

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2022

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	22/SFS/STS-BG010-BR059
NAME OF PROJECT:	Clean Oceans
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1st January to 31st December 2022

Project Scope

The Clean Oceans Initiative maximises BIM's extensive stakeholder engagement built with traditional and increasingly diverse stakeholders needed for systematic change in monitoring and recording marine plastics. Key EU policies are driving a more circular model of maximising the recovery of the materials and are in line with the reasonable ambition of the EU wide member states. There are 12 member ports in the Clean Oceans Initiative, their support and capacity to adapt to the directives is key to the success of the catching sector retrieving marine litter and retiring waste fishing gear.

Stakeholder engagement from the fisheries and aquaculture sectors will be a critical factor in delivering the mindset and business change to adapt to the policy development. Traditional "auxiliary" services such as gear providers are also now critical players/stakeholders in the supply chain. Clean Oceans aims to communicate the requirement for sustainability with regard to marine litter and retired gear for key stakeholders and increase uptake and behaviour change of managing gear and maximising positive outcomes in the supply chain.

To date, pockets of net recovery activity have been undertaken but not scaled to a national solution. Recovery strategies for key gear components as outlined in the Single Use Plastics directive will need significant support in the ports to generate solutions to end-of-life gear management. The Clean Oceans Initiative prioritises working with DECC (Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to lay key foundations to enable national scaled solutions and ensure the sector and its materials can participate in the circular economy.

Objectives

- Maintain support to assist the 12 harbour/port members manage, co-ordinate, record and dispose of marine litter/passively fished waste that is voluntarily returned to shore by the fleet. In 2022, a second stream, waste/retired fishing gear will be recorded.
- Advise on the content and implementation of waste handling and management plans for the port in the Clean Oceans Network that align to the Single Use Plastics and Port Reception Facilities Directive.
- Develop demonstration projects for retiring Waste Fishing Gear as encouraged in the Port Reception Facilities Directive (BIM Net Effect Scheme)
- To review and prepare an initial report on the EU Gear taxonomy in line with the Irish fleet activity and register so it can be used as MS reference for the monitoring and reporting for placing on the market.
- To participate on behalf of the sector in the CEN 466, the Circular design of Fishing Gear.
- Work with DECC and the EPA to re classify/code waste to enable retired gear move from municipal waste to materials for recovery.



Outcomes

- Collation of marine litter returned to the 12 ports. The fishing sector retrieved 184.09 tonnes of marine litter from the marine environment.
- Collation of retired fishing gear in the 12 ports. The ports expanded their data collection and reported 131.89 tonnes of retired fishing gear.
- BIM increased dissemination to the industry to minimise the impact of the SUPD (Single Use Plastics Directive), prepare for the extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme and to meet the requirements of Ireland's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.
- Clean Oceans assisted the gear suppliers set up an interim working group to engage with DECC (Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) on the (EPR), the CEN 466 (standard for the circular design of fishing gear) and adapt to circular business models.
- Clean Oceans secured support from Skillnet Ireland to develop a national EPR training module within the Climate Ready Academy suite of sustainability training. Stakeholders of the fishing and aquaculture EPR will be the pilot group.
- Tenders' requests were issued and service contractors for the BIM Gear Retirement trials secured.
- Completed the first version of Ireland's Gear taxonomy and gear survey needed to complete the 2022 data collection for fishing and aquaculture gear placed on the Irish market. This was in consultation and engagement with BIM technical staff and gear suppliers.
- Data templates were generated for the 12 member ports for their waste management and handling plans. These templates align to the current data collection expectations.

Other key outputs were:

- Facilitated two stakeholder visits to ports (20 attendees from government departments, EPA, licensing, ports, fishers)
- Held four industry webinars on the Directives: 66 attendees and one specifically for Producer Organisations (five attendees)
- Conducted six on site visits to gear suppliers
- A six-month series of articles in the trade press
- Guest presentations to DG Mare, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)
- Demonstration of BIM's gear retirement pilot at Mission Ocean

Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€192,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€192,000
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€96,000
Exchequer	€96,000

Report by: Catherine Barrett

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an Aontas Eorpach

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