PROTOCOL FOR OPENING A NEW FISHERY FOR BIVALVE MOLLUSCS

October 2022

This is a guidance document which outlines the procedures for the opening of a new bivalve fishery production area where the product is intended for human consumption.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

Wild bivalve molluscs such as razor clams, cockles, etc. provide important fisheries for inshore fishers right around the coast. These are valuable fishing resources for these fishers and coastal communities. These fisheries can continue to be fished sustainably, providing livelihoods and wealth creation in coastal communities, as long as they are carefully managed, whilst minimising any environmental impacts of the fishing activity.

The bivalve mollusc fisheries are fished in Ireland using hydraulic, or non-hydraulic, dredges in sand or mixed sediments. The fishing process mobilises sediments and may lead to changes in the structure and function of seabed habitats. Some bivalve beds occur within, or in proximity to, Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas). There are potential risks to the environment and to the target species if unmanaged fishing for bivalves takes place. This is especially the case for previously unexploited beds where there is no information on stock dynamics or distribution. Many such beds are small in scale and may be vulnerable to over-exploitation.

Bivalve mollusc fisheries require careful planning and management from the outset in order to avoid over-exploitation, overinvestment and to minimise environmental impact, all of which are contrary to accepted objectives for fisheries resource management. The rate at which a new, unmanaged fishery develops is dependent on licensing policy, investment costs, market demand, prices for the target species and the accessibility of the new fishery to existing registered and licensed sea-fishing vessels.

Bivalve molluscs such as mussels, clams, oysters and cockles are filter feeders and can accumulate micro-organisms if they are in contact with faecal contamination. In addition, the phytoplankton upon which the shellfish feed is occasionally contaminated by blooms of toxin producing species. These naturally occurring toxins may not harm the shellfish when the phytoplankton is consumed by the filter-feeding molluscs, but they can cause human illnesses where contaminated shellfish enter the food chain.

Food safety regulatory controls limit these risks to public health, and an extensive shellfish monitoring programme exists in Ireland to support these controls. The central food safety requirements for the commercial fishing/harvesting/gathering of bivalve molluscan shellfish are that:

a. Bivalve molluscs may only be fished/harvested/gathered from classified shellfish production areas. These classified areas are listed on the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority's (SFPA's) website at: http://www.sfpa.ie/Seafood-Safety/Shellfish/Classified-Areas
b. Bivalve molluscs may only be fished/harvested/gathered from classified production areas that are on an open biotoxin status. The biotoxin status for all classified production areas can be checked on the Marine Institute's (MI's) website at: https://webapps.marine.ie/HABs/

Ireland operates an extensive National Shellfish Monitoring Programme to monitor classified shellfish production areas for the presence of microbiological contamination and for the presence of harmful marine biotoxins. Two codes of practice (COP) exist within Ireland's shellfish monitoring programme in order to ensure that consumers, both in Ireland and in other countries, can have confidence that the Irish shellfish they are purchasing is a safe product that meets the required legal health standards. One COP covers biotoxin monitoring, while a separate COP covers the microbiological monitoring of bivalve mollusc production areas. Both COP need to be followed to avoid the public health risks that might arise from new bivalve beds that have not been classified microbiologically for production.

These COP are available for viewing on the Seafood Safety Section of the SFPA website https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Molluscan-Shellfish/Guidance-Documents.

This Protocol outlines the procedure for the opening of a new bivalve fishery production area where the product is intended for human consumption. Potential fisheries are closed by default under food hygiene regulations (COP as described above) or under environmental regulations. Fishery management plans, that incorporate environmental objectives, need to be developed prior to these fisheries opening so that environmental risks, particularly in or near Natura 2000 sites, are assessed and managed. The marine agencies have different roles and competencies in this respect (Annex II). The Inshore Management Group (IMG) provides a forum for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the marine agencies to collate information and agree on procedures. The IMG is, therefore, a pivotal group with respect to developing and communicating protocols to the industry's representative groups: the Bivalve Working Group (BWG), the Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums (RIFFs) and the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF).

2. PROCEDURES

A. Information and Profiling for a Proposed New Bivalve Fishery

Local fishers should work together with the BWG to put forward proposals for new bivalve fisheries. The BWG can be contacted through the local RIFF secretariat (Contact List). In proposing a new production area for bivalves, information as specified in Annex III should be identified by the proposing fishers. The Marine Institute (MI) may have additional evidence of the distribution of the stock or may, on request from the BWG, undertake a survey if there is sufficient prior information on stock distribution available.

