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IFA Aquaculture
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IN THIS ISSUE: DRAFT GRANT AID PLAN

Grants And Licences Inseparable

IFA Aquaculture welcomed the launch by Minister Simon Coveney of the consultation on the new Seafood Development Programme (SDP) in Clonakilty recently. IFA said that in order for the much-needed funding to make an impact on competitiveness, output, jobs and exports, the industry and investors must see clear evidence that the government has fully resolved the licencing situation.

The SDP itself is familiar to anyone keeping up with IFA Aquaculture news. The details of the EMFF funding criteria were hammered out over a long period in Brussels and the resulting schemes are suited to a sustainable industry in a maturing phase.

At the launch, the Minister referred to licensing progress so far. IFA members find it hard to agree and the organisation has stuck to its principle that given the litany of broken promises by successive Ministers, the only currency farmers members believe in are actual licences in their possession.

Momentum built up dealing with bays like Roaringwater and Cromane should continue to less populated, smaller bays and the 600+ outstanding renewals and new applications.

The last licence-applicant in the last bay is just as important as the first. In fact, the Minister and his team must face up to the additional problems caused by delays because it is in their power to say who will be eligible for a grant and who won't be, based on the speed of the licencing assessment process.

It is inevitable that someone who put in a renewal in the last 12 months will get a licence and be eligible for a grant sooner than someone waiting for 8 years for a decision. That's a reality that the Department and Minister Coveney must address.

The proposed €15 m **Capital Investment Scheme** is central to the SDP and very badly needed in a sector which has been starved of investment due to ongoing licencing delays.

There are also proposed schemes for **young farmers, environmental services, training and animal health.**

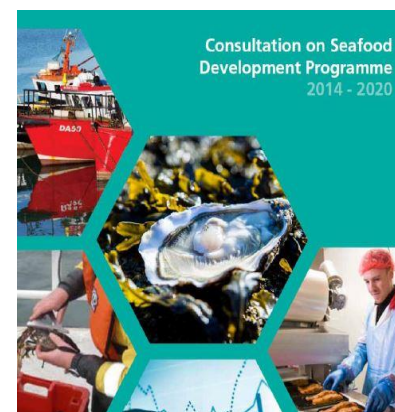
Key new schemes are the **biotoxin** compensation scheme (€2 m) and the aquaculture stock **insurance** scheme (€2 m).

Funding for each programme is 50/50 EU and national exchequer. Other parts of the SDP deal with processing and Producer Organisations as well as fishing and funding for the SFPA control and enforcement.

All IFA members are asked to make sure to read the document on the Department's website. IFA will be sending its formal response to members before the May 1 deadline so producers can examine the view of the representative body before submitting their own opinions.

The next step is publication of a detailed national strategy for aquaculture. A group is being established to oversee the management of the detailed schemes. Rules and eligibility criteria will be hammered out in this forum where IFA represents industry with other interest groups and the European Commission.

Submissions may be made until May 1st. To view the draft plan, go to www.agriculture.gov.ie and look under "Current Public Consultations".



Proposed Aquaculture Schemes On P 2

14.8 billion meals from 262 sq km!

ISGA played a significant part in the production of a new information resource on the salmon industry worldwide. The International Salmon Farmers Association launched its Socio-Economic review of the global salmon sector at the Boston Seafood Show in March.

Irish Salmon Growers' Association Executive, Richie Flynn, said at the launch, "When you examine the facts, the conclusion that salmon farming is efficient, sustainable and vitally important for communities is indisputable. Ireland reflects the global success with our market-focused farming while operating in coastal areas that would otherwise have been left to wither and die."

He continued, "Despite our small production, Ireland has been a leader since the early days of sea farming and our members are

responsible for many innovations such as off-shore and organic farming techniques. We can be proud of our contribution to this remarkable industry but more importantly we can bring more of that success home with a focused effort by government."

The industry in Ireland is waiting for clear governmental support in the form of licencing. Recent announcements by Marine Harvest Ireland of plans to invest €22 million to secure jobs and the award of the first ever WWF-Aquaculture Stewardship Council certification shows, the industry is committed to a long term future in Ireland.

Mr Flynn said, "We need the tools to produce enough product for the marketplace instead of turning away customers who want Irish fish. We need to have a consistent supply all year round and the kind of modern licencing arrangements which encourage efficiency. We need a better educated bureaucracy and a stronger link between policy aspirations and actual delivery of services.

