

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2023

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	23/KGS/ESS-BG010-BR032
NAME OF PROJECT:	Seafood Carbon Project – data capture and estimating performance
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1 st January to 31 st December 2023

Project Scope

Before BIM undertook an analysis of the carbon footprint of the seafood sector in 2021/2022, there was a paucity of data on the carbon performance of the Irish seafood sector. This study aimed at the development of a greenhouse gas emissions baseline for the Irish seafood sector, incorporating the Irish fishing vessel fleet and aquaculture. It was based on available data and representative samples of the different sectors where available. The period 2017-2019 was selected based on available data at project commencement. The study focussed on the emissions footprint of the Irish seafood sector, focusing on “cradle to gate” boundaries of the Irish seafood and aquaculture production life cycle. The results from this first phase of the project will act as a starting point for the future monitoring and reporting of carbon performance. This is a necessary first step in decarbonising and is a necessary part of the Climate Action Plan 2021.

This project will build on the carbon footprint analysis and focus on filling data gaps and tools that will allow monitoring of improvements in carbon footprint compared to the baselines calculated.

The project approach is to collaborate closely with industry to streamline data collection methodologies and to develop environmental reporting in line with national and European legislation. The project aims to build upon the environmental and Carbon related data that was acquired during the BIM Seafood Carbon Footprint study. Improving this Carbon baseline dataset will enable monitoring and reporting of the Carbon performance of the Irish seafood sector in the future. This Carbon baseline will be improved by gathering data via EU and national surveys such as the National Seafood Survey (NSS) and the Inshore Census and by direct data acquisition via surveys and interviews. Key in this data collection will be industry involvement and the establishment of data streams from fishery co-ops and producer organisations.

Objectives

The main objectives of this project are as follows:

- Improve and enhance the Carbon footprint baselines for the Irish seafood sector. The project will build upon the environmental and Carbon related data that was acquired during the BIM Seafood Carbon Footprint study. Improving this Carbon baseline dataset will enable monitoring and reporting of the Carbon performance of the Irish seafood sector in the future.
- Design processes for Carbon monitoring and reporting for the seafood sector.
- Impart insight in relation to Carbon and climate action.



Outcomes

Key outcomes for this project in 2023 are given below:

- A Seafood Carbon Footprint Study report which gives a GHG emission baseline for the Irish seafood sector was completed.
- The findings of this study were disseminated widely at the IFA Aquaculture Conference, European Parliament hearing on carbon emissions from the seafood sector, stakeholder seminar organised by the Pelagic Advisory Council, Bioeconomy week, Pelagic fisheries information session organised by the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation as well as smaller industry groups.
- A climate action seminar for industry in November 2023 was held. This event provided an opportunity to disseminate the findings of the BIM Seafood Carbon Footprint study. BIM jointly hosted this event with the Marine Institute.
- Pilot surveys have been designed to gather data on the carbon performance of seafood processors through an online/telephone survey.
- Carbon modelling capability was further developed by acquiring Simapro software. Two staff members have been trained in the use of this platform. This software is widely used to simulate the environmental impact (including carbon performance) of seafood production systems.
- Key carbon parameters were included in the Inshore Census survey to augment the data availability on energy use in the inshore sector.

Summary of Project Spend

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Total Approved Costs	€50,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€50,000
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€25,000
Exchequer	€25,000

Report by: Ben Dallaghan

Date: February 2024



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Government of Ireland



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an Aontas Eorpach

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