

Limerick Fishery Board of Conservators

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Introduction

The Limerick Fishery Board was a subsection of the Department of Land and Fisheries. The Limerick fishery district (Number 8) covered the tideways and catchment areas of all rivers flowing into the sea between Dunmore Head, Co. Kerry and Hags Head, Co. Clare.¹

The Board, which operated out of 76 O'Connell Street, had responsibility for the management, protection, conservation, development and improvement of the fisheries in the area. It also supervised the work of the water bailiffs. The board met on a monthly basis to discuss issues relating to the fisheries including the rates, maintenance and poaching of the fisheries. The reports of the resolutions passed during these meetings were sent to the Minister of Land and Fisheries who decided what action should be taken on these matters.

The members of the Board were primarily solicitors and county councillors, with a full time secretary posted in the headquarters. John Daly was the chief clerk and secretary between 1929 and 1965.²

The *Shannon Fishery Act 1935* provided that ‘ The number of members of the Board of Conservators for the Limerick Fishery District to be elected in each of the two tidal electoral divisions of that district at the triennial election of such members held next after the passing of this Act and at every subsequent such election shall be three members and no more, and the number of members of the said Board of Conservators shall be modified accordingly as from the commencement of the term of office of the members of the said Board of Conservators elected at the said triennial election held next after the passing of this Act’ (Shannon Fisheries Act, 1935 section 21)

Under the *Fisheries Act 1980*, the Board became known as Shannon Regional Fisheries Board.³

¹ A.E.J. Went, *Irish salmon and salmon Fisheries* (London, 1955) p. 59.

² Seanad Éireann, Vol. 181, No. 10. 25 Oct 2005.

³ www.shannon-fishery-board.ie

Minute Book (1926 – 1932)

- 1 10 February 1926 – 20 April 1932 Minute Book of the Inland Fisheries of Ireland for Limerick District (number 8).

Meetings were held monthly and dealt with a wide range of issues as correspondence with the Department of Fisheries, with other Boards of Conservators and with particulars in relation to licences, wages, bye-laws for the protection of the fisheries, etc, waterworks, exportation of fisheries, daily running of the Board (e.g. repairs of boats, bought of hats for bailiffs), establishment of fishing season, etc.
The volume also includes a 'Statement of the Sub-Committee of the Limerick Board of Conservators about Salmon Hatchery for River Shannon' (19 November 1930).

c. 200 pp

Book of Receipts and Expenditure (1927 – 1938)

- 2 September 1927 – September 1938 Book of receipts and expenditures of the Limerick Fisheries Board.
The volume is organized in columns under the following headings. Receipts: Date, From Whom Received, Particulars of the Receipt, Total Amount Received, Licence Duties, Fishery Rates, Legal Proceedings (divided into Fines and Costs and Sale of Year Forfeited) and Miscellaneous (divided into Subscriptions and Other Receipts). Expenditure: Date of paying Order, Number of Paying Order, To Whom Paid, Particulars of the Payment, Date Paid by Treasurer, Orders outstanding at the close of the account, Total Amount Paid, Salaries and Wages (divided into Clerk, Inspectors of Bailiffs, Bailiffs (Net Amount), National Health and Unemployment and Insurances), Legal Proceedings (divided into Solicitor's Costs and Expenses and Awards to Prosecutor and Witnesses), Inspection Expenses (divided into Travelling and Subsistence and Running and Upkeep of Patrol Boats) and Miscellaneous (divided into Commission to Licence Distributors, Workman's Compensation Assurance, Stationery and Printing, Postage, Rent, etc of Premises, Upkeep of Motor Cycle, Replacements and Upkeep of Huts, Rewards, Miscellaneous and Bank).
The volume also includes an 'Estimates of Bailiffs Required for year 1933', 'List of Water Bailiffs Required for 1937' and 'Financial Estimate for the Fishery Year Ending 30th September 1937'.

c. 240 pp

Rate Books (1928 – 1959)

Rate books of the Fisheries Boards for Limerick District (Number 8). Each volume is organized in columns under the following headings: Number of Rating, Locality and Nature of Fishery, County, County Health or Urban District, Electoral Division, Townland, Ref. No. to Ordinance Sheet, Person Rated, Immediate Lessor, Existing Valuation, Arrears of Rate and First Moiety of Current Rate (divided into Arrears, First Moiety, Total due to 1st April, Amount Paid and Date Paid), Second Moiety (divided into Second Moiety due 1st September, Amount Paid, Date Paid), Total Current Rate and Arrears (divided into Total Amount Payable, Amount Paid up to 30th September, Amount outstanding on September 30th) and remarks

2 volumes

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| 3. | 1928 – 1938 | c. 230 ff |
| 4. | 1938 – 1959
Includes a letter from the Department of
Agriculture (Fisheries Branch) of February 1944
explaining the new procedures and arrangements
required to the Boards of Conservators in order to
ensure uniformity in method in recording the
collection of fishery rates. | c. 240 ff |

Register of Reports and Prosecutions (1928 – 1950)

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| 5. | 1928 – 1950 | <p>Register of Reports and Prosecutions
for breaches of the fishery laws in the
Limerick District (No. 8)</p> <p>The volume is organized in columns under the following headings: Number of Case, Date of Report, Name of Station, Name of Person Reporting Case, Name and Address of Person Reported, Date of Offence, Particulars of Offence (e.g. ‘using a net for the capture of trout in Lough Derg contrary to Bye Law dated 9 January 1899’, p.2),</p> |
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Name of Solicitor instructed on behalf of Board of Conservators, Result of Proceedings, Particulars of Fine and Costs Paid and Date received by Clerk, R.&E. Book Folio and Observations.

Includes five receipts for amount levied on warrant from the Garda Siochana (1941 – 1942)

Also includes a copy of ‘Standing Orders, Rules and Regulations adopted by the Limerick Board of Conservators at a meeting held on the 18th September 1929’.

c. 125 pp

Register of Licences (1952 – 1958)

6. October 1952 – December 1958 Register of Licences issued by the Limerick District (No. 8). The volume is organized in columns under the followings headings: Date Issued, Name of Licence Holder, Postal Address, Sub-Distributor, Electoral Division, Description of Licence (Rod/ Drift/ Endorsement/ Stake/ Box, etc), Licence Number, Licence Duty (£ / s.), Date Lodged with Treasurer, P.& E. Book Folio, Total Received and Remarks.

c. 250 ff