



# An Estimation of a Reference Population for the Irish Seafood Sector

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## Reference Population for Seafood Sector Comparisons

All data shown here sourced online from the Central Statistics Office (CSO): (<https://www.cso.ie/en/index.html>)

The population of the Republic of Ireland recorded in the Census for 2016 was **4.76m**.

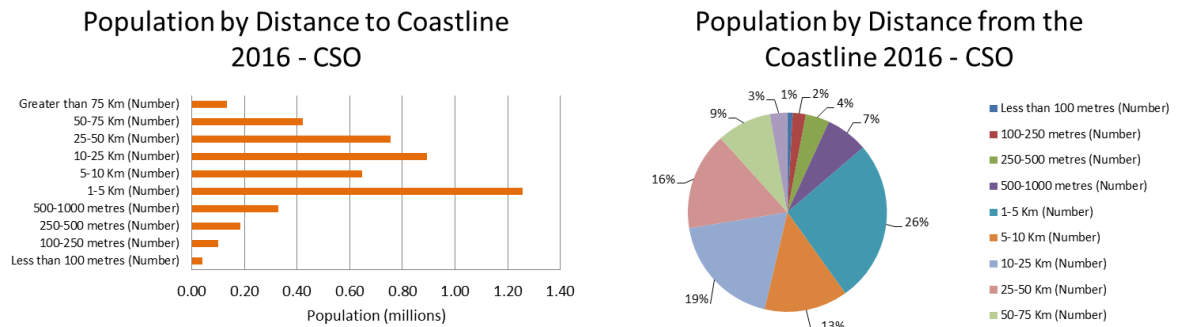


Figure 1: numbers and proportions of Irish population by distance from coastline

40% of the Irish population live within 5km of the coastline (**1.91m**).

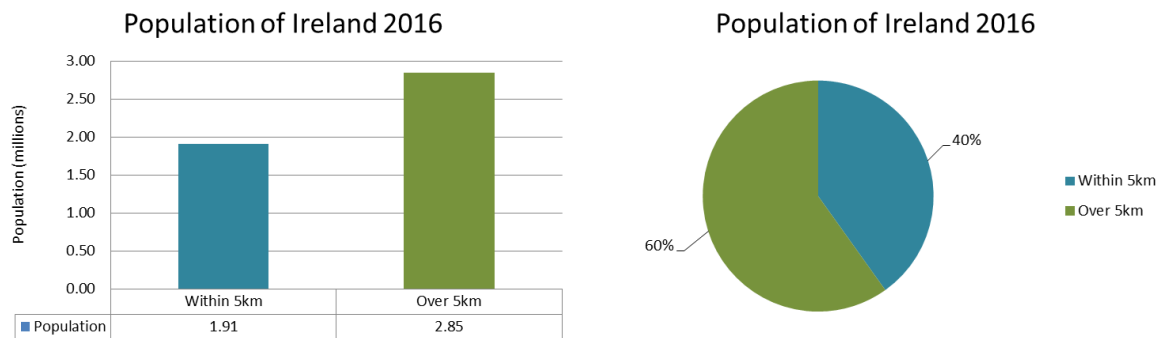


Figure 2: population of Ireland residing within or over 5km of the coastline

The CSO definition of 'Town Area' and 'Rural Area' differentiates the two as 'those persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants' or not, respectively. Of the Irish population 37% reside in rural areas and 63% in urban areas. The population residing in rural areas in 2016 was **1.78m**.

