

Isle of Man Recreational Fisheries Management Board Constitution

1. Constitution and Name

The Board shall be called the "Isle of Man Recreational Fisheries Management Board" (the "RFMB").

2. Registered Office

The Registered Office of the RFMB shall be at:-
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Thie Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St John's
Isle of Man
IM4 3AS

3. Terms of reference

The RFMB shall:-

(a) promote the protection and management of the Isle of Man recreational freshwater and marine fisheries to ensure that they:-

- are sustainable and profitable in the long term whilst safeguarding Manx freshwater and marine environments;
- are fished in accordance with fisheries conservation best guidance and practice;
- meet the priority objectives and aims as set out in the Isle of Man's Native Freshwater Fisheries Strategy which was approved by Tynwald in 2015;

(b) provide advice to the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (the "**Department**") on appropriate conservation measures for each fishery in the Isle of Man, including, where appropriate, restrictions on fishing methods, and quantitative advice on daily bag limits for recreational freshwater and marine angling species. Advice will take into account the lifecycle and habitat of each recreational fish species;

(c) participate in any consultation affecting the Isle of Man's recreational freshwater and marine fisheries, noting the Department's obligations set out in section 83 of the Fisheries Act 2012.

In seeking to fulfil the terms of reference set out in 3(a)–(b) above, the RFMB as an advisory body will operate within the parameters of recognised fisheries science as modulated by current practical experience in Isle of Man recreational freshwater and marine fishing regions.

Specifically, the remit of the RFMB will include:-

- consideration of scientific advice presented by a relevant university and any other relevant, qualified scientific establishment;
- consideration of best practice fisheries management practices;
- support for the priority aims and objectives of the Isle of Man's Native Freshwater Fisheries Strategy;
- consideration of socio-economic influences which may affect the fisheries;
- advising the Department on the introduction of management measures to ensure the protection of recreational freshwater and marine fish populations, including habitat management, natural resource use and technical measures, as appropriate;
- making recommendations to the Department on further scientific research required in order to better understand and manage recreational freshwater and marine fish populations;
- acting as an independent fisheries advisory board to advise on matters that may affect or have an influence on Isle of Man recreational freshwater and marine fish populations.

The RFMB must take account of the political imperatives within which the Minister and the Department need to operate within the Isle of Man and also in relation to the United Kingdom and its Devolved Administrations as well as the European Union and internationally.

4. Membership and representation

Membership of the RFMB shall consist of individuals with relevant scientific, commercial angling, retail sector, recreational angling or public administration experience associated with the Isle of Man recreational freshwater and marine fishery.

All appointments to the RFMB will be made by the Department with the approval of the Minister for the Department.

Additional membership

The RFMB may, with the approval of the Department, invite additional membership as appropriate. The maximum number of members on the Board will be 12, minimum of 6 (excluding the Department and any representative of a relevant university or any other relevant, qualified scientific establishment). Membership will consist of no less than 2 and up to 8 active recreational fishermen that have expertise in fisheries covering a range of species and angling techniques, 2 individuals representing commercial stakeholders, and 2 individuals with scientific backgrounds and knowledge of fisheries stocks and surveys of Manx waters, one of these to be appointed as the 'Recreational Fisheries Spokesperson'.

Membership period

Membership to the Board will be for an initial period of three years with the option of further three-year appointments, as recommended by the Chair following consultation with the Recreational Fishery Spokesperson, the Department, and subject to the confirmation of the Minister for the Department. Industry-related members must remain *active in the fishery for their period of tenure.

*Active as defined by the individual and their stakeholder group, whereby the stakeholder group can question the activity of the member.

5. Cessation of membership

Membership of the RFMB shall cease:-

- automatically at the end of a term of membership (unless renewed under the preceding paragraph);
- in the event of resignation by the member;
- on becoming inactive in the fishery;
- in the event of expulsion or termination of a member's membership (by the decision of the Chair or Minister for the Department).

6. Chairperson

A Chairperson shall be appointed to the Board by the Minister for the Department and their term of office will run for a term of two years, which may be extended for another term if in the view of the Minister, the person most appropriate for the position or there are no other suitable applicants for the position. A chairperson will not normally be appointed for more than 2 terms, in line with government practice.

The Chairperson shall be familiar with the broad principles of fisheries management in the Isle of Man and have appropriate experience and/or qualifications and be active in the field of recreational fisheries or another appropriate discipline and shall account to the Minister for the Board's actions or inactions.

7. Recreational Fishery Spokesperson

A Recreational Fishery Spokesperson will be appointed by the members of the Board and shall come from within the Board's membership. The Recreational Fishery Spokesperson shall be familiar with developments relating to the management of recreational freshwater and marine fisheries in the Isle of Man and the UK. The Spokesperson will have sufficient capacity to act as a point-of-contact for the Chairperson and assist the Chairperson in progressing actions resulting from meetings of the RFMB.

