A Socio-economic Profile of Ireland's Fishing Communities

Greencastle Harbour

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assist in policy formulation for the future of Greencastle Harbour. Greencastle is one of Ireland's major harbours, along with the six designated Fisheries Harbour Centres of Killybegs, Dunmore East, Rossaveal, Castletownbere, Howth and Dingle. The report presents a set of background statistics which describe the social and economic characteristics of the Greencastle Harbour area, as well as providing additional data specific to the fishing industry. The report centres exclusively on the Greencastle Harbour area, but additional information on the region can be found in a more extensive report on the FLAG North Region ***'A Socio-economic Profile of Ireland's Fishing Communities: The FLAG North Region including Killybegs Harbour Centre'.*** This report can be accessed at http://trutzhaase.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)1 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

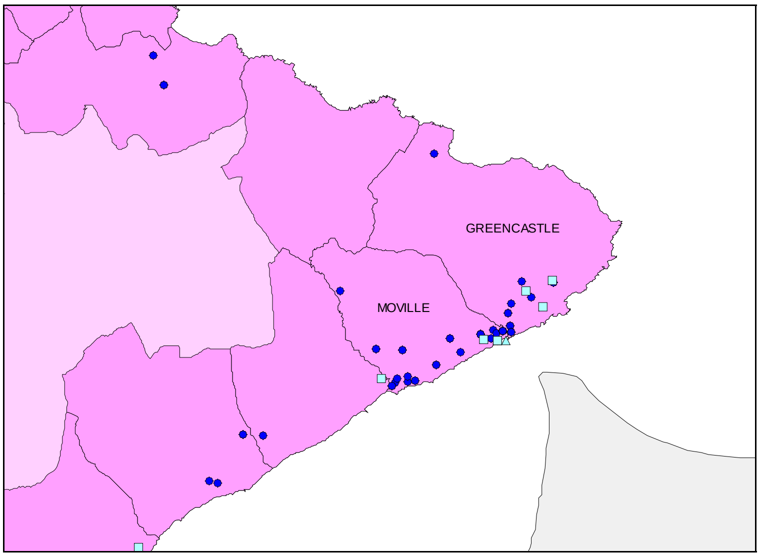
The data presented here relate to the narrowly-defined major Harbour areas, comprising small clusters of EDs. As we noted above, the EU defines coastal regions at NUTS 3 level. Seven out of eight NUTS 3 regions have a shoreline and the Irish Coastal Region, thus defined, would include 94.4 per cent of 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

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

population[2]. 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 Greencastle Harbour area (Figure 1) comprises two EDs - Greencastle (33082) and Moville (33089) - both of which are located in County Donegal.

Figure 1: The Greencastle Harbour Area



5 Key Socio-economic Indicators

In this section we present a series of socio-economic indicators for the Greencastle 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.

Population growth in the North region was significantly below the national average. Measured at the level of coastal counties, the 20-year growth in the North was 25.8 per cent compared to 30.1 per cent nationally and, when measured at the level of coastal EDs, it was 19.1 per cent compared to 37.1 per cent for the coastal EDs as a whole. The latter constituted by far the lowest rate amongst the FLAG regions.

[2] 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.

Table 5.1: Population – Greencastle

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	740	683	747	807	973	31.5
Moville	2,150	2,136	2,279	2,174	2,343	9.0
Greencastle	**2,890**	**2,819**	**3,026**	**2,981**	**3,316**	**14.7**

Against this backdrop, the Greencastle Harbour area has experienced a population growth of 14.7 per cent over the 20-year period, which is about half the nationally experienced growth (30.1%) and more than ten percentage points below the rate experienced in the North region (25.8%).

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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	43.9	39.2	37.3	34.6	36.9	-7.0
Moville	42.7	39.6	37.4	35.0	36.8	-5.9
Greencastle	**43.0**	**39.5**	**37.4**	**34.9**	**36.8**	**-6.2**

The age dependency rate for the Greencastle Harbour area was slightly above that of the coastal EDs or Ireland as a whole during the last 20 years, but closely resembling that of the FLAG North region. Starting at 43.0 per cent in 1991, this rate fell to 34.9 per cent in 2006 before increasing to 36.8 per cent in 2011, compared to 36.3 per cent regionally.

