

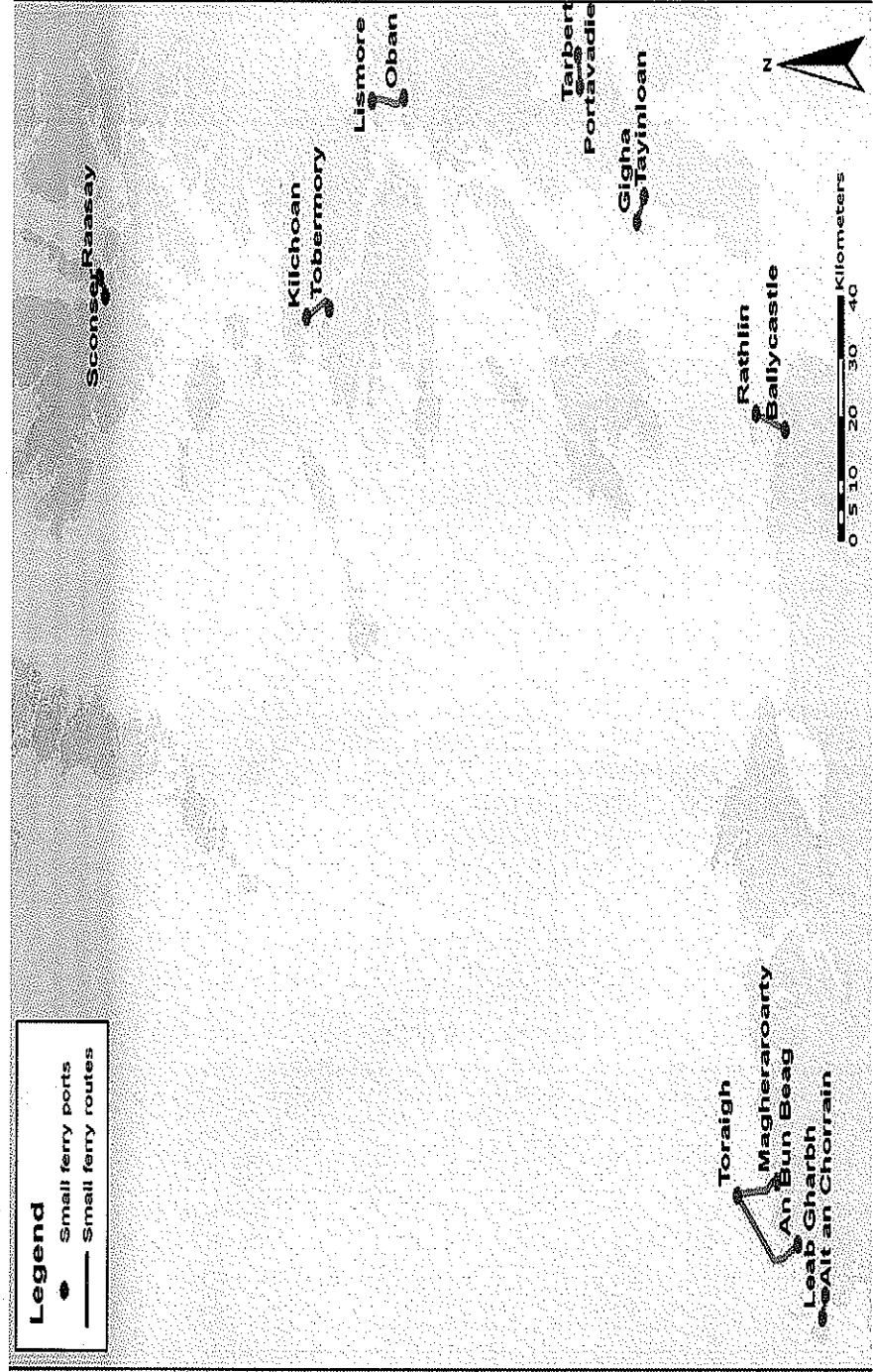
The Importance of Ferry Services to the Social and Economic Development of the Islands

