

**INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**MINUTES** of the forty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Fisheries Management held at The Guildhall, Hull on Tuesday 16th October 2018 at 17.40

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence

**2.** **MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIFTH AGM**

The Minutes of the forty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Fisheries Management held on Tuesday 10th October at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast were confirmed at signed by the Chairman

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This is the Chairman’s report to the 2018 Annual General of the Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM). It is structured according to the business areas in our Development Plan. The objective(s) for each business area are provided as a reminder to what the Institute is aiming to achieve in each.

**Governance**

Objective:

To maintain the best possible structure and practices to ensure the Institute runs professionally and cost-effectively.

Council (30 members) met its usual three times in the year, setting the direction for the Institute, and the Executive Committee (12 people) met its usual four times to follow the business plan and direction set by Council. My thanks to Council Members and Executive Committee for their hard work to provide the best for the IFM.

**Finance**

Objectives:

To manage our budgets carefully

To achieve a surplus each year and annual growth

The Director of Finance has produced a separate report for the year. I am grateful to Ian Dolben for managing and monitoring the Institute’s accounts so diligently.

**Staff & Officers**

Objective:

To employ competent full time staff and honorary officers who reflect the diversity of the Institute, are motivated and rewarded, to provide the best possible services to the Institute, its members and customers.

We now have 2 full time staff – Paul Coulson and Iain Turner. After 2 years on a temporary contract, we were pleased to be able to provide a permanent contract to Iain Turner, our Development Officer, in August 2018.

The Institute has 35 officers and 10 committees to perform its duties, and 9 Branches to provide services and activities to members across Ireland and the United Kingdom. Thank you to you all for your often voluntary service to the Institute and its members.

**Marketing & communications**

Objective:

To promote our services and achievement to our members, customers, partners and policy makers, to raise our profile and be more visible

Our most popular publication, FISH Magazine, went digital in 2018 and 90% of members now receive the electronic version. Thanks for Adrian Taylor for leading that change and to Lawrence Talks for editing a consistently high quality production.

The use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook are becoming much more the norm now, and IFM uses those outlets more and more to publicise events – before and after. To help give this more focus, we welcomed Harriet Alvis to the team as Communications Officer.

We recognise that our website is getting unreliable and clunky. This is our main window for members and customers and is often the first contact people have with IFM – so it is important for it to be effective and professional. So, we started a review of the website and providers for a potential upgrade in the next 2 years.

**Training**

Objective:

To provide an increasing suite of training courses and workshops to provide professional training to meet a wide variety of customer needs

IFM now provides a wide variety of vocational fisheries management courses. Those provided in 2018 were:

Certificate Course

Diploma Course

Electro-fishing

Effective Engineering within Fisheries

Environment Agency Award

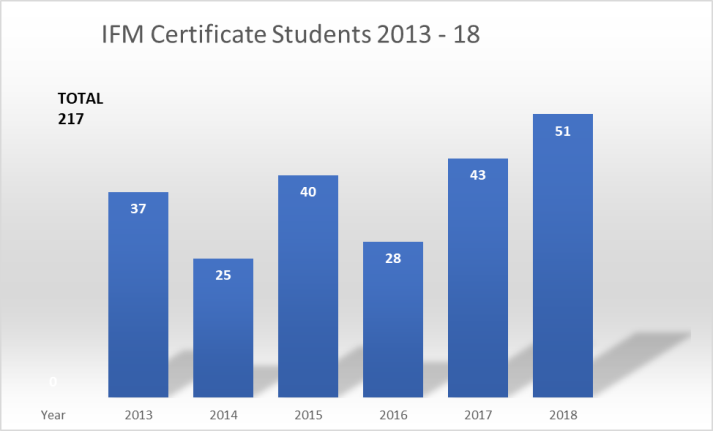
Fisheries Management Workshops

Angling Trust Enforcement Workshops

Angling Trust Fishery Improvement Workshops

With 96 students in 2018, 96 IFM is currently the 2nd largest provider of fisheries training in the UK.

Enrolment to the ever-popular Certificate course continues to increase, as the following graph shows:



My thanks to Ian Wellby and the Training Committee for their efforts in providing so many high quality courses and developing the fisheries managers of the future.

