

IFA Aquaculture

Spring 2020



WWW.IFA.IE

ISSUE: 1/2020

IFA Aquaculture Inaugural Conference & AGM

Over the past number of months, IFA Aquaculture has been undergoing the process of essential change with the formation of a new structure within the IFA. IFA Aquaculture is comprised of representatives from all sectors of the Irish aquaculture industry, this includes all stakeholders that farm fish, shellfish, seaweeds and for other novel species that may be cultured around the coastline. This new consolidated representative body will replace previous representative bodies, namely Irish Shellfish Association (ISA) and Irish Salmon Growers Association (ISGA).

This process was formalised during the inaugural IFA Aquaculture Conference & General meeting in September 2019. The conference was opened by the IFA President, Joe Healy, with over 200 delegates in attendance, which was supported by BIM who hosted 'Taste the Atlantic-Celebration of Irish Aquaculture' later the same evening as part of the event.

Opening the conference IFA President, Joe Healy said, "Significant work has been undertaken by the IFA Aquaculture Committee over the past number of months to develop a consolidated approach that best represents the interests and concerns of the aquaculture industry in Ireland. Today's conference will formalise this".

In addition, attendees heard from industry stakeholders on matters such as; the recent

aquaculture licencing review, the new HABS database and current market trends.

BIM also launched the new app 'Faire' which aims to aid the aquaculture sector to identify and record invasive species.

IFA Aquaculture Chairman, Michael Mulloy said, "Events such as these are a great opportunity for stakeholders from all aspects of the Irish aquaculture industry to come together and share knowledge, expertise and experience. I'd particularly like to thank BIM for its support in delivering this conference and look forward to continuing to work with all parties for the success of the sector".

Following the conference, IFA Aquaculture held its first AGM as a consolidated group representing all sectors of the Irish Aquaculture industry.

DAFM engagement - IFA Aquaculture has established ongoing quarterly meetings with DAFM officials to enable discussion on aquaculture licencing issues

Aquabusiness Higher Diploma course entered its third successive year in 2019 at Carlow IT Wexford Campus. Course content is now available on a modular basis at Level 8 Certification.

Restructured Levy payment system – as part of developing IFA Aquaculture's overall membership, the levy payment system was restructured to a system which is based on percentage of annual turnover.

WISHING ALL IFA
AQUACULTURE MEMBERS
& STAKEHOLDERS A VERY
PROSPEROUS 2020!

FEAP Award of Excellence in Aquaculture was awarded to the late Richie Flynn in recognition of his contribution to the sector at European level. The award was presented to the Flynn family at an event hosted by IFA at the Irish Farm Centre in May 2019

Aquaculture & the National Marine Planning Framework

Minister Damien English launched the draft National Marine Planning Framework on 12th Nov 2019 and submissions for public consultation can be made until 9th April 2020.

In broad terms the policies and principles of Ireland's Marine planning system, address a number of recommendations outlined in the recent 'Review of the Aquaculture Licensing Process', where the report concluded that the aquaculture licensing system was in 'urgent need of reform'.

The Aquaculture objectives outlined in the draft National Marine Planning Framework (currently undergoing public consultation) address a number of key aspects that could aid reform of the current aquaculture licensing system, including:

- Support for a diverse, compliant growing aquaculture sector through a modern licensing & enforcement system
- Maintain a best practice aquaculture licensing system which supports future potential of aquaculture
- Further enhance the aquaculture licensing system with the aid of legislative, administrative & scientific expertise, which promotes trust in the regulatory system

- Further develop enforcement strategies which supports a compliant aquaculture industry

The realisation of such objectives would provide to clarity for decision makers (e.g. those issuing licences), clarity for those local businesses wanting to invest in new or existing ventures, and probably most importantly clarity for local communities as to what developments are planned in their areas.

As Aquaculture provides an important social dividend providing employment in rural coastal & island communities through the sustainable production of high-quality food, the sectors contribution in sustaining vitality and viability in coastal areas cannot be ignored.

