BIM Annual Aquaculture Survey

2013

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) the Irish seafood development agency carries out an annual survey of all licensed aquaculture producers within the Republic of Ireland. Apart from being a statutory obligation this data provides vital information for the future development of this important industry. This document provides a snapshot of the primary aquaculture sectors. More comprehensive data can be provided upon request.

Overview

Key Points from 2013

- First sale value of the Irish aquaculture industry was €117m
- Salmon culture remains the highest value sector of the industry accounting for 50% of the value.
- Total direct employment in aquaculture production was over 1,800 persons. The oyster sector provided the highest proportion of employment with over 1,100 jobs.
- 76% of all aquaculture by volume is carried out along the western seaboard. The highest volume of aquaculture production was in Cork where nearly 11,000 tonnes of seafood was produced.

Over 1,800 people were directly employed in the primary sector of the aquaculture industry in 2013

Oysters

Both gigas and edulis production increased in 2013 with a combined production of nearly 8,700 tonnes of product.

Prices remained extremely positive for both species with the average export price increasing by 9%. There are some indications of a stabilisation in prices.

Counties Donegal and Waterford continue to account for 64% of gigas production by volume.

Total employment in the oyster industry in 2013 increased again with over 1,100 people gaining employment in this sector.

France remains the key destination country for Irish oysters and accounted for 87% of all Irish oyster exports by volume in 2013. Hong Kong is now the second major destination for Irish oysters.

DID YOU KNOW?

PRODUCTION OF IRISH OYSTERS AMOUNTED TO **OVER 8,700 TONNES** IN 2013.

Mussels

Bottom mussel production declined in 2013 with production of 5,527 tonnes. On the positive side rope mussel production increased to *c*.10,000 tonnes.

Three counties Louth, Kerry and Wexford accounted for 95% of all bottom mussel cultivation in 2013. Rope mussel production is predominant in the south west with counties Cork and Kerry accounting for 76% of production.

The value of mussel exports amounted to €19million, marginally down on 2012 levels. The Netherlands and France are the main export markets accounting for nearly 80% of all exports.

Over 50% of the Irish mussel industry is now certified organic production.

76% of all aquaculture production is conducted along the **western seaboard**. **Cork** accounting for **29%** of **all national** production.

Salmon and Trout

Salmon remains the key finfish species but production was hampered by a number of biological issues in 2013.

Donegal and Cork were the main production areas accounting for 53% of all salmon produced.

Freshwater trout production was concentrated in Kilkenny and Wicklow accounting for 87% of all production.

Production of freshwater trout increased by over 17% to 728 tonnes in 2013.

Average salmon prices continued to be extremely positive ranging above €6,000 in 2013.

This finfish sector had a sales value of nearly €62m making it Ireland's most valuable.

Novel Species

The main species in the novel finfish sector are charr and perch. Both continue at low production levels but have been well received in export markets.

Challenges remain for all novel species in balancing scale with competitive market pricing.

Seaweed products used as pet supplements and for human consumption have shown excellent potential. It is hoped to expand this sector significantly in the next few years. Seaweed production from aquaculture is now *c.*50 tonnes.

Contact Us
t +353 1 2144100
e info@bim.ie
w www.bim.ie