

Potential Fishery Improvement Project in the Irish Brown Crab Fishery

INSHORE FISHERIES FORUMS



CSS LTD

- Fisherman until 2009
- Based at The Rubicon Centre, Bishopstown, Co. Cork
- Team of four
- Based at The Rubicon Centre, CIT Campus, Bishopstown, Cork



Current customer base

- Commercial fishermen-whitefish, prawns, pelagic, shellfish
Achieve and maintain Standards-BIM, RIF, MSC, FIPs
- Co-ops and seafood processing companies
- State authorities-BIM and Bord Bia
- Retailers
- “Normally called when there is an issue about market access or groups wishing to differentiate themselves in the market place”



Certifications in the Irish Industry

- Responsible Irish Fish
Industry owned and ran
- BIM Responsibly Sourced Standard
Quality and responsible fishing-ISO 65
- MSC three years ago
Global leader-Crab difficult to progress



Fishery Improvement Projects

- MSC as a goal-Long path-Three years?
- MSC has reached a cliff edge-retailers want the product but need comfort
- Introduction of Fishery Improvement Projects-FIPs
- Recognition that you are on the sustainability path
- Allows you take advantage of the market once you start provided it is a recognised and credible plan



Overview of sustainability certification

Marine Stewardship Council

- World leader in sustainability certification
- Pelagic fisheries-mackerel and herring, (tuna?)

- **SSMO Shetland inshore brown & velvet crab and scallop fishery**
- **Last Updated: 8 October 2015**
- **MSC status**
- Certified as sustainable in March 2012.

Waitrose to only source from UK vessels that are RFS certified

By Jason Holland, Contributing Editor reporting from London
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U.K. retailer Waitrose will insist that by 2017 all British vessels supplying its seafood must be part of the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) after identifying the program as a means to demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility within its supply chains.



MSC Requirements-3 principles

- Principle 1: Sustainable fish stocks

- Principle 2: Minimising environmental impact

What is currently being done here fits under this

- Principle 3: Effective management

Introduction, over the life of the plan, of management measures



EU Commission statement

- “All stocks to be at MSY by 2020”
- This defines our whitefish and pelagic quotas
- Shellfish is no different
- Marine Institute will look at crab



Things to consider

- Weather dependant
- Gear not effective after 48 hours
- Enforcement of present regulation
- Quality based pricing

Fishery Improvement project (FIP)

Why undertake a FIP?

- Best possible market access-consider other fisheries
 - What is the competition doing?
- Retailers looking for sustainability credentials
 - Under pressure from green organisations
- Improve the status of the fishery

- Lessons from Irish pelagic fisheries
- Celtic Sea Herring-market access
- MSC on mackerel-will be reinstated by Sept 1st
- MSC on Blue whiting
- Tuna under consideration

Walmart seafood policy

- **Section IV: What we're asking of our suppliers**

- **Fresh and Frozen Seafood**

Walmart U.S., Sam's Club, ASDA, and Walmart Canada require all fresh and frozen, farmed and wild seafood suppliers to source from fisheries who are:

- Third-party certified as sustainable using Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)
- OR
- Managing a program in accordance with the Principles of Credible Sustainability Programs developed by The Sustainability Consortium. (Third party review must be commissioned and provided upon request)
- OR
- Actively working toward certification or involved in a Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) or an Aquaculture Improvement Project (AIP).

Orkney Brown Crab FIP

- **Volume:** 1,829 tonnes (2009 landings)
Gear: Baited pots or creels
Location: Orkney Islands lie at latitude ~59°N, where winds are strong and storms frequent. Tidal flows around the top of Scotland (the Pentland Firth) are also very strong. The islands are surrounded to a large extent by rocky reef type habitat, making large areas unsuitable for trawling but providing suitable habitats for species like crabs and lobsters

FIP participants

Participants involved in this FIP include [Orkney Fishermen's Society](#) (OFS), [M&S](#), WWF, Marine Scotland, Scottish National Heritage, Crown Estate, Orkney Islands Council, MSC and local fishermen.

Project Goal

By 2016, the FIP for the Orkney brown crab fishery has supported the fishery to improve its demonstrable sustainability as measured by the standards of [Marine Stewardship Council](#) (MSC) certification



Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)

- NGO
- Mission to improve fisheries
- Work very closely with retailers
- Buyer engagement team

If they endorse your FIP and you meet milestones along the way they will support you in the marketplace

SFP currently in roundtable discussions with UK retailers on brown crab



Elements of a FIP

- Identify Initial participants
- Scope of the FIP
- Agreement between participants
- Public reporting
- Other participants



Three year plan

- Gap analysis of the fishery
- MSC pre-assessment with Marine Institute
- Develop a three year plan addressing the gaps



Potential Irish Brown Crab FIP

- Meeting in Donegal town
- Fishermen
- Processor
- State Authority



Next steps

- BIM-Bord Bia Market Advisory group meeting March 15th
- Market Research by Bord Bia-GSSI
- Fit into “Origin Green”
- Set a meeting late March-April
- Identify initial participants



Thank You