



## EMFF OP Monitoring Committee 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Approved Minutes

#### Agenda item 1 – Introduction & Adoption of Agenda

**Attendance:** (see Appendix A)

The **Chair** opened the meeting and welcomed EMFF OP Monitoring Committee (MC) members. The **Chair** introduced members of the EMFF Managing Authority to the Committee.

Having established that a quorum was present, the **Chair** invited MC members to declare any conflict of interest – none declared.

**Keith Kelleher** (EMFF MA) asked if he could add an item under AOB in relation to what is happening in relation to the EMFF promotion in the coming weeks. The Chair agreed and advised that Catherine Morrison was not at the meeting, but that perhaps other BIM attendees could assist.

**Adrian Antonescu** (DG Mare) asked to include an overview of guidelines to help the sector in relation to marketing plans.

#### Agenda item 2 - Minutes of meeting 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019–For Approval

The Chair asked for comments/observations on the minutes of the previous meeting.

No comments were made and the minutes were approved.

#### Agenda item 3 – Ex-ante Conditionalities Update

The Chair noted that a written update was provided at the meeting to Committee Members and asked that everyone took a few minutes to examine the document. Adrian Antonescu confirmed that funding had been suspended since 2018 and acknowledged that Irish law required some amending to accommodate requirements. He acknowledged that the process is now under legal review and expressed disappointment from the EU perspective that things have not progressed further. He hopes that things will be in place as soon as possible.

## Agenda item 4 - Scheme Amendment Proposals – For Approval

The **Chair** asked for comments/observations on the proposed amendments to the Implementation Plans for the following Schemes which were made available to the Committee prior to the meeting:

- **Seafood Processing Innovation Scheme;**  
There were no comments on this amendment.
- **Seafood Skills & Training Measure;**  
**Jerry Gallagher** commented that the different levels of support were not satisfactory and that the training should be Springboard eligible. **Tom Scanlon** confirmed that grant subsistence was available and **Damien Clarke** confirmed that the grant available under the scheme was the maximum allowable under the regulations. **Tom Scanlon** said he would speak with **Jerry Gallagher** after the meeting in relation to the grant rates. **Jerry Gallagher** said that there were some Seafood Training projects being done through Carlow IT and a few things needed to be teased out on the projects. He said there could be more on-the-job training for fishermen and this might carry over into Aquaculture schemes. **Paschal Hayes** suggested that any other questions of this nature could be posed to BIM.
- **Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme;**  
**Damien Clarke** explained that this amendment was to facilitate simpler approval of smaller projects and to give a wider scope to the schemes. These small projects that are under €50k would not have to go for full project approval board approval but instead they would go through a simplified approval process with BIM. **Adrian Antonescu** asked that this remained an exception rather than the rule and that it must be consistent with sustainable fisheries and operation efficiencies. He asked if there are many projects in excess of €50k. **Ian Lawler** from BIM said that so far there were none.

## Agenda item 5 – Approval of Annual Implementation Report 2018

**Adrian Antonescu** spoke to say that the AIR report was submitted very late and that he hoped this would be the last time. He said that the AIR is a very important report particularly at this stage in relation to milestones achieved. This particular report has a bearing on the allocation of the performance reserve and it is important that it is of good quality. He said that there are some inconsistencies in Technical Assistance and in UP3 Control and Enforcement regarding information on implementation of projects (e.g. the new Air Craft should have been included). It should be clearly spelled out if projects are completed or ongoing for a proper assessment of the output indicators. He said there was a good implementation in 2018.

As regards the less positive aspects of the 2018 implementation, the following were mentioned: full commitment of data collection budget at end of 2018; ongoing suspension of EMFF funds for control; low demand for Seafood Capacity Building Scheme

## Presentation of AIR by Keith Kelleher

### Discussion following presentation

**Sean O'Donoghue** thanked Keith for the presentation and asked if the €5m Control & Enforcement had been spent. He wondered what the Control Compliance was spent on. Connor O'Shea SFPA said that a new website had been created and there was a programme of regional breakfast workshops and this had cost €1.5m.

On the issue of maximum grants to stakeholder organisations under the Seafood Capacity Building Scheme, **Damien Clarke** said that the EMFF Regulation allowed a maximum of 60%.

**Alan Walshe** from Environmental Pillar asked what was being done in relation to the recent Government announcement that the country is in a state of Climate Emergency. Is there anything to be done by the EMFF in relation to carbon footprint mitigation? **Damien Clarke** said that we share Alan's concerns on the issue and that the next programme would place an increased emphasis on Climate Action measures.