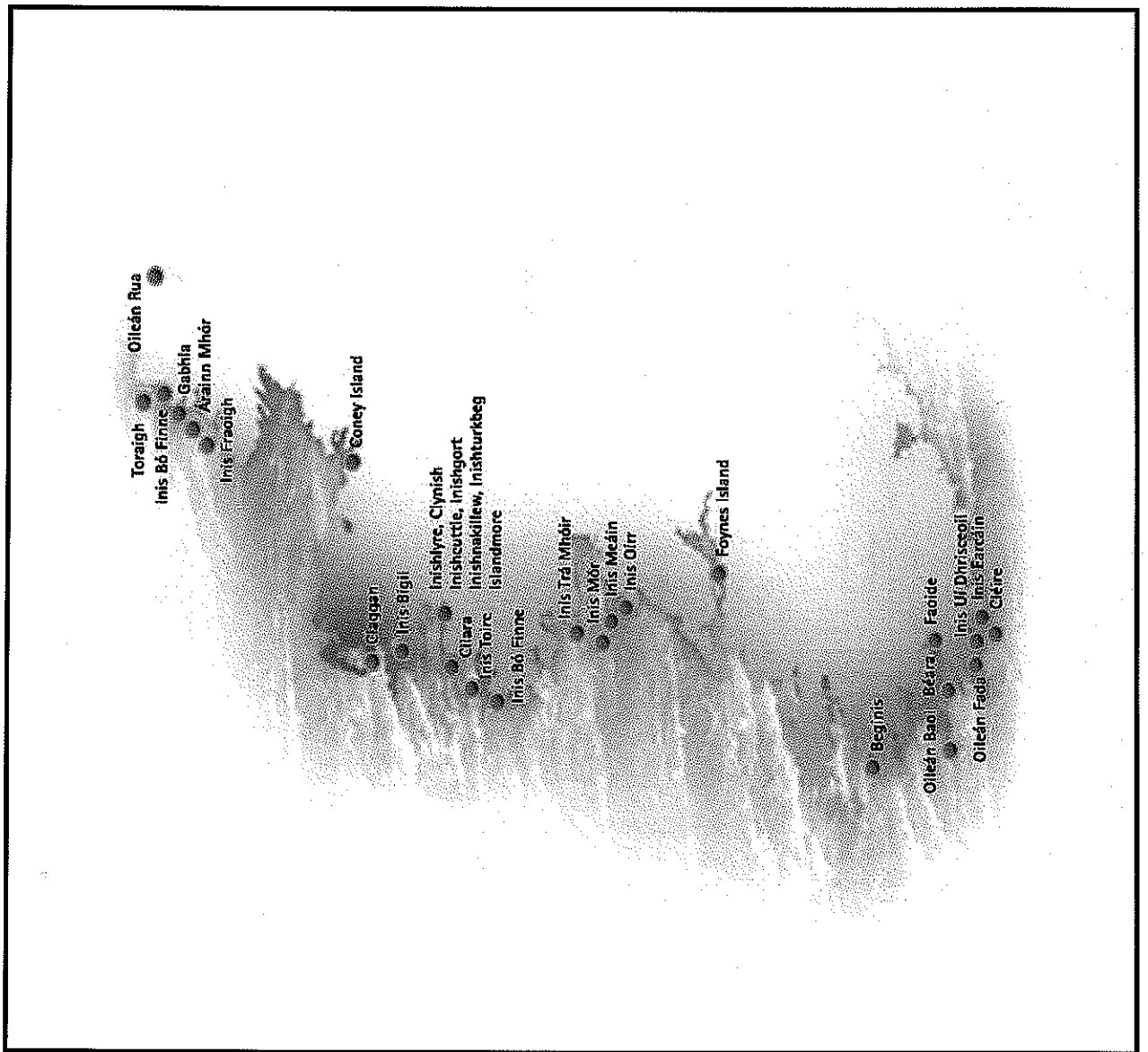
Séamus Mac Giolla Chombhail
Department & Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
IRELAND

