



Bord Iascaigh Mhara  
Irish Sea Fisheries Board

# A Socio-economic Profile of Ireland's Fishery Harbour Centres

## Castletownbere

A report commissioned by BIM

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May 2013



## 1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assist in policy formulation for the future of Castletownbere Harbour. Castletownbere is one of six major Fishery Harbour Centres in Ireland, the others being Dunmore East, Rossaveal, Killybegs, Howth and Dingle. The report presents a set of background statistics which describe the social and economic characteristics of the Castletownbere Harbour area, as well as providing additional data specific to the fishing industry. The report centres exclusively on the Castletownbere Harbour area, but forms part of a more extensive report on the FLAG South West Region **'A Socio-economic Profile of Ireland's Fishing Communities: The FLAG South West Region including Castletownbere Harbour Centre'**. This report can be accessed at <http://trutzaase.eu/deprivation-index/area-profiles/>.

## 2 Background

Fish and shellfish are landed at the six major Fishery Harbour Centres, at forty secondary ports and a further eighty piers and landing places where fish landings are recorded. Although fishing is of great importance to the local communities that make up the Irish coastal regions, there are few statistics which show the contribution made by fishing and aquaculture to sustainable local development, how this contribution has changed over time, and what the current constraints and opportunities are for the industry and the people involved in it. The purpose of this profile is to fill this knowledge gap using existing data sources.

## 3 Available Data Sources

In outlining the key data sources, we draw closely on Hynes and Farrelly (2012)<sup>1</sup> who have recently undertaken a review of the issues involved in data collection on coastal regions in Ireland. In particular, we follow their three-fold classification of areas: shoreline EDs, coastal counties and EU coast (NUTS3). Whilst, from an EU perspective, coastal regions are defined at the NUTS3 level, Hynes and Farrelly argue that from an Irish policy perspective, the definitions at county and particularly ED level are more important than the European definition of 'coastal' at NUTS3 level, which comprises about 95 per cent of the country's population.

The data presented are drawn from Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) at the level of Electoral Divisions (EDs). Since publication of the 2011 Census of Population, it is possible to analyse data at the level of Small Areas (SA), the new census geography. However, SAs mainly provide a subdivision of urban EDs, offering few additional insights into the predominantly rural areas of the coastal region. It would also restrict the analysis to the 2006 and 2011 censuses. Undertaking the analysis at the ED level, by contrast, allows us to draw on consistent datasets covering the past five census waves, which we believe to be of major significance when analysing the developmental trajectories of coastal communities over a 20-year period.

## 4 Defining Coastal Areas

The data presented here relate to the narrowly-defined major harbour areas, comprising small clusters of EDs. As we noted above, the EU defines coastal regions at NUTS 3 level. Seven out of eight NUTS 3 regions have a shoreline and the Irish Coastal Region, thus defined, would include 94.4 per cent of Ireland's population. When defining coastal regions in terms of counties with a shoreline, Coastal Counties include 22 out of 34 local authority areas, or about three quarters of the Irish

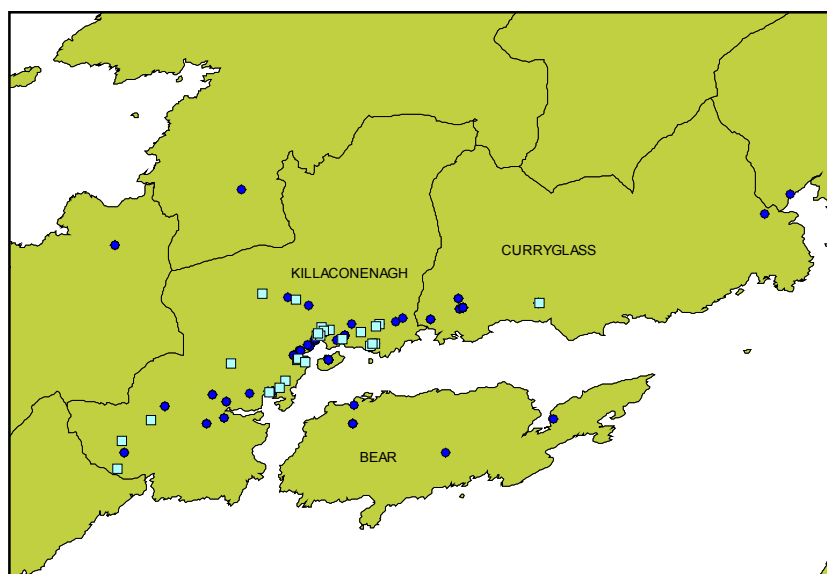
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<sup>1</sup> Hynes, S. and Farrelly, N. (2012) "Defining standard statistical coastal regions for Ireland" in *Marine Policy*, Vol 36, pp. 393-404.

