

CHAIRMANS ADDRESS
IRISH WATER SAFETY

2000 REPORT

Sábhálteacht Uisce n hÉireann

Tuarascáil 2000

Ráiteas an Chathaoirligh

An t-Aire Iomshaoil a bhunaigh Sábhálteacht Uisce na hÉireann, faoi réir na gcumhachtaí bronnta air faoi Mhír 3 den Acht Seirbhísí Rialtais Áitiúil 1971, agus faoi ord na gcoiníollacha den Ionstraim Dleathach Uimhir 361 de 1999.

Tá Sábhálteacht Uisce na hÉireann ar an saol le 56 bliain, agus ó bunaíodh é bhí sé faoi choimirce an stáit i bhform amháin nó i bhfoirm eile. Ón mbliain 1945 go dtí 1971 aithníodh é mar an 'Seirbhís Sábhálteacht Uisce' de Chumann na Croise Deirge in Éirinn. Sa mbliain 1971 tugadh Cumann Sábhálteacht Uisce na hÉireann air, agus sa mbliain 1987 nascadh é le Sábhálteacht Bóthair is Tine mar an Comhairle Náisiúnta Sábhálteachta. Sa mbliain 1999 chinn an Rialtas ar Shábhálteacht Uisce na hÉireann a athbhunú, lena cheanncheathrú i gCathair na Gaillimhe.

Thug baill na gcúig Coimisiún, na 28 gCoistí Áitiúla Sábhálteacht Uisce agus an péire coistí speisialta sna Gardaí Síochána agus sna Fórsaí Cosanta, tacaíocht don Chomhairle, ina iarrachtaí le teachtaireacht na sábhálteachta a chur ós comhair an phobail. Tugann obair dheonach na ndaoine díograsacha a chuireann am ar fail go fial le óg agus sean a theagasc agus a thréineáil i snámh agus i dtarrtháil, agus i scileanna riachtanacha eile, an-chūnamh le sábhálteacht uisce a chur chun cinn. Ní foláir gach creidiúint a thabhairt do na daoine sin as na cláracha i sábhálteacht uisce a chur i bhfeidhm. Gabhann an Comhairle buíochas leis an iar-Phríomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, Pól Ó Donnabháin, agus a fhoireann oifige, a bhreathnaigh i ndiaidh cūrsaí riaracháin agus a stiúraigh an t-athrú ón gComhairle Náisiúnta Sábhálteachta i mBaile Átha Cliath go Gaillimh. Chomh maith leis sin, gabhaim buíochas leis an gComhairle Náisiúnta Sábhálteachta, lena Phríomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, Pádraig Uas. Ó Coistealbha, agus lena fhoireann. Rinne said deimhin de go mbeadh an t-athrú ón gComhairle go dtí Sábhálteacht Uisce na hÉireann mín agus réidh.

I rith na bliana 2000 bhí imeachtaí agus bainistíocht airgeadais an Chomhairle éifeachtach san iarracht le tuiscint níos fearr ar shábhálteacht uisce a chur ós comhair an phobail. D'ainneoin na hiarrachtaí is fearr, ámh, bádhdh daoine ar fud na tíre. Fós, báitear an-iomarca daoine gach bliain agus, mar sin, ní foláir leanacht leis an iarracht le uimhir na ndaoine a mbáitear a laghdú. Ní mór don iarracht seo teacht, ní hamháin ón gComhairle agus ó na baill dheonacha de Shábhálteacht Uisce na hÉireann, ach ón bpobal, freisin, a bhfuil dualgas pearsanta orthu dá sábhálteacht féin nuair atá said gar do, ar

nó ins an uisce. Mar shampla, tá go leor daoine, fós, a dhéanann neamhaird den chomhairle maidir le seaicéid tharrthála nuair a théann said ar an uisce. Is cūis leis an gComhairle, freisin, an damáiste gan bhrí a dhéantar do threalamh ar nós baoianna tarrthála, chuile áit in Éirinn. Goidtear na baoianna tarrthála agus na rópaí agus bristear na boscaí cosanta go laethūil. Tá an scabhtaeracht seo á dhéanamh ag daoine atá beag beann ar threalamh tarrthála, is léir, agus an críoch a d'fhéadfadh bheith lena ngníomhartha – bás. Ní foláir go nglacfaidh an pobal leis nach bhfuil sé inghlactha go dtarlódh bás de bharr neamhaird daoine ar nó ins an uisce.

