

Fishery Improvement Projects

Foyle Fishermen's Co-Op

29th September 2022



FIP Background



- What are FIPs?
- Global initiative
- Improving sustainability of specific fisheries
- Independently monitored and validated
- All sectors in the supply chain

Current FIPs

- Hake
- Haddock
- Saithe
- Whiting
- Prawns
- Brown Crab
- Albacore Tuna
- Monkfish & Megrim



FIP Workplans

3 core principles:

- Improving Stock Health
- Reducing Environmental Impact
- Good Governance

Emphasis on scientific data, selective fishing gear & bycatch data collection

Working with with BIM & Marine Institute scientists

Social issues and human rights included as elements of FIP workplans from 2022

Irish Hake FIP Workplan

This Fishery Improvement Project is focused on Irish fisheries for hake which is an important species for the Irish fishing industry.

Landings of Hake are valued at around €9 million to the Irish fishing fleet. According to the latest scientific advice the Hake stock in Irish waters is at historically high levels and is being fished within sustainable limits.

The Irish Hake Fisheries Improvement Project aims to ensure that the healthy status of Irish Hake is maintained and that the environmental impact of fishing for Hake is minimised.



Irish Prawn FIP

The target species in the Irish prawn fishery is *Nephrops norvegicus*. In 2017 this fishery was the most valuable Irish fishery worth approximately €55 million and 7950 tonnes were landed by Irish vessels. The vast majority of prawns caught by the Irish fleet are caught by trawls and an increasing number of vessels are adding value to their catch by freezing the prawns at sea.

The Irish Prawn FIP is focused on improving both the management and the value of the fishery. The work plan for 2020 includes elements aimed at achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), improving selectivity and playing a role in improved management of the fishery.



Initial issues Haddock



- High fishing mortality Celtic Sea
- Poor status of Celtic Sea Cod – bycatch species
- Landing Obligation compliance
- Workplan based around addressing these
- + Any other ideas about sustainability

Recent work & progress

Increasing numbers of vessel members

Working with Co-Ops and POs

Working with Marine Institute and BIM Conservation Team

Encouraging member vessels to participate in self-sampling/onboard sampling, selective gear/bycatch data collection and selective gear trials.

Specific examples – Replacement Bait, Tuna observer program