



iFADO Final Workshop

1st June 2023

Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisbon.

Seoltóir na Gaillimhe/Galway Sailor Miniboat

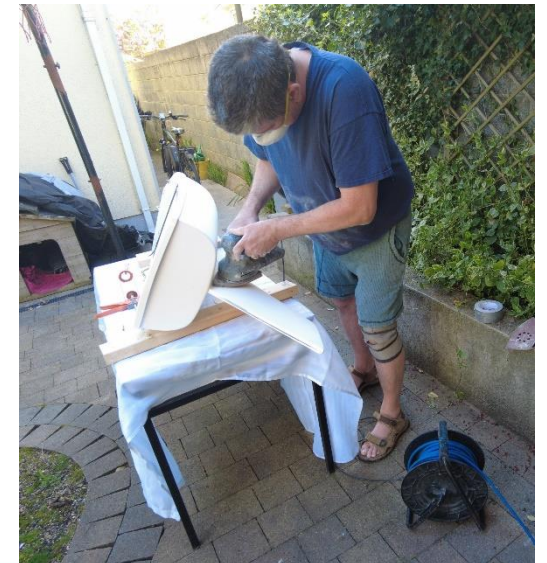
Kieran Reilly, Marine Institute
Peter Kane, Kilglass National School
Tomasz Dabrowski, Marine Institute



This project has received funding from the European Union's Interreg Atlantic Area programme under the grant EAPA_165/2016

Assembly of Miniboat

- Construction of the Irish iFADO miniboat took place during April 2021
- Marine Research Infrastructure team member Felicity Donnelly and her family:
 - Ballasting the keel
 - Sanding the keel and the hull
 - Installing the keel to the hull



Handover to Kilglass NS

- Teacher Peter Kane collected the miniboat on 30th April 2021 and brought it to Kilglass National School, Ahascragh, Co. Galway
- Conall O'Malley discussed the upcoming AIMSIR cruise and gave general information on the miniboat.
- Peter was provided with paints to decorate the miniboat and the sail.



Decoration and naming of the Galway Sailor

‘Seoltóir na Gaillimhe’ was chosen based on a school wide vote

References to Ocean Literacy and the Ocean Principles

Favourite symbols of Irish culture and sport including a Harp and Hurley

A drawing of a famous Galway fishing boat ‘The Galway Hooker’

An ancient Irish Ogham message ‘Good Luck’

Pupils’ favourite Irish animals and fish species

Painted Logos of iFADO, Marine Institute and Explorers Education Programme

Lines from John Keats famous nautical poem and a class favourite ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ and an Albatross painted on sail for good luck!

Kilglass NS and Galway crests and colours and the Irish flag



Connecting with other schools

- Online meeting with other schools involved in iFADO on 25th May 2021
 - IES Garoe, Canary Islands, Spain
 - AES Escola Básica do Castelo, Portugal
- Padraic from the Explorers Education Programme visited the school to give a presentation, arrange experiments and discuss the miniboat.
- Cushla from Camden Trust provided a number of Explorers Ocean Literacy resources and art materials as activities for learning about the ocean



Delivery to the Celtic Explorer



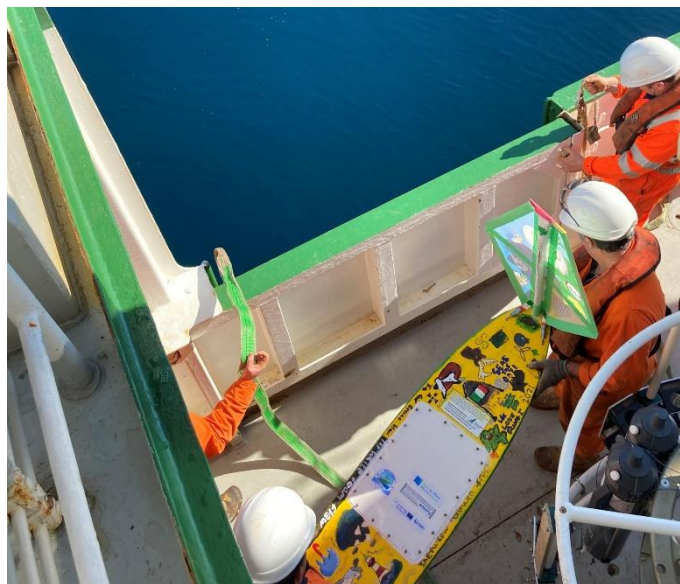
- The Galway Sailor was handed back to the Marine Research Infrastructures team at Galway Docks on 31st May 2021



