

# Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems for selected Irish water bodies (CLAMS) - IE

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Preventing and managing natural hazards and technological (human-made) hazards
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

## 2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Knowledge-based
- Ecosystems based approach
- Technical

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

CLAMS allows for the successful integration of aquaculture into broader coastal zone management, recognising the need to improve environmental compliance, product quality and consumer confidence. The CLAMS process also facilitates data gathering and analysis in relation to fish farming. This in turn can help displace 'myths' about the industry and contribute to better public perception.

## 4. Overview of the case

The Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (CLAMS) process is a nationwide initiative to manage the development of aquaculture in bays and inshore waters throughout Ireland at a local level. Under CLAMS each bay/region is treated as a separate entity with an individual management plan developed for each area. This documents current fish and shellfish farming activity, how they operate and future development plans. The plan involves a long consultative process with many interested parties in each area and integrates Single Bay Management (SBM) practices as well as the aims and objectives of other policies such as any existing ICZM strategies and County Development Plans.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The CLAMS initiative began in 1998 following protracted discussions between fish farmers and fishermen and the, then, central Government Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources on licensing and development issues at a local level. CLAMS is a non-statutory management system, which is rooted in national marine policy and development programmes. In this way, CLAMS allows for national policy issues to be incorporated and uniformly applied in participating local areas. As each plan is tailored to the particular water body, issues in that area can be highlighted and appropriate management responsibility co-ordinated. There are eleven geographic areas, one of which is cross-border, currently covered by specific CLAMS plans (Bannow Bay, Co. Waterford; Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth and Co. Down (NI); Roaringwater Bay, Co. Cork; Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry; Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal; Clew Bay, Co. Mayo; Killary Harbour, Co. Galway; the North Shannon Estuary, Co. Clare; Dungarvan Harbour, Co. Waterford; Kilkerrin Bay, Co. Galway; and Mulroy Bay, Co. Donegal).

## **b) Objectives**

The over-arching objective of the CLAMS initiative is to implement better local management of aquaculture ensuring sustainable development and environmental integrity. Each CLAMS plan provides information of the bay in terms of history, existing fishing/aquaculture activity, future development potential and existing problematic issues. This allows for existing Codes of Practice to be customised and integrated into current industry practice. In essence, the CLAMS plan becomes both a management plan and a development plan for aquaculture and fisheries in that area. Each area will have different objectives given the plan's local specificity. Generally, however, objectives relate to conforming with best practice and standards in the areas of visual impact, co-existence with other resource uses and users and environmental management.

## **6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)**

### **a) Management**

Initially there was a dedicated local Liaison Officer in each CLAMS area. Presently responsibility for the CLAMS initiative is shared between the Marine Institute and Bord Iascaigh Mhara [BIM, Irish Sea Fisheries Board]. The Marine Institute is responsible for co-ordinating CLAMS programmes in Clew Bay and in Connemara (Co. Galway: west of Ireland) while BIM are responsible for the remaining areas. A CLAMS Group is also established in each region. This is comprised of people engaged in the aquaculture industry and associated regional regulators. There is also a Consultation Group which has representatives from various interest groups specific to the particular area, for example, local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Fisheries Boards, Environmental Protection Agency, tourism bodies and local recreation groups, development groups, rescue services and indeed members of the general public. Though CLAMS does not aim to solve all the concerns and issues raised by the various members of the consultation group, these are documented and will be taken on board in so far as possible and practical within the management plan developed.

### **b) ICZM tools**

In order to develop a CLAMS plan for an area, firstly the geographic area has to be defined in agreement with local industry and regulators. Following this, the responsible Government department is consulted with a view to determining relevant policy and licensing issues for the area. A local CLAMS Officer is then appointed along with dedicated resources. All those engaged in the aquaculture industry are met individually by the CLAMS Officer in order to introduce the CLAMS process and address any concerns they might have. These concerns are also documented so that they can be discussed during future meetings. A CLAMS Group is then formed and an initial meeting of this group organised. The Group discusses any major issues of concern and formulates a development strategy. Following this a local liaison officer is appointed on a regional basis and the officer meets with third parties in an effort to secure further input into the CLAMS process. The CLAMS Officer is responsible for compiling relevant data and information and this is inputted into a dedicated database and GIS. An initial draft CLAMS plan is prepared following widespread consultation and CLAMS Group meetings. This draft is circulated to the Group and revised where necessary. Working groups can be established to deal with specific matters arising that need to be addressed in order to achieve better management of the water body. There is provision within the CLAMS initiative to revise and modify individual CLAMS plans. It is not known if this has been formally carried out in any area as yet.

## **7. Cost and resources**

Finance for CLAMS in any geographic area comes from the responsible agency's own budget.

## **8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)**

At present CLAMS, while concerned primarily with aquaculture, is the only agency-led approach to the management of coastal areas in Ireland. While the CLAMS process is primarily concerned with aquaculture interests it provides a model for governance that can be readily transferred to other coastal areas and could form the basis of a best practice approach to management for this continuously developing sector.

## 9. Success and Fail factors

At the outset it was envisioned that CLAMS would incorporate broader ICZM objectives, however, it is unclear to what extent this has been achieved. This is because there are limited ICZM activities in those areas with CLAMS plans. Arguably, if there was a national ICZM strategy for Ireland, CLAMS could easily fit in to the wider ICZM process. The fact that this does not exist may be one of the contributing factors as to why the programme has not been rolled out to other areas, as was originally envisioned.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

Because the CLAMS process is overseen by two semi-State bodies, a two-way synergistic relationship is created which in turn can act as a conduit for information transfer.

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## 13. Sources

- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM). 2003. Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (C.L.A.M.S.) Explanatory Handbook. BIM, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 24pp.
- CLAMS. 2001. Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems - Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal.



CLAMS Explanatory Handbook (1.73 MB) 