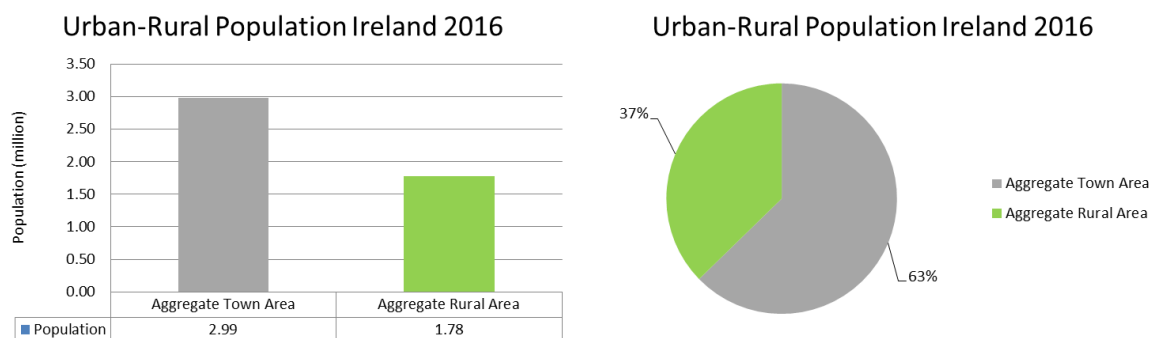
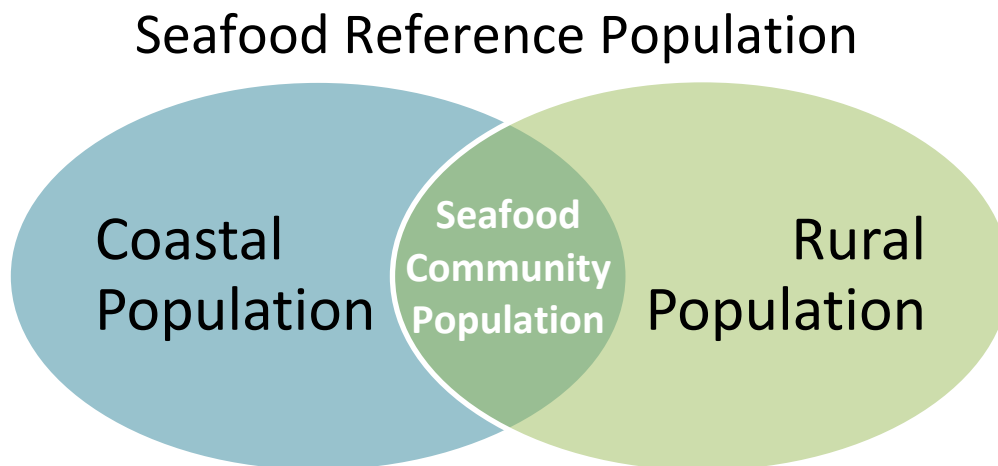


Figure 3: Urban and rural population of Ireland in numbers and proportions in 2016

## Methodology

To assess an appropriate target population for the seafood sector the data on the part of the population living along the coastline will be combined with the rural population, thereby removing the urban population from the coastline population. The result will give us close to what we seek which is the population of the rural coastline communities of Ireland. However, the definition of rural as excluding all towns above 1,500 population may be too strict therefore we need to add back in to the rural coastal population important coastal fishery towns and villages of a population over 1,500.



**Figure 4: intersection of rural and coastal populations as reference seafood community population**

The population of the 31 electoral areas of the Republic of Ireland (includes major cities and Dublin councils) are split into 10 coastline proximity categories (as can be seen in figure 1); Less than 100 metres, 100-250 metres, 250-500 metres, 500-1000 metres, 1-5 Km, 5-10 Km, 10-25 Km, 25-50 Km, 50-75 Km, Greater than 75 Km. The target coastal population is assumed here to reside within 5km of the coastline.

The urban-rural population split is represented for the same 31 counties in another table. It is assumed that the urban-rural ratio is homogenous throughout each county for each of the 10 proximity categories (e.g. if county Meath has an urban rural ratio of 45:55 then the population of county Meath in each coastline proximity category has the same ratio). Two new tables are now created by multiplying the population proximity table by the urban share and the rural share. These tables now show the rural population proximity to the coastline and likewise the urban. The rural population within 5km of the coastline must now have important fishing ports added back in.

