

Brexit Seafood Industry Supports

Project Outline:

Three types of intervention are proposed under this project. However, given the continued uncertainty of the outcome of the negotiations between the EU/UK these are subject to change. The following types of intervention are anticipated:

Economic Impact analyses: Brexit is likely to result in short, medium, and long-term impacts on the seafood sector, that will only become apparent once the negotiations have been concluded and the industry adapts to the new arrangements in terms of access, fishing opportunities and trade. To inform future policy changes or supports to the sector, there is likely to be a requirement for detailed analyses of the economic impacts of such changes or the costs associated with putting in place industry support schemes such as a decommissioning scheme.

Technical trials: As Brexit will undoubtedly lead to market change and disruption, the industry will need to adapt to such changes by considering new market opportunities and adding value to catches given that there may be a reduction in fishing opportunities available. This could include technical trials to consider on board handling technologies to add value or increase shelf life or supply chain analyses to help to address deficiencies/weaknesses in the supply chain for certain species post-Brexit. The provision of these analyses will allow assessment of the value added by species in export markets and the domestic market; the share of Irish landings or farm production being consumed in the domestic market; the quantities of seafood being consumed in the retail and foodservice sectors in Ireland and abroad.

Support and guidance: Post Brexit, the rules and regulations will change, and it is important for the seafood sector to understand these changes fully. Provision of user-friendly guides and information notes developed with SFPA, where relevant, will help to disseminate this information to the industry. The changes in rules and regulations will only be known once the negotiations have been completed but may relate to fishing in UK waters, requirements for landing into UK ports as well as logistics for sending fish directly to or transiting through the UK.

Project Objectives:

The aim of this project is to provide a suite of support services to assist seafood businesses to navigate the challenges of Brexit. This will encompass technical trials (i.e., adding value on board vessels), support and guidance to understand new rules, documentation, and studies to support DAFM to assess the longer-term impacts of Brexit. The key goals are to assist industry to adapt, restructure and reposition post-Brexit.

Expected Benefits:

- Provide support services to assist seafood businesses to navigate the challenges of Brexit through technical trials (logistics, adding value), support and guidance (new rules, documentation) and studies to assess the longer-term impacts of Brexit
- Assist industry to adapt, restructure and reposition post-Brexit

Projected Cost: €250,000