Clúdaítear sa Tuarascáil aithbhreithniū cuimsitheach ar na mórán gníomhaíochtaí de Shábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann, gníomhaíochtaí atá ag leathnū amach an t-am ar fad ón dearcadh traidisiūnta, in intinn an phobail, ar shábháilteacht uisce go dearcadh ūrnua a chuirfidh bláth ar aidhm an Chumainn timpeallacht sábhálta uisce a chruthū in Éirinn, agus ar an gcaoi sin, rud suntasach a dhéanamh le líon na ndaoine a chailltear trí bháthadh a laghdū.

Seo cuid de na rudaí a rinneadh sa mbl. 2000:-

Leanadh ar aghaid leis an gclár oideachais, a chruthaigh fíoréifeachtach. Cothaíodh an pairtnéireacht le gníomhaireachtí stáit agus eagrais shábhála eile, le sábháilteacht ar uisce a chur chun cinn.

Bhí baint díreach ag an gCumann i dtarrtháil trí struchtūir gardaí tarrthála a chur chun cinn, maille le Seirbhísí Tarrthála Pobail Cois Cladaigh.

Rinneadh forbairt ar na comórtaisí tarrthála mar ghníomh caidrimh poiblí don Chumann, agus mar fheithicil lena bhféadfadh daoine óga a scileanna tarrthála a fheabhsū agus a ghéarū.

Glacadh le caighdeán idir-náisiūnta maidir le hathbheochan agus hipetéirme, le go mbeadh muid ar chomhchéim le tíortha eile, go háirithe san Eoraip.

Leanadh ar aghaidh le athbhreithniū a dhéanamh ar scileanna tarrthála, le cinntiū go bhfuil na modhanna atá dhá mūineadh ag Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann ar na modhanna is nua-aimseartha agus suas-chun-dáta dá bhfuil ann.

Aimsíodh bealaí nua le urraíocht leanūnach agus margaíocht a chothū, tré Oifigeach Margaíochta a cheapadh.

Úsáideadh teicneolaíocht eolais is cumarsáide le clárū a choinneáil suas chun data agus le go bhféadfaí eolas agus athraithe i gcūrsaí tarrthála a aimsiū go héasca.

Bunaíodh suíomh idirlíon, le nascanna le cumainn shábhála eile ar fud na cruinne – www.iws.ie

Láinseáileadh an leabhrán, “Bí Sábháilte”, i gcomhair leis an gComhairle Sábhála Náisiūnta, do scoileanna náisiūnta agus dá gcuraclam ‘Oideachais Sóisialta, Pearsanta agus Sláinte’

Rinne an Ceannasaí is an Infhiūchóir Ginereál infhiūchadh ar na cūntais agus dearbhaíodh iad bheith in ord. Tá mioneolas ar theacht isteach is caiteachas le fáil sa ráiteas dearbhaithe atá leis an dtuarascáil seo. Tháinig airgeadas uile an Chomhairle do 2000 ó na foinsí seo leanas:- An Roinn Iomshaoil agus

Rialtais Áitiúil, síntiūs ó na hÚdaráis Áitiúla, Bailiū Airgid do Shábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann agus Urraíocht. Tá an Comhairle fíorbhuíoch dóibhsiūd uile a chabhraigh lena dtacaíocht tré shíntiūs airgid nó tré urraíocht lena gcuid seirbhísí.

Tá an Comhairle fíorbhuíoch don Aire Iomshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil, Nollaig Uas. Ó Diomsaigh, T.D., agus don Aire Tithíochta agus Athnuachan Bailte, Roibeárd Uas. Ó Maoildia, T.D., as a dtacaíocht agus suim i Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann, agus don Rūnaí Ginereálta sa Roinn Iomshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil agus dá Oifigigh a thug gach cūnamh don Chomhairle i rith na bliana. Gabhann an Comhairle buíochas, freisin, leis na Ranna Rialtais eile lena mbíonn dlúthbhaint aige leo, Garda Cósta na hÉireann agus na iomaí eagrais tharrthála agus spóirt uisce a raibh dlúthchaidreamh aige leo i rith na bliana 2000, go háirid iadsiūd taobh istigh den Ghrūpa Oibre ar Mhuirshábháilteacht agus an Coiste Cuardū agus Tarrthála.

