

Industry Working Groups

Project Outline:

- To run and support the Irish Oyster Packers Group in terms of conducting meetings and workshops.
- There is also a need for development and networking within the 'next generation' of oyster growers. To support this, it is planned to hold a workshop within Ireland for these new entrants to see best practice and create synergies among these operators.

The work of the Irish Oyster Packers Group has proven to be very beneficial for all members and based on this success it is planned to roll out similar type structures for the mussel and salmon sectors.

Project Objectives:

BIM proposes to continue using a project-based model to drive this further collaboration within the aquaculture industry. The overall objective is to provide a forum for the oyster, salmon, and mussel farming sectors to harness the support of State organisations in an effective and efficient manner.

Expected Benefits:

- Help solve logistics issues to develop market opportunities in Europe with Bord Bia. Target countries will include Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.
- The engagement of 'next generation' producers to create a synergy that will help provide a more cohesive oyster industry for the future.
- To maintain market access to Asian markets by achieving the world's highest standard of norovirus testing. In conjunction companies will also benefit from synergies and knowledge transfer within the group. They also have access to the services of Bord Bia in a coordinated and efficient manner.
- Continue with the work in establishing the Salmon Working Group and look at possible synergies in this sector particularly around the area of disease control.
- Identifying common issues across the sector will allow for increased collaboration on mutually beneficial projects. The potential effects of climate change on the sector and innovative methods for meeting these challenges will be prioritised.
- Establish new Rope Mussel Working Group.

Projected Cost: €50,000