

“Irish Water Safety is the statutory and voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.

Tá Cumann Sábháilteacht Uisce ina bhord reachtúil a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chotú in Éireann.”

1 Ráiteas an Chathaoirligh

Ar thóir fise an Chumainn Sábháilteacht Uisce, go naithneofaí go huilíoch ē mar cheann de na heagraíochtaí is éifeachtaí, agus is iontaofa dá bhfuil ann, agus ag cur cinn tuiscint ar shábháilteacht uisce in Éirinn, is mór an pléisiúr dom, mar chathaoirleach, an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil do 2002 a chur i bhúr láthair.

Mar eagraíocht deonach le stádas reachtúil, agus le tacaíocht airgid agus urraíocht ón Rialtas, údarais áitiúla agus mórán comhlachtaí agus eagraíochtaí, bhí ar ár gcumas cúis na sábháilteachta agus na tarrthála a chur chun cinn go forleathan ar fud na tíre. Roimh 1945, tríd is tríd, is beag tábhacht a cuireadh ar oideachas I sábháilteacht uisce sa tír, go háirid i gceantair tuaithe, go dtí gur bunaíodh an Cumann Sábháilteacht Uisce agus go ndeachaigh na baill í mbun oibre go deonach.

O thaobh airgid de, tá stádas an chumainn do 2002 sásúil, ach taispeánann an iniúchadh airgeadais go bhfuil gá seasmhach do bhreis airgid le go mbeidh ar áe gcumas sábháilteacht uisce a chur chun cinn sna blianta romhainn. Tá an Comhairle, an t-am go léir, ag iarraidh srian a choinneáil ar chostaisí, ach cuireann an mēadú ar chíos do linn snámha agus an gá le tuarastal a chur ar fail do chúigear sa cheanncheathrú go mór leis na costaisí bliain í ndiaidh bliana.

I rith na bliaina d’fhostaíomar ‘Polaris Human Resources’ le iniúchadh a dhēanamh ar ár gcuid structúir agus modhanna bainistíochta, ar bhonn náisiúnta agus ar bhonn áitiúil. Ghlac an Comhairle leis an tuarascáil agus tá áthas orm gur fēidir liom a rá go bhfuil glactha le cuid de na moltaí cheana fēin, agus go bhfuil siad curtha í bhfeidhm. Mar thoradh ar seo, ba cheart bheith ag súil go mbeadh caidreamh níos fearr agus níos follasaí idir an structúir bainistíocht agus na coistí áitiúla.

Is ball gníomhach ē an Cumann Sábháilteacht Uisce den eagraíocht domhanda de Tharrthaíl Idirnáisiúnta, agus tógann sē páirt iomlán in imeachtaí Eorpacha agus domlanda, ag glacadh le pstonna ar na boird agus coimisiúin go léir. Ní fēidir an tairbhe a thagann as sin a áireamh; coinníonn se í dteangmháil muid le forairtí, eolas agus modhanna nua I ábháilteacht Uisce, tarrtháil agus athbeochan. Ach, ar an taobh eile, cuirimidne ár seirbhísí ar fáil ar fail do na cónascanna tarrthála ar fud na cruinne.

Maidir le ‘Cothbháil Beatha Bunúsach,’ leanaimíd, mar eagraíocht, modhanna múinte na gComhairlí Athbheochana Eorpacha, ar chomhairle ár n-óifigeach Oinigh Leighis, an Dr. Tony Handley. Thosaigh ár bpáirtíocht idirnáisiúnta nuair a chuaigh triúir baill go

Geneva sa mbliain 1964 go dtí comhdháil domhanda ar bháthadh, faoi scáth Cumann Idirnáisiúnta na Croise Deirge.