Frank J. Nolan
Cathaoirleach

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The Minister for the Environment in exercise of the powers conferred in him by Section 3 of the Local Government Services (Corporate Bodies) Act 1971, and by order under the provisions of Statutory Instrument No 361 OF 1999 established the Irish Water Safety Association.

The Irish Water Safety Association is 56 years old and since it was founded it has been under the auspices of the State in one form or another. From 1945 to 1971 it was known as the "Water Safety Service" of the Irish Red Cross Society. In 1971 it became the Irish Water Safety Association, amalgamating in 1987 with Road and Fire Safety to be known as the National Safety Council. In 1999 a decision was taken by Government to re-establish Irish Water Safety with its headquarters in Galway City.

The Council have been supported in their efforts over the year by the members of the five Commissions, the 28 Area Water Safety Committees and the 2 special committees within An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces in bringing the safety awareness message to the public. The promotion of water safety continues to be backed up by the voluntary efforts of dedicated persons who have given of their time freely to train young and old in swimming and lifesaving and other rescue skills. All credit for implementing programs in water safety awareness must rest with these people. The Council acknowledges and thanks the former Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Paul Donovan and his staff who serviced water safety and organised the transfer from the National Safety Council in Dublin to Galway. Coupled with this, thanks is extended to the National Safety Council, the Chief Executive

Officer of the Council, Mr. Pat Costello and his Staff who facilitated the smooth transition from the Council to Irish Water Safety.

During 2000 the activities and finance management of the Council of Irish Water Safety was successful in helping to bring home to the general public a greater awareness in water safety. Despite best efforts, there were drowning accidents resulting in loss of life throughout the country. The annual toll of accidental drownings is still very high and there is much room for sustained effort to reduce this number. That sustained effort must come, not only from the Council and the efforts of the voluntary members of Irish Water Safety, but also from the general public who have a personal responsibility for their own safety while near, on or in the water. For example, there are still many who totally disregard the advice concerning the wearing of lifejackets when going afloat. The Council are also very concerned at the wanton damage to lifesaving equipment such as ringbuoys throughout the length and breadth of this country. Ringbuoys and their ropes are being stolen and the boxes being vandalised on a daily bases by people who obviously have a total disregard for lifesaving equipment and the consequences of their actions, which could result in loss of life. There must be an acceptance by the public that death due to carelessness on or in water is unacceptable.

The report includes a comprehensive review of the many activities of Irish Water Safety, activities which are expanding more and more from the traditional approach to water safety awareness, to one that will truly pursue the Association's mission of providing a safe aquatic environment in Ireland, thus making a positive contribution to reducing loss of life through accidental drowning.

These are some of the advances that took place in 2000:

Continuation of a highly successful education programme.

The fostering of partnerships with other State Agencies and Rescue Bodies to promote water safety.

The direct involvement in rescue operations through the promotion of Lifeguard structures and advancing Community Inshore Rescue Services in Ireland.

The advancement and development of Lifesaving competitions as a "shop window" of the Association and a means by which youth can enhance their lifesaving skills.

The adoption of international standards bringing resuscitation and hypothermia in line with other countries, especially European ones.

Continue monitoring of lifesaving skills to ensure that Irish Water Safety are teaching the most modern and up-to-date methods of swimming rescue skills.

New approaches to seeking sustained sponsorship and marketing with the appointment of a Marketing Officer.

The computerisation of records allowing for timely access and analysis of information and trends in lifesaving.

The establishment of a web page linked to other lifesaving organisations, worldwide, which is available to the public – www.iws.ie.

The launch of a “Be Safe” booklet in association with the National Safety Council for Primary Schools in relation to the “Social, Personal and Health Education” curriculum.

The Audit of Accounts has been carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the accounts are certified in order. Details of the financial income and expenditure are incorporated within the certified statement accompanying this report. The total funds available to the Council for 2000 came from the Department of the Environment and Local Government, contributions from Local Authorities, Water Safety Fund Raising and Sponsorships. The Council is most grateful to all those who helped with financial support, either by direct capital grant or by sponsorship in kind.

