

TOOLBOX AQUACULTURE

Guidance for Aquaculture Liaison Officer



Aquaculture Liaison Officer

Stakeholders believe that the most effective way to assist in aquaculture regulation and licensing is by having one contact person for the producer, with whom they can interact directly throughout the pre-application and application process. The Aquaculture Liaison Officer is primarily involved in assisting the producer with the completion of the application. This differs to the “one-stop-shop” which deals with the decision making process of an application and coordinates any communication between the applicant, regulators, decision makers and any other relevant stakeholders or parties.

The Aquaculture Liaison Officer should provide:

- Guidance and input in the preliminary planning stages.
- Assistance in the pre-application assessments.
- Access to and expertise on, the use of planning models and tools which could be used to assist with site identification and selection, and early stage business and production planning.
- Continuous communication, feedback, and advice throughout the application process
- Liaison with others actors involved in the process on behalf of the applicant.

Example of current practice: Aquaculture Development Officer

In Ireland, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Seafood Development Agency, are responsible for developing the Irish Seafood Industry by providing technical expertise, business support, funding, training and promoting responsible environmental practice. One of the key development tools they employ is having regional Aquaculture Development Officers to assist producers with issues relating to licensing, grants, site management and developing business. They provide expertise on the use of planning models and tools, which would be used to assist with site identification and selection, and with early stage business and production planning. They advise and assist in compiling the required information and with completing the application. This state funded role is specific to the aquaculture industry and complementary to local management strategies.