**Jerry Gallagher** commented in relation to the FLAG projects. (He said that Kevin Flanagan sent his apologies that he couldn't attend). The FLAGs are running well but could be better. At the recent FARNET event in Bantry it could be seen that Ireland had one of the best programmes but could take lessons from some countries. He said that the 7 FLAG boards were frustrated with the delay in BIM issuing scheme approvals for 2019 and suggested the delay was to hold off until just before the European Elections in May. **Paschal Hayes** said the delay and the election were unconnected and that one FLAG board had been lagging behind. He reminded Jerry Gallagher that the National Network Meeting is on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June and he can bring up his points that day.

**Mike Walker** asked if the Landing Obligation Training has exceeded or met expectations. **Ian Lawler** said that the breakfast meetings and workshops have been getting the info to participants in a friendly way.

**David Brennan** asked if the Aquaculture license money had been spent or if there were funds still available. **Paschal Hayes** said that the remaining funds were unlikely to be spent.

A discussion into the funds for Data Collection began with **Paschal Hayes** explaining that the funds had been exhausted. **Sean O'Donoghue KFO** asked why the Data Collection projections were less than the actual spend. He asked where the increase was and if there could be a re-allocation of funds from another scheme in 2020. He said that Data Collection is vital to the industry. He said if anything there is a requirement for an increase for genetic testing. **Paschal Hayes** explained that the Data Collection funds are ring fenced and that any extra spend would have to be funded by the exchequer. **Leonie O'Dowd MI** explained that the projection versus spend has not changed. €32m was allocated from the EU at the beginning of the programme with the remaining €8m coming from the exchequer. The MI has always maximised the drawdown from the EU and now will draw from the exchequer funds.

**Patrick Murphy ISWFO** said that funding to protect bio sensitive areas had already been reallocated. **Paschal Hayes** confirmed that funds could not be reallocated unless they were from Control and

Enforcement. **Jerry Gallagher** asked if Data Collection could come under the Aquaculture heading and **Paschal Hayes** reiterated that when the EMFF budget has been exhausted then the exchequer must pick up the tab and this is how it was at the outset.

Following the discussion the AIR was approved by the committee without objection.

### [Agenda item 6 - In-depth Look at Schemes](#)

**Terence O'Carroll BIM** gave a presentation on the Knowledge Gateway Scheme

**Patrick Murphy** asked if there would be money for sea weed cultivation. He spoke about the difficulty marketing the products after production. He said there is a lot of work to be done in this area. He said there are difficulties in relation to the short 6 week window where seaweed needs to be dried properly and investment may not be viable for just 6 weeks of the year. He said there is potential there for a strong product.

**Jerry Gallagher** suggested that the entire multi-trophic aquaculture system should be looked at as a whole. **Terence O'Carroll** said that UCC are currently doing work in this area tracing nutrients and these are 2 year projects.

**Paschal Hayes** suggested that if anyone would like to do a deep dive into the area they could give a presentation at the next committee meeting.

### [Agenda item 7- EMFF 2021-27 Programme Preparation](#)

Damien Clarke gave a presentation on the Planned Approach to Programme preparation.

The meeting broke out into 3 groups to discuss SWOT analyses of aquaculture, fisheries and Processing/Marketing. The groups were facilitated by Catherine Morrison (aquaculture), Ian Lawler (fisheries) and Tom Scanlon (processing and marketing).

The Committee returned to plenary and the facilitators presented the conclusions of the break-out groups on the SWOTs. These are reproduced in the appendix.

Following the debriefing on aquaculture, **Chair Paschal Hayes** opened the discussion to the floor for any comments. **Patrick Murphy** said that it is a pity when constructing premises that the grant will not allow the use of own labour but labour must be hired.

Following the debriefing on processing and marketing, **Chair Paschal Hayes** said that there is a good opportunity for new market access with Bord Bia and Embassies organising trade missions. The take up has been too low and no-one is applying to go.

Following the debriefing on fisheries, **Chair Paschal Hayes** opened the discussion to the floor for any comments. **Jerry Gallagher** said that aquaculture could fill the fisheries gap. He said that the EMFF should support the production of sustainable seafood and never commercial stock.

**Francis O'Donnell** asked that the EMFF doesn't ring fence budgets in so that funds cannot be moved around. Could the next EMFF facilitate fund movement?

Adrian Antonescu said that the COM EMFF post-2020 proposal was adopted in June 2018. This is a co-decision procedure. Parliament has its first reading on 4 April, new Parliament as of 1 July to endorse or re-open. General approach is to be adopted on 18 June by the EU Council. Then, the following step to start in autumn: inter-institutional negotiations (trilogies). The goal is to have the new programme completed as soon as possible / middle of 2020.

Paschal Hayes advised that the 3 BIM representatives would provide feedback from today's discussion that would be circulated to all committee members.

### [Agenda item 8 – AOB](#)

**Keith Kelleher (EMFFMA)** spoke about some promotional events that the EMFF Managing Authority are participating in this year including the Skipper Expo in Galway in March and the forthcoming Sea Fest and Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth taking place in Cork.