In order to identify areas where commercial quantities of bivalve species occur, some investigatory exploration of these areas may be permitted in order to provide the evidential requirements outlined in this Protocol. Where required, such investigatory fishing surveys may take place, but only in accordance with the procedures outlined in Annex IV under the supervision of SFPA port officers in the region. The nominated vessels (list to come from the BWG via the local RIFF) may carry out such surveys in an area to establish whether it would be feasible to put such an area forward for classification. The nominated vessels will be fitted with working tracking devices and will not engage in any other fishing activity while carrying out exploratory site investigations. A vessel may proceed with investigatory fishing only when the local SFPA port office has been informed. No catch may be retained or landed by the nominated vessels while engaged in such site investigations. The vessels must report to the local SFPA port office when returning to port. Where such investigatory fishing takes place, the skipper will retain a log of catches and fishing locations using a catch log provided by the MI and must submit a copy to the local SFPA port office within 24 hours of landing.

The BWG will consider the regional balance and industry cost-benefits when proposing a prioritised list of areas where new fisheries could be developed. The list will be communicated to the NIFF and the IMG. The IMG will assess what risks the proposed fisheries pose to the target species, by-catch, habitats and non-commercial species. The IMG will make recommendations to the BWG and the NIFF regarding the proposed fisheries and whether or not to proceed with developing the appropriate fishery management plans (see below). The NIFF will be responsible for providing updates to the RIFFs.

Harvesting bivalve molluscs by dredging the seabed cannot lawfully be carried out until the area in question is classified as a live bivalve mollusc production area in accordance with Food Safety legislation. Where the proposed classification of such a production area has the potential to impact a Natura 2000 site, it is considered, within European law, as an activity that constitutes a 'plan or project' for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

Hence, if a proposed bivalve fishery production area is in or near a Natura 2000 site, screening for appropriate assessment (and, if necessary, an appropriate assessment) will need to be carried out by the MI. Such screenings and appropriate assessments will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in Part 2 of the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290/2013).

To facilitate this process, industry will need to develop a Fisheries Natura Plan (FNP) when:

- a new Production Area is proposed for classification for any bivalve species or
- an alteration (e.g., species, boundary, etc.) is proposed to an existing SFPA Classified Production Area (CPA)

and the CPA is in or near a Natura 2000 site. Such FNPs should be developed in accordance with Regulation 3 of S.I. 290/2013.

The screening and/or appropriate assessment process will operate in parallel with the classification and sanitary survey process conducted by the SFPA. The SFPA will take the MI's conclusions on the screening/appropriate assessment process into account before proceeding with the classification of a new bivalve fishery production area under food safety law.

Where a prospective bivalve fishery is outside of a Natura 2000 site, industry should set out the details of the fishery in a Fishery Plan (FP).

B. Proposals: Fisheries in/near Natura 2000 sites

Where a proposed fishery is within or near a Natura 2000 site and is described in a FNP, DAFM will direct the MI to carry out a screening of the FNP for appropriate assessment purposes in accordance with S.I. 290/2013 once the following conditions are met:

1. Evidence of commercial quantities of bivalves in the fishery area has been presented in a proposal from the BWG, in conjunction with the local proposing fishers and the local RIFF and is demonstrated in investigatory fishing logs which provide evidence of catch rates from exploratory surveys.
2. The BWG has indicated how many vessels intend to, or are likely to, fish in the new area.
3. The IMG has reviewed and agreed to prioritise the area for opening and has communicated this to the NIFF.
4. The SFPA has signalled an intention to ensure a sanitary survey will be completed and to classify the area and species for production.
5. The FNP has been prepared by the BWG in conjunction with the local proposing fishers and the local RIFF.

Following screening for appropriate assessment purposes, the MI will, if necessary, provide DAFM with an appropriate assessment report in accordance with S.I. 290/2013. These assessments can be carried out in parallel with sampling for classification purposes by the SFPA.

The above points also apply to a FNP that proposes alterations (e.g., species, boundary, etc.) to an existing SFPA CPA in or near a Natura 2000 site. The template for a FNP is provided at Annex VI.