Tá có-oibriú den scoth leis an gCumann Tarrthála Ríoga (í bpoblacht na hÉireann agus í dTuaisceart Éireann). Rinneamar fiosrú ar na feidireachtaí le fóirine tarrthála aontaithe ón tuaisceart agus ón deisceart a chur isteach ar chomórtais idirnáisiúnta. Chuireamar araon airgead ar fáil agus d'oibríomar le chéile leis an ngradam cuimhneachain Charles Thomson a bhunú. Bronnfar an gradam seo gach bliain ar an údarás áitiúil, aon áit ar óileán na hÉireann, is mó a chuireann sábháilteacht uisce chun cinn, i dtuairim na moltóirí. Ba tharrthálaí idirnáisiúnta as an ngnáth é Charles Thomson MBE, a chuir sábháilteacht uisce agus tarrtháil chun cinn go mór in Éirinn. Ba é mian na mball uilg de chuid an Chumainn Tarrthála Ríoga agus an Chumainn Sábháilteacht Uisce go mbunófaí an gradam seo ina onóir. Bhronn an t-Aire Iomshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil an gradam ar an gcéad bhuaitheoir, Comhairle Chontae Phort Láirge.

Cuireann na 28 coistí áitiúla de Chumann Shábháilteacht Uisce, maille leis an dá choiste speisialta sna Gardaí Síochána agus ins na Fórsaí Cosanta, ar ár gcumas sábháilteacht uisce a chur cunn cinn ar feadh na bliana. Sa ngeimhíeadh dēantar é seo sna linn snámha agus sa samhradh in ionaid amuigh faoin aer. Chomh maith leo san, tá clár scoile an-mhaith againn ina n-oibrímid le múinteoirí scoile le cur ar a súile do pháistí, ag aois óg, tabhacht na sábháilteachta uisce. Tá an gnē seo dár gcuid oibre ag dul ar aghaidh an t-am go léir agus táimid ag súil len é a fhorbairt níos mó sna blianta romhainn.

Is é an Cumann Sábháilteacht Uisce an t-eagras deonach/reachtúil a bhfuil freagracht air eolas ar shábháilteacht uisce a chur chun cinn sa tír seo, agus co-oibrímid go hiomlán leis an Roinn Iomshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil, an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, na húdaráis áitiúla, an stiúrthoireacht Sábháilteacht Mara, Garda Chosta na hÉireann, an t-Institiúid Náisiúnta Ríoga na mBád Tarrthála, na grúpai tarrthála cois cladaigh, Cumann Seoltóireachta na hÉireann, Coimisinéirí na Solas Éireannacha, an Garda Síochána, na Forsaí Cosanta, ILAM agus na brainsí den Chumann Tarrthála Ríoga, thuaidh agus theas.

Is maith an rud é gur feidir a rá go raibh laghdú ó 177 go dtí 148 ar an líon daoine a báthadh sa mbliain 2002 le hais 2001. Bhi laghdú de 24 freisin, ar an méid timpistí bathadh. Mar sin féin, is cás linn fós go bhfuil daoine ann atá beag beann ar na rialacha a bhaineann le sábháilteacht uisce nuair a thēann said ar nó ins an uisce mar shlí beatha nó mar chaitheamh aimsire. Mar náisiún oilēanach, leis na háiseanna uisce is fearr ar domhan, ní foláir dúinn comeád ós ár súile an gēarghá le bainistíocht iomshaoil ceart, le bēim láidir ar shábháilteacht uisce.

Tháinig deireadh le tēarma an Chomhairle mí na Samhna seo caite, agus is mian liom, mar chathaoirleach, buíochas a ghabháil le baill an Chomhairle, agus leis na baill ar na coimisiúin agus coistí náisiúnta, as an sárobair a rinne said sna trí bliana ó atheagraíodh an Cumann Sábháilteacht Uisce. Bhí de thoradh ar an am agus an dúthracht a thug siad go deonach, ná gur cinnte go bhfuil daoine beo inniu da mbarr, agus go raibh mēadú agus leathnú sna meáin cumarsáide agus í bhfoinsí eile ar shoiscēal na sábháilteachta uisce.

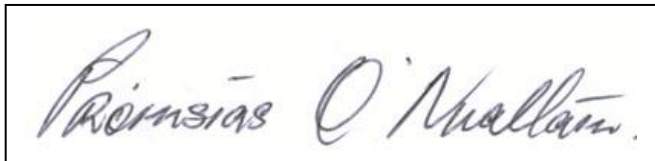
Is mian liom mo bhúochas a ghabháil leis na baill deonacha, na scrúdaitheoirí, teagascóirí, múinteoirí, lucht cabhrach agus, freisin, an fhoireann sa cheanncheathrú, as

an tacaíocht a thug said go léir don obair atá idir lámha again. Gan a gcuid oibre agus a gcuid dúthrachta, ní bheimís san áit a bhfuilimid inniu, réidh le cēim chun cinn mór eile a thógaint. Gabhaim buíochas, freisin, leis na hairí Ó Coillin, Ó Diompsaigh agus Ó Maoildhia as a dtacaíocht don Chumann Sábháilteacht Uisce í rith na bliana 2002.