**Conferences & Workshops**

Objective:

To provide one annual conference and several specialist conferences or workshops per year

The 2017 annual conference was held in Belfast, and the 2018 conference was held in Hull. A specialist conference, ‘Fisheries Management in Coastal and Estuarine Waters’ was held in May 2018.

IFM also provided a range of workshops for members and professionals to engage in:

Riparian Trees for Upland River Systems Scotland. November 2017

Invasive Non-Native Fish. February 2018

Stillwater Fisheries Management. March 2018

Connecting Rivers, People and Partnerships Midlands. March 2018

Sampling fish – Take a Dip. London. April 2018

Shad workshop, Wales

Otters & Predation. June 2018

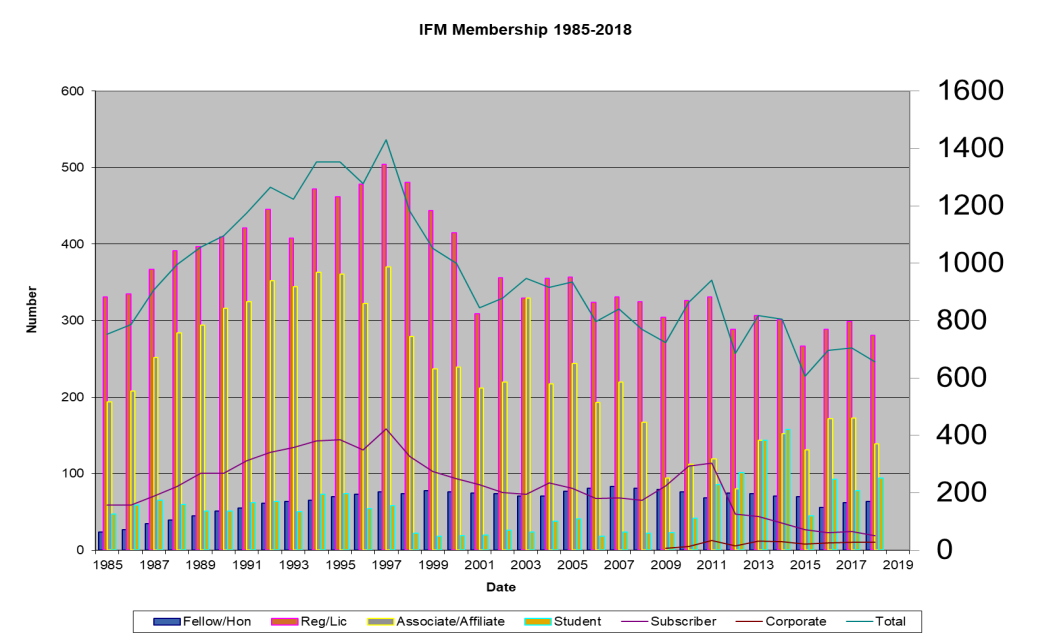
**Membership**

Objectives:

To provide good value and quality services to members

To increase the level and engagement of members

Like many membership organisations, we are concerned at the continued downward trend in our membership as the graph below shows. This, despite the provision of more and better services, discounted to members.

****

The Membership Committee is developing a strategy to aim to retain and increase membership. Although membership income is decreasing as a result, the balance of income to the IFM is being maintained through the sales of courses, services and conferences to members and non-members.

**Professional status**

Objectives:

To promote and enhance the professional status of fisheries managers

To be the market leader / go-to organisation for the provision of CPD for fisheries professionals

The Chartered Environmentalist Award (C.Env) continues to be available via the Institute. Most IFM activities carry Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points to help develop and maintain C.Env status for members.

Three new C.Envs were awarded to IFM members in 2018, bringing the total to 114.

However, the C.Env assessment process is long and cumbersome and seen as a barrier to many. So, our C.Env Co-ordinator, Emma Keenan has developed and is trialling a ‘C.Env in a Day’ assessment process. If successful, and acceptable to the Society for the Environment, this will be made available to members.

**Branches**

Objective:

To provide a network of thriving and active branches to provide local IFM services, activities and networking

The Institute has branches covering the UK and Ireland as follows.

Anglian

Irish

London & South East

Midlands

North West

Scottish

Welsh

South West

Yorkshire & North East

Some branches are more active than others and our full time officers, Paul and Iain support the branches as much as possible to maximise the number of events and local services to members.