Atlantic In-situ Marine Scientific Infrastructure Replacement (AIMSIR – CE21014)

- 31st May – 7th June 2021 on the RV Celtic Explorer
- Main aims were to recover and redeploy a number of key marine research infrastructures:
 - M6 data buoy,
 - Rockall Deep Water Mooring
 - EBS-1 shelf-edge lander and the EBS-3 shelf lander
- Deployed 3 Argo floats, MELOA drifter and the Galway Sailor





Galway Sailor deployment at M6 buoy

- Deployed on 2nd June 2021 at 09:00 UTC at 53 06.7N, 15 51.3W beside the newly deployed M6 data buoy.
- Most westerly buoy of the Irish Marine Data Buoy Observation Network (IMDBON).
- Data from the network is used by Met Éireann's forecasting systems and the UK Met Office for climatological purposes.




Galway Sailor Journey

- GPS transmission stopped on 14th June 2021 after 12 days at sea.
- Last recorded position was southeast of the Faroe Islands.
- Most northerly recorded miniboat at the time.

educationalpassages.org/boats/seoltoir_na_gaillimhe/

Build. Launch. Learn.
EDUCATIONAL PASSAGES
MINIBOATS RESOURCES CONNECT DONATE

National School (Galway, Ireland)

Map Satellite


Switch Voyages: 1

Status: Recovered

Boat ID: 216520141

Date Deployed: 6/02/2021

From Where: 53 5.3 N 15 47 W

Days At Sea: 12 days, 0 hours

Most Recent Position: 61 23.4' N 5 14.4' W

Last GPS Update: 06/14/2021 15:08 GMT

Download Voyage Data:

Explore with Path Analysis Tool: [click here](#)



