



Inshore Fisheries Forum
Fóram Iascaigh Chladaigh

January 2019

Irish Inshore Fisheries Sector **Strategy 2019-2023** **Summary**



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1 CONTEXT

The publication of the Irish Inshore Fisheries Sector Strategy 2019-2023 marks a major milestone in the development of the Inshore Fisheries Forum Initiative which was established in late 2014 to provide a platform for dialogue between the sector, the state and other stakeholders operating inside 6nm. Since their inception the Inshore Forums have brought forward a number of initiatives, including a number of stock conservation measures.

Despite this progress however it has become clear to those involved in the forums that there is a need for longer term thinking to safeguard the future of a sector which is so important to Irish coastal communities. This strategy sets out the aspirations and objectives for the future of the sector and identifies clear actions to be delivered through an implementation plan that gives effect to the vision outlined for the sector. This 'bottom up' Strategy developed through the Inshore Fisheries Forums not only maps out a sustainable future path for the sector but will inform the implementation of the Seafood Operational Programme 2016-2022, the development of the EU legal framework to replace the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund from 2020 and the development of a Maritime Spatial Plan for Ireland in 2019/2020.



2 STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

2.1 Strategy Development Process

This Strategy seeks to:

- Set out the strategic direction for the sector to 2023;
- Support the development of the sector through identifying key targets and potential sources of financial support; and
- Provide a tool for advocacy for the sector.

The development of this strategy for the inshore sector has been overseen by a Strategy Steering Group comprising representatives of the National Inshore Fisheries Forum and relevant State Agencies which guided the development of sections and provided feedback as part of an iterative process.