Introduction

- locational disadvantage
- history and sociology
- population trends
- economic impact of location

INTERREG REGION





Toraigh

Inis Bó Finne

Gabhla

Araínn Mhór

Inis Faoigh

Coney Island

Claggh

Inis Bigil

Inishyre, Clynish

Inishcuttle, Inishgort

Inishnakeilow, Inishturkbeg

Islandmore

Inis Bó Finne

Inis Trá Mhóir

Inis Mór

Inis Meán

Inis Oírr

Foynes Island

Beiginis

Oileán Baol, Béalra, Faoite

Inis Uí Dhrisceoil

Inis Fardáin

Cléire

Permanent Locational Disadvantage

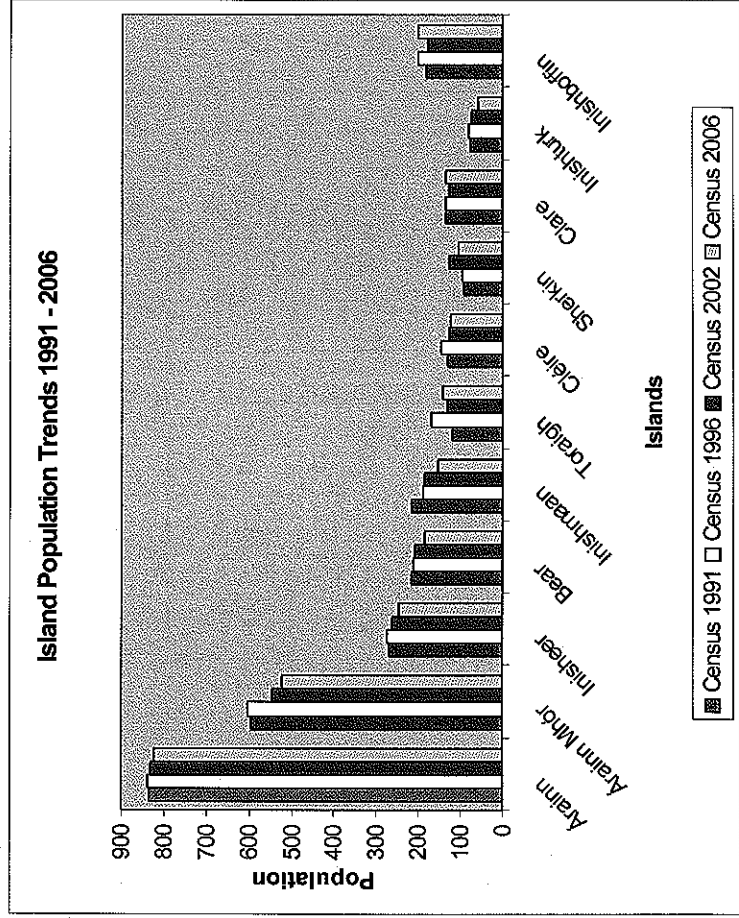
- State interventions ameliorate this disadvantage
- infrastructure, air and ferry access, public services
- make living on island more attractive
- stabilize populations

History & Sociology

- christian and cultural heritage
- natural beauty and remoteness
- many islands abandoned
- resulting loss of culture
- many have survived
- resilience and self-reliance of islanders
- islands are special places