**Specialist sections**

Objective:

To maintain relevant specialist sections to develop and provide technical expertise

We have five specialist sections to advise and lead on fisheries management topics, those are, with their chairs:

Estuarine & Coastal Steve Colclough

Fisheries & the Environment Jim Lyons

Culture & Health Ian Wellby

Angling & Recreation Mike Lee

Administration & Management Steve Axford

**Policy development**

Objective:

To provide credible and compelling evidence to government and agencies in developing new legislation and policies

Over the past year, IFM has responded to consultations or developed position statements on the following topics.

Fisheries Monitoring

Brexit

Defra 25 Year Environment Plan

UK Fisheries White Paper

Welsh National Marine Plan

Future of IFCAs

Sussex IFCA Inshore Trawling

Otter Predation

EA Managing Salmon Fisheries

EA Coarse Fish Close Season

We have been particularly busy this year due to potential law changes with Brexit, and the development of Defra’s 25 Year Environment Plan. My thanks to Miran Aprahamian, our Policy Director and to Chris Mills and Steve Colclough who each spent significant time developing the IFM’s position on these important topics.

Our statements help to inform and influence government policy and also help to increase the Institute’s reputation as an evidence based, professional, independent and and objective non-government organisation. Our membership of the Wildlife and Countryside Link increases the coverage and exposure to influencing government policy.

**Partnerships**

Objective:

To work with other organisations, where there is mutual benefit, to progress our objectives

We work with a large number and wide variety of fisheries and conservation organisations around Ireland and the UK. At the Council workshop on 8 October we considered how we might develop partnerships better to maximise the IFM’s effect with its limited resources. A strategy is being developed to put that thinking into action.

Thanks to Nigel Milner who attended the NASCO\* meeting in Maine, USA and provided a comprehensive report to Council on NASCO’s progress. \* North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation

**Business development**

Objective:

To identify and make the most of new opportunities to provide services to customers

IFM is constantly seeking opportunities to develop its business – to maintain its viability to provide the best for fisheries management and services to members and customers. A future workshop will focus thinking on this.

**And finally**

My thanks to all members, officers and staff for their support to the Institute.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **David Bunt**  **Chairman** |

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

This is my first report to the Annual Meeting as Director of Finance – please be gentle!

**VAT Liability**

The Institute may be liable to pay VAT if its annual turnover is more than £84k. However, there are exemptions for organisations which provide education and/or training. Our accountants, Girlings continue discussions with HMRC on our behalf, using an outline of our work (written by Valerie Holt) making the case that much of our income is derived from education and training. We still await the verdict of HMRC,

**2017 Accounts**

The Institute receives less than a quarter of our income through subscriptions, the remainder being training (30%) and conferences and workshops (36%). In 2017 income continued to be boosted by the new EA Fisheries course, together with 2 conferences (Renewables, the Annual Conference in Belfast and the incredibly successful Eel conference). Initiating and organising these events takes a considerable amount of time and effort and would not occur without the efforts Paul Coulson and Iain Turner, together with the Training Committee led by Iain Wellby.

Expenditure

In 2017, thanks to the incredibly successful Eel conference, we generated a small surplus.

In conclusion, we continue to move to a better financial position following several years of a very high deficit and a critical look at expenditure, making several changes to save money as well as increasing our income through conferences and courses.

This has only been possible through the efforts of our two fulltime staff, Paul and Iain, and the work of the IFM Training led by Ian Wellby assisted by the team of tutors delivering quality fisheries training. We also need to stabilise and increase our membership.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President: Dr P.B. Spillett

Vice Presidents Dr D. Cragg-Hine, A. Neville Jones, V. Holt, R.L.Welcomme (elected)

For Council vacancies, to retire in 2021

Hannah Barclay, Jim Gregory, David Bunt, Paul Knight, Ian Wellby.

All retiring in accordance with Rule 5(A) but eligible for re-election

It was proposed and seconded that these officers and council members be elected en bloc

**6. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions to remain the same at :-

Registered Member £70

Associate Member £60

Affiliate Member £35

Student Member £10

Subscriber Member £35

Corporate Member £90 to £170 depending on category

**7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

Andrew M Girling & Co Chartered Certified Accountants were appointed at auditors for the Institute