However, IFA Aquaculture notes that Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine is not referenced in regard to the 'Marine Planning and Development Management Bill' and it would appear that proposed legislative framework currently does not apply to the aquaculture sector - making it the only sector in marine space currently exempted from the proposed legislative framework underpinning the marine planning system. In other words, the policies, principles and objectives of the National Marine Planning Framework means little in regard to the aquaculture sector if they are not underpinned by appropriate legislation.

Any legislative framework related to the marine planning system must include the Aquaculture sector – in order to succeed in enabling a better integrated marine management, Ireland's marine planning

system and any legislative framework must apply to all sectors, including Aquaculture. The Irish Aquaculture sector needs the support of policy to allow for sustainable development of the industry.

IFA Aquaculture supports the development of an integrated marine planning system which is aligned with the land-planning system, with clearly set out timeframe for every step of the decision-making process from the outset, through screening, consultation, decision making and appeals. Such measures would meet the implementation requirement of a number of recommendations outlined in the 'Review of the Aquaculture Licensing Process', along with addressing priorities for development of sustainable aquaculture identified in Government policy documents such as the 'National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture' and the current 'Programme for Partnership Government'.

Given the number of policy documents calling for reform of the aquaculture regulatory system, serious questions must be asked as to the wisdom behind taking the decision to exempt the aquaculture sector from the legislative process for reformative policy for the marine space? Surely, it's an opportunity to embrace change.

The public consultation for the draft National Marine Planning Framework has been extended until 9th April 2020 – details for making a submission can be found here <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/marine-planning/public-consultation-draft-national-marine-planning-framework>

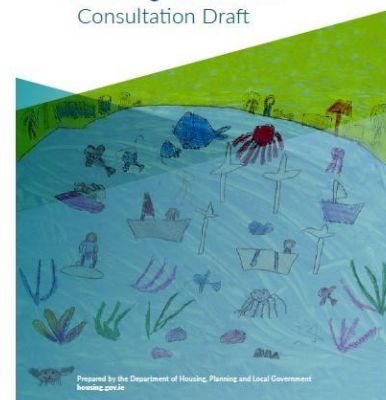
Details of Regional Events are listed below.

NATIONAL MARINE PLANNING FRAMEWORK – REGIONAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS 2020

DATE	Time	Venue	Sector Focus
12/02/2020	18:00 – 20:00	Arklow Bay Hotel	Offshore Renewable Energy
TBC	18:00 – 20:00	Wexford Town Library, Wexford	Ports & Harbours
TBC	18:00 – 20:00	Catering College, Letterkenny IT, Donegal	Fisheries
TBC	18:00 – 20:00	Bantry, Cork (venue tbc)	tbc
TBC	14:00 – 16:00	Cork City, Cork (venue tbc)	Fisheries
17/02/2020	11:00 – 13:00	TU Dublin, Grangegorman	Marine Environment



National Marine Planning Framework
Consultation Draft



Prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
housing.gov.ie

Irish-Norwegian Aquaculture Dialogue



The Ambassador of Norway, Else Berit Eikeland, in cooperation with IFA Aquaculture, launched the Norway-Ireland Aquaculture Dialogue at an event kindly hosted by the Ambassador at the Norwegian Residence on Tuesday, 26th November 2019. Members of the Irish aquaculture industry, state agencies, members of the Oireachtas and media representatives were in attendance. A special presentation was given by Catarina Martins, Chief Sustainability Officer of MOWI, who spoke about the role aquaculture has to play as a sustainable source of protein and providing food security to satisfy future global demands.

Pictured at the launch of the Irish-Norwegian Aquaculture dialogue in November 2019: Catherine McManus, MOWI Ireland; Neil Ruane, Marine Institute; Mag Kirwan, Goatsbridge Trout & IFA Aquaculture; Charlie McConalogue, Fianna Fail spokesperson for Agriculture, Food & Marine; Teresa Morrissey, IFA Aquaculture; Else Berit Eikeland,

Catarina also made reference to the first in the series of 'blue papers' released this week by the 'High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy'; which identifies the oceans potential in providing sustainable protein sources, with a lower carbon footprint, in meeting the feed demands of growing global population. Aquaculture is well placed to make a significant contribution in meeting this demand, provided there is support for progressive policy to enhance sustainable aquaculture practices.

