

## Aquaculture Industry Services

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### Project Outline:

#### **CLAMS**

- Produce CLAMS documents for three new active aquaculture areas with groups

#### **Special Unified Marking Schemes (SUMS)**

- Maintain and upgrade existing SUMS
- Renew and extend existing SUMS where required
- Install new SUMS where necessary

#### **Archaeological Assessments**

- Contract suitably qualified marine archaeologists to complete assessments to support aquaculture licencing
- Report preparation

#### **Depuration/Water Quality**

- Facilitate industry verification of new depuration systems
- Undertake water quality projects in aquaculture areas at greatest risk due to deteriorating quality conditions as indicated by the themes emerging from the priorities identified in the CLAMS group addendums

#### **Plastics/Waste**

- This project includes undertaking and facilitating beach clean-up in aquaculture areas and finding viable alternatives to end of life plastics such as recycling plastics while creating awareness, engagement and collective actions with NGOs, coastal communities and other stakeholders.

### Project Objectives:

This project seeks to promote sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production, while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term. The project further seeks to promote the contribution of EMFAF and national funding for the sector, strengthen the 'social licence' of aquaculture in Ireland and maximise dissemination of project outputs.

### Expected Benefits:

- Position the sector to increase awareness and fully engage with emerging programmes associated with climate adaptation and Marine Spatial planning.
- Reduce fragmentation of the aquaculture sector and provide a forum for communication and consensus building.
- A streamlined approach to the number of navigational marks in areas of aquaculture activity reducing visual impact while providing appropriate marine navigational systems in an effective and resource efficient manner that ensure high levels of health and safety.
- Archaeological assessment will address and mitigate heritage concerns relating to aquaculture licencing and avoiding delays and negative development concerns in a transparent and comprehensive manner increasing the professionalism of the sector.
- Depuration and water quality will actively reduce risks to the reputation of Irish seafood and support the continued reliance on the food service markets. Water quality projects will contribute to the need to maintain high water quality standards both for production and wider biodiversity.

The collection of marine litter serves two critical functions; the first is removal and reduction of marine litter in the environment and the second is mobilising awareness and engagement in the sector and their contribution and collaboration with NGOs and coastal communities in position collective actions which demonstrate a commitment to sustainable production and co-existence with other stakeholders.

**Projected Cost:** €265,000