The Council is most grateful to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., and the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, Mr. Robert Molloy, T.D. for their support and interest in the work of Irish Water Safety and to the Secretary General of the Department of the Environment and Local Government, and to his Officers who gave every assistance to the Council throughout the year. The Council also thanks the other Government Departments with whom it works closely, the Irish Coast Guard and the many rescue and aquatic sporting organisations that it has had close liaison with over the year 2000, especially those within the Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank J. Nolan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chairman

IRISH WATER SAFETY COUNCIL

Mr. Frank Nolan, Co. Waterford, CHAIRMAN

Ms. Kathryn Byrne, Co. Dublin

Ms. Breda Collins, Co. Kilkenny

Mr. Michael Cuddihy, Co. Waterford

Ms. Breda Doherty, Co. Meath

Mr. Ian Keating, Co. Dublin

Mr. Jim Lawlor, Co. Sligo

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Co. Clare

Ms. Ann McGuinness, Co. Westmeath

Mr. Michael Murphy, Co. Dublin

Mr. Martin O'Sullivan, Co. Cork

Mr. Paddy Phipps, Co. Dublin

STAFF

Mr. Des Howett, Water Safety Supervisor, 1st Jan – 1st June 2000

Mr. Paul Donovan, CEO

Mr. Roger Sweeney, Marketing Executive

Ms. Patricia Quinn, Office Manager

Ms. Marguerite Glynn, Clerical Officer

Ms. Teresa Grimes, Clerical Officer

Ms. Fiona Delaney, Clerical Officer

LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES

The organisation has 28 Area Committees, arranged roughly on a county basis with the 26 counties plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Síochána Special Water Safety Committees making a total of 30.

Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is on the Local Water Safety Committee. Much recognition must be afforded to these committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. Most programmes consist of pool sessions in the winter and water safety weeks at beaches, lakes and rivers in the summer.

The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature running into hundreds. It operates on several different levels: Examiners, Instructors and Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteers. Thanks to their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a huge increase in the development of water safety awareness and water safety in the local communities.

A NEW WATER SAFETY HQ

The Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, Mr. Robert Molloy, T.D. officially opened the new headquarters in Galway on 25th August 2000. He welcomed the technological facilities at the new offices, which will allow for

speedy communication between the 30 Water Safety Committees, Water Safety Development Officers and members. The information and communication technologies in the headquarters assist in keeping a dispersed organisation in touch with head office, with each other and with latest developments at National and International level.

The Headquarters is located in Galway on the estuary of the river Corrib and adjacent to the sea, thus emphasizing the responsibilities and goals of the Association – that is water safety awareness near, in and on the water.

Minister Molloy acknowledged the contribution of the Board of the National Safety Council, in particular Mr. Pat Costello CEO, Ms Josephine Butler and Mr. Des Howett, for their generous assistance in effecting smooth transition from the NSC to the new body.

Minister Molloy also noted that he has full confidence in the Water Safety Council to meet its mandate and to set the policy framework for the Association so that it can achieve its objectives.

The opening ceremony also involved the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and a display of lifesaving skills on Galway Bay. This search and rescue demonstration was carried out in the River Corrib, directly in front of the new headquarters.

THE PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Promotion and Development Committee cooperates with HQ in planning the promotional activities of our Association. Using existing skills within IWS, the Committee is developing a corporate image, which will make us identifiable to both public and private sectors.

The private sector has a tradition of supporting various bodies. While this tradition has continued, it has changed dramatically over the last few years. There has been a move away from traditional philanthropic contributions to a much wider area of relationship and partnership sponsorship, where bodies and companies work together for mutual benefit. We hope to refine this further for the benefit of IWS and its future supporters.

Marketing developed new certificates, book covers, stationery, graphics and presentations that reflect the new corporate image and will assist in seeking out national sponsorship. The publication of Press Releases in local and national press helped promote water safety over busy holiday periods. A light aircraft fitted with a banner delivered a water safety message over many crowded beaches and events. Baseball hats, lapel badges, ties and polo shirts were all produced with the new IWS logo as was a newsletter and diaries.

Promotion & Development Commission members
Mr. Jim Lawlor, Co. Sligo, CHAIRMAN
Mr. Des Howett, Co. Dublin

Ms. Breda Collins, Co. Kilkenny
Ms. Kathryn Byrne, Co. Dublin
Mr. Donal O'Sullivan, Co. Dublin
Mr. Ray Wickham, Co. Dublin

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION

It was a busy and a productive year for the members of the Education Commission. Foremost on the agenda was the revision of the Child Protection documentation and the holding of a Child Liaison Officer Seminar.

