

Ireland Haddock - trawl & seine

Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan

Table 1: Workplan Overview

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

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)

UoA 1	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)
Stock	Stocks within Irish EEZ
Geographical area	Within Irish EEZ
Fishing method or gear type	Bottom trawl & seine

Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Irish fishing fleet
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Principle 1: Stock Management

The Haddock stock in ICES Area VIIb-k is assessed by the most recent ICES advice (June 2022) as being above MSY level but fishing mortality is still above FMSY, although it has been decreasing steadily in recent years with a slight increase noted in 2022 but still below Flim.

The stock and fishing mortality levels in 7a are both assessed by the most recent ICES advice (June 2022) as being below Fmsy and above MSY Btrigger levels.

The stock in ICES Area 4 and 6a is assessed by the most recent ICES advice (June 2022) as being above MSY level and fishing mortality is below Fmsy.

The stock in Area 6b (Rockall) is assessed by the most recent advice (October 2022) as being above MSY levels. Fishing pressure on the stock is below Fmsy levels.

This Action will enhance the availability of scientific data for the fishery. The steps in improving data collection in the fishery are set out in the specific Tasks below.

FIP Actions

Table 3. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 1.1 Improving Fisheries data

Action Number and Name (One sentence description)	Action 1.1 Improving Fisheries data
Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	To work with Marine Institute scientists to contribute data to improve management and decision making.

<p>Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)</p>	<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>
<p>Expected Completion Date</p>	<p>December 2027</p>
<p>Priority (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>Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p>	<p>€8,000</p>
<p>Responsible Parties (List of participants)</p>	<p>Verifact, industry participants, and Marine Institute</p>
<p>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (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>1.1.1 Stock Status Outcome 1.2.2 Harvest control rules & tools 1.2.3 Information and Monitoring</p>

Principle 2: Environment

The main issue highlighted under Principle 2 in the pre-assessment reports was related to the impact of the fishery on the primary species Cod and on the need for additional information regarding catches of elasmobranchs. This action is based on a series of tasks

which will enhance information about bycatches, explore fishing gear modifications or other measures which can reduce bycatch and incentivise the adoption of modified gear or other TCMs.

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

<p>Action Number and Name (One sentence description)</p>	<p>2.1 Environmental impact of the fishery</p>
<p>Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action)</p>	<p>To collect baseline information to improve the knowledge of the impact of the fishery on the primary species, elasmobranchs and ETP species.</p>
<p>Action Description (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 a program with BIM and the Marine Institute to collect baseline data on bycatches of Cod, skates rays and sharks in the haddock fishery (October 2020 – September 2025).</p> <p>Task 2.2 FIP member vessels will participate in gear trials with BIM and industry will be informed of trial results (October 2020 – December 2027).</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>Expected Completion Date</p>	<p>December 2027</p>
<p>Priority (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>Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p>	<p>€8,000</p>

Responsible Parties (List of participants)	Verifact, Marine Institute, BIM, industry participants.
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (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)	2.1.3 Primary Species Information 2.2.3 Secondary Species Information 2.3.3 ETP Species Information

Principle 3: Management System

The pre-assessment report for ICES Areas 6 and 7a in November 2020 highlighted concerns regarding the implementation of the Landing Obligation. This action will help to raise awareness of the importance of compliance with the Landing Obligation, quantify unwanted catches in the Haddock fishery and develop new utilisation options for unavoidable, unwanted catches.

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

Action Number and Name (One sentence description)	3.1 Unwanted Catches
Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	To raise awareness of the necessity to reduce unwanted catches in the Haddock fishery and to explore practical options for reducing unwanted catches.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	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). 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). Task 3.3 Following the workshop, promote the usage of gears that reduce unwanted catches with FIP members. (August 2025 – December 2027).
Expected Completion Date	December 2027

Priority (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
Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)	€8,000
Responsible Parties (List of participants)	Verifact, Marine Institute, BIM, industry participants.
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (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.

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