

National Association of Fisheries & Angling Consultatives



Formerly: The Standing Conference of Consultatives. Est. 1977

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17 October 2008

Dear Member,

Angling Unity

I am writing to you to update you with regards to 'Angling Unity' an exercise begun almost two years ago under the auspices of the Fisheries and Angling Conservation Trust, to unite the six major angling organisations in England.

A great deal of work has been undertaken, to develop the idea further and to bring 'Angling Unity' to fruition. By necessity this has been mostly of a confidential nature.

At NAFAC's AGM earlier in the year, the membership gave their approval to National Council pressing ahead with these developments and if appropriate merging NAFAC into the new body.

Initial discussions centred upon NAFAC, the Salmon and Trout Association, the Anglers' Conservation Association, the National Federation of Anglers and the National Federation of Sea Anglers, but quickly expanded to also include the Specialist Anglers Alliance. Latterly however the Salmon and Trout Association withdrew from the exercise. Having achieved charitable status their wish was to concentrate their efforts in this direction rather than representing anglers through a single unified membership based organisation.

Although it has not been possible to disclose what has been happening behind the scenes much has happened and I'm now pleased to be able to give you some details.

On Sunday October 19th, I, together with the chairmen of the other organisations, will sign official merger agreements committing our businesses to become part of the new organisation.

The new body will consist of two entities: the 'Angling Trust', which will be the governing body for coarse, game and sea angling in England, and an unincorporated association 'Fish Legal' which will deliver, throughout the UK, the legal protection and advice currently provided by the Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA). This structure is necessary to comply with Law Society rules governing employment of solicitors and the requirements of Sport England. Mark Lloyd, currently heading up the ACA, has been selected as Chief Executive elect of the unified body.

The Angling Trust will protect, develop and promote angling; manage national and international competitions; campaign on behalf of its members and fight to conserve and restore freshwater and marine fisheries.

A logo, full subscription details and a manifesto will be unveiled before the new body is launched officially in January 2009. At this stage however, it is clear that individual adult subscriptions will cost £20 and club subscriptions will range from £50 to £250. Clubs and river owners wanting to take up the option of legal protection from Fish Legal will pay rates broadly in line with current ACA subscriptions.

The organisation aims to recruit 100,000 anglers to individual membership by 2011 and expects the vast majority of angling clubs in the country to join. It will provide significant benefits to its members and is looking to improve upon the excellent insurance packages and Information Sheets and Newsletters currently offered by NAFAC. It will also offer a "Fish for Free" loyalty programme which will earn its members cash back on purchases of angling permits, tackle and even the freshwater rod licence. Once launched, the new organisation will be discussing with government additional ways of funding angling, including via a levy on the rod licence.

At local level much remains to be done and I hope that everyone can and will continue to play their part either simply by retaining their membership, recruiting others to join, or continuing to play an active role in the consultative network. This latter aspect is going to be fundamental in the development of the new organisation and will form the basis of its regional representation.

From day one little will change and we expect local arrangements to continue as they are. In time however it is planned to roll together the regional arrangements of the various disciplines of coarse, sea and game, into a comprehensive regional network. This in turn will have a national committee with members on the Angling Trust Board. As individuals and groups you will have the opportunity to play an important part in developing this vital aspect of the new body.

I will be contacting you again with further details regarding membership, insurance etc, in the next few weeks, and seeking your support for this exciting development.

Yours sincerely

Martin Read. Chairman.