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17.08.09 - AP2 /2015 Shot Head Bantry Bay

Board member Brendan Brice recused himself for this item @ 9.10.

The Board affirmed the following:

- advice from Tim O'Sullivan dated 29 August 2017;
- correspondence between ALAB and DAFM regarding the Section 47 request dated 13 July 2017, in particular letter from ALAB to Minister of 31 August 2017, letter from the Minister to ALAB dated 5 September 2017, and finally letter from ALAB to the Minister of 8 September 2017 withdrawing the Section 47 request;
- supplemental response from Inland Fisheries Ireland received on 6 September 2017 to a

Section 47 request dated 6 October 2016 concerning salmonid stocks in the Dromagowlane River; the Board had initially been advised by IFI on 19 October 2016 in response to the section 47 request that the River was not a designated salmon river and so IFI had not carried out any catchment wider electro-fishing on it. AS a result no information on salmonid densities in the River were available. The supplemental response of 6 September 2017 noted that as anecdotal information from IFI staff suggested the presence of salmon, sea trout and brown trout in the River, IFI had undertaken a semi-quantitative electrofishing

study of the River on 9 May 2017 consisting of a timed 5 minute electrofishing survey at a number of sites in the catchment. IFI advised this was not an exhaustive survey but was designed to provide a snap shot of fish populations in the River at a point in time. The survey indicated the presence of salmon (6 species, and all juvenile fish in the 6-9cm range) limited to sites in the lower catchment and also indicated the presence of brown trout on all sites tested. The Board noted this information had been made available to all parties for the purposes of the Oral Hearing;- the decision taken by the Board (by way of circular request from the Secretary) to extend the time for determination of this appeal to 31 January 2018. The Board noted that these letters of extension issued on 11 October 2017.

The Chairperson thanked Owen McIntyre and the Secretary for managing the contentious and challenging oral hearing on behalf of the Board. Owen McIntyre indicated that his report was in the process of being finalised and he expected to have it available for the Board in time for the next meeting.

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Dated the 13 day of December 2017

Imelda Reynolds

Imelda Reynolds

CHAIRPERSON