C. Proposals: Fisheries outside of Natura 2000 sites

Where a prospective fishery is outside of a Natura 2000 site, industry should set out the details of the fishery in a Fishery Plan (FP). The need for management intervention will be assessed by the IMG based on the following:

1. Evidence of commercial quantities of bivalves in a given area has been presented in a proposal from the BWG, in conjunction with the local proposing fishers and the local RIFF and is demonstrated in the investigatory fishing logs.
2. The number of vessels that intend to or are likely to fish in the new area (provided by the BWG).
3. The SFPA has signalled an intention to ensure a sanitary survey will be completed and to classify the area and species for production.
4. The FP has been developed by the BWG in conjunction with the local proposing fishers and the local RIFF.

The template for a FP is provided at Annex VII. Management procedures, future stock assessment and advice options will be linked to the risk of over-exploitation as estimated by information outlined in Annex I.

D. Decisions Regarding Classifications

The SFPA has sole responsibility in any decision to classify production areas for bivalve molluscs. The capacity to complete classifications, sanitary surveys and costs of same must be considered in evaluating whether new proposed areas are developed as fisheries. European Regulations require that a sanitary survey must be conducted on all shellfish production areas in order to establish the location of the representative monitoring points from which classification monitoring samples will be taken. The decision, and reasons to proceed or not to proceed with classification, will be documented in each case on the national list of potential areas for new bivalve fisheries.

With regards to wild bivalve dredge fisheries, the SFPA will not classify such a production area or alter an existing SFPA CPA (e.g., species, boundary, etc.) in or near a Natura 2000 site unless a screening for appropriate assessment/an appropriate assessment of the proposed fishery has been undertaken in accordance with S.I. 290/2013. If the FNP, following screening and/or preparation of a Natura impact statement, is deemed consistent with the conservation objectives for habitats and species in the Natura site(s), the SFPA may proceed to classify the area/species. If the SFPA decides to classify the area/species, it will publish its decision.

3. PROCESS FOR OPENING A NEW FISHERY

The starting point in the process of identifying a potential new fishery is the BWG **(see Figure 1).**

A. Local fishers/gatherers and BWG representatives may put forward proposals for a new bivalve fishery. The BWG develops a profile of the potential new fishery as described in Section 2.A. above. The proposal will be communicated to the IMG.
B. The profile of the new proposed fishery will be included in a national list maintained by the IMG. This list is shared with the NIFF. The IMG will make a recommendation on whether to proceed to arrange to open the fishery or not.
C. The SFPA will consider the proposed fishery (new area/species) for sanitary surveys Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 Art 52) and microbiological sampling for classification (subject to the SFPA's schedule of work).
D. If the SFPA decide to proceed with microbiological classification, the expected date for completion of this process will be communicated to the IMG, NIFF and the BWG by the SFPA. Following completion of a Sanitary Survey report for a particular area, a minimum number of 12 samples is required to award a preliminary classification, taken at a frequency of no closer than fortnightly.
E. During sampling for classification purposes by the SFPA, the MI will complete a stock biomass survey on the basis of the evidence provided by the BWG. This survey provides the baseline (pre-exploitation) assessment of the relevant biomass and its distribution.
F. During sampling for classification and when the MI stock survey assessment is available, a FNP or FP will be prepared by the local fishers (the original proposers) intending to participate in the fishery and working through the relevant RIFF in consultation with the BWG, the plan will be communicated to the IMG.
G. DAFM will direct the MI to complete a screening of the FNP for appropriate assessment purposes and, where necessary, provide an appropriate assessment report in accordance with S.I. 290/2013. This will be completed during the sampling process for classification purposes.
H. The FNP and the findings of the screening/appropriate assessment report will be published by DAFM for consideration in a statutory and public consultation process in accordance with S.I. 290/2013.
I. Management and monitoring measures may be proposed by the IMG for a FNP (in or near a Natura 2000 site) or FP (outside of a Natura 2000 site).
J. Adopted FNPs or FPs will be published on the Inshore Forums website (http://inshoreforums.ie).
K. DAFM may seek Ministerial approval for legislative measures to give legal effect to aspects of FNPs or FPs. Plans could also be implemented using voluntary measures. The management and monitoring approach will depend on the degree of difficulty and risk in implementing and verifying such plans by the SFPA for control purposes.
L. The SFPA will notify the IMG and the laboratories responsible for biotoxin and microbiological sampling when a site has been officially classified for the relevant species.
M. The conditions above must be established before the fishery can be permitted to open.
N. The implementation of a management plan, including non-regulatory measures, will be monitored and reported to the IMG by the SFPA and the MI with assistance from fishers operating in the fishery. A risk-based approach will be adopted (Annex V).

