.

2.4 Degree of relevant experience.

It is acknowledged that relevant experience is a difficult judgement. However as a guideline the following is considered to be a baseline for the qualitative and quantitative assessment of what is required with regard to level and depth of experience. Referees will be required to attest to statements made with regard to experience.

- Level 4 qualification in a relevant field.
- A minimum of three years experience within a relevant field (e.g. parasitology or post mortems of fish).

2.5 Professional membership of the IFM.

Those wishing to be entered onto the register must have and maintain current professional membership as a ‘Registered’ (MIFM) member of the IFM. The current cost is £70.00 per annum, plus a one-off £10 joining fee.

2.6 Continuing Personal development (CPD).

The IFM runs CPD for its professional categories of membership to encourage that all professionals keep their knowledge base relevant and current by demonstrating their self development (CPD). To register for CPD costs nothing and in reality it involves managing self development and recording this to obtain CPD points.

Full details of the IFM CPD scheme are on the IFM website www.ifm.org.uk. To aid CPD the IFM would be willing to run a forum on its website for those on the registers should this be felt to be helpful.

2.7 Details of the register.

The register of those that have successfully applied to be admitted on to the scheme will be displayed on the website of the IFM. Websites of other organisations will carry links to the relevant pages.

The register will carry the names of the consultant in alphabetical order. They can decide whether they use their name or the associated business name, where a business name is used the name of the registered individual must also appear under the entry.

Contact details can vary between just a telephone number to a full address, e-mail and web-site. No other information will be available.

The webpage will also detail the standards required for individuals to be entered on the register. The webpage will also carry the words or similar:

“The registration of any individual does not imply a recommendation or

indeed their suitability to undertake any specific task”.

The register is maintained to inform the public of consultants that should be recognised by the EA to carry out health examinations for the purpose of the Keeping and Introduction of Fish (England and River Esk Catchment Area) Regulations 2015.

. Ultimately however the decision to accept the accreditation of any individual or remove that accreditation is a decision for the EA.

2.8 Registration Fees.

All applicants to be admitted to the register will be required to pay a one off fee of £150.00. An annual fee of £30.00 will be payable annually (January) to maintain registration. This is in addition to professional membership of the IFM.

Each applicant must fund their own IDQ. This is likely to be in the region of £200. We will publicise when this qualification is available.

3. Contacts

Contacts for any queries regarding this scheme are:

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