

LOUGH NEAGH THE HIDDEN LOUGH

Lough Neagh Symposium
The Long Gallery Parliament Buildings
Sponsored by The Department of
Agriculture and Rural Development and
Department of Environment

SOME BASIC LOUGH NEAGH FACTS

- NAMED AFTER EOGHU THE HORSE GOD
- FORMED BY FINN MC COOL
- BIGGEST LOUGH IN UK AND IRELAND
- HOLDS 7 MILLION SWIMMING POOLS OF WATER
- 383 SQUARE KM OF SURFACE
- WORKING LOUGH WITH SAND AND EEL TRADE
- HAS MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATIONS, ASSI, SPA, SAC, RAMSAR AND UNIQUE SPECIES
- 100,000 WINTER WILDFOWL VISIT EVERY YEAR
- STRONG CULTURAL, WWII AND BUILT HERITAGE

LOUGH NEAGH



SOME LOUGH NEAGH FACTS

- 6 MAJOR RIVERS IN 1 MAJOR RIVER OUT
- HAS OWN CANOE AND CYCLE TRAIL
- HAS UNDERWENT RECENT MAJOR INVESTMENT MAINLY THROUGH DARD RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND DCAL INLAND WATERWAYS
- LOUGH NEAGH ADVISORY COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY GAVE ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES
- LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP ONLY REMAINING INTEGRATED BODY ON LOUGH
- SAND IN MORTAR OF PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS IS FROM LOUGH NEAGH

LOUGH NEAGH ISSUES

- NO NAVIGATION AUTHORITY OR WATERWAYS IRELAND RESPONSIBILITY
- NO MAJOR INVESTMENT IN COMPARISON WITH LOUGH ERNE, OR SEA LOUGHS FOYLE, CARLINGFORD
- NO SIGNIFICANT CORE FUNDING OR REMIT FOR CENTRAL INTEGRATED BODY
- BED AND SOIL OWNED BY SHAFTSBURY ESTATES

LOUGH NEAGH ISSUES

- LOSS OF OF LOUGHS NATURAL HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY
- MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF LOUGHS NATURAL ASSETS OF FISH AND SAND
- WATER QUALITY POOR (EUTROPHIC)
- WATER LEVEL CONTROL
- IF YOU CANT SEE IT, IT ISNT THERE

POSITIVE CHANGE

- BUILDING ON SUCCESSFUL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
- DCAL PROVIDED SOME FUNDING TO LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP FOR CO ORDINATION ROLE AND NEW MARKERS
- ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PROVIDED SOME FUNDING FOR LOUGH NEAGH ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
- COUNCILS AROUND THE SHORE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT PROJECTS ON LOUGH NEAGH

POSITIVE CHANGE

- WATER QUALITY CATCHMENT AREAS
- TOURISM DESTINATION PLAN
- LOCAL ACTION GROUPS AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT CO OPERATION PROJECT ON LINE
- SYMPOSIUM AND LINKS WITH UK AND IRELAND NETWORK

FUTURE STRUCTURAL OPTIONS

- STATUS QUO
- MAKE WATERWAYS IRELAND NAVIGATION AUTHORITY AND DEVELOPMENT BODY FOR LOUGH NEAGH
- IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP WITH NEW PUBLIC BODY FOR LOUGH WITH INCREASED INTEGRATED DEPARTMENT ROLE FOR DCAL, NIEA AND DARD
- NATIONAL PARK FOR THE LOUGH NEAGH
- NEW SMALLER INTEGRATED STAKEHOLDER BODY/TRUST WITH AT LEAST NEW BASIC NAVIGATION RESPONSIBILITY AND SOME INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY
- NEW INTEGRATED SMALL TRUST BODY WITH RESPONSIBILITIES LINKED TO INTEGRATED DEPARTMENTAL / COUNCIL GROUP