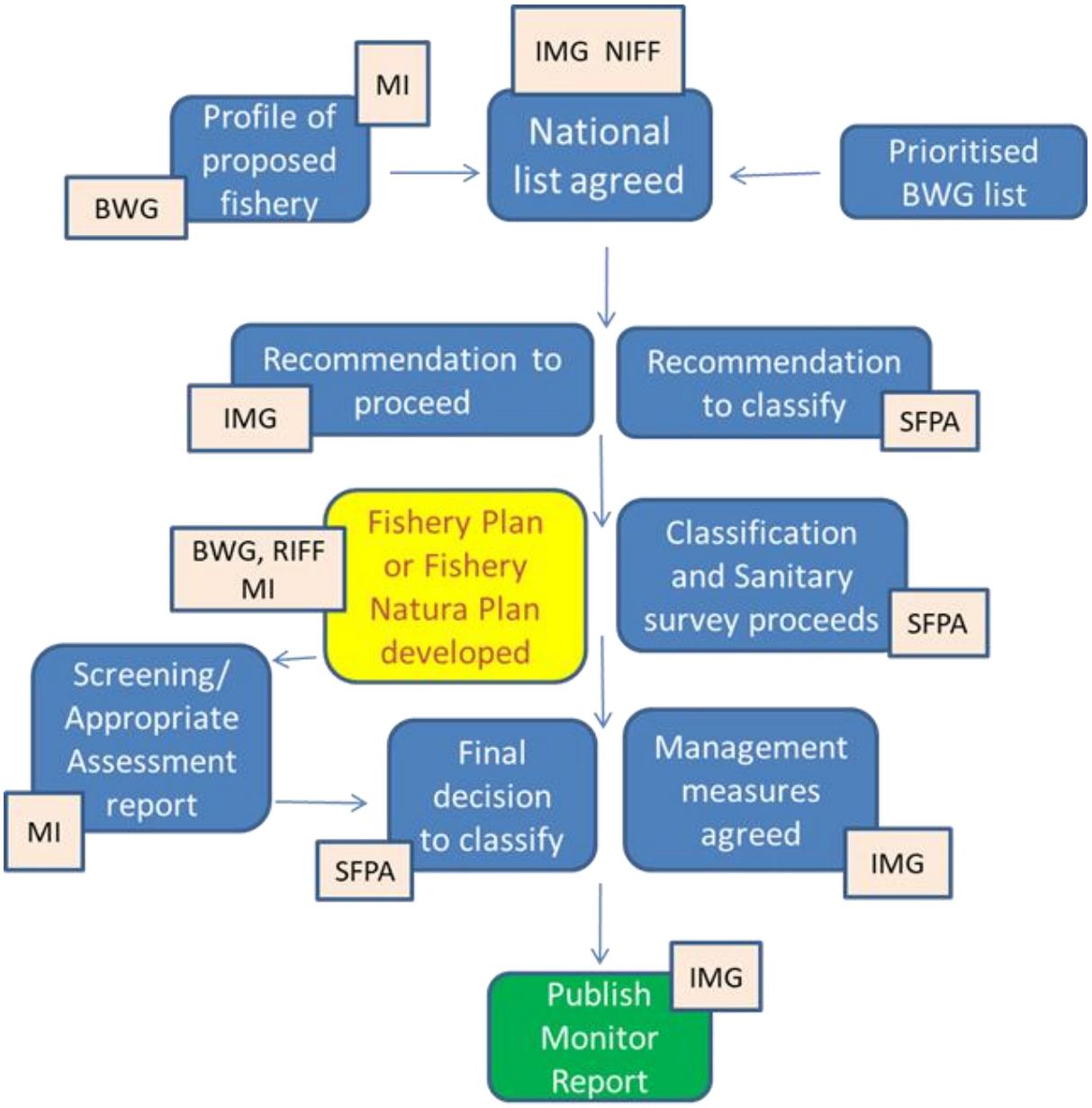

Figure 1. Process for opening a new Bivalve Fishery

Annex I. Food Hygiene and Environmental Regulations

Food Hygiene

Criteria for the classification of bivalve mollusc harvesting areas are described in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 and Regulation (EC) 853/2004.