IFA has been calling for that link to be established for the last 12 months to rebalance the slow, unfocused inertia which has dominated official interaction in Ireland towards aquaculture.

I hope that decision makers read this report carefully and consider not why we haven't capitalised on the success of the global salmon revolution but how we do so into the future."

Grants and Licences Inseparable (cont'd frm p1)...

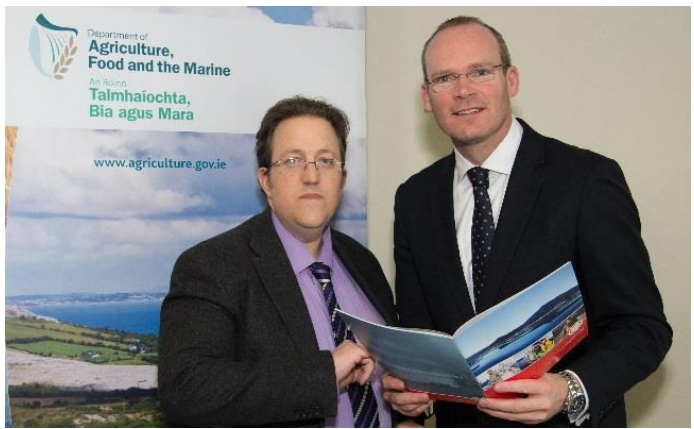
- ### Proposed schemes and funding 2014-2020

 - Spatial mapping aquaculture (€1m)
 - Commercial Aquaculture Development (€15m)
 - New Farmers Scheme (€1m)
 - Knowledge Innovation and Technology (€5m)
 - Business, Planning and Environmental Advisory Services (€2m)
 - Training and Networking (€1m)
 - Organic Aquaculture (€0.6m)
 - Animal Health and Welfare (€1m)
 - Biotoxin Harvest Suspension (€2m)
 - Aquaculture Stock Insurance (€2m)

SALMON: A HEALTHY PROTEIN

REDUCE THE RISK OF coronary death by **36%**

INCREASE life expectancy by **2.2** years



Presenting the ISFA Global Salmon report to Minister Coveney. Ministers, regulators and media around the world were sent copies which can be downloaded at www.salmonfarming.org

Oyster Crush

An overhang of larger oyster sizes is causing severe financial problems for many oyster producers in Ireland. Irish and French producers had begun to deal with the summer mortality issue blamed on Herpes and other factors by increasing seed inputs

However, lower mortalities in both countries in 2014 combined with a lack of promotion on the market and the knock on effect of the Russian embargo have caused immense difficulties for oyster farmers left with stock on their hands.

IFA is in close contact with Bord Bia in Paris for regular market updates.

ISA Chairman, Jerry Gallagher, said, "The situation has revealed two major gaps in the sector – organisation on marketing which would be helped by the establishment of a PO and a failure to appreciate the impact of the oyster sector around the coast. ISA is actively working on the PO issue as mandated by members at our AGM. ISA is also retaining the services of an internationally respected agri-food economist to report on the economic impact of the industry and the challenges it needs to overcome in Ireland.

Shellfish Regional Meetings

Info and discussion on classification, viruses, biotoxins, depuration...

All ISA members are encouraged to attend!

Clonakilty	SFPA Offices, Park Road, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	15th Apr	Wed	1:00pm
Killarney	Brehon Hotel, Muckcross Rd, Killarney, Co. Kerry	16th Apr	Thurs	9:30am
Letterkenny	Clann Rí Hotel, Derry Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	27th Apr	Mon	1:00pm
Oranmore	Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway	28th Apr	Tues	1:00pm
Dublin	FSAI Offices, Abbey Court, Lr Abbey St., Dublin 1	6th May	Wed	1:00pm

Register Here!: https://www.fsai.ie/news_centre/events/shellfish_regional_meetings_2015.html

All ISA members are encouraged to attend the meetings being organized around the country on shellfish safety and management by the FSAI and the SFPA and supported by the MSSC and ISA. This is the time to make your voice heard on the Norovirus issue – the regulations which we campaigned successfully against and the future management of viruses in live exports from Ireland.

It's also the place for industry to raise the very important issue of the "sample week" which currently begins on a Sunday, regardless of when the sample is taken and resulting in almost inevitable recalls and destruction of safe product during the incoming toxicity period.

