

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification****Ireland rope grown mussel****Client Group:****Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)****Announcement of decision NOT to use the Risk-Based Framework (RBF)**

On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018, as part of the announcement of the assessment of the above fishery, SAI Global announced its intention to use the Risk-Based Framework (RBF) to score some elements of the fishery.

The elements of the fishery for which RBF was to be used, as well as rationale for each, were outlined in the Use of the RBF announcement available on the MSC website:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/ireland-rope-grown-mussel/@assessments>

The consultation on the proposal to use RBF closed on 24<sup>th</sup> September with no responses received.

SAI Global now wishes to advise stakeholders that, following careful consideration of the available evidence in preparation for the upcoming assessment, we have determined that the use of RBF will not now be required for either of the two Performance Indicators for which its use was previously announced.

The reasons that SAI Global have arrived at this determination are that we have concluded that there is sufficient information on i) the habitats encountered, ii) the impact of the fishery on the habitats encountered and iii) to enable an analysis of the impact of the fishery on the ecosystem such that RBF is not required.

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