There are now 200 settlements in the Republic of Ireland with a population over 1,500 according to the latest Census. Interestingly, three of the six Fishery Harbour Centres, Castletownbere, Killybegs and Rossaveal have populations below 1,500. The 16 towns with a population over 1,500 added are Skerries, Rush, Howth, Youghal, Lusk, Westport, Kinsale, Bantry, Kenmare, Clogherhead, An Daingean, Newport, Dunmore East, Strandhill, Rosslare and Clifden. The sum of the population of these 16 towns is 73,574. To the rural table the total population of the 16 port-towns of interest are added and distributed across the five proximity categories within 5km of the coastline as these are all small to medium sized coastal towns. The results are shown in the following section.

## Ireland's Coastal Community Population (within 5km of the coastline)

The results of the combined tables on proximity to the coastline and the urban-rural divide are shown in the following figures. The results in figure 6 here are before the 16 selected towns over 1,500 are added back in.

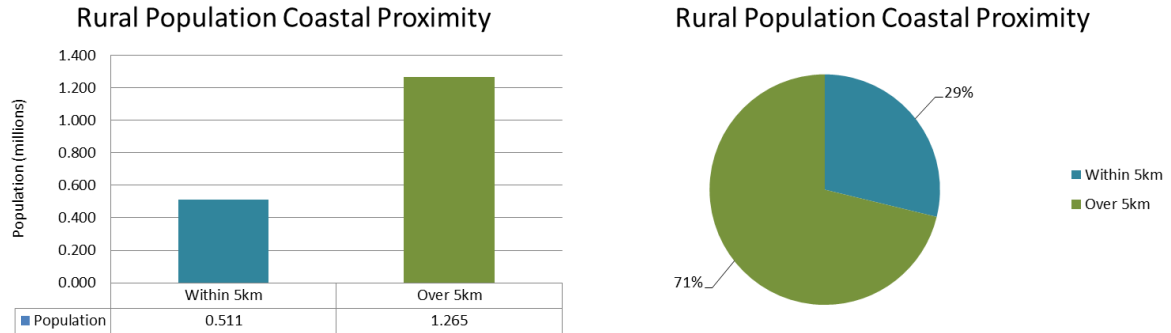


Figure 5: coastal proximity (5km) of Ireland's rural population

Figure 6 shows that 29% of the rural population reside within 5km of the coastline. As shown before, 1.78m people reside in rural areas. Here it is estimated that the coastal rural population is therefore **511,000**, with 1.27m classified here as inland rural.

In the following figure 7 the results are shown for the adapted rural population including the 16 towns previously mentioned.

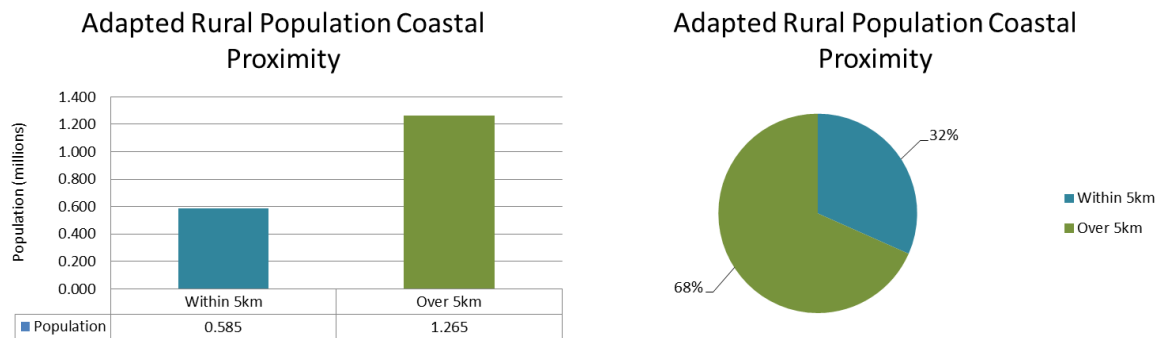


Figure 6: coastal proximity (5km) of Ireland's rural population adapted for reference seafood population

Here, it is estimated that the coastal rural population of Ireland that could be used as a reference for the seafood sector is **585,000**.

