

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2023

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	23/SPIS/DIS-BG011-BR065
NAME OF PROJECT:	Processing and Wild Catch Strategy Evolution
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1 st January to 31 st December 2023

Project Scope

The Irish wild capture seafood sector (made up of inter alia Demersal, Pelagic, and Inshore segments) and processing of seafood industry is a diverse and fragmented sector. Various strategic initiatives have been completed to seek to bring some direction to the activities undertaken by and for the sector to survive and thrive amongst which BIM has developed strategies for the Demersal sector, the Pelagic sector, and the Inshore sector.

Whereas the sectors are diverse and fragmented, and their needs can differ somewhat there are also many areas of common concern and common opportunity that the sectors are dealing with. In addition, participants along the supply chain, in some cases do not operate with just one of these species types. Due to the fragmented and disjointed nature of the sector, the sector themselves do not have the frameworks, skills, and often time the desire to arrive at this coordinated approach.

The proposed project will seek to provide a common and united approach to these common concerns and opportunities and also seek to provide unique approaches to distinct issues of sufficient impact within distinct sectors. The overall object is to define an ambitious and future proof vision and strategy for BIM to work with the Irish seafood industry on. This vision should encapsulate all sectors of the seafood industry rather than targeting specific species.

Objectives

Having already completed the species level strategies BIM has an extensive and detailed knowledge of the issues and opportunities facing each sector. The sector is also adjusting to the impact of Brexit, the true impact of which was only fully understood after or during the course of those species strategies being developed. As the wild catch and processing sectors seek to adjust to Brexit and the issues and opportunities it presents, it is necessary to fundamentally review and co-ordinate a response taking into account this impact. A number of the measures under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve are having a fundamental impact on the structure and direction of the sector and a co-ordinated response to this reality is required. The strategy was targeted at the following work streams.

- Utilising the existing sectoral strategies to work with the sector, align against the findings of those sectoral strategies, identify the key challenges and opportunities to be addressed.
- Support the sector to identify the key actions to address these challenges and opportunities.
- Prepare a detailed action plan for the seafood processing sector that will integrate with the supply base from aquaculture, wild catch and imports.



- To maximise the potential of the Irish wild catch and processing sectors in terms of international competitiveness and economic benefit to Ireland.
- To provide a prioritised framework from which BIM can support industry to take appropriate actions to adjust for the future.

Outcomes

A refined and fully aligned action plan has been developed to encompass national and international policy drivers and to maximise the return from the wild catch and processing sectors. This has formed the template and direction for BIM to offer resources to maximise delivery of projects and services to the seafood sector in terms of business development, business intelligence and innovation.

Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€155,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€154,980
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€77,490
Exchequer	€77,490

Report by: Richard Donnelly

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Government of Ireland



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an Aontas Eorpach

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