An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Fisheries & Aquaculture Producer Organisations

Recognition Criteria - Ireland

16 April 2020

The Recognition Criteria outlined below will be used by the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine to determine applications by fisheries and aquaculture groups for recognition as a Producer Organisation under the CMO Regulation (1379/2013). Applicants should also refer to the guidance document and official application forms issued by the Minister.

A group applying for recognition as a producer organisation must satisfy all of criteria 1 -7.

1. Comply with the principles set out in article 17 of the CMO Regulation and with any rules adopted by the Minister or by the European Union for the application of those principles.
2. Have legal personality under Irish law, are established in Ireland and have their official headquarters in Ireland.
3. Are capable of pursuing the objectives laid down in Article 7 of the CMO Regulation 1379/2013.
4. Comply with the competition rules referred to in Chapter V of the CMO Regulation.
5. Do not abuse a dominant position on a given market.
6. Provide relevant details of their membership, governance and sources of funding
7. The Producer Organisation is sufficiently economically active in the territory of the Member State concerned or a part thereof, in particular as regards the number of members or the volume of marketable production; this criteria is further defined as follows:

Fisheries Sector

Groups applying for recognition as a fisheries Producer Organisation must satisfy both 7A and 7B.

Criterion 7A

The applicant for recognition must have a minimum of 30 members who own an active fishing vessel.

And

Criterion 7B

(1) The applicant for recognition must dispose of at least 15% by weight of total production in its stated area of operation (geographical Area or Landing Port(s).)

OR

(2) Where 80% of the members own vessels which are less than 12m in length, its members annual production must be at least 1,000 tonnes, or at least €2 million in value, calculated on the basis of the average production of the three years preceding the application for recognition.

Aquaculture Sector

Groups applting for recognition as an aquaculture producer organisation must satisfy both 7C and 7D.

Criterion 7C

The applicant for recognition must have a minimum of 10 members who are holders of aquaculture licences.

And

Criterion 7D

The applicant for recognition must be responsible for at least 25% of the production in a stated geographical area for the species for which recognition is sought.