**Canal & River Trust – Fisheries & Angling Advisory Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**Rationale**

Securing and conserving the importance of its fisheries and the sport of angling activity that is reliant on those fisheries, is an important objective of the Trust. To pursue this objective effectively, the Trust benefits from the support of an expert fisheries and angling advisory group that consists of a small number of skilled and experienced practitioners with high standing. This group replaces the previously existing BW National Fisheries Liaison Committee.

The Group usually meets three times per annum and helps the Trust chart a course through fisheries and angling management issues, especially those that may be innovative or controversial. The Group will support Trust managers and give comfort to the trustees that the direction of travel for fisheries and angling is appropriate, well managed, and reflects the charitable objectives of the Trust.

**Remit**

The remit of the group will be as follows:

* Provide Canal & River Trust with top quality, expert fisheries and angling advice about specific issues relating to fisheries and angling that are brought to the Group’s attention
* Act as an advocate for the Trust and its fisheries and angling objectives
* Appreciate the heritage and history of fisheries and angling
* Lend credibility and legitimacy to the Trust’s decisions affecting fisheries and angling
* Validate the Trust’s direction in fisheries and angling management
* Endorse the reflected progress and narrative in the annual State of the Waterways Fisheries and Angling report
* Advise the Trustees and Council regarding specific fisheries and angling-related issues and potential consequences of wider business decisions on the fisheries and angling business
* Interact with other Trust advisory groups in matters of wider stakeholder interest
* Offer expert guidance on the Trust’s Angling Strategy

**Membership**

Members of the Group may be selected through recommendations from The Angling Trust, Canal & River Trust Trustees, the Trust’s Head of Community Engagement and any public advertisement to that effect. Invitations to join the Group will be by letter from the Chief Executive of the Trust. The Group should consist of:

A **Chairman** – who shall be a senior, experienced fisheries or angling practitioner

**Members** –8-10 experienced individuals chosen to provide a range of technical expertise in the following areas:

* Freshwater fisheries management
* Freshwater fisheries & conservation
* Angling development & coaching
* Commercial fisheries management
* Angling Club development and administration
* Competition angling

**Meetings**

The Group will meet at least twice yearly at the Trust Headquarters or other Trust owned venue as agreed. Meetings will be chaired by the appointed Chairman of the Group. The Trust’s Head of Community Engagement and the National Fisheries & Angling Manager will attend the Group’s meetings and will be accompanied by other Trust staff as required by the contents of the agenda. On occasions, a joint meeting involving both the Environmental Advisory Group and the National Angling Advisory Group will be held to discuss matters of common interest to both groups.

**Administration and Agendas**

The agenda will be jointly prepared by the Chairman and the Trust’s National Fisheries & Angling Manager, with proposed items for discussion, including discussion papers being submitted to both at least 14 days in advance of the next meeting. The Trust’s Fisheries & Angling team will provide secretarial support to the Group and by whom agenda items will be circulated in advance to the wider group, accompanied by background papers where required.

Notes of Group meetings will be published on the Trust’s website.

**Remuneration**

Membership of the Group will be voluntary and unsalaried although reasonable travelling expenses will be paid to Group members by the Trust and a lunch will be provided at each meeting.