## Conclusion

The Irish seafood sector is a driver of economic activity and employment in Ireland's coastal regions. These regions are often characterised by their remoteness from urban centres, their lack of infrastructure and industrial development and so depend highly on primary sectors such as the seafood and the agricultural sectors. The objective of this study has been to estimate an appropriate population for the seafood sector that captures the areas of the Republic of Ireland that are associated with the sector. The methodology used here **merges** the latest CSO Census data on the **population** of Ireland, at the electoral area level, that resides **close to the coastline, with the rural population**, so as to remove large cities and towns that do not depend on the seafood sector from the coastal population. The population within 5km of the coastline (1.91m) was intersected with the rural population (1.78m) which resulted in an estimated rural coastline community of 511,000. The inclusion of 16 important (urban) fishing ports around the Irish coast adds an extra 74,000 to the estimated population of the seafood sector. The labour force and total employed for the seafood sector have also been estimated using data at the electoral area level.

The results of the methodology described have therefore estimated the population of the Irish seafood community as 585,000 people, with a labour force of 275,000 with 239,000 total employees.

In table 1 the estimated population, labour force and total employees in the Irish seafood community is shown. Like the population estimate the figures for labour force and total employees is estimated using the CSO data for these descriptors by Electoral Area. The estimated labour force for the seafood community is 275,000 while the total number employed is estimated at 239,000.

In the BIM report '*A Top-Down Estimation of the Downstream Employment Generated by the Irish Seafood Sector*' indirect employment in the seafood sector was estimated based on recent publications at the Irish and EU levels. An estimate for induced employment was also shown. The report estimated employment in ancillary activities that supply and support the direct sectors of fisheries, aquaculture and processing at 5,400. This leads to ~14,800 total employed directly and indirectly in the seafood sector. Induced employment, the jobs created by serving the necessities and leisures of those directly and indirectly employed in the sector, was estimated at ~11,000.

In table 2 the dependence of the seafood community's population, labour force and total numbers employed is shown for direct seafood employment, direct and indirect seafood employment and finally direct, indirect and induced seafood employment.

Table 1: revised summary of results for definition of Ireland's rural coastal community population

Area	Population 2016	Labour Force	Total Employed
<b>Seafood Community</b>	585,000	275,000	239,000

Table 2: proportion of the rural coastal population directly employed in the seafood sector

Seafood Sectors	Total Seafood Employees	% Population	% Labour Force	% Total Employed
<b>Direct</b>	9,257	2%	3%	4%
<b>Direct &amp; Indirect</b>	14,800	3%	5%	6%
<b>Direct, Indirect &amp; Induced</b>	26,000	4%	9%	11%

In tables 3, 4 and 5 these three categories of seafood employment are shown by FLAG region.

**Table 3: direct employment in the seafood sector and proportion of the rural coastal population, labour force and employment by FLAG**

FLAG	Direct	% Seafood Population	% Seafood Labour Force	% Seafood Total Employed
North	2,133	3%	6%	8%
North West	650	1%	2%	3%
West	1,093	2%	4%	4%
South West	956	1%	2%	3%
South	1,824	2%	3%	4%
South East	1,299	1%	3%	4%
North East	1,302	2%	3%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,257</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>

**Table 4: direct and indirect employment in the seafood sector and proportion of the rural coastal population, labour force and employment by FLAG**

FLAG	Direct and Indirect	% Seafood Population	% Seafood Labour Force	% Seafood Total Employed
North	3,347	4%	10%	12%
North West	1,013	2%	3%	4%
West	1,844	3%	6%	7%
South West	1,650	2%	4%	4%
South	2,888	2%	5%	6%
South East	2,005	2%	5%	5%
North East	2,031	2%	5%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,779</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>

**Table 5: direct, indirect and induced employment in the seafood sector and its proportion of the rural coastal population, labour force and employment by FLAG**

FLAG	Direct, Indirect & Induced	% Seafood Population	% Seafood Labour Force	% Seafood Total Employed
North	5,908	8%	18%	21%
North West	1,801	3%	6%	7%
West	3,028	5%	10%	11%
South West	2,648	3%	6%	7%
South	5,172	4%	9%	10%
South East	3,717	4%	9%	10%
North East	3,726	4%	9%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,999</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>

