

Charting the Course for Sustainability in the **Irish Seafood Sector**



What are the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals?



In September 2015, 193 countries met in New York and signed the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda has become the guide to the world's social, economic and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable future by 2030.

The framework consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Each of these goals has a number of targets associated with it (169 in total). Indicators identify the data that will be used to measure progress towards these targets and to determine if it has been achieved successfully by 2030.

The global progress is monitored by the UN. Individual countries must provide voluntary national reviews including stakeholder involvement. In Ireland, the overall responsibility for implementing the UN SDG's lies with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE).

Inclusion is at the core of the UN SDG's, and as a result, governments, the corporate sector and citizens are called upon to make the SDG agenda a reality.

What does this mean for the Irish Seafood Industry?

The Irish Seafood Sector contributes over one billion to the Irish economy employing circa 14,000 people directly and indirectly around the coast and making the ocean a key economic, social and environmental asset. To protect this resource and sustain the long term viability, profitability and value of the sector, the industry continues to improve its performance and adopt best practices. Using the universal language of the SDG's, the Irish Seafood Sector will be able to communicate its contribution to advancing sustainable development, both by minimising negative impacts and maximising positive impacts on people and the planet, for example on UN SDG's 14.1, 14.2 and 14.4.

What steps can you take?

- Become familiar with the SDG's and link them to your business activities.
- Establish a baseline for your operations and develop priorities for your company.
- Select indicators and collect data so that you can set meaningful and measurable goals and targets.
- Involve your staff and communicate your commitment to your customers and stakeholders.

Find out more on
<https://sdgcompass.org>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEAN, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and taking action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

How is BIM supporting the Irish Seafood Sector in its sustainability efforts?

Ensuring environmental, economic and social sustainability of the seafood sector as a whole is at the heart of BIM's strategy. Careful management and conservation of the 'natural capital' upon which the sector relies can not be compromised. Sustainability initiatives include: research in gear technology; certification and stock management; energy and waste management to stewardship of the natural environment; and continually improving measures by implementing management systems and achieving voluntary standards.

As Ireland's seafood development agency, BIM leads the provision of support services to the seafood sector.

BIM supports include technical expertise, business support, funding, training and the promotion of responsible sustainable standards thus strengthening the positive market perception of Irish seafood so that it is recognised as a responsible and sustainable catching, farming, and processing sector, with world class environmental management systems embedded in all its operations.