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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	8.2	12.2	9.9	11.9	12.6	4.4
Moville	7.8	10.9	15.8	19.9	23.2	15.4
Greencastle	**7.9**	**11.2**	**14.4**	**17.8**	**20.1**	**12.1**

Overall, lone parent rates in the Greencastle Harbour area were marginally below the regional rates and slightly lower than the rates for the coastal counties or Ireland as a whole. Starting at 7.9 per cent in 1991, the lone parent rate rose to 17.8 per cent in 2006 before reaching 20.1 per cent in 2011; 2.9 percentage points below the FLAG North region and 1.5 percentage points below the national average. This is an unusually high proportion of lone parents in an essentially very remote rural location.

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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	53.3	46.7	33.1	25.9	22.6	-30.7
Moville	49.1	39.7	30.7	27.6	23.8	-25.3
Greencastle	**50.2**	**41.4**	**31.3**	**27.2**	**23.5**	**-26.7**

The educational attainments of the adult population in the Greencastle Harbour area are significantly lower than those for coastal counties (15.8%) or shoreline EDs (16.5%) as a whole, but broadly in line with the regional experience (26.0%). In 1991, half (50.2%) of those who had completed education had a primary education only. This rate more than halved over the next 20 years to reach 23.5 per cent in 2011. Whilst this marks a significant improvement, the resulting rate nevertheless remains more than seven percentage points above the national average (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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	6.4	15.3	23.0	29.2	29.8	23.5
Moville	10.1	16.0	20.6	24.5	24.5	14.4
Greencastle	**9.1**	**15.9**	**21.1**	**25.7**	**26.0**	**16.9**

Mirroring the data presented above in relation to primary education only, the Greencastle Harbour area initially also had a significantly lower proportion of adults with third-level education. In the subsequent 20 years, the share rose from 9.1 per cent in 1991 to 26.0 per cent in 2011, an increase of 16.9 percentage points, and thus increasing the proportion of the adult population with third-level education in the area to a level between the regional rate (23.5%) on the one hand, and the levels for coastal counties (31.9%), shoreline EDs (29.4%) or Ireland (30.6%) on the other.

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.

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

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	22.4	25.8	32.1	33.1	38.5	16.1
Moville	21.9	23.6	27.8	29.6	29.7	7.8
Greencastle	**22.0**	**24.2**	**28.8**	**30.5**	**32.3**	**10.2**

The Greencastle Harbour area has a marginally-below-average share of its adult population in the professional classes. Starting from 22.0 per cent in 1991, the share rose to 32.3 per cent in 2011, just 2.4 percentage points below the national rate (34.6%) and 3.4 percentage points above the regional rate (28.8%).

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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	33.9	39.2	34.8	27.4	25.0	-8.9
Moville	30.3	34.0	27.4	26.4	22.0	-8.3
Greencastle	**31.2**	**35.2**	**29.3**	**26.6**	**22.9**	**-8.3**

The semi-and unskilled social classes are slightly more prevalent in the Greencastle Harbour area and reflect the nature of the local labour force. Although the share of people in these classes declined from 31.2 per cent in 1991 to 22.9 per cent in 2011 (8.3 percentage points), the latter figure remains some five percentage points above the national rate (17.5%) or that observed for the coastal EDs (18.0%), but just 1.4 percentage points higher than the regional rate (21.5%).

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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	19.9	19.4	12.4	13.7	23.4	3.5
Moville	29.0	25.7	14.8	14.1	35.6	6.6
Greencastle	**26.6**	**24.1**	**14.2**	**14.0**	**32.1**	**5.5**

The Greencastle Harbour area has had a less favourable employment experience compared to that of the coastal counties, shoreline EDs or Ireland as a whole, but closely resembles that of the North region. Male unemployment in 1991 was at 26.6 per cent, well above the national rate of 18.4 per cent but slightly below the regional rate of 29.3 per cent. By 2006, the rate had fallen to 14.0 per cent. Since the downturn in economic fortunes, male unemployment rates in the Greencastle Harbour area have more than doubled to 32.1 per cent, 5.5 percentage points above their 1991 levels. This compares to a rate of 22.0 per cent for the coastal counties, 23.9 per cent for the shoreline EDs and 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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	13.8	16.9	14.1	13.3	15.3	1.5
Moville	15.1	17.7	14.5	11.7	21.5	6.3
Greencastle	**14.8**	**17.5**	**14.4**	**12.1**	**19.8**	**5.0**

The female unemployment rates for the Greencastle Harbour area have initially been slightly below the regional rate, but in line with the respective rates for coastal counties, shoreline EDs and Ireland. Starting at 14.8 per cent in 1991, the rate fell to 12.1 per cent in 2006 but subsequently rose to 19.8 per cent in 2011. This is almost identical to the regional rate (19.4%), but slightly above the respective rates for coastal counties (14.6%), shoreline EDs (15.8%) and Ireland (15.0%) as a whole.

