



BIM

Ireland's
Seafood
Development
Agency



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



EUROPEAN UNION
This measure is part-financed
by the European Maritime
and Fisheries Fund



A Review of Funding Mechanisms for Aquaculture

Catherine Morrison

IFA Aquaculture Conference

22nd February 2024

European Funding

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020 (EMFF)
- Brexit Adjustment Reserve
- European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund 2020-2027 (EMFAF)





EMFF

- Opened in 2016
- Three schemes specific to aquaculture
 - Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme
 - Knowledge Gateway Scheme
 - Covid 19 Aquaculture Support Scheme



Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme

- Operational from 2016 to 2022
- 122 projects completed over the lifecycle of the scheme
- € 15 million grant aid paid through the scheme

Knowledge Gateway Scheme

- Designed to work to solve knowledge gaps and address industry issues
- 26 projects completed with total grants of €2.4 million
- Also funded BIM aquaculture development projects
- Lessons learned...

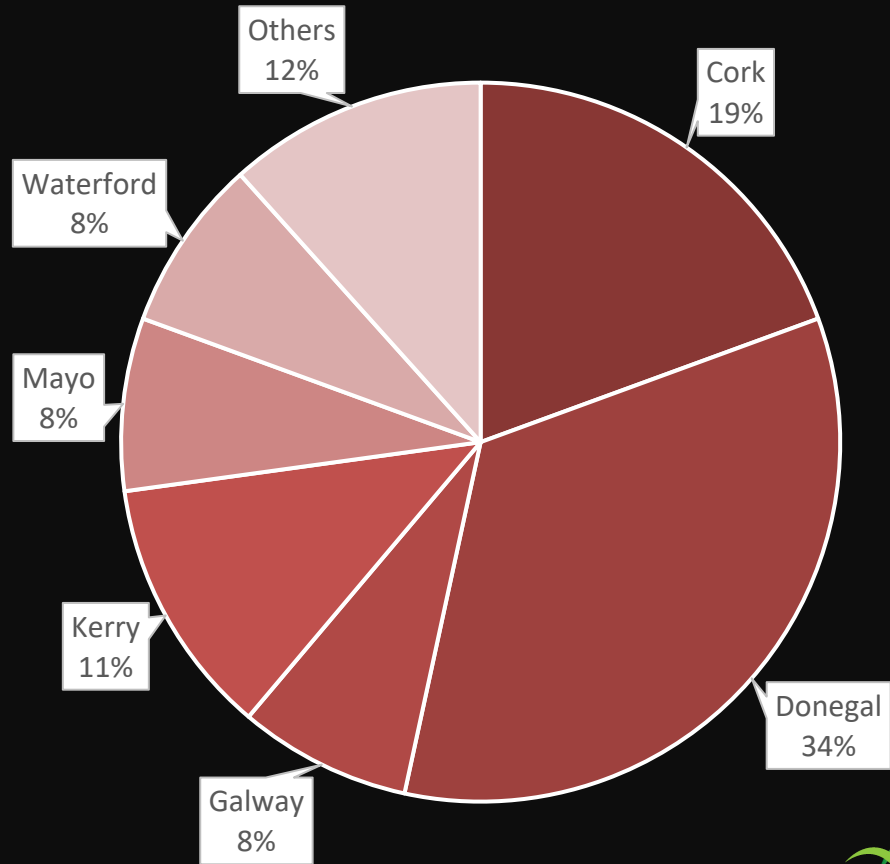
Covid 19 Aquaculture Support Scheme

- Open during 2020 and early 2021
- To support mussel and oyster farmers affected by Covid 19
- 154 applicants paid a total of €1.2 million