Sampling requirements for classification are outlined in the SFPA Code of Practice for the microbiological monitoring of bivalve mollusc production areas at https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Molluscan-Shellfish/Guidance-Documents. This guidance describes sampling requirements for microbiological classification and for maintenance of classification. Additional sampling requirements for the presence of harmful phytoplankton and for the determination of open/closed/pending biotoxin status of a production area are outlined in the Code of Practice for the Irish Shellfish Monitoring Programme (Biotoxins). The requirements are set out in codes of practice as follows:

1. Code of Practice for the Microbiological Monitoring of Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas. Version 7
2. Code of Practice for the Irish Shellfish Monitoring Programme (Biotoxins). Version 8

Environment

The European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290/2013) give effect to the Habitats and Birds Directives in Ireland with respect to the potential risks posed to their objectives by fisheries. The legislation outlines the requirements to plan and assess fisheries such that their effects on habitats and species within European marine sites is minimised. The European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565/2014) amended the scope of SI 290/2013.

Annex II. Stakeholders

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

DAFM is responsible for overseeing the implementation of national policies concerning the effective management, conservation and rational exploitation of fishing opportunities. DAFM is required to execute these functions having particular regard to the obligations set down in S.I. 477/2011 regarding the conservation of natural habitats and species in identified European sites. In the context of these directed requirements, DAFM is obliged to monitor potential risks from fishing activities being undertaken in any identified European site and to introduce management measures to mitigate such risks where necessary. The bivalve mollusc classification system has the potential to identify new areas and stock for exploitation. This classification system has been identified as a useful indicator of risk, highlighting possible escalations of fishery activities that could have negative impacts on particular sites. DAFM is also responsible for drafting, including transposing, fisheries and food safety legislation for all fishery products under its remit.

Marine Institute (MI)

The MI is the specified scientific advisory body to the Minister on the marine environment and fisheries. In particular, the MI undertakes appropriate assessments and risk assessments of fisheries when so requested by the Minister. In order to assist in the provision of accurate and timely advice concerning the risk of escalation of fisheries, both from a stock conservation and management perspective and from the perspective of protection of Natura 2000 sites, timely notification of applications to classify bivalve mollusc production areas is particularly appropriate. The MI is designated as the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for monitoring the microbiological, biotoxin and viral contamination of bivalve shellfish. The MI coordinates the activities of the national testing laboratories involved in the microbiological monitoring programme ensuring high quality standards for the relevant analysis are maintained. The MI also provides advice on monitoring programmes and a range of support services to the competent authorities.

Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

The SFPA is the competent authority for the enforcement of seafood safety and sea-fisheries legislation on the island of Ireland and throughout the exclusive fishery limits of the State. The SFPA carries out official food safety and fisheries related controls in shellfish production areas, on fishing vessels and in seafood establishments. The SFPA implements, manages and monitors the Irish Shellfish Monitoring Programme. The Sea-Fisheries Protection Officers verify product traceability in shellfish production areas. The responsibility for developing and applying sanitary surveys and the official monitoring programmes lies with the SFPA, in accordance with monitoring requirements in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 Title V4.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

BIM has the remit for fisheries development. It administers grant funding schemes under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027. BIM has the primary role in facilitating and supporting the industry representative groups for inshore fisheries (RIFFs and the NIFF).

Inshore Management Group (IMG)

The IMG is a cross-agency group chaired by DAFM that considers the management of small-scale fisheries inside 6 nautical miles (nm).

National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF)

The NIFF is the national industry representative forum for small-scale fisheries inside 6nm.

Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (RIFF)

The RIFF is a regional industry representative forum for small-scale fisheries inside 6nm.

Bivalve Working Group (BWG)

The BWG was established in 2017 to co-ordinate the identification and prioritisation of areas where new fisheries for bivalve molluscan shellfish could be developed.

Fisher/Harvester/Gatherer of Bivalve Molluscs

A fisher/harvester/gatherer of bivalve molluscs is a person who collects live bivalve molluscs by any means from a production area, for the purpose of handling and placing on the market, and who has primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of the food they produce.

Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee (MSSC).

The MSSC was established in the late 1990s, following Ministerial direction, to provide a partnership forum within which all stakeholders involved in the production, processing, development, analysis and regulation of shellfish can frankly express their views in the interests of collective learning.

Annex III. Information to be provided by the Bivalve Working Group

In proposing a new fishery for bivalves, the following information should be provided by the BWG:

1. Target species;
2. List potential by-catch bivalve species that will be landed;
3. List potential by-catch species that will be discarded;
4. Geographic area (include map; shape file format);
5. Evidence that a commercially viable stock is present in the area:
    a. Data on landings from any previous fishery for the same species in the area;
    b. Data from exploratory fishing including tracks and catch rates;
    c. Data from MI surveys.
6. Gear(s) to be used with details of mesh/bar spacings and dimensions;
7. The number of vessels that are likely to participate in the fishery.

Annex IV. Surveying of Proposed Production Areas

1. To identify areas where commercial quantities of bivalve species occur, some exploratory fishing needs to be conducted in order to provide the evidence required as outlined in the Protocol. Such areas are outside of Classified Production Areas (CPAs) or in CPAs which are not classified for the species concerned. Harvesting of bivalve molluscs (with the sole exception of scallops) from outside CPAs is prohibited, is a public health risk and contravenes legislation regulating the harvesting of bivalve molluscs. Such exploratory fishing, therefore, cannot result in landings of bivalves and the risk of this occurring needs to be mitigated and controlled.

   With pre-notification necessary to the local SFPA office, a number of scoping samples may be submitted via the SFPA for *E.coli* analysis on a case-by-case basis where exploratory fishing indicates the presence of sufficient stock to support commercial exploitation. Following the completion of a sanitary survey, and identification of an appropriate Representative Monitoring Point (RMP), the SFPA will determine if the scoping samples are appropriate to be included in the classification monitoring programme.

2. Should surveys (either MI-supported scientific surveys or unscientific surveys by local fishers without observers on board) of potential bivalve fishing grounds be required in order to assess potential stock, then the following conditions will apply:

   A. Fishers proposing a new area must submit their case to conduct initial surveys to the Bivalve Working Group (BWG) for consideration. They will also inform the RIFF secretariat in their area of their proposals.

   B. The BWG will prioritise and consolidate these proposals and will clearly identify the areas, the specific vessels and skippers involved as well as the anticipated dates of surveying. This information will be communicated (via e-mail) to the NIFF and to the IMG for onward communication to the local SFPA Offices.

   C. This list will be compiled on an annual basis, with quarterly updates communicated by the BWG to the NIFF and IMG.

   D. The IMG will communicate this information to the SFPA for onward transmission to the local SFPA port offices so that SFPA staff are aware of the vessels conducting surveys in their area.

3. The BWG will make masters and skippers of vessels involved in surveys aware of their responsibilities with regards to seafood safety and that the SFPA must be satisfied of the following:

   A. That no bivalve molluscs from these surveys will be retained on board or landed.

   B. With pre-notification necessary to the local SFPA office, a number of scoping samples may be submitted via the SFPA for *E.coli* analysis on a case-by-case basis where surveys indicate the presence of sufficient stock to support commercial exploitation.

4. **Guidelines and conditions** to ensure compliance with the above requirements will include:

   A. That only vessels nominated by RIFFs (limited to two vessels in each RIFF area at any one time) can take part in exploratory fishing.

   B. That the masters of all vessels involved in any survey will certify to local Sea Fishery Protection Officers (SFPOs) that they will comply with the above requirements.

   C. That none of the vessels conducting surveys will also fish commercially in any CPA until they have declared to local SFPOs that they are finished with MI survey work or with exploratory survey work where no observers are on board.

   D. That nominated vessels will make contact with local SFPOs indicating the time of departure and return from such surveys on a daily basis.

   E. That the operator of a nominated vessel must liaise with local SFPOs in advance of any agreed provision of scoping samples to allow sufficient time for such samples to be submitted to the accredited laboratory assigned to the local SFPA office for *E.coli* analysis.

   F. That no bivalve molluscs will be landed in excess of the minimum number of species required for the analysis of a classification sample as per the Code of Practice.

