

BENEFICIARY: BORD IASCAIGH MHARA
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: 19/SFS/ESS003
NAME OF PROJECT: Strategic Analysis of the Operational & Technical Efficiency of the Irish Fishing Fleet
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 1st JANUARY -31st DECEMBER 2019

Project scope

The Irish Fishing Fleet has undergone significant change over the last two decades because of new building and modernisation programmes balanced with capacity reduction measures in the form of targeted decommissioning schemes. Over this period, the fleet has also experienced peaks and troughs in the price of fuel, fluctuating fishing opportunities and increased pressure from markets to provide consistent, high quality seafood. These factors have driven the fleet to adapt and innovate to maintain efficiency and profitability.

To address these issues, BIM initiated a study of the Irish fishing fleet in 2019, drawing on existing economic information collected as part of the DCMAP, modernisations grants funded under the EMFF and through a national survey of the fleet's technical and operational efficiency. This study aims to provide a detailed analysis of the Irish Fishing Fleet in terms of its overall operational and technical efficiency. This analysis would provide a clear picture of the state of the Irish fishing fleet and its ability, from a technical and operational basis, to adapt to changes that threaten viability. Such changes could include increases in fuel prices, fluctuating fishing opportunities, increased pressure from markets to provide consistent, high quality seafood and competition from foreign vessels forcing the need for diversification into other fisheries. The study will look at the fuel efficiency of the fleet segments, fishing capability, carrying capacity and onboard processing capabilities.

Objectives

The objective of this study of the fleet, is to draw together existing economic information collected as part of the DCMAP, modernisations grants funded under the EMFF and through an audit of the fleet's technical and operational efficiency to provide a deeper understanding of the current state of the fleet and its ability to adapt to challenges ahead such as climate change, new regulations, potential market shifts and increases in fuel prices and interest rates.

Budget

The projected budget for this project was €50,000 for Phase 1.

Achievements / Spend

The first part of this study was completed in 2019. Based on current DCF and Irish national fleet segments, a relevant fleet segmentation representative of the key Irish fisheries has been drawn up. This segmentation defines fishing vessel types that more adequately characterise current Irish fishery exploitation patterns and will be easily understood from an industry and a regulatory aspect. Following from this, information on the

technical and operational characteristics of the individual vessels in each of these segments has begun to be collated. This includes information on fuel efficiency and range, fishing capability (e.g. winch capacity; bollard pull etc.), a description of fishing gears deployed, hold capacity and onboard processing capabilities.

The full budget allocation was drawdown.

SUMMARY OF SPEND:

Total Approved	
Total Eligible Expenditure	€50,000
Total Drawdown	€50,000
EU – 50%	€25,000
Exchequer – 50%	€25,000

Report: Dominic Rihan

Date: January 2020