



Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

and

An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to set out areas of co-operation, shared expertise and shared interest between the FSAI and BIM particularly in relation to securing the integrity of the Irish seafood chain in terms of safety and authenticity, thereby protecting the health of consumers while supporting the development of the Irish seafood industry.

Signed:

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. O'Toole', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Jim O'Toole
Chief Executive, BIM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela A. Byrne', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Pamela Byrne
Chief Executive, FSAI

Date: 01/06/17

Date: 31/5/2017

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Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)

and

An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) agree to co-operate on activities, as detailed in this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 1.2. The FSAI and BIM agree to co-operate and work closely within their respective competencies, in relation to fish, fishery products and shellfish which are caught, grown, processed and placed on the market in order to promote high standards of food safety and authenticity in the interests of and for the protection of public health and public interest.

2. Roles

- 2.1. This Memorandum of Understanding involves collaboration based on complementary interests, in particular:
 - 2.1.1. The FSAI mission, which is to protect consumers by leading a collaborative food safety community to continuously raise food standards and create a culture of excellence.
 - 2.1.2. BIM's mission which is to grow a thriving Irish seafood industry; expand the raw material base, add value and develop efficient supply chains that together deliver on the Government's Food Wise 2025 targets for seafood and create sustainable jobs.
 - 2.1.3. 'Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth' the Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland is a whole Government initiative that highlights the importance of effective coordination of actions across government departments and agencies involved with the marine.
- 2.2. It is a principle of Irish and European Law that all food business operators: producers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and caterers bear the primary responsibility, individually or, as appropriate, collectively, for the safety and

suitability for human consumption, of any food placed on the market by them. Furthermore, food business operators are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and hygienic standard of their products.

- 2.3. Under current regulations, food safety and risk management are the responsibility of all food business operators in all sectoral areas, from catching and farming to retailing and catering. This responsibility requires the implementation of appropriate food safety management systems throughout the food chain
- 2.4. Both FSAI and BIM recognise that a high level of expertise and commitment is needed throughout the seafood chain to plan, implement, audit and continuously improve food safety management systems based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. To assist the seafood sector in meeting their responsibilities, the FSAI and BIM face a common challenge.
- 2.5. BIM has responsibility for the establishment and promotion of Quality Assurance Schemes under the Quality Seafood Programme (QSP). Both organisations recognise that the provision of world-class quality assurance schemes is essential to promote and authenticate the reputation and quality of Irish fishery and aquaculture products. The overall aim of the quality programme is the successful implementation of product certification to the EN45011 standards across the whole fishery and aquaculture sector.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. The Objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to promote co-operation between BIM and the FSAI in the fields of seafood safety and consumer protection.
- 3.2. The specific aims of the Memorandum of Understanding are:
 - 3.2.1. To identify and share relevant information on seafood safety and authenticity.
 - 3.2.2. To promote compliance with food legislation to ensure the production of safe seafood products and to co-operate in ensuring that consumers are provided with accurate product information in accordance with EU labelling regulations.
 - 3.2.3. To provide advice to technical advisory groups on food safety law in the development and operation of the quality assurance schemes in the seafood production sector.
 - 3.2.4. To support quality assurance schemes run by BIM that aim to enhance compliance with food legislation.

- 3.2.5. To outline how both organisations will co-operate in the management of food incidents that affect seafood produced, manufactured, distributed, or retailed in Ireland.

4. Terms of Agreement

- 4.1. Subject to mutual agreement, specific projects may be developed and implemented in support of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 4.2. In respect of Clause 3.2.1, the FSAI and BIM will co-operate in their respective responsibilities and share appropriate information in relation to seafood safety. The FSAI and BIM will also co-operate and assist in training staff where appropriate.
- 4.3. In respect of Clause 3.2.2, the FSAI will support BIM in its promotional and stakeholder engagement roles, by participating in such projects, groups or initiatives as are appropriate. FSAI will help support BIM's efforts in accessing export markets, in so far as that support is compatible with the FSAI's statutory obligations.
- 4.4. Further to Clauses 3.2.3, and 3.2.4, the FSAI has a statutory remit under Section 13 of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act, 1998 in the establishment of food safety assurance schemes for the protection of consumer interests.
- 4.5. In respect of Clause 3.2.4, above, BIM has sought the active input of FSAI in the development and ongoing management of all its quality schemes and therefore welcomes the collaboration with the FSAI as set out in this Memorandum of Understanding. The FSAI agrees to provide technical input on food law in respect of BIM Quality Assurance Schemes and to participate in and provide support and assistance to Technical Advisory Committees, the Quality Seafood Programme (QSP) Management Board and associated sub-committees for both fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- 4.6. In respect of Clause 3.2.5, above, the FSAI agrees, in so far as is legally permissible, to advise BIM of any relevant developing food incidents relating to seafood produced in Ireland.

5. Review and Liaison

- 5.1 It is agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to review on an annual basis at the first liaison meeting of the year and amended as necessary. Either party may request a more frequent review
- 5.2 The Memorandum of Understanding may be subject to modification or extension by agreement.
- 5.3 The Memorandum of Understanding does not create any legally binding obligations for any party or between the parties.

5.4 Further to Clause 3.2.1, FSAI and BIM agree to meet on a regular basis to share information.

5.4.1 The FSAI and BIM will hold two bilateral meetings each year to discuss items of interest and share information.

5.4.2 BIM will be represented on the Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee, which is chaired by the FSAI.