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 – Greencastle (%)

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	2.7	4.0	5.2	6.3	4.5	1.8
Moville	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.7	11.9	6.2
Greencastle	**4.9**	**5.5**	**6.0**	**5.8**	**9.9**	**5.0**

Local authority accommodation in the Greencastle Harbour area has seen a significant growth from 4.9 per cent in 1991 to 9.9 per cent in 2011. Thus by the end of the 20-year period the level of local authority housing is higher than in the North region (7.7%), coastal counties (7.9%), shoreline EDs (7.3%) and Ireland as a whole (7.9%).

5.11 Relative Affluence and Deprivation

In the previous sections, we analysed developments in relation to ten socio-economic indicators of relative affluence and deprivation over the past 20 years, as they apply to the country as a whole and the Greencastle 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), as displayed on the Pobal Maps and AIRO websites[3]. 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.

[3] http://maps.pobal.ie/# and http://airomaps.nuim.ie/flexviewer/?config=AIDepIndex.xml.

Table 5.11: Relative Affluence and Deprivation – Greencastle

Greencastle	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011	Change 1991-2011
Greencastle	-8.0	-7.8	-4.6	-3.8	.3	8.2
Moville	-7.5	-8.1	-7.6	-8.0	-8.8	-1.3
Greencastle	**-7.7**	**-8.0**	**-6.8**	**-6.8**	**-6.1**	**1.5**

The Greencastle Harbour area is a marginally disadvantaged area. In 1991, the Relative HP Index score for the area was -7.7, i.e. slightly less disadvantaged than the FLAG North region (-10.2). Over the 20-year period the situation marginally improved and by 2011 the HP Index score was -6.1, and above the regional score which had also improved to -7.8 at the same time. Of the two EDs making up the Greencastle Harbour area, Moville is now distinctly more disadvantaged, with an Index score of -8.8, compared to 0.3 for Greencastle ED.

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[4]. 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 – Greencastle

Greencastle	Number of Owners	Owners %	Owners per 1,000 Population	Tonnage gross-tons	Tonnage %	Tonnage per 1,000 Population
Greencastle	12	.55	12	2,172	3.37	2,233
Moville	39	1.78	17	3,676	5.70	1,569
Greencastle	51	2.32	15	5,848	9.06	1,764

Besides Killybegs, Greencastle is the second most important landing place in the FLAG North region and 51 out of 393 (or one in six) of the region's vessel owners live in the immediate Greencastle harbour area. In terms of the number of owners per 1,000 population, fishing is more than thirty times more important to the local economy than for Ireland as a whole, more than six times more important than for the shoreline EDs, and about four times as important compared to the shoreline EDs of the North region. This being said, there are less than two vessel owner per hundred population, or about one in thirty households.

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

[4] Available at http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fleet/index.cfm , accessed in January 2013.

In total, the Geodirectory identifies 371 commercial address points which are related to the four fishing industries. Of these, 323 (87.3%) are located within the coastal counties that make up the six FLAG regions. Expressed as a density measure, there is approximately one fishing-related industry per 10,000 people. The North region comprises 68 of the 371 fishing related industries and, in turn, only a small proportion of these are situated in the Greencastle Harbour area.

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

Greencastle	Fishing	Aqua-culture	Process-ing	Whole-sale	Fishing	Aqua-culture	Process-ing	Whole-sale
	#	#	#	#	per m capita	per m capita	per m capita	per m capita
Greencastle	3	0	1	0	3,083	0	1,028	0
Moville	4	0	0	0	1,707	0	0	0
Greencastle	**7**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2,111**	**0**	**302**	**0**

The final table shows the number of fishing-related enterprises in the Greencastle Harbour area. The area hosts seven fishing businesses, four in Moville and three in Greencastle (ED) and one fish-processing firm in Greencastle. The fact that seven out of 128 of fishing businesses are located in Greencastle Harbour area points to the relative importance of the sector to the local economy, though the data does not provide information about the contribution that these firms make to local employment.