

BENEFICIARY: BORD IASCAIGH MHARA
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: 19KGSSTS003.4
NAME OF PROJECT: CERTIFIED QUALITY AQUACULTURE SCHEME
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 1st JANUARY -31st DECEMBER 2019

Project Scope

Standards and certifications are now a key mechanism for businesses wishing to translate requirements, both product and process specifications, to other parts of the supply chain. There is an increasing global requirement for the use of accredited certification schemes in providing assurances of more sustainable practices in seafood production and more recently for the participation and assessment of accredited certification schemes to global benchmarking initiatives.

BIM's CQA Programme is an accredited certification scheme, which is managed according to ISO 17065, and uses aquaculture facilities as its unit of certification. BIM's CQA Programme has successfully participated in the global benching initiative, GSSI (Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative), which is process underpinned by the FAO guidelines to assess seafood certification programmes and has become widely recognised as playing a leading role in creating global alignment on seafood certification.

BIM's CQA Programme is a GSSI-recognised scheme. The endorsement of our accredited CQA Programme to a global benchmark initiative 'future proofs' the provenance of our farmed Irish Seafood and gives our producers access to the premium markets.

Objectives

The principal objective of the BIM CQA Programme is to support the production of high-class farmed Irish seafood and to differentiate aquaculture products in the marketplace through quality, organic and eco labelling.

The BIM Certified Quality Aquaculture Programme has established and will maintain an independent effective certification assessment system based on ISO 17065 to ensure that Certification Bodies (CBs) operate in a consistent and controlled manner and so that applicants and certified plants manage their businesses and market their products in full conformity with the criteria defined in the Programme standards.

Budget

Maximum approved expenditure on the project totaled €100,000 corresponding to the following headings:

- A contractor providing third-party certification that will undertake all audits to the Organic Certified Quality Aquaculture Scheme and maintain the ISO 17065 accreditation
- Meeting room costs
- Contractor providing a review of streamlining of standards

Achievements / Spend

- Quality and Organic certification system maintained in line with Commission Regulation 710/2009
- ISO 17065 Accreditation for the Programme
- Certification audits completed by the Certification Body for all CQA certified companies
- Ratification of update revision to CQA Farm Standard – CQA Farm Standard Issue 1 Rev 1 - Feb 2019
- The CQA page on BIM's Website updated to reflect current CQA certified companies and the current CQA Programme Standards
- A total of 6 meetings were held in 2019 including a CQA Oversight Committee Meeting, Certification Body Review Meeting, CQA Team and Certification Body meetings and BIM provided training to CQA auditors on the updated CQA Farm Standard.
- Review of streamlining of standards was carried out by contractor BDO Eaton Square and held over 3 meetings and 2 larger workshops regarding BIM's Seafood Certification Scheme Scoping Review. The workshops were held in July and November in 2019. Reports were issued to BIM following each workshop including output summaries and key recommendations.

SUMMARY OF SPEND:

Total Approved	
Total Eligible Expenditure	€100,000
Total Drawdown	€100,000
EU – 50%	€50,000
Exchequer – 50%	€50,000

Report: Vera Flynn

Date: March 2019