## Appendix A

**Table 6: CSO statistics by Electoral Areas with BIM estimates for Reference Coastal population, labour force and employment**

Electoral Areas	Total Population	Rural Population	Within 5km	16 Port-towns	Seafood Population	Seafood Labour Force	Seafood Employed	Unemployment Rate
Carlow	56,932	28,928	0	0	0	0	0	8%
Dublin City	554,554	0	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	218,018	2,565	2,215	0	2,215	1,053	974	4%
Fingal	296,020	21,597	12,127	36,066	48,193	24,320	21,811	5%
South Dublin	278,767	5,552	8	0	8	4	3	7%
Kildare	222,504	72,166	0	0	0	0	0	6%
Kilkenny	99,232	60,794	0	0	0	0	0	6%
Laois	84,697	43,718	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Longford	40,873	26,916	0	0	0	0	0	9%
Louth	128,884	43,660	22,252	2,145	24,397	11,429	9,525	8%
Meath	195,044	80,664	8,963	0	8,963	4,310	3,826	5%
Offaly	77,961	44,540	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Westmeath	88,770	45,335	0	0	0	0	0	8%
Wexford	149,722	91,969	39,392	1,620	41,012	18,966	15,821	8%
Wicklow	142,425	49,832	33,428	0	33,428	15,898	13,879	6%
Clare	118,817	72,163	29,323	0	29,323	13,951	12,219	6%
Cork City	125,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Cork County	417,211	202,216	99,567	15,966	115,533	54,879	49,815	4%
Kerry	147,707	95,581	46,953	4,426	51,379	24,323	21,296	6%
Limerick City and County	194,899	89,852	38,943	0	38,943	18,007	15,422	7%
Tipperary	159,553	93,309	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Waterford City and County	116,176	44,630	15,432	1,808	17,240	8,001	6,766	7%
Galway City	78,668	0	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Galway County	179,390	139,477	33,784	1,597	35,381	16,775	14,815	6%
Leitrim	32,044	28,622	1,950	0	1,950	906	774	7%
Mayo	130,507	93,231	25,805	8,193	33,998	15,638	13,400	7%
Roscommon	64,544	47,244	0	0	0	0	0	6%
Sligo	65,535	39,438	26,358	1,753	28,111	12,977	11,154	6%
Cavan	76,176	52,918	0	0	0	0	0	7%
Donegal	159,192	115,778	74,989	0	74,989	33,531	27,488	8%
Monaghan	61,386	43,389	0	0	0	0	0	6%
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>4,761,865</b>	<b>1,776,084</b>	<b>511,490</b>	<b>73,574</b>	<b>585,064</b>	<b>274,967</b>	<b>238,989</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>ROI (millions)</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>6%</b>

## Appendix B

Table 7: CSO statistics and BIM estimates for reference Coastal population, labour force and employment by FLAG region

Fisheries Local Action Group	Total Population	Rural Population	Within 5km	18 Port-towns	Seafood Population	Seafood Labour Force	Seafood Employed	Unemployment Rate
North	159,192	115,778	74,989	0	74,989	33,531	27,488	8%
Northwest	292,630	208,535	54,113	9,946	64,059	29,521	25,328	7%
West	376,875	211,640	63,107	1,597	64,704	30,726	27,034	6%
Southwest	342,606	185,433	85,897	4,426	90,323	42,330	36,718	6%
South	542,868	202,216	99,567	15,966	115,533	54,879	49,815	4%
Southeast	808,737	413,180	88,253	3,428	91,681	42,865	36,467	7%
Northeast	2,238,957	439,302	45,564	38,211	83,775	41,115	36,139	6%
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>4,761,865</b>	<b>1,776,084</b>	<b>511,490</b>	<b>73,574</b>	<b>585,064</b>	<b>274,967</b>	<b>238,989</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>ROI (millions)</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>6%</b>