



**FARNET TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR FLAGS
WEIDEN, GERMANY 20 – 22 NOVEMBER 2017**
Integrating aquaculture within local communities

Reconnecting the land and the sea

WEST IRELAND FLAG
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CONTEXT

- There was a disconnect between the people who live around the Galway Bay and the users of the bay
- Concerns about water quality which would impact on the quality of seafood produced in bay
- To safeguard and promote the maritime tradition and heritage of the Bay
- Local communities were not aware of the activities on the Bay

Challenges:

- To organize in a coherent way
- To raise awareness of the potential of the bay
- Communicating the vision and message
- Create links with Local Authority/ State Agencies

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- To promote the quality of life, environment, economy and the marine heritage of Galway Bay
- To engage with the Local Authorities, Government Departments on behalf of the marine users of Galway Bay
- To provide a positive image for the marine/seafood sector
- Promote locally farmed and caught seafood
- Have input on water quality and other environmental issues
- Engage with the schools and local communities.
- Promote inclusivity

PARTNERS

- The partners are shell fish farmers, inshore fishermen, marine heritage and local communities
- Other associate partners are the State agencies, Local Authorities
- Role: the core role of the partners is to promote *Cuan Beo (Living Bay)* as a vehicle that will drive the ideas of the group
- To be advocates for the group and marine users of Galway Bay
- The Associate partners will provide advice on management, funding, environmental issues and networking

METHODOLOGY

- Initial meeting of representatives of the various stakeholders with FLAG Coordinator in January 2017
- Group formed with a mission statement and officers elected January 2017
- The name *Cuan Beo (Living Bay)* agreed on February 2017
- Terms of Reference/ Constitution agreed February 2017
- Funding applied for to West Ireland FLAG March 2017
- Work programme agreed on March 2017
- Communications Strategy agreed
- Regular twice monthly meetings initially
- Monthly meetings
- Official Launch October 2017

RESULTS

- Successful funding application to West Ireland FLAG
- Communication campaign launched, engaged with local communities, fishers
- Participation in traditional sailing festival promoting seafood consumption, talks on marine heritage
- Organized Native Oyster Workshop
- Links built with local communities/schools
- Engagement with Local Authority, State Agencies

Lessons learned:

- It takes a lot of voluntary work and time
- Difficult to get buy-in from non marine sector
- Building up relationships