Exploring Our Marine

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Coastal Communities

- In Ireland, 1.9 million people live within 5km of the coast. Many communities along the Irish coast depend on industries such as tourism, fishing and aquaculture.
- Ireland's scenic coastline, rocky escarpments and beaches attract many visitors. Tourism and leisure in marine and coastal areas provides employment for over 18,000 people.
- The Irish coastline is dotted with inlets, piers and harbours. In many rural communities, fishermen use small vessels to catch lobsters, crabs, oysters, scallop, razor fish and clams.
- The seafood industry is an integral part of Ireland's coastal communities, with high levels of employment in coastal regions in Donegal, Cork, Galway and Clare.
- Oysters, salmon and mussels are sustainably farmed around the Irish coast. Ireland's aquaculture sector produces about 38,000 tonnes each year, providing a valuable food product as well as employment in coastal communities.
- Seaweed harvesting is a traditional activity in Ireland which also generates income and offers employment in coastal areas, particularly in counties Galway, Donegal, Sligo, Kerry and Cork.
- Climate change impacts pose significant challenges to coastal communities. Such impacts include rising sea levels, coastal erosion, flooding, and an increase in extreme weather events.
- The Marine Institute supports Ireland's coastal communities and economies, through our research, infrastructure and advisory services.

The Marine Institute is Ireland's national agency responsible for marine research, technology development and innovation. By building ocean knowledge and delivering ocean services, the Institute aims to empower Ireland and its people to safeguard and harness our ocean wealth.

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