

## Invasive Alien Species

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### Project Outline:

This project will be a continuation of the work carried out to date.

- Surveys in key aquaculture bays and non-aquaculture bays around Ireland to contribute to the baseline species register and ongoing monitoring. (SASI Surveys)
- Risk Assessments for key species of concern.
- Rapid response surveys on a needs basis.
- Guidance to support industry and Government challenges and policy advice as appropriate e.g., Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Descriptor 2 (Non-indigenous species) reporting where this project is the only marine invasive species data set for Ireland.
- Contributions to and oversight of Risk Assessments for aquaculture activities. Support is provided to aquaculture businesses to complete these for a number of scenarios: to support DAFM decision making for certain shellfish movements; to support certification requirements or help achieve management system targets; and to guide responsible business practices.

### Project Objectives:

The objectives of the IAS project are to support the aquaculture sector to be proactive in 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 continuation of the IAS & Aquaculture Working Group facilitated by BIM to co-ordinate IAS actions across agencies and Government Departments. Outputs of the project will be disseminated to stakeholders via webinar and final survey reports.

### Expected Benefits:

- Protection of aquaculture operations and the natural environment from the negative impacts associated with Invasive Alien Species – stock losses, increased operational costs, environmental degradation, reputational damage.
- Improved knowledge and understanding of the linkages between IAS and aquaculture operations.
- Improved decision making by authorities, policy makers and aquaculture businesses.
- Additional baseline species register and monitoring data.

**Projected Cost:** €83,517