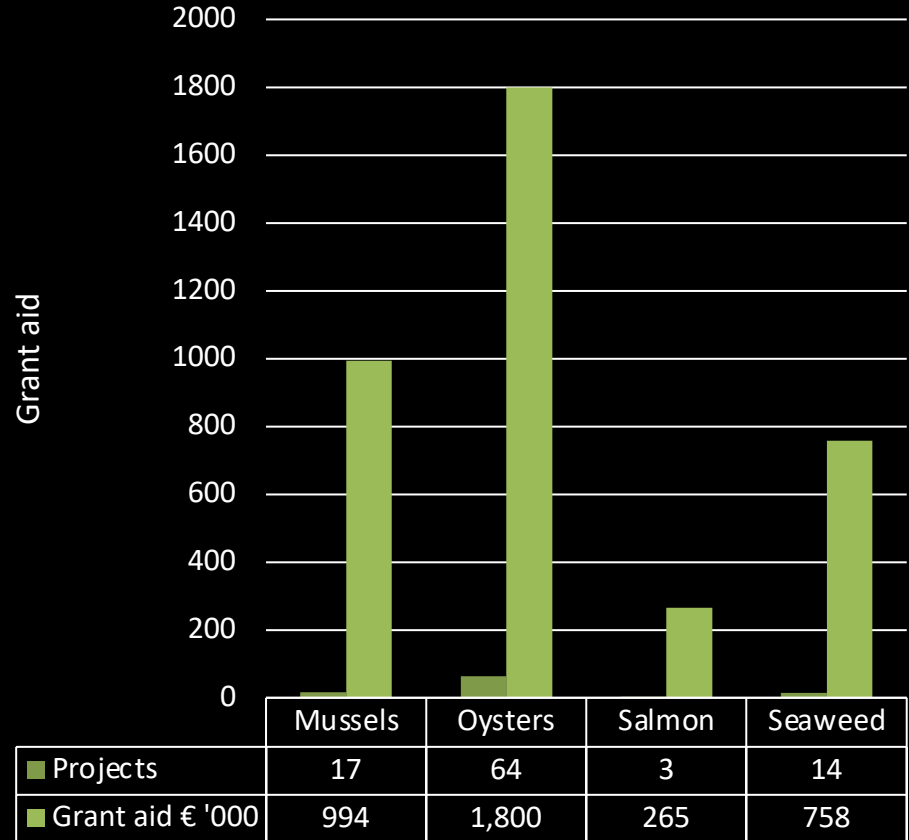
Brexit Adjustment Reserve

- Sustainable Aquaculture Growth Scheme (SAGS)
- Used the online grant scheme that had previously been used for the Covid 19 scheme
- Open late 2022 to August 2023
- 103 projects completed with a total value of €4.2 million

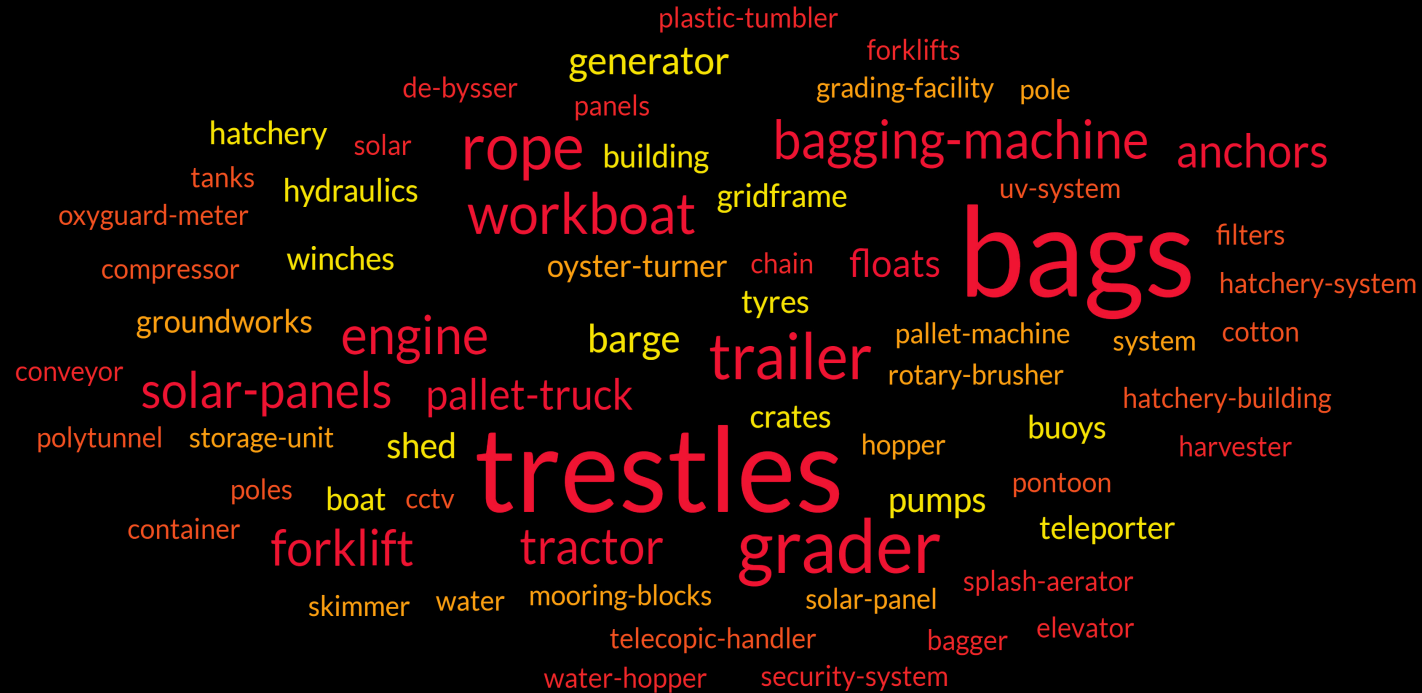
SAG scheme statistics- Geographical spread



Grant aid by species



Types of projects





Feedback from industry

- Positives
 - System was easy to use (if you were computer savvy)
 - Great support from grant staff and regional officers
 - Quick turnaround of project approvals



Feedback from Industry

- Negatives
 - Not enough time to complete larger projects
 - Lots of paperwork needed
 - Lots of different signatures

Next steps

- New schemes being developed
- Looking at having a simplified system for smaller project
- Focus on technologies to support businesses, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Thank you