

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2022

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	22/SFS/STS-BG010-BR098
NAME OF PROJECT:	Sustainability Performance of the Seafood Sector
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1st January to 31st December 2022

Project Scope

The development of a sustainable blue economy is a key focus of EMFAF and the Regulation requires that the programme will contribute to the achievement of the environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives of the European Union.

In addition to the EMFAF regulation there are a number of other key National and European policies such as the Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, Common Fisheries Policy, Food Vision 2030 and the bioeconomy strategy where Ireland's seafood sector will need to be able to demonstrate progress on achieving the various targets set within each.

However, to be able to measure performance against these targets and to be able to assess the impact and effectiveness of any sustainability measures there is a need to define, develop and embed key performance indicators and metrics that measure the Irish seafood sectors performance against these criteria. At present, whilst some data exists, there is no defined baseline, set of metrics or coherent way to measure of how the Irish seafood sector is performing in many of these areas.

Objectives

- Review relevant policy documents both nationally and internationally.
- Identify areas for potential action and determine relationships within the BIM statement of strategy.
- Develop sustainability priorities for the seafood sector including cross-cutting dimensions and key enablers.

Outcomes

An internal working group was established to develop co-ordinated definitions of sustainability for the seafood sector. This included identifying an overarching goal of a sustainable seafood system along with definitions of what it means for the seafood producers.

An external contractor with sustainability expertise was procured to help develop sustainability baseline and deliver a report based on a review of the national and international policies and a series of workshops with the internal working group.



In this, a number of priority areas were highlighted:

- Economic and Social - Ensure the use of all available resources is optimised and opportunities to add value are acted upon to help create vibrant local communities where people see a positive future for the sector and their families.
- Environmental - Empower the seafood sector to minimise its impact on the natural environment on which it relies.
- Meeting Market Needs - Positively position Irish seafood as a sustainable source of supply with customers seeking a safe, sustainable, and balanced diet.
- Collaboration, Data Tracking, and Skills - Demonstrate the sustainability credentials of Irish seafood through the delivery of market leading sustainability schemes and ongoing reporting of relevant data to underpin Irish seafood's reputation nationally and internationally.
- Future Proofing and Circular Economy - Drive investment in innovation to ensure all available resources are optimised and nothing is wasted.

Summary of Project Spend

Summary of Spend	
Total Approved Costs	€10,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€9,840
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€4,920
Exchequer	€4,920

Report by: Catherine Morrison

Date: February 2023



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union