

## BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2022

<b>BENEFICIARY:</b>	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
<b>PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	22/SFS/STS-BG010-BR096
<b>NAME OF PROJECT:</b>	<b>Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPS)</b>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:</b>	1st January to 31st December 2022

### Project Scope

In 2022, FIPs continued to be supported with funding to cover administration, research and development work required to implement nine individual FIP work plans. The FIPs are chaired by an independent facilitator to support the cooperation between scientists and fishers, the promotion of social dialogue and knowledge sharing of fisheries science, and social sustainability. The FIP forum provides an increased connection between the technical and scientific fundamentals in fisheries with the commercial supply chain sustainability sourcing demands. This increases the commercial objectives for all stakeholders in implementing the work plans. BIM provides secretariat and technical support to the process.

The FIP programme provides fora for participatory discussions between key stakeholders to help industry to develop and implement a roadmap for change, particularly in the light of full implementation of the Landing Obligation, Brexit, the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, and in line with the objectives of the EMFAF along with the increasingly evidence-based approach to responsible sourcing and sustainability reporting from major retailers to substantiate their sourcing policies, stakeholder engagement.

Work continued with the Marine Institute to identify and provide data through voluntary programmes and participation in observer schemes. FIP members continued to participate in other BIM trials on food safety, fish quality and technical trials (e.g., alternative bait trials).

### Objectives

The key objectives are:

- Maintain access to key markets for Irish seafood through fully operational FIPs that provide a platform for the demonstration of sustainability credentials of Irish fisheries.
- Increase competitiveness of Irish seafood in domestic and international markets by demonstrating sustainable management of key fisheries.
- Implement a change management policy in the key Irish fisheries through improvements in fishing practices and encouraging active participation in data collection programmes.
- Facilitate discussion between key stakeholders on issues relevant to key Irish fisheries.
- Facilitate industry self-sampling programmes to complement on board observer programmes.
- Undergo social sustainability to evaluate the social performance of Fishery Progress reported FIPs.

### Outcomes

1. Maintain fisheries on Fishery Progress (FP). FP issued new scoring requirements for all FIPs on FP in 2022 and all Fishery Progress FIPs were downgraded. Timeframe and notice were short. Successful intervention with SFP allowed the BIM-funded FIPS to turn around quickly and rescore positively.



The new MSC standard was published in October 2022 with significant changes. The late publication impacted the scheduled work for pre-assessments for Crab and Hake and the assessment update on Whiting. However, all FIPs remained on schedule (Table 1).

FIP	Status	Link
Crab	Registered with Fishery Progress. Rating C.	<a href="https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/irish-brown-crab-pottrap">https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/irish-brown-crab-pottrap</a>
Nephrops	Registered with Fishery Progress. Rating B.	<a href="https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-area-7-prawn-trawl-fip">https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-area-7-prawn-trawl-fip</a>
Coley	Registered with Fishery Progress. Rating B.	<a href="https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-area-6-and-7-atlantic-pollock-bottom-trawl-gillnet">https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-area-6-and-7-atlantic-pollock-bottom-trawl-gillnet</a>
Haddock	Registered with Fishery Progress. Rating B.	<a href="https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-haddock-trawl-seine">https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-haddock-trawl-seine</a>
Whiting	In registration process with Fishery Progress.	<a href="https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-whiting-trawl-seine">https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/ireland-whiting-trawl-seine</a>
Hake	Public workplan as Fish Source score is good and Stock book status is good.	<a href="http://irishwhitefishfip.ie/irish-hake-plan/">http://irishwhitefishfip.ie/irish-hake-plan/</a>
Albacore Tuna	Public workplan. Sea observer data plan during the fishery .	<a href="http://www.irishtunafip.ie/">http://www.irishtunafip.ie/</a>
Monkfish	Workplan drafted and publicly available	<a href="http://irishwhitefishfip.ie/workplan/">http://irishwhitefishfip.ie/workplan/</a>
Megrim	Workplan drafted and publicly available	<a href="http://irishwhitefishfip.ie/workplan/">http://irishwhitefishfip.ie/workplan/</a>

Table 1: Matrix of FIPs and their FP score where appropriate.

- An FIP Executive Report for 2022 was generated to provide a guide on how to navigate, read and interpret current FIP profiles.
- An organisational structure was produced to engage and manage the eco system of stakeholders, increasing their input, accountability, and autonomy in the FIP process and support the exponential growth of both the FIPs and the workload invoiced. The organisational structure will be reviewed in Q1 2023.
- Social Assessment. The Fishery Progress Human Rights and Social Responsibility (HRSR) Policy was initially released in May 2021. However, the policy is proving difficult with a third version issued late in December 2022. The challenge of the social assessment is significant as the timelines are aggressive for a full social assessment. Without a social assessment, a FP registered FIP risk at being delisted from the platform and places the sourcing of FIP seafood at a high risk of being delisted in key markets. Members of the FIP team have undergone the FP training requirements delivered by FP partner Elevate and monitors the CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive).



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## Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€126,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€126,000
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€63,000
Exchequer	€63,000

Report by: Catherine Barrett

Date: March 2023



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