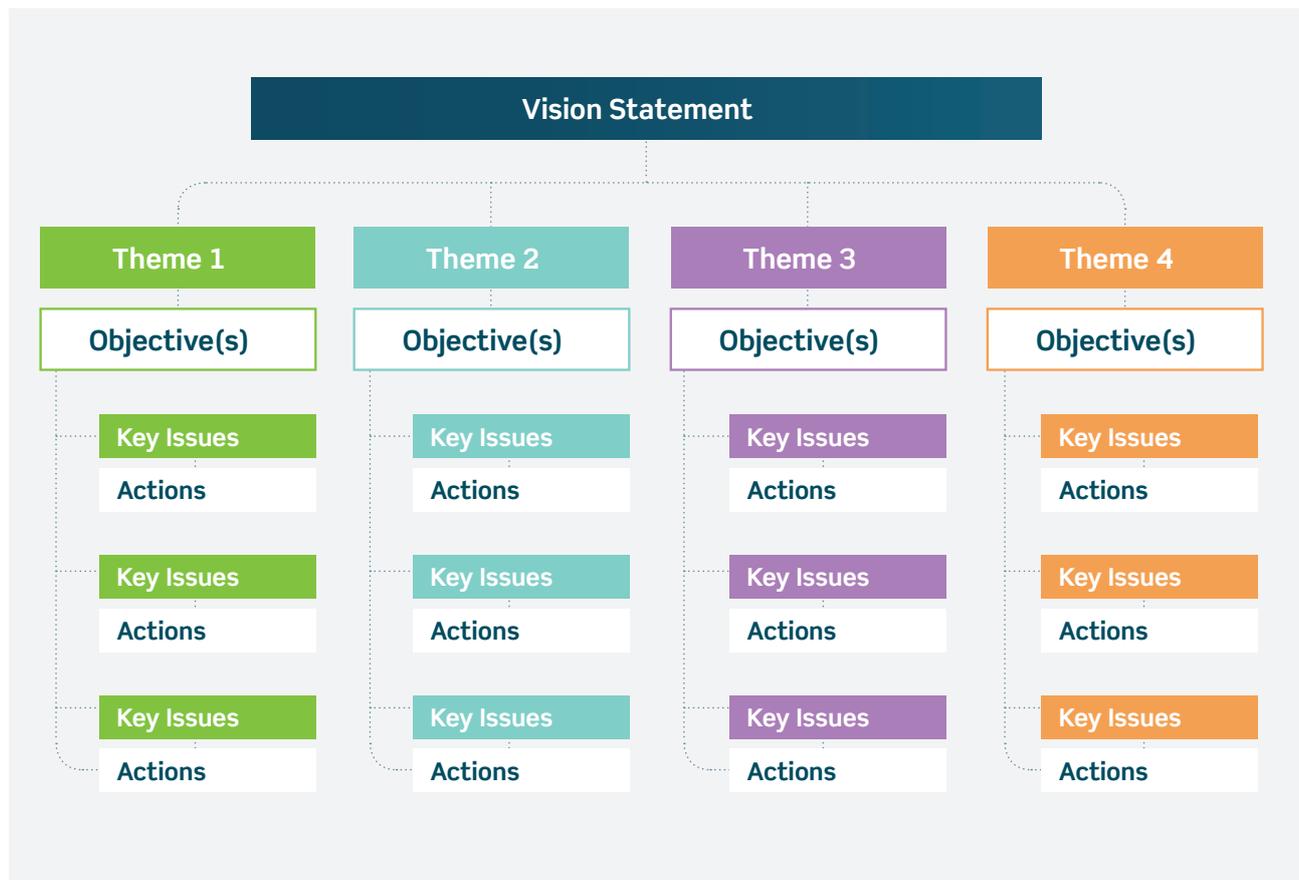
Source: RSM

2.2 Framework for the Strategy

2.2.1 Framework for the Strategy

The diagram below shows the framework for the Inshore Fisheries Strategy.

Figure 1: Strategy Development Framework



3 VISION

The Inshore Fisheries Sector will have a prosperous and sustainable future delivered through a united industry with a strong and influential voice.



4 THEMES, OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

4.1 Theme 1 – Organisation & Profile



ACTIONS

Objective 1 Inshore Sector Profile:

- Implement an appropriate data collection system for the Irish inshore sector
- Communicate accurate and up to date industry-relevant socio-economic information to raise awareness of and support for the sector

Objective 2 Sector Representation:

- Raise awareness, participation and engagement of industry in existing representative structures/forums
- Enhance skills and build capacity of RIFF members so that they can effectively represent and develop the voice of the sector
- Encourage and support effective representation through regular communication with industry members and relevant state agencies
- Promote industry engagement in policy making through active participation in consultations

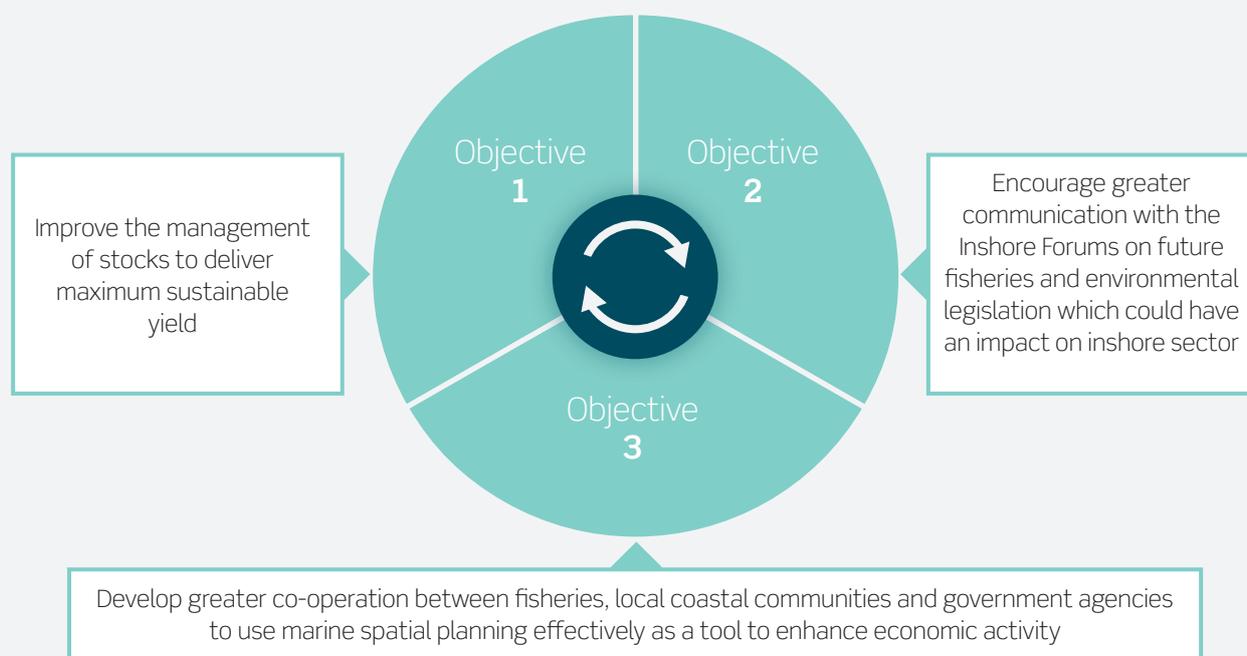
Objective 3 Build Sector Capacity:

- Build capacity to facilitate the formation of new, and enhancement of existing, collective structures to strengthen cohesion in the sector
- Raise awareness of supports for collective organisations (e.g. EMFF)
- Develop skills and voice of members of sector through appropriate training in areas such as management skills, business skills, collective bargaining, etc.

Objective 4 Improve Compliance:

- Improve understanding of industry practice and advise on changes to ensure satisfactory compliance with legislation
- Assist industry to improve understanding and engagement in compliance with regulation and legislation

4.2 Theme 2 – Management & Planning



ACTIONS

Objective 1 Improve Management:

- Investigate opportunities to develop and implement new protocols for the sustainable management of inshore resources
- Implement improved initiatives that adopt a strategic approach to sustainable stock management in the industry
- Increase industry awareness and engagement through representative structures that seek to assist and inform current best practice in sustainable stock management and planning

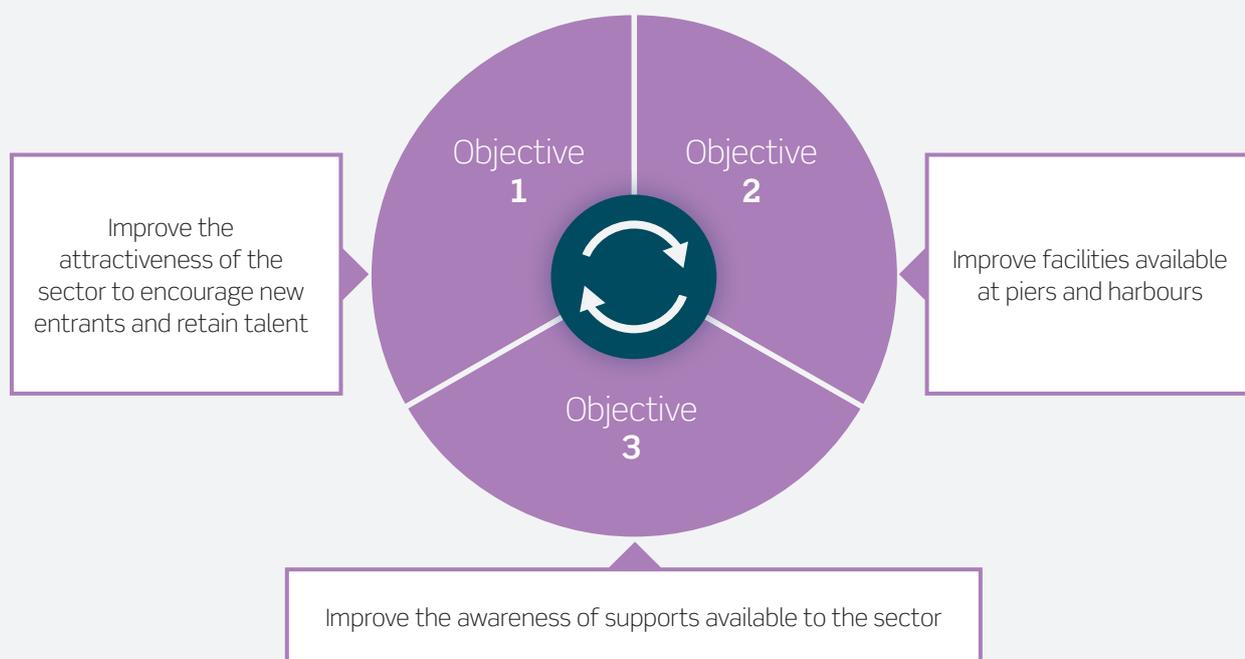
Objective 2 Environmental Awareness:

