

Forbairt Pobal Teanga Cultúr

Ag obair ar son phobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge

**I-CoNet/Encora Conference
Cork**

Friday, 13th April 2007

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Our approach to date:

- Support for local and rural development initiatives
- Supports for the development of SMEs
- Support for business infrastructure including broadband
- Focus on the development of certain sectors:
 - Cultural Tourism
 - IT and Technology Development
 - Natural Resource Development, for example

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Údarás na Gaeltachta:

- Statutory Mandate
- Responsible for economic, cultural and social development
- Integrated approach
- Regional Implementation of National Strategy

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Investment in Marine Related Projects:

- Fish processing industry and added value
- Aquaculture Initiatives
- Marine-based Tourism
- Taighde Mara Teo: applied research and technical supports

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Overall Objective of Údarás na Gaeltachta:

“Sustaining communities, maintaining language”

Vibrant, self-sustaining rural and coastal communities are critical to the prospects for language maintenance and development

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Human Heritage and the Gaeltacht Community:

- An Ghaeilge agus oidhreacht na Gaeltachta
- Downward pressure from significant increase in non-local population
- Holiday Homes and ‘absenteeism’
- Politicisation of Language
- Planning Policies and Withdrawal of Services

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Government decision to ban drift-net fishery

- Direct impact on 36 license holders
- Their crews
- Their families
- The local community

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Wild Salmon Fishery in Corca Dhuibhne:

- Total landed value of the salmon catch in 2005 was €10,000
- Average value of the catch per licence being €15,600.
- Iasc Uí Mhathúna Teo., De Brún Iasc Teo. and Ó Cátháin Iasc Teo. provide employment for almost 100 local people.

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Poses Significant Challenges to Policy Makers and Development Practitioners

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- This employment generates an annual income of approximately €1.1m. in the region.
- In 2005 the total number of salmon processed was approximately 16,000.
- Total revenue to the processors of approximately €1.8m on salmon products.

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Who is responsible for managing and replacing this deficit in the local economy?

- Compensation Fund
- Inter-agency approach required
- Foras na Mara, BIM, Taighde Mara Teo., Regional Fisheries Board, Údarás na Gaeltachta

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Local community demand responses to deliver:

- new long-term, sustainable business opportunities
- marine-based, drawing on local skills and expertise and traditions
- investment rather than 'compensation'

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From an Údarás perspective:

- Development Strategy for Cultural Tourism in place
- Marine Development Strategy in preparation
- Liaison and co-ordination of local response and maximising benefits from NDP provisions, Cawley and MTL Policies

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Alternatives are not obvious and difficult to 'sell'

- Marine based leisure and tourism
- New species development
- Ranching
- Seaweed and Aquaculture
- Marine Services, for example

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Future Prospects:

- Integrated Management of the Coastal and Marine Resource
- Investment in skills and research development
- Reworking attitudes and expectations
- Fuller realisation of the marine resource

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Response by way of:

- Continuing Research and modelling of best practice
- Local coalitions of interest and partnerships
- Pump-priming investment in new approaches do development
- Training and re-skilling of local community

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