The Irish American Aquaculture Initiative (Ir-Am-Aqua)

John P. Mercer, University College Galway, Shellfish Research Laboratory, Carna
Edward C. Monahan, University of Connecticut, Sea Grant College Program

Growing out of an initial correspondence between Dr. John A. Knauss, Administrator of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and President Colm Ó hEochaidh of University College, Galway, the first major undertaking of the resulting Ir-Am-Aqua initiative was the Applied Aquaculture Workshop held in Galway in September, 1989. This workshop benefited markedly from the assistance of the Údarás na Gaeltachta, the U.S. Embassy, Dublin, and the Irish aquaculture industry. Significant outgrowths of this initial workshop included an omnibus submission to the International Fund for Ireland in April, 1990, and a formal Memo of Understanding regarding Aquaculture and Marine Sciences entered into by University College Galway, the Queen's University of Belfast, and the Sea Grant Colleges in the Northeast U.S. in April, 1991. Recently, U.S. backing for Ir-Am-Aqua has broadened with the U.S. Department of Agriculture providing support for the September, 1992 Workshop on Fish/Shellfish Diseases and Biotechnology in University College Cork, while the U.S. Department of Commerce-sponsored Sea Grant Programs have undertaken to help underwrite the November, 1992 Symposium on the Aquaculture of Selected Marine Herbivores and Crustacea at the Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute in University College Galway. At this meeting a working group from the three jurisdictions will finalize plans for the next Ir-Am-Aqua meeting in 1993. The extended abstracts from the two 1992 meetings will be published between the same covers.