

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2022

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	22/KGS/STS-BG010-BR045-49
NAME OF PROJECT:	Aquaculture Industry Services
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1st January to 31st December 2022

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

- Produce CLAMS documents for three new active aquaculture areas with groups

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-up 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 documents were produced for two new areas with active aquaculture production, Achill and Kenmare Bay. A review of how the emerging themes from identified priorities of the 13 CLAMS groups aligned with actions described in the draft NSPSA was completed. The National review was updated in light of the priorities identified in the 13 CLAMS addendums and the alignment with the NSPSA to inform a development programme that the National CLAMS executive will pursue over the lifetime of the EMFAF.
- Six SUMS inspections and maintenance carried out. Maintenance completed for inner Bantry, Roaringwater, Mulroy Bay while Carlingford and Killary were inspected and maintained. Three new SUMS designed, and statutory sanction sought. Muckinish phase I has been completed. Ballylongford has been partially completed and expected to be finalised in early 2023. Ardbear had been fully deployed and is operational.
- Marine archaeology specialists were appointed under a Multi-party Framework. Two Supplementary Requests for Tender completed for Dive surveys in Sneem and Kilmackilloge and for desktop and geophysical surveys in Kinsale Harbour with attendant reports.
- 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 was targeted in Bannow Bay 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. Grant aid for depuration units through the Sustainable Aquaculture Grant Scheme came online mid-year resulting in one depuration unit verification process being completed.
- The collection of marine litter serves two critical functions; the first is removal and reduction of marine litter in the environment and the second is mobilising awareness and engagement in the sector and their contribution and collaboration with NGOs and coastal communities in position collective actions which demonstrate a commitment to sustainable production and co-existence with other stakeholders. A minimum of eight clean up events for marine litter with aquaculture production bays across the regions engaging with local communities NGOs and other stakeholders.
- Plastic and Marine Waste succeeded in successfully capturing 84.88 tonnes of marine litter deploying 25 skips working with multiple communities in each region. The co-operation by industry with local community groups and NGOs such as Clean Coasts across 34 Clean ups has increased awareness and profile for seafood producers in these Bays (Carlingford Lough; Co. Louth, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford; Roaringwater Bay, Bantry Bay, Ardgroom and Kilmackilloge Harbour, Co. Cork; Castlemaine Harbour, Tralee Bay, Sneem, Co. Kerry; Poulmasherry, Co. Clare; Achill, Clew Bay, Co. Mayo; Killary Harbour, Co. Galway; Trawbreaga Co. Donegal). Abandoned oyster sites in Co. Mayo were cleared of over 1,000 trestles which were also recycled.



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Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€221,600
Total Eligible Expenditure	€218,080
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€109,040
Exchequer	€109,040

Report by: Vera O'Donovan

Date: February 2023



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