population<sup>2</sup>. Defining coastal regions in terms of a strip of shoreline EDs leads to the identification of 513 out of 3,409 EDs and about one sixth of the population, which provides a more meaningful basis for analysing the key characteristics of Irish fishing communities.

Thus defined the Castletownbere Harbour Area (Figure 1) comprises three EDs: Killaconenagh (18052), Curryglass (18050) and Bear (18048).

**Figure 1: The Castletownbere Harbour Area**



## 5 Key Socio-economic Indicators

In this section we present a series of socio-economic indicators for the Castletownbere Harbour area. The data are based on five successive population censuses, spanning the period from 1991 to 2011. In addition, we report scores for the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, which provide an overall measure of relative affluence/deprivation based on ED-level census indicators.

### 5.1 Population

Ireland experienced sustained population growth between 1991 and 2011, leading to an overall increase of 30.1 per cent. Following a slight decline (just 0.4%) between 1986 and 1991, the population grew by 2.8 per cent during the following inter-censal period and at just over eight per cent in each of the last three periods, including 2006-2011, which coincided with the onset of recession.

**Table 5.1: Population – Castletownbere**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	216	212	207	187	216	.0
Curryglass	317	347	345	362	385	21.5
Killaconenagh	1402	1467	1478	1463	1518	8.3
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>1935</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2119</b>	<b>9.5</b>

<sup>2</sup> Note: whilst using the term ‘counties’, we actually base our calculations on NUTS 4 regions, which are defined as Local Authorities. As the wider Dublin area comprises four such areas, South County Dublin does not have a shoreline and is excluded from the definition of coastal counties.

Population growth in the Castletownbere Harbour area at 9.5 per cent was significantly lower than that observed for the Coastal Counties (23.4%) and Coastal EDs (31.3%) in the South West Region. Within the Castletownbere Harbour area, Curryglass is the only ED in which the population grew by a rate (21.5%) similar to broader trends throughout Ireland and the regions. By contrast, the inner harbour area as described by the Killaconenagh ED had an even lower population growth of 8.3 per cent only, pointing towards a potential underlying weakness of the Castletownbere Harbour area.

## 5.2 Age Dependency Rate

The age dependency rate – defined as the percentage of people aged under 15 or over 64 – provides a proxy for emigration. In Ireland, the response to long-term adverse labour market conditions has long been one of emigration, particularly in rural areas. But emigration is socially and demographically selective, as emigrants tend to be of working age and to be better educated. Thus, long-term adverse labour market conditions in rural areas do not necessarily express themselves through higher unemployment rates, but also in terms of a thinning-out of the working-age cohorts, leading to a higher age dependency rate.

The strong performance of the Irish economy over the 1991 to 2006 period resulted in a steady decline in the age dependency rate from 38.1 per cent in 1991 to 31.4 per cent in 2006. Since the onset of the recession in late 2007, and indicative of a return of emigration, the ratio increased once more to reach 33.0 per cent in 2011.

**Table 5.2: Age Dependency Rate – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	44.0	43.4	39.6	43.3	44.0	.0
Curryglass	46.4	37.2	35.4	34.3	36.1	-10.3
Killaconenagh	44.7	39.0	35.3	33.6	35.1	-9.6
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>-8.7</b>

The age dependency rate for the Castletownbere Harbour area was initially higher than that of the Coastal EDs (40.1%) as a whole and that of the FLAG South West Region (40.4%). Starting at 44.9 per cent in 1991, the rate fell to 34.6 per cent in 2006 before increasing to 36.2 per cent in 2011, marginally above the regional rate (35.0%).

## 5.3 Lone Parent Rate

The proportion of lone parents (as a proportion of all households with dependent children) has doubled over the past 20 years in Ireland, growing from 10.7 per cent in 1991 to 21.6 per cent in 2011. There are marked differences between urban and rural areas, and lone parent rates in the major cities are twice the national average (e.g. Limerick City, 37.5%).