Keith advised of an event taking place in 2020 for European Maritime Day and asked any groups to send him on ideas for participation.

**Adrian Antonescu (DG MARE)** explained that the Commission wants to push the promotion of the Production and Marketing Plans under the EMFF Programmes. He advised that the Marketing Advisory Council is willing to help the sector devise the PO's production and marketing plans. He will circulate a link to further information.

There were no further comments or contributions so the Chair thanked the attendees and the meeting was concluded.

**END**

## Appendix A

### Attendees

Name	Organisation
Antonescu, Adrian	DG MARE
Brennan, David	Marine Harvest
Carey, Mary	DAFM
Clarke, Damien	DAFM
Coppinger, Declan	Bord Bia
Gallagher, Jerry	North West Shellfish
Gibbons, Cillian	DAFM
Guckian, Barry	Northern & Western Regional Assembly
Hall, Mary	DAFM
Hayes, Paschal	DAFM
Hennessy, Breda	DAFM
Kelleher, Keith	DAFM
Lawler, Dr Ian	BIM
Lyons, David	Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht
MacIntyre, Trudy	NIFF
McCarthy, Aine	SFPA
McKendry, Felix	Enterprise Ireland
McDonagh, Noel	FLAG Rep
Morrissey, Teresa	IFA Aquaculture
Morrisson, Catherine	BIM
Murphy, Patrick	Irish South & West
Caitriona Nic Aonghusa	Marine Institute
Ní Einniu, Máire	Udaras

Name	Organisation
O'Carroll, Dr Terrence	BIM
O'Dowd, Leonie	Marine Institute
O'Shea, Conor	SFPA
Power, Maureen	DAFM
Ryan, Olga	DAFM
Scanlon, Tom	BIM
Stanley, Margaret	Dept. of Defence
Tobin, Carmel	DAFM
Washe, Alan	Environmental Pillar
Weir, Ross	Department of Pub Exp. & Reform
Murphy, Ann	DAFM
Conway, Jim	Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly
O'Donoghue, Sean	Killybegs Fishermen KFO
O'Donnell, Francis	IFPO
Walker, Mike	Environmental Pillar

### **Apologies**

Name	Organisation
Dubsky, Karin	Environmental Pillar
Kampl, Alenka	DG MARE
Boyle, Hugo	Irish South & East Fish Producer's Org
Kelly, David	Southern Regional Assembly
Hogan, Enda	Southern Regional Assembly
Kelly, Paul	IBEC
Harrington, Roger	Department of Environment, Comm & Local Gov



## Appendix B

### Break-out Groups conclusions on SWOT Analyses

#### Aquaculture – Catherine Morrison BIM

##### Strengths

- Environmental Sustainability
- Carbon Efficiency – ahead of beef farming
- Market demand for healthy sustainable products
- Research capability
- Mature Sector

##### Weaknesses

- Poor succession planning
- High risk sector for new entrants
- Environmental concerns – increased storms & ocean acidification
- Lack of diversification
- Logistics regarding a land bridge to the UK
- Poor access to seed/juveniles
- Long lead times from new species technical trials to commercial viability

##### Opportunities

- To improve public perception
- New sites to be developed
- Research base potential
- Under explored domestic market
- Poor agricultural land on shoreline can be re purposed
- Brexit may provide opportunities in new markets

##### Threats

- Brexit
- Disease
- Climate Change & Pollution
- Invasive species
- Poor public perception

##### Emerging needs and priorities

- Capital Investment
- Research
- Structural Investment
- Seed Supply
- Schemes and Apprenticeships

- **Processing – Tom Scanlon BIM**

Strengths

- Brand Reputation
- Brexit
- Organic/ Natural Product to market

Weaknesses

- Discrepancy Seafood Company versus others regarding de minimis aid
- Poor access to the raw materials
- Brexit
- Previous weaknesses still relevant

Opportunities

- Brexit (?)
- Use and analysis of data should be co-ordinated
- Bio-degradable packaging
- Health benefits
- There is a growing market in there is an increase in the availability of raw materials

Threats

- Brexit
- Climate Change
- Plastic

Emerging needs and priorities

- Brexit
- Environmental Concerns re carbon footprint of food and use of plastic
- Technology
- Support
- Route to Market (Carbon Footprint again)

- **Fisheries – Ian Lawler**

Strengths

- 

Weaknesses

- Aging Fleet
- Proximity to raw materials
- Brexit
- Data Collection resources depleted
- Lack of scale
- Slow rate of progress
- Little upfront funding

Opportunities

- Financial Instruments

- Biomarine Ingredients

#### Threats

- Plastic
- Climate Change
- Failure of legislation to adapt to data

#### Emerging needs and priorities

- More data
- Decrease carbon footprint
- Funding for Small Scale Fishing