Norovirus not going away



Pictured here are members of the European Mollusc Producers Association from Ireland, UK, Italy, Spain and France at the Food and Veterinary Offices in Grange, Co Meath. The delegation met at the FVO with DG SANCO from the European Commission and the representatives of 27 member states on the working group on shellfish safety to make a strong case for dropping the unsatisfactory PCR technique proposed to regulate norovirus in live shellfish.

The Commission finally accepted the industry's case and dropped the limits which had been on the table.

However, the problem of Norovirus still remains and the industry's position that clean waters should be the priority has not changed. An EU wide survey of water quality has now commenced and the Commission is examining the French voluntary risk reduction option. As exporters, Irish oyster growers in particular will need private testing as demanded by customers as well as the largest possible number of "A" class areas and new relaying ground. Depuration is always being considered but rarely agreed upon and the industry feedback has always opposed mandatory depuration. The Norovirus issue is one that is not going to go away fast.

Mussel Closures hit industry hard



The ISA delegation at the Department offices in Clonakilty to meet the MSSC and Department officials on the prolonged closures in the south west. Pictured are (l-r) Willie Murphy, Arthur McCarthy, Michael Teahan, Paul O'Sullivan, John Harrington, Denis Teahan, Finbarr Daly, Pat Molloy, Tim Green.

The ISA has been actively lobbying on behalf of producers in the south west who were closed for up to 6 months by a devastating year for biotoxins. The once in 10 year events – as confirmed by the Marine Institute at the MSSC – destroyed shellfish producers incomes as the vital Christmas and New Year markets were lost completely.

ISA called an emergency meeting of the MSSC in Clonakilty to discuss the crisis which it had warned at previous meetings was on the cards because of the plankton profile in certain bays.

Every politician in the south west was contacted by ISA and MEP Deirdre Clune, TDs Michael McCarthy and Jim Daly as well as Senator Denis O'Donovan were active on the issue. Michael Healy Rae put forward an early Dáil question.

Noel Harrington TD persisted in getting special time allotted in the Oireachtas to table a priority motion on the issue which was hitting constituents on both sides of the Beara Peninsula.

The ISA of course kept Minister Coveney informed and the media were extremely helpful in highlighting the problem.

Senior officials from the Department met at the ISA's request with producers from the region to hear first-hand the difficulties and the exact closure details. The Department strongly urged the industry to look towards the EMFF funding (reported elsewhere) for the biotoxin closure scheme which had been introduced in the EMFF and which would be included in the draft SDP for Ireland.

As spawning began almost immediately bays had begun to clear of DSP toxicity in February, the open status of many bays did nothing to alleviate financial pressure.

As we went to press the industry is still pressing for aid and preparing a response to the inclusion of a €2 million fund in the SDP. The details of the scheme have yet to be hammered out and in particular the Minister needs to ensure that if it is accepted, closures suffered this year are included.

ASC for MHI

Ireland's largest seafood company and the main producer of quality farmed salmon, Marine Harvest Ireland, has announced that its site at Deenish, County Kerry is the first in Ireland to achieve the prestigious World Wildlife Fund-backed Aquaculture Stewardship Council certification.

Passing the ASC audit is a solid industry response to customers, the public and regulators who demand the highest standards, transparency and independent evidence of the aquaculture sector's long-term commitment to sustainability.

ASC certification is awarded to farms based on standards of compliance, conservation, environmental responsibility, stock management, social responsibility and neighbour relations.

IFA congratulates Marine Harvest and all its staff on the certification, which sends a very important message to the public, consumers, the government and world markets that Ireland is a relatively small but very proud and ambitious part of the growing aquaculture industry worldwide.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

IFA Aquaculture

Home of

**The Irish Salmon Growers' Association,
The Irish Shellfish Association**

Irish Representative:

**Federation of European Aquaculture Producers;
European Mollusc Producers' Association;
International Salmon Farmers' Association.**

IFA Aquaculture
Irish Farmers' Association
Irish Farm Centre
Bluebell
Dublin 12

Ph + 353 (0) 1 4508755

Fax +353 (0) 1 4551043

Mob +353 (0) 86 2454402

Email richieflynn@ifa.ie

Web www.ifa.ie (Sectors: Aquaculture)

CORRECTION

William Dwyer, Deise Premium Aquaculture, Co Waterford

was mistakenly omitted from the list of ISA members published in the December newsletter