

Innovative Seafood Processing Technologies

Project Outline:

The Innovative Seafood Processing Technologies project intends to investigate monkfish as a prime seafood with a value of €14m sold predominately as frozen in 15kg blocks to be developed into value-add options for the international market in France and Spain. The market demands are for more food service and consumer ready retail packs, particularly in the French market. An initial scoping assessment has been undertaken to understand the monkfish supply chain and possible value add options. This project outline is to move to the second phase to assess the innovative processing technologies that can transform monkfish into the value-add options through automated systems to meet the current specifications in the marketplace. The need for automation is based on the supply shortages of labour and the need to produce the products at a competitive price point ensuring financial returns.

Project Objectives:

The key project objective for 2022 in seafood processing technologies is:

- To develop products and processing technologies for monkfish added value into a retail and food service options and communicate to relevant industry stakeholders.

For many seafood companies, innovation will remain a sprawling collection of activities, energetic but uncoordinated and a source of frustration. For BIM, however, it represents the most important challenge of all by figuring out how to manage an innovation technology as an integrated system within the overall sector, to harness its outputs and make it a reliable driver of growth.

Expected Benefits:

- Seafood processing technologies enable processors to meet consumer and buyer demands and trends such as the trend towards fresh production and the subsequent push for close-to-source and close-to-market processing.
- Increase competitive positioning of the Irish seafood sector in competing globally that facilitates market differentiation in terms of superior consumer benefits.
- Increases the industry focus on value-added production and enhanced product presentation; and the environmental drive to minimize the carbon footprint by reducing the amount of waste transported as part of the value-add offering.

Projected Cost: €50,000