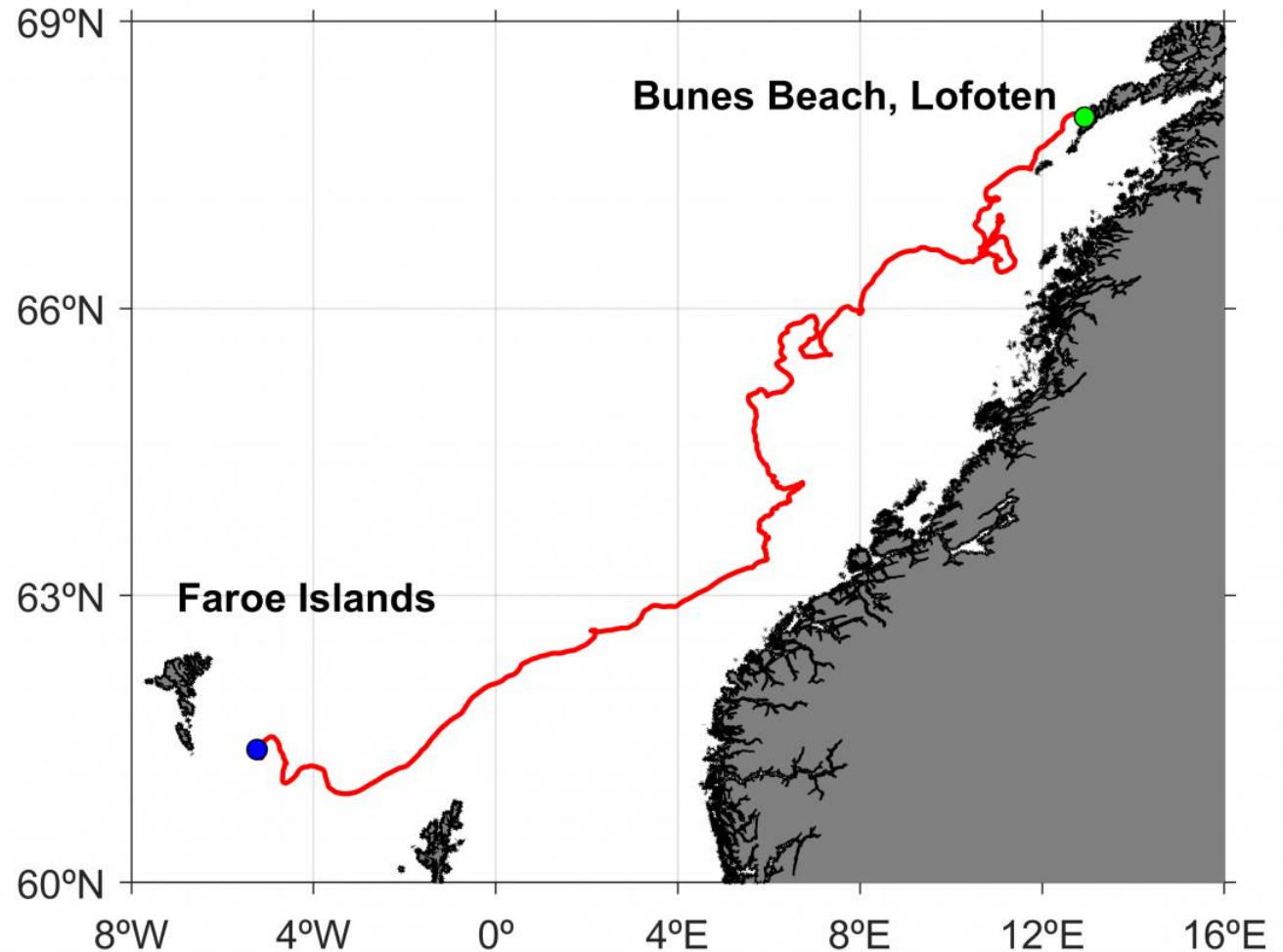
Galway Sailor Discovery

- Discovered on 18th July 2021 by Lars Bjørnsen and family
- On Bunes Beach above the Arctic Circle in Lofoten Island, Norway
- 1,158km from its last GPS reported location
- Email from Lars to Kilglass NS
“My 3 girls were excited to open the hatch and see the content. Unfortunately, all the drawings and letters were wet, but we were able to read some of it. Thanks for the candy and the other stuff.”



Galway Sailor modelled journey

- Marine Institute ocean modellers provided a map showing the estimated journey of the Galway Sailor.
- Knowing the last coordinates and the location where the boat was found, the team were able to produce a map showing the boat's likely movement based on the currents and wind direction at the time.



EU Blue Schools Initiative

Kilglass NS was one of the first schools in Ireland to become a European Blue School in May 2022

Peter Kane - *"Working on this project provided us with an excellent opportunity to involve all of the school in a marine themed project. Everyone took ownership of the project - from painting and naming the boat - to the hand over at the RV Celtic Explorer for its launch at sea, and also tracking it while at sea".*

Dr Paul Connolly, Marine Institute CEO - *"To become a European Blue School, students are encouraged to become responsible and engaged ocean-literate citizens. The Seoltóir Na Gaillimhe – the Galway Sailor unmanned mini-boat project demonstrated that the children from Kilglass recognised the importance of the ocean in our lives."*



Next Steps...

- Galway Sailor was handed over to a local school in Norway and the MI, Peter Kane from Kilglass N.S. and Cassie from the Educational Passages are in contact with them
- A hatch needs to be repaired and made watertight
- Possible redeployment of the Galway Sailor in the near future!

Media Links

- <https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/news-events/press-releases/unmanned-miniature-sail-boat-%E2%80%98seolt%C3%B3ir-na-gaillimhe-%E2%80%93galway>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhhMQr-nNYo&t=295s>
- <https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/news-events/press-releases/summer-mini-miracle-seolt%C3%B3ir-na-gaillimhe-%E2%80%93galway-sailor-mini>
- <https://afloat.ie/marine-environment/marine-science/item/54672-co-galway-national-school-receives-european-blue-schools-award-for-pilotless-boat-project>



Thanks to all involved!

- Kilglass National School – Peter Kane and the 2021 6th class pupils
- Educational Passages - Cassie Stymiest
- Marine Institute Research Infrastructures team – Felicity Donnelly (and family), Conall O'Malley, Alan Berry
- Marine Institute Communications team – Sheila Byrnes, Rachael Brown
- RV Celtic Explorer crew
- Explorers Education Programme - Padraic Creedon
- Camden Trust – Cushla Dromgool-Regan
- iFADO project partners

