

# Ireland Area 6 and 7 Atlantic pollock - bottom trawl & gillnet Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan

**Table 1: Workplan Overview**

<b>Workplan Version and Date</b>	<b>Version 3 Jan 2025</b>
<b>Start date</b> (expected)	<b>End date</b> (anticipated month/year)
<b>2020</b>	<b>December 2027</b>
<b>FIP Lead</b> (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	<b>Improvements recommended by</b> (meeting/group that supported the development)
<b>Mike Fitzpatrick, Verifact</b>	<b>FIP Coordinators &amp; FIP participants in the Irish Saithe FIP</b>
<b>FIP Coordinator</b> (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	<b>Workplan developed by</b> (consultant or person)
<b>Mike Fitzpatrick, Verifact</b>	<b>Frank Fleming, Mike Fitzpatrick and Ciara Dower, Verifact</b>

## Unit of Assessment(s)

*Fill in the following table, which will be considered the scope against which the fishery is assessed against the MSC Fisheries Standard.*

**Table 2. Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)**

<b>UoA 1</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Target species (common and scientific name)</b>	Atlantic Pollock ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )
<b>Stock</b>	Stocks within Irish EEZ
<b>Geographical area</b>	Within Irish EEZ
<b>Fishing method or gear type</b>	Bottom trawl & bottom gillnet

<b>Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock</b>	Irish fishing fleet
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### Principle 1: Stock Management

The Saithe stock in ICES Area 6 is assessed by the most recent ICES advice (June 2022) as being around MSY level with fishing mortality above Fmsy.

The Saithe stock in Area 7 is not assessed so a Risk Based Framework is used. Neither stock is assessed as being depleted in the pre-assessment report.

This Action seeks to improve the knowledge base for management of the Saithe fishery in Area 7 through the development and implementation of an industry program to improve data provision, self-sampling and observer coverage levels.

## FIP Actions

**Table 3. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 1.1 Improving Fisheries data in Area 7**

<b>Action Number and Name</b> (One sentence description)	Action 1.1 Improving Fisheries data in Area 7
<b>Action Goal</b> (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	To work with Marine Institute scientists to contribute data to improve management and decision making.
<b>Action Description</b> (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	<p>Task 1.1 Meet with MI scientists to discuss stock scientific issues in Area 7. (October 2020 – February 2021).</p> <p>Task 1.2 Identify issues and priorities with catching sector FIP members. (October 2020 – February 2021).</p> <p>Task 1.3 Facilitate the development, with the fishing industry and Marine Institute scientists, of a program to enhance observer coverage levels and industry self-sampling initiatives in order to improve the quality of the scientific assessment. (March 2021 – December 2022).</p> <p>Task 1.4 Collect data on observer trips and from an industry self-sampling program facilitated by FIP member vessels. (March 2021 to December 2027).</p>
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	December 2027

<b>Priority</b> (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)	Medium
<b>Estimated Cost</b> (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)	€8,000
<b>Responsible Parties</b> (List of participants)	Verifact, industry participants, and Marine Institute
<b>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action</b> (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)	1.1.1 Stock Status Outcome 1.2.2 Harvest control rules & tools 1.2.3 Information and Monitoring

## Principle 2: Environment

This Action aims to collect data on the wider environmental impacts of the fishery particularly relating to impacts on non-target species, elasmobranchs and ETP species.

**Table 4. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 2 Environmental impact of the fishery**

<b>Action Number and Name</b> (One sentence description)	2.1 Environmental impact of the fishery
<b>Action Goal</b> (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	To collect baseline information to improve the knowledge of the impact of the fishery on the primary species, elasmobranchs and ETP species.

<p><b>Action Description</b> (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)</p>	<p>Task 2.1 Develop and implement a program with BIM and the Marine Institute to collect baseline data on catches of Whiting in the trawl fishery and Cod in the gillnet fishery (October 2020 – October 2025).</p> <p>Task 2.2 Develop and implement a program with BIM and the Marine Institute to collect baseline data on elasmobranch bycatches in the trawl and gillnet fisheries (October 2020 – October 2025).</p> <p>Task 2.3 Develop and conduct a survey of FIP member fishers on the fishing gear and selectivity devices they are using. Despite significant trials and developments in gear selectivity only anecdotal information on uptake of selective gears is available. (February – July 2025).</p> <p>Task 2.4 Expand on the results of the gear survey (Task 2.3) to explore barriers to uptake of selective gears and ways to improve uptake levels. (August 2025 – December 2027).</p> <p>Task 2.5 Work with the Marine Institute on identifying any potential information gaps in available information from the fishery and observer data on all ETP-OOS interactions. (July 2025 -December 2027)</p>
<p><b>Expected Completion Date</b></p>	<p>December 2027</p>
<p><b>Priority</b> (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p><b>Estimated Cost</b> (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p>	<p>€8,000</p>
<p><b>Responsible Parties</b> (List of participants)</p>	<p>Verifact, Marine Institute, BIM, industry participants.</p>
<p><b>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action</b> (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)</p>	<p>2.1.3 Primary Species Information 2.2.3 Secondary Species Information 2.3.3 ETP Species Information</p>

**Principle 3: Management System**

The main issue under Principle 3 highlighted in the pre-assessment report related to evidence from an EFCA report finding low compliance with the Landing Obligation in NWW trawl fisheries.

The EFCA finding relates to bottom otter trawls in NWW as a whole so further information on how this information relates to the Saithe trawl fishery is required.

This action aims to address issues regarding compliance with the Landing Obligation in trawl fisheries by highlighting issues caused by non-compliance, collecting data on unwanted catches and incentivising compliance through development of new utilisation options.

**Table 5. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 3 Unwanted Catches**

<b>Action Number and Name</b> (One sentence description)	3.1 Unwanted Catches
<b>Action Goal</b> (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	To raise awareness of the necessity to reduce unwanted catches in the Saithe fishery and to explore practical options for reducing unwanted catches.
<b>Action Description</b> (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	<p>Task 3.1 Raise awareness and understanding of the Landing Obligation in the industry particularly in relation to the negative impact of non-compliance on sustainability certification (November 2020 – September 2025).</p> <p>Task 3.2 Based on the outputs of the gear survey (Task 2.3), conduct a workshop with FIP member fishers, BIM gear technologists and Marine Institute scientists, with a focus on reduction of unwanted catches. (August 2025 – December 2027).</p> <p>Task 3.3 Following the workshop, promote the usage of gears that reduce unwanted catches with FIP members. (August 2025 – December 2027).</p>
<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	December 2027
<b>Priority</b> (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)	Medium
<b>Estimated Cost</b> (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)	€8,000

<b>Responsible Parties</b> (List of participants)	Verifact, Marine Institute, BIM, industry participants.
<b>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action</b> (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)	2.1.2 Primary Species Management 3.2.3 Compliance & Enforcement

### Additional Impacts

Some FIPs include objectives that go beyond the MSC PIs. Please provide additional detail below on additional impacts that FIP stakeholders are working to address.

#### *Clean Oceans Initiative*

*Describe the problems, goals and actions that will be implemented to ensure FIP traceability.*

<b>Addition Impact Title</b>	FIP members will be encouraged to participate in the BIM Fishing For Litter/Clean Oceans initiative.
<b>Status Summary</b>	In Development
<b>Improvement Recommendation</b>	To reduce the litter and other environmental impacts from fishing activities through participation in a recognised Clean Oceans Programme.