We are duty-bound to protect all that are involved in water safety activities and these procedures and supporting documentation will provide guidelines on how to treat allegations of abuse, what symptoms to look for, plus other valuable information. The guidelines produced by the Irish Sports Council are supported fully by Irish Water Safety.

Significant progress has been made with the development of the in-service teachers courses. These are courses run for primary school teachers so that they may return to their respective classrooms armed with a knowledge base of swim teaching. 260 teachers passed through the course in 2000. Two new awards were introduced specifically for this course - The Aquatics Organiser and The Aquatics Pool Assistant. Also, significant financial contributions were made by the Department of Education to help defray the costs and it is anticipated that this co-operation will continue for 2001. A presentation of Certificates by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Mr. Ahern to over 100 schoolteachers took place in the Mansion House, Dublin in November 2000. By the end of 2000, the pool time available in Dublin's public pools was in full use by teachers across Dublin.

Irish Water Safety contributed to the BE SAFE! Activity based resource pack from the National Safety Council which was developed for primary schools as part of the SPHE Curriculum.

Overall, it has been a positive period for education in IWS and the members of the Education Commission look forward to continuing facing emerging challenges and delivering workable solutions.

Education

Mr. Michael Murphy, Co. Dublin, CHAIRMAN
Ms. Breda Doherty, Co. Meath
Mr. Eamonn Murtagh, Co. Wicklow
Mr. Paul Hamlett, Co. Louth
Ms. Ita Richardson, Co. Limerick
Mr Norman Gibson, Co. Donegal

SPORTS & LIFESAVING COMMISSION

The Sports & Lifesaving Commission helps generate immense interest in water safety by running four National Lifesaving Championships – Junior Pool & Surf competitions and Senior Pool and Beach competitions. They create a strong interest in Lifesaving among the younger members of the community.

The Commission also coordinated the Swimming Teachers Course, which was held in Dublin in 2000.

They also set up and ran stage one of the new coaching programme in Athlone in October, this with a view to reaffirming and advancing the IWS position as the Governing Body of Lifesaving Sport within International Life Saving

The Commission essentially held responsibility for Competitions, Lifesaving and Swimming.

Sports & Lifesaving Commission
Mr. Michael Cuddihy, Co. Waterford, CHAIRMAN
Mr. Brendan McGrath, Co. Clare
Mr. Jack Mason, Co. Dublin
Mr. Paul Burke, Co. Cork
Mr. Michael Somers, Co. Carlow
Ms. Deirdre Ni Loinsigh, Co. Mayo

RESCUE COMMISSION

Among the functions of the group are the following:

- Risk Assessments
- Inshore Rescue Boat Station Inspections for VAT relief
- Inshore Rescue Boat courses
- Blue Flag Jury Membership
- Training of VAT Inspectors and Risk Assessors

A Risk Assessment is one of the most important tasks that must be carried out on a regular basis to ensure the safety of the public when availing of our outdoor swimming amenities. There are a significant number of our Examiners now trained to carry out beach surveys (or risk assessment as the practice is known internationally).

Local Authorities request these surveys and IWS carry these out on their behalf.

The Rescue Commission appoints an examiner, usually from outside the particular area, who carries out the survey and reports back to the commission. Irish Water Safety sends the results to the local authority who acts on the recommendations made.

There are 10 Community Inshore Rescue Services around Ireland (Tramore, Bonmahon, Banna, Bantry, Ballybunion, Kilkee, Drogheda, Cahore, Wexford and Catherdaniel). They have always had a very close relationship with Irish Water Safety. We organise training courses for their voluntary members with

assistance from the Irish Coast Guard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. These courses are held annually in Tramore and are well supported.

Vat inspections are carried out for the benefit of these community rescue stations by Irish Water Safety on behalf of the Department of Finance under a statutory Instrument. Minimum standards have been laid down by IWS and rigorous inspections ensure that these standards are maintained. These inspections involve the station building, the boat and the crew carrying out specific activities at sea.

If the station is successful it may claim VAT back on the equipment, which has been purchased to set up the service.