- Implement initiatives which improve communication by disseminating user-friendly information on current and future environmental legislation
- Support and facilitate greater direct engagement and co-operation between the sector, representative structures and relevant state agencies on environmental legislation to improve effectiveness of participation and influence on relevant consultations

Objective 3 Marine Spatial Planning:

- Improve cooperation and communication between all relevant parties in the marine spatial planning process to share information, recognise the inshore sector spatial footprint and promote economic activity
- Investigate and identify management and planning issues identified by actions under Theme 1

4.3 Theme 3 – Infrastructure & Resources



ACTIONS

Objective 1 Sector Attractiveness:

- Explore options to incentivise transfer of ownership to facilitate entry to /exit from the industry
- Promote the sector through the development of clear, accessible information on it and the career path for those entering, within and exiting the industry
- Provide training and development opportunities for those within the industry to encourage new entrants and retain current talent

Objective 2 Improve Infrastructure:

- Audit the quality, functionality, facilities and management of inshore piers and harbours that are or could be used by the inshore fisheries sector
- Improve communication with relevant agencies regarding the condition and management arrangements of inshore piers and harbours
- Provide support to improve facilities at piers and harbours used by the inshore fisheries sector
- Improve management arrangements at piers and harbours used by the inshore fisheries sector

Objective 3 Publicise supports:

- Develop and publicise a single central information portal on current funding, resources and training available to support the inshore sector
- Support additional complementary initiatives that raise awareness of current financial support available to the industry

4.4 Theme 4 – Profitability



ACTIONS

Objective 1 Economic Efficiency:

- Develop and implement initiatives that provide training and build capacity to develop business related skills
- Facilitate enhanced sectoral engagement and consultation on current and future market and diversification opportunities

Objective 2 Markets:

- Improve product value by supporting fishing enterprises to engage more effectively with the market through initiatives such as increased use of digital technologies, networking/collective actions, marketing, branding and promotion
- Provide accurate and up to date information on current market trends to allow fishing enterprises to negotiate in the marketplace more effectively

Objective 3 Adding Value:

- Add value to the inshore catch through supporting activities such as direct sales and small scale processing
- Develop initiatives to differentiate market and promote inshore sector products
- Increase industry awareness of sales regulations

Objective 4 Diversification:

- Identify and facilitate changes in current practice, policy and legislation that will facilitate diversification within the industry.
- Investigate new diversification opportunities where supported by solid evidence

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Implementation Plan

BIM will lead the implementation of the Strategy in partnership with NIFF and the inshore sector. Many of the Actions identified in the Strategy align with and complement those identified in the BIM Strategy 2018-2020 Enabling Sustainable Growth and their implementation will therefore be more easily facilitated. BIM is also the Implementing Authority for many of the industry supports being implemented through the Seafood Operational Programme under the EMFF and is thus well placed to effect the appropriate changes to these supports. Other Actions however fall outside the remit of BIM and will require the engagement of other agencies, service providers and stakeholders. BIM will draw up an Implementation Plan for the Strategy and will be advised in this regard by an Inshore Strategy Implementation Group. It will comprise nominees from NIFF, DAFM and its agencies, BIM, MI and the SFPA and will advise BIM in developing the Implementation Plan in the first instance and thereafter monitoring and driving implementation progress.



The Inshore Fisheries Forums can be contacted through BIM below or through their website inshoreforums.ie



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