**Table 5.3: Lone Parent Rate – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	5.0	14.3	23.5	36.8	31.6	26.6
Curryglass	10.7	17.6	10.3	17.1	13.5	2.8
Killaconenagh	14.0	11.9	17.4	22.2	25.6	11.7
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>11.3</b>

Lone parent rates in the Castletownbere Harbour area were initially higher (12.7%) than the regional rate and continued to grow in line with the regional rate, thus reaching 22.7 per cent in 2006 and 24.1 per cent in 2011; 4.9 percentage points above the average for the South West region (19.2%).

## 5.4 Population with Primary Education only

There has been continuous improvement in education attainments amongst the adult population of Ireland over the past 20 years. In 1991, 36.7 per cent of those who had completed their education never went beyond primary school. This figure had halved by 2006 (18.9%) and fell further to reach 16.0 per cent in 2011.

**Table 5.4: Population with Primary Education only – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	51.7	46.6	41.6	29.7	23.7	-28.0
Curryglass	43.0	33.8	21.8	21.8	13.8	-29.3
Killaconenagh	32.4	27.1	20.7	20.7	16.9	-15.4
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>-19.4</b>

The educational attainments of the adult population in the Castletownbere Harbour area as a whole are in line with those for Ireland as a whole. In 1991, more than one-third (36.5%) of those who had completed education had primary education only. This rate more than halved over the next 20 years, reaching 17.1 per cent in 2011, just marginally above the nationally prevailing rate (16.0%).

## 5.5 Population with Third-level Education

The situation is roughly analogous as far as third-level education is concerned, as the percentage of people who continued their studies beyond secondary school has more than doubled over the past 20 years. In 1991, 13.0 per cent of people in Ireland who had completed their education had attended a third-level institution. This grew to 30.5 per cent in 2006, but increased only marginally between 2006 and 2011, when it reached 30.6 per cent.

**Table 5.5: Population with Third-level Education – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	9.7	14.4	16.1	21.9	27.6	17.9
Curryglass	7.5	13.3	18.4	27.5	23.2	15.7
Killaconenagh	12.0	18.4	22.8	25.5	22.5	10.5
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>

The Castletownbere Harbour area has a slightly lower proportion of adults with third-level education, which mirrors the data presented earlier in relation to the proportion with low levels of education. The percentage with higher education rose from 10.9 per cent in 1991 to 23.2 per cent in 2011, an increase of just 12.2 percentage points, compared to 17.8 percentage points regionally and 17.5 percentage points nationally.

## 5.6 Proportion of Adult Population in Professional Classes

The changes in social class composition experienced throughout Ireland over the past 20 years largely parallel those in educational achievement, with a gradual increase in the number of professionals and a significant decline in the proportion of semi- and unskilled manual workers. At national level, the proportion of professionals rose from 25.2 per cent in 1991 to 34.6 per cent in 2011, an increase of 9.5 percentage points. The South West Region experienced the second slowest growth (8.5%) in professionals amongst the FLAG regions over the 20-year period.

The Castletownbere Harbour area experienced an even lower increase in the proportion of professionals (7.7%) throughout the 20-year period. In addition, this growth applies to an already lower base, starting from 21.0 per cent in 1991 and rising to 28.7 per cent in 2011, resulting in a proportion nearly six percentage points below the rate for the coastal EDs of the South West Region.

**Table 5.6: Proportion of Adult Population in Professional Classes – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	11.1	25.0	26.1	31.6	36.1	25.0
Curryglass	16.1	21.0	31.6	33.4	28.8	12.7
Killaconenagh	23.6	26.9	26.4	28.8	27.6	4.0
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>

## 5.7 Proportion of Adult Population in Semi- and Unskilled Manual Classes

Mirroring the gradual increase in the number of professionals, the past two decades have seen a significant decline in the proportion of semi- and unskilled manual workers. At national level, the proportion of people living in households where the reference person was classified as part of the semi- and unskilled classes declined from 28.2 per cent in 1991 to 17.5 per cent in 2011, representing a decline of 10.6 percentage points.

