

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	The Development of a Consensus Based Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Bantry Bay
Country:	Ireland
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch:	1997
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 97/IRL/209/LBL
Lead partner:	Cork County Council
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Project website:	www.ucc.ie/ucc/research/crc/life.html
Project area:	Bantry Bay. The Charter area stretches from Dursey Island to Sheeps Head covering over 200 kilometres of coastline.
Area size (land):	[in hectare]
(water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	10,000 people
Policy background:	Cork County Council selected Bantry Bay as a pilot area to test participatory approaches to coastal management. Bantry Bay forms a natural entity for a coastal management effort, and the project area is bounded inland by the watershed. Bantry Bay is an area of outstanding scenic landscapes, housing Ireland's state oil transshipment terminal, one of our largest fishing ports, the country's highest density of aquaculture units and one of our busiest tourist areas. This has produced, in a small community, multi-user conflicts and dissension, as management and use of the coastal zone is not currently co-ordinated to conduce sustainable development. The aim of the charter was to try to deal with conflicting activities at a local level.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	It is an area of outstanding scenic landscape, housing Irelands state oil transshipment terminal at Whiddy Island, one of our largest fishing ports (Castletownbere), the highest density of aquaculture units in the state and one of the busiest tourist areas.
Main aim:	This project aims to establish an innovative process of concertation by all stakeholders, to produce a sustainable management strategy, with community ownership and regulatory authority involvement, for Banty Bay's coastal resources. The development a Bantry Bay Charter.
Expected results:	Establishment of informal contracting between the stakeholders to secure agreed strategies that respect the concept of rational sustainable development and integrate multi-use of the Bay.

Integration of community knowledge and existing datasets using GIS to provide indicators of environmental quality with community based resource mapping, thus aiding the decision making process.

Strategic EIA and EQA will be used to establish best practice techniques.

Dissemination throughout Europe of the strategy for conflict resolution in coastal zones.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Department of Marine has been asked to become an active partner in ICZM initiative.

Ministries formally involved*:

Regions (county, province) formally involved*: [names]

NGO's, Agencies formally involved:

The Charter involves a partnership between Cork County Council, the Coastal Resources Centre of the National University College Cork and the Nautical Enterprise Centre of the Cork Institute of Technology as well as the people of the Bantry Bay area.

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*: [names]

Problems encountered:

Project is hindered by the lack of an effective regional tier of administration to translate the sectoral programmes into spatial planning objectives.

Main achievements:

(The Bantry Bay Charter Project won the prestigious National Planning Achievement Award).

Since 1997 the Department of Marine and Natural Resources is one of the principal statutory bodies directly concerned with administration of the coastal zone in Ireland. As well the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands are partners in ICZM.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation:

The project aims to build consensus amongst these dispirit groups (or stakeholders) through the development of a 'Stakeholder Charter'. The Charter and the public techniques involved in this process will not only benefit the Bantry Bay Area but will also be invaluable to the Council and the people of Cork in the long term.

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes,

Cork county Council set up a roundtable, with places for representatives of all the stakeholders groups. These groups generated more than 200 distinct proposals, which were widely published. Professional facilitators will assist in the development of consensus amongst stakeholders concerning the future of the Bay. Bantry Bay is using procedure seeking multiparty agreement as basis for Bantry Bay Charter. Main issue concerns conflict between mariculture interests and other stakeholders around the bay.

Other regulatory bodies, academic and other interests based outside the project area (including the project partners) have been appointed to an Advisors Group.

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes,
 In the beginning the mussel growers felt that their interests would be ignored, and walked out of a general meeting. They have now agreed to rejoin the initiative.

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes
 Information-giving: Press, Media, Leaflets, Newsletters, Exhibitions, and Education material
 Information-gathering: questionnaires, audits, public meetings, workshops and email.

Main achievements: Six working groups were established at the first Roundtable meeting in November 1998 to examine the main areas of concern for the management of the Bay and will be able to draw on information compiled by the project partners which is available on a community-based GIS. (information)

Bantry Bay draws on the principles of alternative dispute resolution (ARD) to look especially at marine issues, which have previously been handled in a somewhat remote fashion by sectoral agencies. Using a neutral facilitator, and extensive public participation, the project aims to develop a set of integrated policies based on the real needs of the community.

A major achievement in 1999 was the establishment of the Charter Office in Bantry from where the Charter process is administered. Proposals generated by the stakeholders groups were distilled into a set of principles, grouped into 21 issues, which resulted in an overview of co-ordination problems etc.

Problems encountered:

4. Information

Objectives re environment:
 Main achievements: The project has integrated existing datasets into a community driven GIS to provide indicators of environmental quality and sensitivity, to aid in decision making. Critical resources, which must be preserved for ecosystem stability, and non-critical resources, which may be sustainably developed for socio-economic benefit to the community, will be identified.

Problems encountered:

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal jurisdictional issues:

Uncertain and possible overlapping jurisdiction over waters between the mainland and Whiddy Island resulted in ineffective management of marine uses and resources.

Main achievements: New legislation to regulate aquaculture in Ireland was enacted in 1997, which introduces a new system of aquaculture licensing by the Department of the Marine. The legislature provides for consultative procedures, and the Department of the Marine is statutorily required to consider a variety of factors, including development plans and environmental and economic effects.

Ability to amend to legislation in order to restructure a very complex and intricate legislative framework. (Coastal Zone Management ; a Draft Policy for Ireland)

Problems encountered: As a result of jurisdictional uncertainty, Irish legislation to regulate aquaculture has not been adequately enforced in Bantry Bay. The co-existence of complicated statutory powers created confusion about the division of responsibility between central and local government, which enabled illegal aquaculture to take place unchecked in Bantry Bay. Legal anomalies in the relationship between mariculture structures or marine licensing with planning control jurisdictions have to be clarified between Harbour Authorities, Fishery Harbours, Marine Department and County Council.

Environment:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Economic development:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Extensive and sometimes unregulated aquaculture often is in conflict with other users. The mussel lines are considered unsightly, block navigation channels, and have been placed in areas used directly by inshore fisheries or recognised as nursery grounds.

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Zoning plan in the bay, which gives specified activities a priority in particular areas.

Problems encountered:

Coastal defence:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up:

No progress since: [month, year]

Main reason for lack of progress:

Cork County Council is committed to integrating the results of the Bantry Bay Charter into the next County Development plan. However, as yet, the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources has been unable to make a similar commitment regarding concordant licensing of marine activities. At the same time, there is ongoing discussion regarding the development of a national framework for ICZM, which may open up new possibilities for existing initiatives.

7. Sources

Project Report online: [attached in MS word or PDF]

*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

Bibliography:

Project Web site, if available

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Co-operation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999