Annex V. Consideration of Fisheries in/near or outside of Natura 2000 sites and management approach

Where the SFPA has signalled intent to classify an area or species for harvest, the MI will use the following information to provide advice.

Fisheries in/near Natura 2000 sites

Where the proposed fishery is within or near a Natura 2000 site, a Fisheries Natura Plan (FNP) will be prepared by the BWG. DAFM will direct the MI to complete a screening of the FNP for appropriate assessment purposes and, where necessary, provide an appropriate assessment report. The MI will use the following information in their assessment and to advise on sustainable exploitation:

1. The Fisheries Natura Plan proposed by the local RIFF and BWG;
2. The MI stock survey;
3. Main habitat type and marine communities (NPWS site maps) in the fishing area;
4. Conservation objectives for habitats and species in the fishing area;
5. The number of vessels that may participate in the fishery.

Fisheries outside of Natura 2000 sites

Where the proposed fishery is outside of the Natura 2000 network, the MI will use the following information to advise DAFM on the management of the fishery:

1. The Fishery Plan proposed by the local RIFF and BWG;
2. The MI stock survey;
3. Location of any sensitive habitats close to or in the fishing area;
4. The number of vessels that may participate in the fishery.

Management approach relative to risk

In the case of bivalve fisheries, other than offshore stocks of Scallop, the stock is generally exposed to fishing or is accessible to the fishery. Uncertainty and risk increase with the number of vessels participating in the fishery, and this can include incomplete reporting, harder to track landings and the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), quota or other measures may be more easily exceeded. When the number of vessels in a fishery is 1-3, it is possible to have effective communication with operators on the trends in the fishery and to get real-time information on catch and effort. The annual survey, assessment and TAC advice is not necessary in these cases and measures can be implemented voluntarily. This procedure has been shown to work in small *Ensis* fisheries off the west coast during 2017-2019.

	Harvest Control Rule			Management approach		Monitoring data
Vessels	**Total Allowable Catch (TAC)**	**Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) Limit**	**Assessment**	**Voluntary**	**Legislative**	
1 to 3	No	Yes	CPUE depletion	Yes	No	Real time catch and effort. Survey every 3 years
>3	Yes	No	Survey	No	Yes	Landings

Annex VI. Template for Fisheries Natura Plan

Introduction / Proposal Origin
Summary of Proposal
Legal Basis To be added by DAFM as relevant.
Rationale for Mitigation To be added by DAFM as appropriate.
Background
Fishing area / Proposed Fishery Location Provide information such as size of area covered, map of the area, etc.
Proposed fishery control rules and justification Examples of the matters that could be covered under this heading include: • Harvest rates, • Landing / outtake limits, • Minimum landing size, • Seasonal or other closures, • Time restrictions, • Gear specifications, • Access to fishery, • Vessel monitoring.

Annex VII. Template for Fishery Plan

Introduction / Proposal Origin
Summary of Proposal
Background
Fishing area / Proposed Fishery Location Provide information such as size of area covered, map of the area, etc.
Proposed Fishery Examples of the matters that could be covered under this heading include: • Risk factors, • Proposed fishery control rules / justification, • Fishery practices and procedures.

Annex VIII. Stakeholder Contact Information

Competent Authority	Nominee	Alternate	Email addresses
MI	Oliver Tully	Dave Clarke *Shellfish Safety Manager*	Oliver.Tully@marine.ie Dave.Clarke@Marine.ie
SFPA	Sarah Buckley *Director of the Food and Fisheries Support Unit*	Gary McCoy *National Shellfish Monitoring Manager*	sarah.buckley@sfpa.ie gary.mccoy@sfpa.ie
BIM	Ian Lawler *Development Officer*		ian.lawler@bim.ie
DAFM	Nicholas Hoffman	Brian McSweeney	inshore@agriculture.gov.ie
BWG	Declan Nee Secretary BWG		declan.nee@bim.ie
NIFF	Denise Maloney Secretary *NIFF*		denise.maloney@bim.ie
North RIFF			NRIFF@inshoreforums.ie
North West RIFF			NWRIFF@inshoreforums.ie
West RIFF			WRIFF@inshoreforums.ie
South West RIFF			SWRIFF@inshoreforums.ie
South East RIFF			SERIFF@inshoreforums.ie
North East RIFF			NERIFF@inshoreforums.ie