

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2022

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	22/KGS/STS-BG010-BR060
NAME OF PROJECT:	Fish Welfare Programme
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1st January to 31st December 2022

Project Scope

BIM facilitates Fish Health & Welfare practical and classroom-based workshops on an annual basis, delivered by a professional service provider, which are recognised by third party certification standard bodies.

BIM Fish Health and Welfare Workshops are designed to equip industry with the knowledge and competence in fish welfare practice and handling techniques to meet regulatory and third-party standards requirements for best fish welfare practices for the aquaculture industry.

Objectives

- Industry meeting third party seafood certification standards requirements on fish welfare competencies.
- Increase knowledge and proficiency in diagnostic and sampling methods for optimal assessment of fish health and disease in aquaculture facilities, through attendance at workshops and post workshop evaluation.
- Facilitate greater connectivity between industry members on fish health and welfare practices on fish farm sites.
- Information dissemination, networking opportunities.
- Improved fish welfare in commercial settings utilising Operational Welfare Indicators.

This type of learning experience enhances knowledge retention and can greatly boost staff confidence and competencies. Development of practical tools for use on site to complement the subject matter of the workshops.

Outcomes

BIM ran a series of five fish health and welfare workshops and practicals for the aquaculture industry during 2022 attended by 115 participants of the finfish sector.

Three full curriculum class-based workshops (recognised for third party standards certification) were delivered during May and November, which included two workshops for the marine sector and one workshop for the Freshwater sector. These workshops were targeted to individuals who wished to enhance their knowledge of fish welfare in the finfish aquaculture sector and were of particular interest to new entrants or as a refresher for freshwater and marine site staff working directly with and involved in the handling, transferring, and harvesting of fish.



Two modularised fish health and welfare practicals were delivered in June and focused on two areas (i) Impacts of harmful plankton specie on fish health and welfare and (ii) Sampling for disease diagnostics.

The plankton practical was targeted at members of the finfish aquaculture industry involved in fish health, water quality analysis and mitigation of harmful algae and jellyfish and gave an overview of harmful plankton species (zoo- and phytoplankton) and their impact on finfish health and welfare, sampling techniques, species identification and mitigation measures.

Development of two guidance booklets for the commercial setting was outsourced and the associated professional printing services was completed. These two guidance documents, one on Plankton Sampling and the other on Fish Welfare during Handling were added to the BIM Fish Health and Welfare Toolkit - <https://bim.ie/aquaculture/advisory-services/fish-welfare-workshop/>.

Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€24,600
Total Eligible Expenditure	€21,604
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€10,802
Exchequer	€10,802

Report by: Vera Flynn

Date: February 2023



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

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