

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

November 2011

**Annex B: Regional and Local Fisheries Advisory
Committee current membership scheme
(informal)**

Environment Act 1995

Regional and Local Fisheries Advisory Committee (RLFAC) also known as Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (FERAC) England and Wales membership scheme

This informal scheme has been drawn up by the national RLFAC (FERAC) Committee Chairs in discussion with the Environment Agency to support the amended Terms of Reference (republished March 2010).

It sets out the aspirations for the future role, composition and membership of RLFACs (FERACs), which will be achieved by June 2012.

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 The Environment Agency has a duty under section 13 of the Environment Act, for each Region (and Environment Agency Wales) to have a committee in relation to its statutory duties for fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation. These are known as the Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committees (FERAC) and are approved by Defra (and subsequently Welsh Assembly Government).
- 1.2 Members are appointed for their personal skills, interests and experience and do not represent any particular organisation.

2.0 Membership numbers

- 2.1 The overall size of the committee will be 16. This includes the RLFAC (FERAC) Chair and 15 members.
- 2.2 The 15 members include:
 - 13 members representing interested sectors and/or with relevant skills and experience;
 - The Chair of the Environment Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC), or a relevant nominee, from that Region/Wales.
 - One Chair from a *Flood Defence Committees (FDC), or a relevant nominee, from that Region/Wales.

* Where there is more than one FDC in the Region/Wales it should read that "The Chairs of the Flood Defence Committees (FDC) are welcome to attend, but only one will be a full voting member at any time. This will be agreed between the Chair of the RLFAC (FERAC) and the FDC Chairs of that Region/Wales in advance of the meeting."

Addendum: Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) were set up under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 replacing Regional Flood Defence Committees.

2.3 Where a Region/Wales has significant additional navigation responsibilities the number of members representing interested sectors and/or with relevant skills and experience can be increased to 15, by agreement with the Regional Director/Director for Wales.

3.0 Composition

3.1 As required by statute Members should have skills, interests and experience relevant to the local environment, the statutory remit of the RLFAC (FERAC) Committee and the diverse needs of the Region/Wales. This may include:

- Fisheries
- Water based users, including water related sport and recreation
- Wildlife, including conservation, ecology and biodiversity
- Navigation where the Region/Wales has operational responsibilities

3.2 In addition, and as far as the regional priorities and size of the committee allows, other Members may be appointed who have other skills/experience, such as:

- Environmental science
- Management professionals
- Riparian owners

3.3 They should be appointed at the discretion of the Regional Directors/Director for Wales and in consultation with the Committee Chair.