8. Meetings

The RFMB will aim to meet a minimum of four times each year depending on fishery performance, Salmonid monitoring assessment results and the need for management measures.

The RFMB may meet additionally:-

- at the request of the Chairperson, whether prompted by members or not;
- when the Chairperson receives a request from a simple majority of the angling, scientific and/or retail sector members of the Board for such a meeting.

The RFMB members may participate in meetings by telephone or electronic means, provided any formal recommendations are made to the Minister and/or DEFA senior executive leadership team (as delegation determines) for the Department in writing.

Minutes of RFMB meetings will be recorded and agreed by the Board and will be available on the DEFA website under a separate [Isle of Man Recreational Fisheries Management Board page](#).

The Board will communicate with its members, Department and technical representatives on a frequent basis (typically monthly).

8. Quorum

The quorum for any meeting shall be 70% (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the total current membership entitled to participate in the decision-making process.

9. Decision-making

The RFMB will work to reach decisions by consensus, operating more like a citizens' forum, where DEFA seeks advice from a cross-sample of stakeholders in order to build consensus and make balanced recommendations that are subsequently considered by the Minister and/or DEFA senior executive leadership team (as delegation determines) for DEFA. The Minister for DEFA is ultimately responsible for the statutory administration and management of the Isle of Man's territorial sea and inland fisheries on behalf of the Manx public, as required under the Fisheries Act 2012.

Board members will set aside all personal interests whether financial, political or otherwise and work to reach decisions and agreements that are in the long-term, sustainable interests of the recreational freshwater and marine fisheries as a whole, also taking into account socio-economic factors.

The RFMB is not constituted with a view to members acting in a representative democracy role, such as in an elected parliament. The composition of the appointed membership aims to broadly reflect the various stakeholder interests that exist within the angling and conservation community. The members are not required to address the RFMB as a direct representative of a specific group of stakeholders, but rather to bring their relevant experience to the Board. Nonetheless, the RFMB membership will be requested so far as possible, to make themselves available for discussion and comment from stakeholders outside the RFMB membership, and to bring any relevant information, data, proposals and comment from outside the RFMB to the regular meetings.

Neither any university (or other relevant, qualified scientific establishment) representatives, nor members of the Department, shall be eligible to vote in the decision-making process of the RFMB, however they may participate by sharing their technical or departmental knowledge.

The Board will consider evidence-based and scientific data to assess recreationally important fisheries and develops management proposals for recreational fisheries within IOM waters. It will then submit recommendations to the Minister and/or DEFA senior executive leadership team (as delegation determines) relating to new measures or adjustments to existing measures within current fish management frameworks.

All decisions made by the RFMB will be referred by the Chairperson in writing to the Minister of the Department for final endorsement.

10. Secretariat

The secretariat for the RFMB will be supplied by the Department.

Any member of the Board or representative of the Department or of a university or scientific establishment may table papers for consideration by the RFMB, by submitting the papers to both the Chairperson and the secretariat. These will be considered for inclusion at the next available meeting and circulated by the secretariat.

The Chairperson will finalise the agenda for the meeting. Every effort will be made to issue papers to members 5 days before a meeting is due to commence.

Notwithstanding this rule, any member of the Board or representative of the Department or of a university or scientific establishment may table additional papers at the start of the meeting. In this case, the Chairperson, having consulted with the Recreational Fishery Spokesperson, has the final say as to whether decisions on them are taken at the meeting at which they are tabled or whether a decision needs to be adjourned to a later meeting.

11. Amendments to the Constitution

The Constitution may only be amended by the Chairperson of the RFMB, having consulted with the Recreational Fishery Spokesperson and/or the Department in each case with the prior endorsement of the Minister for the Department.

12. Dissolution

If the Department decides at any time that it is advisable to dissolve the RFMB, this decision must be confirmed by the Minister for the Department.

Signed: (Minister)

Date: xx/xx/20xxS

Current RFMB Membership

Appointed Member	Role / Background
Yet to be appointed	Stakeholder Representative
Yet to be appointed	Freshwater Scientist/Conservationist
Yet to be appointed	Marine Scientist/Conservationist
Yet to be appointed	Commercial sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Yet to be appointed	Angling sector
Observer	Role / Background
John Ward	Chair - Inland Fisheries Policy Manager, DEFA
Yet to be appointed	Scientist
DEFA Attendee	Role / Background
Neil Milsom	Head of Fisheries, DEFA
Dr Peter Duncan	Marine Biologist, DEFA
Dr Jack Emmerson	Sea Fisheries Policy Manager, DEFA