

Certification Services

Project Outline:

CQA Programme

The BIM Certified Quality Aquaculture Programme (CQA) is an accredited certification programme based on ISO 17065, EU Organic Regulations Guidance, and GSSI (Global Sustainability Seafood Initiative) benchmark approval requirements to ensure that Certification Bodies (CBs) operate in a consistent and controlled manner and so that applicants and certified clients manage their businesses and market their products in full conformity with the criteria defined in the Programme standards.

MSC Certification

Certification to the MSC standard provides enhanced reputation, better visibility, improved dialogue with stakeholders, a pathway for improvements, protected livelihoods, and access to new markets, secure markets, and promotional opportunities.

A central certification for the whole mussel industry represents an innovative approach to the certification process and provides best value for money for the whole industry. For the seabed cultured mussel sector, continued certification is required to ensure access to high value markets and is a key partner to Origin Green for their sector. For rope mussels, the certification will provide access to high value markets and allow the product to compete with Scottish rope grown mussels.

GSSI Recognition

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.

Provision of services to assist BIM in terms of support in fulfilling their role in:

- the control, operation, and development of the accredited CQA Programme in order to strengthen the Programme's integrity and impartiality and to protect and ensure compliance the Programme's GSSI (Global Sustainability Seafood Initiative) benchmark approval.
- compliance for rope and bottom grown mussels to MSC standard MSC Certification.
- compliance of CQA Programme to GSSI Benchmark recognition.
- compliance of organic salmon and mussel sector to Organic Certification.

Project Objectives:

The principal objectives of this project are to support the production of high-class farmed Irish seafood and to differentiate aquaculture products in the marketplace through quality, organic and eco certification and labelling.

Expected Benefits:

- To develop and enhance best practice within the aquaculture and fishing industry in Ireland.
- Promote sustainable growth of production and value in aquaculture and fisheries.
- To maintain access to valuable organic market and MSC for aquaculture products.

Projected Cost: €216,713