IFA Aquaculture chairman, Michael Mulloy welcomed the launch as a progressive opportunity for Irish aquaculture, 'This is the first collaboration for the Irish aquaculture sector to partner with our Norwegian colleagues to see where we can work together and gain from each other's experiences. Norway has a very progressive and highly developed aquaculture industry. The value of Norwegian aquaculture in 2018 exceeded €6.5 billion, whereas the value of Irish aquaculture in 2018 was €176 million or to put it into context, approximately 3% of the value of Norwegian sales. Both the Irish aquaculture industry and its regulators have much to learn from the scale of the Norwegian industry. Equally, there are elements of Irish aquaculture where our Norwegian friends can benefit from our experience, particularly in the area of shellfish production. I would like to thank the Norwegian Ambassador for her kind invitation to initiate this dialogue between our two nations on aquaculture and look forward to discussing how the potential of aquaculture as a sustainable food source can be realised.'

Dates for the Diary – 2020 Events

- **BIM Oyster Workshop** – 13th & 14th February Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford – Registration is now open via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/oyster-industry-workshop-tickets-86907768475>
- **Irish Skipper Expo 2020** – 13th & 14th March, Limerick
- **Irish Aquaculture Innovation & Technology Platform (IATiP) Conference** – 7th & 8th April, Galway
- **Seafest 2020, EU Maritime Day & Our Ocean Wealth Conference** – All 3 events be held in Cork during May 2020
 - **Seafest** - 15-17th May
 - **EU Maritime Day** – 14th & 15th May
 - **Our Ocean Wealth Conference** - TBC
- **Aquaculture Europe Conference** – 29th September – 2nd October
- **IFA Aquaculture AGM** - TBC

Aquaculture News from Brussels

- **Strategic Guidelines for Sustainable EU Aquaculture:** are currently being drafted by EU Commission (DG MARE). These guidelines will be an update of the previous guidelines drafted in 2013 and will be in line with Member States updates of National Strategic Plans. The EU Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) has been working over the past few months to prepare a recommendation on these guidelines – IFA Aquaculture continues to contribute to this work. A public consultation process on the draft guidelines is expected in early 2020, where all interested parties will have an opportunity to contribute.
- **EU Green Deal:** was announced by EU Commission President, Ursula van der Leyen & forms part of the EU Commissions ambition for the EU to be a climate neutral continent by 2050. 'The Commission will work with Member States to develop the potential of seafood as a source of low-carbon food' other areas to note for Aquaculture include; Farm to Fork Strategy (to be announced in Spring 2020), 30% of EMFF to be allocated to climate action, Promotion of new sources of protein, Innovative food/feed sources, Organic production to be increased, new Biodiversity Strategy.



In August 2019, Ireland's rope grown mussel fishery achieved Marine Stewardship Council certification. This achievement means that the entire Irish mussel fishery is MSC certified under the management of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) who hold the certification for both the bottom grown and rope mussel fisheries. Congratulations to all!



Pictured at the announcement of MSC certification for rope mussel fishery in August 2019: Jim O'Toole, CEO Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM); Jo Pollet MSC UK; Michael Mulloy Blackshell Farm Ltd/IFA Aquaculture Chairman

EMFF Public Consultation

The Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD launched an initial public consultation on 5th January 2020 to inform the development of a new operational programme for the sustainable development of the seafood sector for the 2021-27 period.

The call for submissions as part of the public consultation process is opportunity for the aquaculture industry to provide feedback on the current EMFF operational programme, as well providing a platform to identify the top priorities for funding under the new operational programme.

At the launch, climate change and Brexit were identified as top priorities for the Government for consideration as part of what the new programme will contribute as part of Ireland's response to these challenges.

The open call for submissions will run until **5pm on Friday 7 February 2020**. A Public Consultation document and Questionnaire are available here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/emff/sdp2021-27programme/development/>

IFA Aquaculture

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

Twitter: @IFAMedia

Ph + 353 (0) 1 4260338
Mob +353 (0) 87 7954728
Email teresamorrissey@ifa.ie
Web www.ifa.ie (Aquaculture)