**Table 5.7: Proportion of Population in Semi- and Unskilled Classes – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	59.7	47.2	39.2	18.8	25.4	-34.3
Curryglass	37.1	41.9	28.1	26.0	26.4	-10.7
Killaconenagh	21.3	33.3	31.8	27.4	27.5	6.2
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

In the Castletownbere Harbour area the semi-and unskilled social classes are more prevalent and reflect the nature of the local labour force. In this area the share of people in these classes declined by 1.1 percentage points only over the 20-year period, from 28.1 per cent in 1991 to 27.0 per cent in 2011. The latter figure remains significantly higher than that observed in the coastal counties (17.3%), the shoreline EDs (18.0%) or Ireland as a whole (17.5%).

## 5.8 Male Unemployment

Of all census indicators used in the development of the HP Deprivation Index, the economic downturn after 2007 most strongly affected the unemployment rates. Unemployment broadly halved over the 15-year period from 1991 to 2006, but the very rapid subsequent increase has pushed the unemployment rates above their 1991 levels. Nationally, the male unemployment rate fell from 18.4 per cent in 1991 to 8.8 per cent in 2006, before rising to 22.3 per cent in 2011.

**Table 5.8: Male Unemployment Rates – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	32.8	21.2	12.5	10.0	14.3	-18.6
Curryglass	11.0	5.2	4.0	8.2	10.8	-.2
Killaconenagh	6.7	7.8	5.7	4.9	11.9	5.3
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>

The Castletownbere Harbour area had a distinctly more positive employment experience compared to Ireland as a whole over the 20-year period. In 1991, male unemployment at 10.8 per cent was about half the rate found at the national level (18.4%). Despite the low starting base, male unemployment fell to 6.0 per cent in 2006. Since the downturn in economic fortunes, male unemployment rates in Castletownbere have climbed back to 11.9 per cent, 1.1 percentage points above their 1991 levels. This, however, compares to a rate of 22.3 per cent for the country as a whole.

## 5.9 Female Unemployment

Female unemployment rates are considerably lower than the male rates, but did not fall at the same pace during the economic boom, primarily due to the rise in female labour force participation. Nationally, the female unemployment rate fell from 14.1 per cent in 1991 to 8.1 per cent in 2006, and nearly doubled by 2011, accounting for 15.0 per cent of the economically-active female population.

**Table 5.9: Female Unemployment Rates – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	23.1	12.5	5.0	3.0	8.0	-15.1
Curryglass	7.4	11.8	3.6	12.5	14.1	6.7
Killaconenagh	10.3	11.0	8.2	6.5	12.3	1.9
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>

As was the case with respect to male unemployment, the female unemployment rates for the Castletownbere Harbour area have been persistently lower than the respective rates for Ireland as a whole. In 1991, female unemployment stood at 10.8 per cent in the Castletownbere Harbour area, falling to 7.0 per cent in 2006 and rising again to 12.1 per cent in 2011, 1.3 percentage points above the 1991 figure, but still below the rate for the South West Region (14.1%) and (15.0%) nationally.

## 5.10 Housing

The last socio-economic indicator that we will discuss is the provision of local authority housing.

**Table 5.10: Local Authority Housing – Castletownbere (%)**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	1.2	1.9	2.6	2.6	3.3	2.1
Curryglass	.0	.0	.0	.8	.7	.7
Killaconenagh	5.7	7.1	8.4	8.2	7.6	1.9
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>

Overall, the Castletownbere Harbour area has a lower level of local authority accommodation than found at the level of coastal counties, shoreline EDs or in Ireland as a whole. In 1991, local authority rented housing accounted for just 4.1 per cent of all accommodation in the Castletownbere Harbour area. In contrast to the general decreasing proportions at coastal county level and in Ireland as a whole, the share of local authority housing increased in the Castletownbere Harbour area by 1.8 percentage point, but with 5.9 per cent in 2011 still remained below the regional level.

## 5.11 Relative Affluence and Deprivation

In the previous ten sections, we analysed developments in relation to ten socio-economic indicators of relative affluence and deprivation over the past twenty years, as they apply to the country as a whole and the Castletownbere Harbour area. In this section, we draw these observations together to form a single multivariate index, the Pobal HP Deprivation Index. The Index is well-established throughout Ireland and used across a large number of Government Departments and State Agencies and in the community sector. Attention, however, is drawn to the fact that the present report is based on the analysis carried out at the level of Electoral Divisions (ED), and differs from that based on the new census geography of Small Areas (SA), developed jointly by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and displayed on the Pobal Maps and AIRO websites<sup>3</sup>. We present a comparison of the de-trended HP scores which are centred on zero for each census wave and have a standard deviation of ten.