Rescue Commission members

Mr. Martin O'Sullivan, Co. Cork, CHAIRMAN

Mr. Kevin Desmond, Co. Wicklow

Mr. Willie Doyle, Co. Wexford

Mr. Ronnie Horan, Co. Dublin

Mr. David Kenneally, Co. Waterford

Mr. Paddy Phipps, Co. Dublin

International Affairs

Members attended the following International Conferences

ILS(E) Board Meeting – Netherlands

ILS General Assembly – Australia

Royal National Lifeboat Institution HQ – England

ILS(E) Commission Meetings – Italy

PRESENTATIONS

Life Governor

This award recognises personal contribution to Irish Water Safety and exceptional commitment to lifesaving and water rescue at both national and international level over many years

The following were conferred with Life Governor status in 2000:

Mrs. Maureen Kenny, Galway whose late husband Des was the association's first chairman, in recognition of her special interest and support over the years.

Mr. Des Howett, Dublin, a member of the Promotion and Development Commission in 2000 and administrator of Water Safety for over 16 years.

Mr. Donal Connolly, Waterford County Manager, for his proactive interest since 1971 in a quality Lifeguard service and proper bathing facilities.

Mr. Kevin Weldon, MA (Australia). Founding President International Life Saving and Honoured Member Surf Life Saving Australia. He has a special interest supporting Irish Water Safety at International level.

Long Service Awards

Long Service Awards and medals were conferred on the following recipients in recognition of over 25 years service to Irish Water Safety:

Mr. William Condon,	Waterford
Mr. Jim Corby,	Tipperary
Ms. Sally Mooney,	Waterford
Mr. Michael Power,	Kilkenny
Ms. Margaret Tatly,	Clare
Mr. Peter Charles,	Leitrim
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald,	Waterford

Seiko Just In Time Rescue Awards

This award is awarded to members of the public who voluntarily, through their own individual safe actions successfully save the life of another person from the water. Four such Awards were issued in 2000, which is kindly sponsored by SEIKO Ireland.

Mr. Rob Armstrong and Mr. Abdul Kayum for a rescue from the river Corrib, Galway.

Mr. Tony Paget and Mr Dimitrios Paraskevakis for a rescue from the river Liffey Dublin.

CONFERENCES

During the year the following were held:

Water Safety Development Conference, Tullamore, April
Child Liaison Officers Conference, Dublin, May
Water Safety Examiner's Conference, Portlaise, November
Chairpersons Conference, Dublin, May
In-service Course Directors Conference & Coaching seminar, Athlone, December

COURSES

In addition to an extensive programme of winter and summer courses in Lifesaving and resuscitation, the following specialized courses were held.

Primary School In Service Teacher's Courses
240 Primary School Teachers participated at 7 venues nationwide.

Lifesaving Sporting Coaching Course (Athlone)

In-shore rescue boat handling courses (10 members Community Inshore Rescue Service and 2 members of the DLRG-German Lifesaving)
Three courses were held during 2000. Two were held in Wicklow and one in Tramore.

VAT Inspection Course (Wexford)

Two Special Inshore RIB Courses for Department of Marine and Irish Coast Guard.

COMPETITIONS

Junior Surf

Venue: Salthill Beach, Galway

Results	Boys:	Gold	Donegal
		Silver	Clare
		Bronze	Cork
	Girls:	Gold	Donegal
		Silver	Waterford
		Bronze	Galway

Junior Pool

Venue: Clonmel

Winners: Kilkenny

Senior Surf

Venue: Mullaghmore Beach, Sligo

Results	Mens:	Gold	Donegal A
		Silver	Clare A
		Bronze	Waterford
		Inland County	Kilkenny

Womens:	Gold	Donegal	
		Silver	Waterford
		Bronze	Clare
		Inland County	Garda

Senior Pool

Venue: Wicklow

Results	Mens:	Gold	Mayo
		Silver	Dublin
		Bronze	Garda

Womens:	Gold	Mayo
	Silver	Cork
	Bronze	Wicklow

IWS CERTIFICATES

Thanks to the efforts of Local Area Committee Officers and members, water safety development officers in Local Authorities, Examiners, Instructors and non-technical personnel, over 53,000 certificates were issued in the various categories of life-saving activity in 2000. This achievement reflects the dedication and commitment of all water safety personnel to whom appreciation is expressed.

A new computerized system of registering and accounting for certificate issued was introduced during 2000, which ran into a number of teething problems and caused serious delay in recording and processing certificates in the calendar year. This coupled with the change over to the HQ in Galway from the National Safety HQ added to some administration problems.

