

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2023

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	23/SFS/ESS-BG010-BR049
NAME OF PROJECT:	The economic impact of the seafood sector at Ireland's main fishing ports
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1 st January to 31 st December 2023

Project Scope

Detailed socioeconomic reports were carried out by BIM for three major Irish ports and their hinterlands namely Killybegs (2011), Castletownbere (2012) and Ros an Mhíl (2013). In these reports a wide array of socioeconomic variables was collected, and multiplier effects were estimated. A further extensive analysis was carried out by BIM in 2018/2019. In this analysis economic data was collected on ten ports and their hinterlands on all aspects of the seafood economy with the objective of developing a bottom-up census of seafood related business activity. The ten ports covered were Greencastle, Killybegs, Ros an Mhíl, An Daingean, Castletownbere, Union Hall, Dunmore East, Kilmore Quay, Howth, and Clogherhead.

This project will update the 2018/2019 port study to replicate it and produce up-to-date data for the top ten ports and their hinterlands. It will also provide time series data so the effects of recent pressures such as Covid, Brexit and the fuel crisis can be quantified. The project involves a socioeconomic survey of the fishing ports and their hinterlands collecting key economic data and input/output data. The collection of these detailed economic data and information will allow for a continued understanding of the economic and social influences, and benefits, of the catching sector's activities in coastal areas to inform decision making and trade off decisions by DAFM and the sector.

In this project, data will be collected on ten ports and their hinterlands on the direct, indirect, and induced economic activity generated by the catching sector and detail the full extent of the contribution of the sector to economic activity and employment at the local level. Primary data will be collected via face-to-face interviews and/or telephone interviews with key seafood stakeholders in each study area and with ancillary businesses. Social statistics will be collated for each area describing key social indicators that characterise the demographic structure and labour force structure and insights into the decision-making process of firms in the sector. The flows of value added will be characterised from farm gate to plate for each study area.

Updated detailed lists of businesses will be created, and data will be collected on turnover, costs, employment, the sources of inputs and outputs for the direct and indirect companies involved in the catching sectors of these regions. Multiplier estimates will be re-calculated for the indirect and the induced value added, and employment generated from the sector. The flows of value added will be characterised from sea and farm to plate for each study area. The ten ports, selected for their significance regarding output and employment in the 2018 study, will be used again for the purposes of the study.



Objectives

The main objectives of this project are as follows:

- Collect social statistics of key Irish ports and hinterlands using the methodologies for data collection for the previous port study.
- Collect updated detailed economic and social statistics for seafood sectors in key Irish ports.
- Collect updated data on economic structure of focus areas and contribution of seafood sectors to overall economy.
- Re-calculate downstream economic multipliers for key ports.
- Produce time series port and hinterland datasets to track temporal economic trends.

Outcomes

This a two-year project. During 2023, BIM completed a competitive tender process and has appointed a contractor to carry out the survey in 2024. A kick-off meeting with the contractor has been held to map out the plan for the work to be conducted in 2024.

Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€25,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€25,000
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€12,500
Exchequer	€12,500

Report by: Richard Curtin

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an Aontas Eorpach

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