<sup>3</sup> <http://maps.pobal.ie/#> and <http://airomaps.nuim.ie/flexviewer/?config=AIDeplIndex.xml>.

**Table 5.11: Relative Affluence and Deprivation – Castletownbere**

Castletownbere	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Bear	-11.8	-8.0	-8.4	-7.3	2.3	14.1
Curryglass	-1.9	6.3	5.3	-1.3	4.5	6.4
Killaconenagh	8.0	6.6	3.2	.8	2.7	-5.3
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

The Castletownbere Harbour area is slightly more affluent than the South West Region or the country as a whole. In 1991, the Relative HP Index score for the Castletownbere Harbour area was 4.1, which means that the area was marginally above the average by national comparison. Over the 20-year period the score declined by 1.1 points, reaching an Index score of 3.0 in 2011, which would still classify the area in the same category. It is also worth noting that of the three EDs which make up the Castletownbere Harbour area, Bear was initially significantly more disadvantaged (-11.8), but has markedly improved over the 20-year time span to reach an Index score of 2.3 in 2011.

## 6 Indicators specific to the Fishing Industry

This section provides additional data on the Fishing Industry. Data are provided for the number of vessel owners and the tonnage of the fishing fleet as well as the number of enterprises involved in fishing-related industries.

### 6.1 Fishing Vessels Owners

Information on the number of fishing vessel owners and the tonnage of the fishing fleet is provided in the annual listing of fishing vessel owners compiled by the Department of Agriculture<sup>4</sup>. By the end of 2012, Ireland had just under 2,200 owners of fishing vessels, with a combined tonnage of nearly 65,000 gross tons.

**Table 6.1: Owners and Tonnage of Fishing Vessels – Castletownbere**

Castletownbere	Number of Owners	Owners %	Owners per 1,000 Population	Tonnage gross-tons	Tonnage %	Tonnage per 1,000 Population
Bear	6	.3	28	11	0.0	51
Curryglass	20	.9	52	1185	1.8	3079
Killaconenagh	78	3.6	51	5956	9.2	3923
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7152</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>3375</b>

Although Castletownbere is the region's major harbour area, only 104 out of 706 (or about one seven) of the region's vessel owners live in the immediate harbour area (predominantly in Killaconenagh).

In terms of the number of owners per 1,000 population, fishing is about one hundred times more important to the local economy as for Ireland as a whole, twenty times more important than for the shoreline EDs, and more than thirteen times as important compared to the shoreline EDs of the South West region. There are about five vessel owners per hundred population, compared to about one per hundred population in Rossaveal and Dunmore East, thus pointing to the relative importance of fishing to the local economy.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fleet/index.cfm> , accessed in January 2013.



## 6.2 Number of Firms in Fishing-related Industries

The data used to construct Table 6.2 are based on an analysis of the NACE categorisation contained in the Geodirectory. There are four NACE codes which relate to fishing industries:

- NACE A.03.10: Fishing
- NACE A.03.21: Aquaculture
- NACE C.10.20: Processing
- NACE G.46.38: Wholesale

For Ireland as a whole, the Geodirectory identifies 371 commercial address points which are related to the four fishing industries comprising 128 fishing companies, 92 companies involved in aquaculture, 88 in fish processing and 63 wholesalers of fish products.

**Table 6.2: Number of Firms in Fishing-related Industries – Castletownbere**

Castletownbere	Fishing #	Aqua- culture #	Process- ing #	Whole- sale #	Fishing per m capita	Aqua- culture per m capita	Process- ing per m capita	Whole- sale per m capita
Bear	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curryglass	1	0	0	0	2597	0	0	0
Killaconenagh	25	0	0	0	16469	0	0	0
<b>Castletownbere</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12270</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The South West Region comprises only 90 of the 371 fishing related industries and, in turn, only a few of these are situated in the Castletownbere Harbour area. The final table shows the number of fishing-related enterprises in the Castletownbere Harbour area. This area hosts 26 fishing businesses, all but one are located in Killaconenagh ED. Whilst these are small numbers in absolute terms, the fact that they account for 123 firms per 10,000 capita in fishing shows their significant importance to the local economy.