

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2023

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	23/KGS/STS-BG011-BR115
NAME OF PROJECT:	Fishery Sustainable Schemes – RSS Scheme
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1 st January to 31 st December 2023

Project Scope

Standards and certifications are a key mechanism for businesses wishing to translate requirements, both product and process specifications, to other parts of the supply chain. This is especially important as supply chains become more vertically integrated. Standards and certifications facilitate traceability, standardisation of products, and transparency of production processes. The proliferation of private standards causes confusion for many stakeholders: fishers trying to decide which certification scheme to choose; buyers trying to decide which standards have most credence in the market and will offer returns to reputation and risk management; and where standards fit into their food safety and resource management strategies.

BIM's Responsibly Sourced Seafood (RSS) Certification Scheme, in alignment with the Fisheries Improvement Projects, strengthens Ireland's reputation as a leading producer of sustainable seafood. The holders of such certifications gain added value from participation and thus stay ahead of emerging market demands so as to allow them to 'choose the right customers' and occupy the top values niches in the marketplace.

Provision of services to assist BIM in terms of support in fulfilling their role in:

- compliance of vessel to RSS certification
- transition of RSS to new combined Seafood Sustainability Standard

Objectives

The principal objective of this project is to support the certification of Irish seafood and to demonstrate sustainability in the marketplace through certification.

Outcomes

BIM continued to maintain the operational management of its RSS Programme, governance, and operation management of Certified Quality Aquaculture (CQA) Assurance Programme. Withdrawal of the contractor for management of third-party certification in February 2023 meant that there was a need to recontract for the services. BIM is now formally engaged with Standard Comply, a unit within RS Standards Ltd, responsible for managing the audit and certification of the applicant vessels to the Scheme.

Certification and surveillance audits were completed by the Certification Body for all certified vessels to retain RSS certification. There are currently 28 vessels certified to the RSS Scheme, consisting of 21 Pelagic RSW scope vessels and seven Vivier Crab vessels.



Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€15,203.00
Total Eligible Expenditure	€15,203.00
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€7,601.50
Exchequer	€7,601.50

Report by: Vera Flynn

Date: February 2024



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

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