

EMFF Operational Programme 2014-2020

Seafood Processing Development Measure

Seafood R&D Programme Guidelines

The programme supports research and development projects aimed at developing new or improved products and processes which are market led and in collaboration between industry, agencies and recognised scientific institutions.

This intervention is consistent with the Food Wise 2025 strategy which recognises the growing opportunity for Ireland to achieve a strategic advantage in the marine biotechnology field. Ireland's strengths in this area lie in extensive and high quality marine resources, a recognised capacity in marine biological sciences, R&D and strong technological capabilities in the food, pharmaceutical and nutraceutical spheres.

Food Wise 2025 sets out a key action to give a renewed priority to R&D into seafood based new product development, food ingredients and functional foods including both harvested wild and farmed seaweeds and their by-products.

The programme is governed by EMFF Regulation 508/2014 Article 26 - Innovation.

Aims and Objectives of the Programme

The programme aims to build effective partnerships between research institutions and seafood stakeholders in delivering market focussed innovative R&D projects. The key objectives of this programme are:

- To assist the seafood sector and entrepreneurs in researching, developing and testing new technologies, products and platforms which lead to increased values for the sector;
- To deepen industry's R&D base;
- To enable SMEs access expertise in innovation to ensure long-term sustainability;
- To yield positive value for state investment in terms of environmental sustainability, viable businesses and employment.

Call for Projects Proposals

BIM has engaged with industry and relevant Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) to define the most effective means of enhancing collaboration between RPOs and industry and to define key focus areas that take account of our raw material, R&D competencies and emerging market opportunities. The Seafood R&D Programme sets out the focus areas and provides a means for industry to submit relevant R&D proposals to be undertaken by BIM for the benefit of the sector as a whole. BIM will not undertake projects where the benefits exclusively accrue to any one enterprise. Enterprises may apply under the Seafood Innovation & Business Planning Scheme for 50% support towards private innovation projects.

Project Focus Areas:

1. Knowledge transfer and mapping of marine and aquaculture ingredient opportunities.
 - Map-out the key emerging market opportunities under defined themes in:
 - Health and wellness ingredients; cardiovascular, gut and mental health, weight management, host protection, inflammation and joint care.
 - Techno-functional ingredients; foaming, emulsification, solubility, water binding and gelation.
 - Identify state of the art commercially relevant technologies and know-how in emerging seafood areas and also in other food sectors (e.g. dairy, beef) that have advanced R&D which can be transferred to seafood.
 - Develop strategies for the Irish seafood sector to collaborate, plan, upskill and exploit the joint opportunities in developing food and marine products.

2. Development of techno-functional and health ingredients from marine and aquaculture processing by-products, underutilised species and seaweeds.
 - Compositional analysis and specifications.
 - Technologies to extract and process ingredients into shelf-stable formats.
 - Development of ingredient and associated USPs which fit into the Value Creation Pyramid.
 - Fertilizers
 - Bioenergy
 - Feed/Pet food
 - Human food
 - Nutraceuticals
 - Cosmetics
 - Explore opportunities/challenges in enabling functional ingredients and products to be developed on a scaled basis.
 - Engaging customers with product concepts and commercialising the relevant opportunities.
3. Dietary intervention trials.
 - Assessing the efficacy of products using dietary intervention trials.
 - Assessing performance (growth rates, digestibility and feed conversion).
4. Other marine projects and applications where a strong business case and/or market need for marine and aquaculture R&D are evident.

Intellectual Property (IP), Knowledge Transfer (KT) and Licensing

Projects will comply with national intellectual property, knowledge transfer and licensing protocols. Reference Knowledge Transfer Ireland http://www.knowledgetransferireland.com/About_KTI/.

Who's eligible?

Seafood businesses and public bodies are invited to submit proposals. Priority will be given to projects that take account of the raw material supply, describe the technical requirements and define the market opportunity.

Project submissions must comply with Food Wise 2025 and EMFF, Seafood Processing Development Measure 2014-2020. For public projects, relevant outputs will be made publicly available.

BIM reserves the right to not approve projects which do not comply with BIM strategy, EMFF legislation or where insufficient funds are available.

Support Rates and Project Duration

BIM Service Projects will be 100% funded up to a maximum of €150,000 per project.

BIM envisage that projects will have clear outcomes and as a guideline would be completed within a 12 month period.

Process

Through a tender process, BIM has selected a panel of RPOs which provide a multi-capability framework in:

- Laboratory and scientific and specification analysis.
- Pilot processing and pre-market scale-up.
- Product efficacy trials and market research.

Approved projects will go through the following process stages:

Step	Description	Carried Out By
1. Industry Proposer(s) and/or BIM submits project proposal form.	This should identify the technical challenge, the market need and how the project benefits the common good of the sector.	Industry Proposer(s) & BIM
2. Eligibility check and evaluation, and acknowledgement	To ensure compliance and to assess validity.	BIM
3. Consultative Panel invited to a Challenge Workshop.	Project is assessed and developed on 4 criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Common benefit & opportunity of the sector ■ Need/market opportunity ■ Technical feasibility ■ Commercial viability 	Consultative Panel comprising BIM, Industry Proposer(s) and IFPEA nominated representatives (2-3)
4. BIM submits Project Proposal to RPO panel for competitive bid.	The RPO is selected based on cost and project work detail, milestones and timelines.	BIM
5. Project Reviews	BIM and Consultative Panel will be required to attend a kick-off meeting and quarterly project review meetings.	Consultative Panel and RPO
6. Project Completion	A final project report and outcomes is submitted to BIM and Consultative Panel with IP evaluation.	RPO, BIM
7. A summary report outlining the results of the project is made publicly available.	The summary report is published on BIM website. Knowledge from the project is disseminated by BIM to the sector through IFPEA and appropriate industry representative organisations.	BIM, RPO