

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2023

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	23/KGS/STS-BG011-BR102-106
NAME OF PROJECT:	Aquaculture Industry Services
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1 st January to 31 st December 2023

Project Scope

In line with Article 47 (EU) Regulation No 508/2014, this project sought to stimulate innovation in aquaculture by developing technical, scientific, and organisational knowledge in aquaculture farms, which, in particular, reduces the impact on the environment, improves animal welfare or facilitates new sustainable production methods. The project was composed of seven distinct work packages, five of which continue in 2022: CLAMS, SUMS, Archaeology, Depuration/Water Quality and Plastics/Waste.

Objectives

CLAMS

- Review how CLAMS may better contribute to solutions, advance priorities, ensure integrity and promote transparency in sustainable Irish aquaculture. Address communication and consensus building which are a key facet of CLAMS.
- Analyse the alignment of CLAMS priorities with the NSPSA to identify key areas which National CLAMS Executive will pursue over the lifetime of the EMFAF.

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-ups 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.

Outcomes

CLAMS

Building on the work on the Addendums 2021 and 2022 a review was conducted of how the CLAMS operate and their capacity gaps were identified as well as the resources required to better contribute to solutions, advance priorities, ensure integrity and promote transparency in sustainable Irish aquaculture. A comprehensive strategic review of the CLAMS Model was completed including:

- A gap analysis CLAMS model performance with reference to roles documented in national marine policy, strategy documents and connected marine legislation. The legal entities that would be required to address the disparity between capacity and perceived role are identified.
- A review of the communication options available to CLAMS to support the integration of aquaculture within local coastal communities, work alongside other maritime sectors and demonstrate best practice and sustainable development across multiple stakeholder groups was completed. A modern communication strategy with a digital presence for CLAMS was scoped.
- Recognising that CLAMS is a collaborative producer led process and that developing consensus among producers is a key part of the CLAMS process, a draft consensus building protocol has been developed.
- From 60+ priorities across all the 13 CLAMS groups an analysis identified five key priorities that feature across multiple groups and resonate at a national level which will inform the efforts of the National CLAMS Executive in 2024-2030.

SUMS

Regular inspections were performed on all Special Unified Marking Schemes (SUMS) to ensure safe navigation while maintenance and mark replacement was undertaken as required with specific maintenance of existing marks in Clew Bay, Killary Harbour, Ballinakill Bay, Dunmanus, Kilmakillogue, Carlingford were completed. Extensions to SUMS on foot of new sites in Bantry Bay (Rooska), Ballinakill Harbour and Mulroy Bay were successfully brought to a conclusion and are now operational. Significant challenges pertain to securing Statutory Sanction.

Archaeology Assessments

The Kinsale UAIA was completed and submitted. Four further surveys were commissioned in Lough Swilly for Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment as required by DAFM.

Depuration and Water Quality

Depuration and Water Quality will actively reduce risks to the reputation of Irish seafood and support the continued reliance on the food service markets. An intensive water sampling programme targeted in Bannow Bay and was extended to Dungarvan to identify the source of E. coli and inform pollution prevention strategies which will protect shellfish production. Water quality results have been disseminated to oyster producers and relevant agencies and local authorities culminating in targeted actions by the competent authorities to reduce the pollution to shellfish waters. This focused sampling programme has enabled a mobilisation of state resources in a targeted and effective manner to address issues which are critical to the shellfish industry.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union

Plastics/Waste

The aquaculture sector collected 62 tonnes of waste of which 17 tonnes was marine litter and 45 tonnes was end of life gear. CLAMS groups collaborating with local communities and NGOs worked on 29 clean ups across 11 bays (Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth; Dungarvan, Co. Waterford; Roaringwater Bay, Ardroom and Kilmakilloge Harbours, Co. Cork; Castlemaine Harbour, Tralee Bay, Sneem, Co. Kerry; Poulmasherry, Co. Clare; Achill, Clew Bay, Co. Mayo; Killary Harbour, Co. Galway; Trawbreaga, Co. Donegal) increasing awareness among seafood producers and heightened the profile of marine litter prevention and collection.

During 2023 significant progress has been made to ready both the fishing industry and the gear suppliers for the implementation of the new Single Use Plastics Directive with the production of fact sheets disseminated through CLAMS groups and at industry events. The recycling of mussel barrels, rope and oyster bags were trialled with oyster bags showing significant potential.

Summary of Project Spend

Summary of Spend	
Total Approved Costs	€302,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€302,000
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€151,000
Exchequer	€151,000

Report by: Vera O'Donovan

Date: February 2024



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union