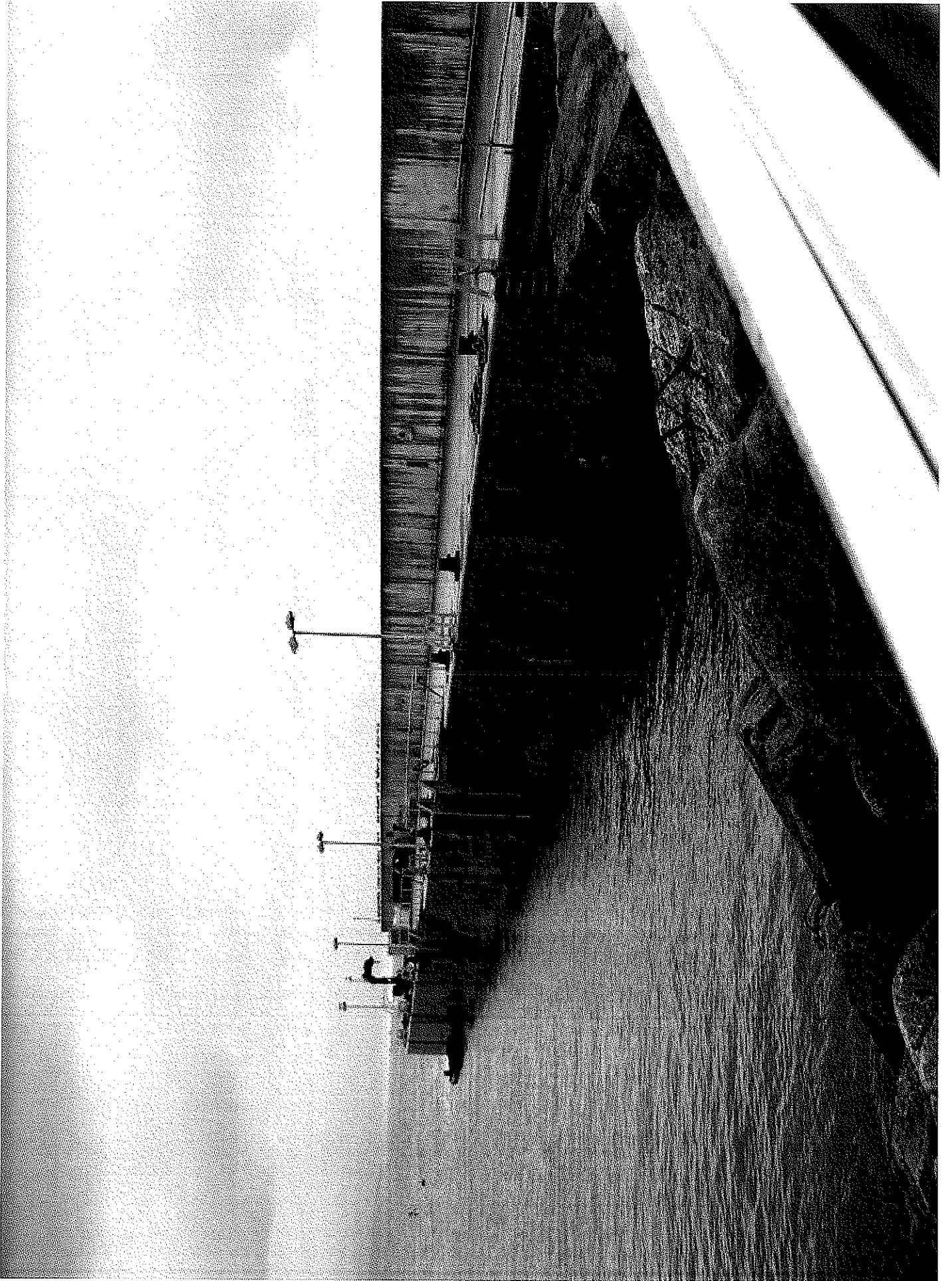
Fragile Populations

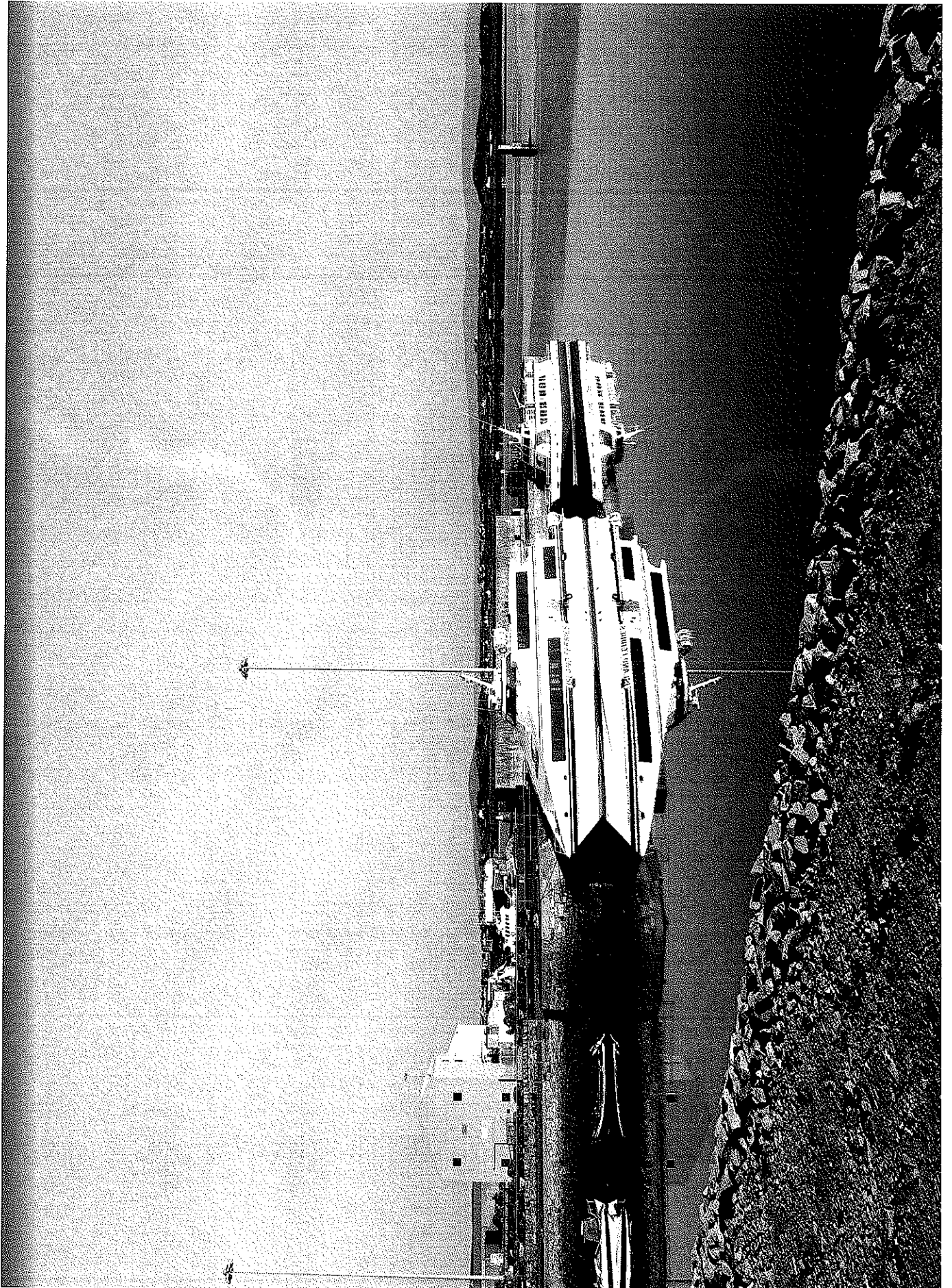
Snapshot of Ireland



Impact of Locational Disadvantage on Economic Development

- number of barriers
- additional costs, both tangible and intangible
- size of local market
- ongoing population decline
- cost of living





Pure Economic Benefits?

2004 Malachy Walsh Report found:

- Foster vibrant tourist industry
- Local tourism spend of €12m
- Broader impact of €17m
- Contribution to GNP of €11m
- 275 jobs
- €6m in tax & excise
- Benefit/subsidy ratio of 4:1

All for less than €2m!

FUIURE POTENTIAL

- Tourism (Cultural/Rural/Marine)
- Models of Good Practice
 - Agriculture
 - Fishing
 - Indigenous/Micro Enterprise
- Sustainable/Renewable Energy

