Ireland's Seafood Development Agency

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
An Cheannoifig
Bóthar Crofton,
Dún Laoghaire,
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath
A96 E5AO

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Head Office
Crofton Road,
Dún Laoahaire
Co. Dublin
A96 E5AO

T + 353 (0)1 214 4100
F + 353 (0)1 284 1123
www.bim.ie

BENEFICIARY: BORD IASCAIGH MHARA
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: 19/KGS/STS002.3
NAME OF PROJECT: Invasive Alien Species Project
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 1st JANUARY -31st DECEMBER 2019

Project Scope

Aquaculture operations are a known vector for invasive species. Invasive Alien Species have the potential to cause large impacts on the natural environment, the quality of aquaculture products and affect how aquaculture operations are conducted.

It is important therefore that the aquaculture sector is proactive on addressing this issue to minimise risks and ensure the sustainability of their operations. BIM is in a prime position to facilitate this work.

Objectives

To support the aquaculture to be proactive on addressing Invasive Alien Species to minimise risks and ensure the sustainability of their operations to be achieved through the retention of an Alien Species advisor and through the development and launch of a smartphone app for use by the aquaculture sector to help identify and report potential alien species.

Budget

Maximum approved expenditure on the project totaled €115,000.00.

Achievements / Spend.

BIM together with DAFM, government agencies and the aquaculture sector are continuing to develop a robust biosecurity strategy for Invasive Alien Species over and above general legal requirements. This is being achieved on an ongoing basis and was supported by combination of the following achievements in 2019.

1. Retaining an alien species advisor to undertake the following work;
    - Undertaking surveys and analysing species samples collected in key aquaculture bays around Ireland to create a baseline species register.
      In 2019 surveys were carried out in 16 bays allowing the export of product and providing key information for risk assessment and biosecurity planning in Ireland. Surveys were also carried out to support shellfish movements such as seed mussel and cultch.
    - Produce guidance on key species of concern to the aquaculture industry. This information was compiled in the IAS app (see no 2 below).
    - Develop a risk assessment procedure for the shellfish industry.

Support was provided for the ongoing development of a risk assessment and biosecurity planning template to support aquaculture licensing. Furthermore, risk assessments were conducted for four high risk alien species with key information about habitats and features for identification, vectors for movement and introduction and guidance for biosecurity measures to limit their spread.

- Make recommendations on best practice for dealing with IAS. This information is compiled in the IAS app (no 2 below).

In addition, a two-day training course was delivered to BIM regional and technical staff in March 2019. This included practical sample collection and identification methods to enable BIM to support the sector with any potential sightings of IAS.

2. Phase 2 of the Invasive Species App development.
   - The App design was completed in 2018 and functionality in 2019. The App content (test and photographs) were provided by the IAS advisor. Following a pilot trial in August 2019 the App was completed and launched to industry in September.
   - To date it has been downloaded and used by more than sixty growers, primarily for information purposes and feedback has been very positive.

SUMMARY OF SPEND:

Total Approved	
Total Eligible Expenditure	€115,000.00
Total Drawdown	€115,000.00
EU – 50%	€57,500.00
Exchequer – 50%	€57,500.00

Report: Grainne Devine
Date: March 2020