Certificate	Level	Total
Swim	1 to 5	29972
Safety	1 to 4	8464
Survival	1 to 3	1916
Resuscitation	1 to 4	7226
Rescue	1 to 4	4347
Pool Lifeguard	1	477
Beach Lifeguard	1	54
Instructor	1	99
Assistant Swim Teacher	1	23
Aquatics Organiser		382
Aquatics Pool Assistant		41
TOTAL		53001

*The methodology for gathering and recording certificates issued changed to meet modern day trends of computerisation.

Regrettably, provisional figures indicate that 52 lives were lost as a result of accidental drowning in 2000. 45 victims were male and 7 were female.

SUMMER WATER SAFETY PROGRAMME

IWS has an extensive summer and winter programme of courses. The winter programmes are concentrated in urban areas due to the locations of facilities with the summer programmes extending to rural areas with river, lake and beachfronts. Courses are of two distinct groups consisting of swim weeks and water safety weeks. As it suggests, swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming with water safety weeks developing skills in rescue, survival and resuscitation.

The summer programme for 2000 has involved 179 courses in 23 counties.

RTE are thanked for television and radio advertisement (Public Information Service) in supporting the summer water safety campaign.

Irish Water Safety volunteers also conducted Water Safety Information Days in the following companies:

Aventis Pharma, Tipperary

Braun Ireland

Pfizer, Co Cork

SPONSORS

Irish Water Safety receives a large proportion of it's funding from the Department of the Environment.

Local sponsorship coordinated by Local Area Committees plays a key role in developing activities nationwide. Sincere thanks to all Local Area Committees for their fundraising efforts.

Special thanks to Local Authorities for their financial support of Irish Water Safety.

IWS also wishes to thank the following sponsors who have helped raise the profile of water safety by sponsoring various projects.

RTE / Aertel

Seiko

We have a special relationship with the Irish Coast Guard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in supporting various projects. We also work with other water-based agencies through the Marine Safety Working Group, the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee (IMSARC) with whom we participated in a demonstration at Killybegs, Donegal and the Association is represented on the Users Committee – Commissioners of Irish Lights.

The members of the Marine Safety Working Group are

Irish Coast Guard, Department of Marine & Natural Resources, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Irish Sailing Association, Irish Water Safety, Health & Safety Authority, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Waterways Ireland, Dept. Environment & Local Government, Dept. Tourism Sport & Recreation.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

Irish Water Safety is a founding member of International Life Saving. It has two Grand Knights of Lifesaving (Mr F. Nolan, Waterford and Mr. M. Somers, Carlow) bestowed by ILS.

At present two members serve at International level on the European Regional Board. One is the Senior Vice President and the other is Chairman of the European Rescue Commission. Both sit on the ILS (Europe) Board.

DECEASED MEMBERS

During the year the Association lost a number of Water Safety Members who had given distinguished service on a voluntary bases to the advancement of lifesaving and rescue in Ireland. To their Families and Friends we extend our sincere and deepest sympathy.

FINANCIAL REPORT

INSERT HERE THE ATTACHED FINANCIAL REPORT “Final Financial Report_00”

BACK COVER

The majority of accidental drownings are avoidable if you know the dangers.

SWIMMING:

1. Ensure children are constantly supervised.
2. Swim with others and if possible, always swim at a beach supervised by lifeguards.
3. Stay within your depth and swim parallel to shore.
4. Avoid alcohol and allow some time for your food to digest.
5. Never use air mattresses in open water and do not swim out after anything drifting.
6. Before you swim in a strange place ask locally about particular dangers.

BOATING:

1. Always wear a lifejacket when engaged in water-based pursuits.
2. Check locally for dangerous currents and tides.
3. Do not set out unless accompanied by an experienced person.
4. Leave details of your planned trip with someone on shore including departure and arrival times. Inform the Coastguard if you plan extended passages.
5. Check weather conditions and ensure your craft and the condition of boat and equipment.

WINTER:

1. Rising water levels lead to overflowing riverbanks. The larger volumes of water, which often carry dangerous debris, can cause dangerous flooding conditions.
2. Faster currents mean that even the strongest of swimmers can be swept away.
3. Ordinarily familiar riverbanks may become dangerous and unstable.
4. Never participate in water-based activities under the influence of alcohol.
5. Sudden immersion can lead to Hypothermia, Cold Shock and unconsciousness

Do not misuse, damage or obscure lifesaving equipment.

Contact IWS for further information on water safety and courses nationwide.

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Website: www.iws.ie

Tel: 091-564400

Fax: 091-564700