

# 1(H) Productive Investment - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

Proportion of Fishers, Farmers and Agriculture Workers in the Following Regions			
Area	Fishers as % of Workers	Farmers as % of Workers	Farmers, Agri-workers and Fishers as % of Workers
Cork Coastal Areas	1.46%	14.49%	20.05%
<b>County Kerry</b>	<b>0.60%</b>	<b>15.09%</b>	<b>18.77%</b>
County Galway	0.68%	18.76%	22.04%
County Donegal	1.70%	9.62%	13.63%
<b>Total Fishing Areas</b>	<b>1.09%</b>	<b>14.66%</b>	<b>18.77%</b>
State	0.22%	7.62%	10.25%

Source: CSO Census 1996 (A Socio-Economic Study of Fisheries in Counties Cork, Donegal, Kerry and Galway) Marine Institute 2000.

## 1(H.1) Fishing

### National

Sea Fishing - Fisheries play an important role in the economy of the western seaboard of Ireland.

Fishermen as % of Total Population in Cork, Donegal, Kerry, Galway and the State 1966 - 1996					
	Donegal	Galway	Kerry	Cork	State
<b>1966</b>	0.43%	0.12%	<b>0.24%</b>	0.10%	0.08%
<b>1971</b>	0.62%	0.16%	<b>0.28%</b>	0.10%	0.09%
<b>1981</b>	0.58%	0.18%	<b>0.26%</b>	0.08%	0.07%
<b>1991</b>	0.68%	0.22%	<b>0.24%</b>	0.14%	0.09%
<b>1996</b>	0.52%	0.17%	<b>0.21%</b>	0.15%	0.08%

Source: CSO

In 1997 there were 4,790 employed full-time in sea fishing in Ireland. In 1996 the four counties in the table above had a total of 1,860 persons employed in fishing, which is 40% of the total state employment in fishing.

Sea Fisheries Employment in Cork, Donegal, Kerry and Galway 1966 - 1996				
	Donegal Total Persons	Galway Total Persons	Kerry Total Persons	Cork Total Persons
<b>1966</b>	469	181	<b>276</b>	340
<b>1971</b>	673	243	<b>315</b>	339
<b>1981</b>	730	304	<b>315</b>	339
<b>1991</b>	693	395	<b>298</b>	592
<b>1996</b>	676	314	<b>259</b>	612

Source: CSO

### Employment in Co. Kerry

There are approx. 3,295 indirectly and directly employed in the fishing industry in Co. Kerry representing 13.18% of the national figure of 25,000

*(This figure includes fishing, aquaculture, processing, ancillary sectors, as well as spin off employment)*

(Source: National Investment Priorities for the Irish Seafood Industry 2000-2006)

Demersal, Shellfish and Pelagic are the main types fished in Dingle and Valentia.

### Employment in the Fish Processing Industry in Ireland

Fish processing output amounted to 145,000 tonnes in 1997 and is valued at IR£213 million. These firms are mainly located around the coastline and there are about 220 companies employing some 5000 persons. Sixteen percent of the employees in Kerry work less than 20 weeks in the year.

	40+ weeks	30-40 weeks	20-30 weeks	10-20 weeks	<10 weeks	Total	Person Year employment (Year=46wks)
<b>Cork</b>	243	29	32	163	189	656	356
<b>Donegal</b>	506	336	302	309	243	1696	1053
<b>Galway</b>	112	27	63	100	22	324	202
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Total</b>	998	395	634	592	508	3127	1891
<b>State</b>	2111	506	785	802	716	4920	3262

Source: BIM

### Fisheries

#### North Kerry

In the past two years the pier at Fenit has been extended and the harbour extensively dredged. Irish Baltic trading was established in Fenit in 1998. It is involved in the export of white fish to France. There are three permanent and seven part-time employees. The company also berths French fishing vessels.

Exports through the port are now confined to cranes. The sole import is oil as the import of coal was discontinued in 1997.

#### West Kerry

Waters surrounding the Dingle peninsula support highly diverse marine ecosystem including a wide range of commercial fish and shellfish. Dingle is one of Ireland's major fishing ports and fish processing is the major employer in the area. Fish and Shellfish landings in 1997 were estimated to have a value of over £8m, this increased to £10m in 1999.

There is a fleet of 12 boats based in Dingle harbour that fish a long distance from the coast. The main catches are white fish, tuna, herring. These boats are between 22 - 30 metres, with 100 people employed full time on them. There are 7 boats /trawlers fishing mainly near the coast in Dingle Bay and around the peninsula. Seasonal employment is given by salmon fishing from Ballydavid and Brandon. Twenty boats land a catch worth £300,000 per annum and employ about 40 people on a part-time basis. There are also approx 40 small boats contributing to an additional £740,00 per annum in the peninsula.

The main concerns of the fishing industry: European policy, there is concern over large decrease in the fish stock due to the stiff competition from other areas of EU and new technologies that enables fishermen to be more efficient.

### South Kerry

South Kerry, being comprised of peninsulas, is bounded by approximately 300 kilometres of coastline, fishing and aquaculture is of considerable economic importance to outlying rural communities. It is estimated that there are at present some 300 - 400 Irish and foreign fishing vessels operating yearly off the Irish coastline. A high proportion of these are working in the Atlantic just beyond the Kerry coast. This represents a large potential market for servicing.

Commercial fishing activity in South Kerry is limited to in-shore vessels potting for lobster, crab and shrimp, netting for crawfish, whitefish and salmon in the summer. During the winter this activity is replaced by dredging for scallop and mussel.

Table 18 (Table 40 of Kerry Atlas)

Fishing catches in tonnage and value 1996-1998 by major fisheries port and compared to Ireland			
Port	1996 Tonnage	1997 Tonnage	1998 Tonnage
Dingle	7,090	7,953	8,548
Castlegregory	288	246	243
Fenit	2,069	701	1,216
Valentia	1,233	989	649
<b>Co. Kerry</b>	<b>10,680</b>	<b>9,889</b>	<b>10,656</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>332,392</b>	<b>291,133</b>	<b>324,843</b>
<b>% of Ireland</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Port	1996 Value (000)	1997 Value (000)	1998 Value (000)
Dingle	6,705	8,113	10,026
Castlegregory	694	470	397
Fenit	1,285	884	736
Valentia	2,048	1,600	1,150
<b>Co. Kerry</b>	<b>10,732</b>	<b>11,067</b>	<b>12,309</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>132,939</b>	<b>132,208</b>	<b>152,418</b>
<b>% of Ireland</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

Source: Central Statistics Office. Website: [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) (August, 2000)

*The most interesting point to emerge from data presented is that although Co. Kerry is responsible for 3.2% - 3.4% of the national catch its proportion of the national value of fish caught is much higher at 8.1% - 8.4%. This indicates that much of the fish caught by trawlers operating from Co. Kerry are of high value.*

Approx Value (IR£)	Caught in Kerry
Demersal	= £5,840,298.40
Pelagic	= £5,735,632.00

- 25 processors based in County Kerry (20 of these export)
- One Irish seaweed processor based in Kerry.
- 40% of Pelagic = (£2,294,252.80) are processed locally
- 20% of Demersal = (£1,168,059.60) are processed locally

## Summary

- **There are 3,295 employed in fishery and related industries in Kerry.**
- **Co. Kerry is responsible for 3.2% - 3.4% of the national catch its proportion of the national value of fish caught is much higher at 8.1% - 8.4%. This indicates that much of the fish caught by trawlers operating from Co. Kerry are of high value.**