Mar chríoch, ní foláir dom a rá gur mór le heagraíochta tarrthála ar fud na cruinne an saineolas agus an proifisiúntacht a bhaineann leis an gCumann Sábháilteacht Uisce. Ēistear go haireach lenár dtuairimí ar shábháilteacht uisce, ar athbheochan agus ar tharrtháil, in Ēirinn agus í bhfórim idirnáisiúnta. Tá an-chreidiúint ag dul dár mbunaitheoirí, seasca bliain ó shin, go bhfuil an Cumann Sábháilteacht Uisce prēamhaithe fós í ndíogras deonach a mbaill.

Proinsias S. Ó Nualláin R.M.O.T.

Cathaoirleach, An Cumann Sabháilteacht Uisce.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Proinsias Ó Nualláin".

Prionsias Ó'Nualláin
Cathaoirleach

2 Chairman's Report

In the pursuance of Irish Water Safety's vision to be recognised universally as the most effective, innovative and dependable of voluntary organisations, advancing the cause of Water Safety Awareness in Ireland, I have pleasure as Chairman to present the Annual Report for 2002.

As a Statutory and Voluntary Organisation, due to financial support and sponsorship in kind by Government, Local Authorities and many other Companies and Organisations we have been able to advance the cause of water safety and rescue nationwide. Prior to 1945, with few exceptions, there was little or no emphasis on water safety education in this country, particularly in rural areas until the formation of Water Safety by the members who gave of their time voluntary. The financial position at 2002 is satisfactory, however, the audit for the year reflects a sustained need for additional funding if we are to progress water safety awareness in the years ahead. The Council strives at all times to get value for money, but the high cost of pool hire, plus retaining five fulltime office staff are major factors in increased costs on an annual basis.

During the year we had consultant's "Polaris Human Resources" examine our structure and management procedures at national and local level. The Council accepted the report and it is pleasing to state that many of the recommendations have been accepted and already implemented. These should lead to a more transparent and better relationship between the management structure and local committees.

Irish Water Safety is an active member of the world body of International Life Saving, and participates fully at both European and World level, holding office on all Boards and

Commissions. The benefits that accrue from this involvement are immeasurable; it keeps us in touch with many new developments and innovations in relation to water safety, rescue and resuscitation. However, it is by no means one-way traffic, we also offer our services to Life Saving Federations worldwide. In relation to "Basic Life Support" we as an organisation follow the European Resuscitation Councils methodology of teaching. This we do on the advice of our Hon. Medical Officer, Dr. Tony Handley. We first participated at international level in 1964 when three of our members went to Geneva to a world conference on drowning run under the auspices of the International Red Cross. We have had excellent cooperation with the Royal Life Saving Society (RoI and N.I Branches). We have investigated the possibility of drawing on our memberships from both north and south to form Irish international teams for lifesaving purposes. Together we financed jointly and cooperated in establishing the Charles Thomson memorial award, to be presented each year to the Local Authority from north or south who in the view of the judges contributes most to water safety awareness within their jurisdiction. Charles Thomson, MBE was an international lifesaver extraordinary who contributed greatly to safety and rescue in Ireland and it was the wish of all members of the Royal Life Saving Society and Irish Water Safety that he be so honoured. The first recipient of the award was Waterford County Council, which was presented by Mr. Martin Cullen T.D., Minister of the Environment and Local Government.

With 28 Water Safety Area Committees and two special committees, one within An Garda Síochána and the other within the Defence Forces, we are able to promote water safety all year round, both at wintertime within pools and summertime at outdoor venues. We also have an excellent schools programme, whereby we involve the school-teachers and this allows us (in most cases) to have children made aware of the water safety in school at a very young age. This aspect of our work is on going and we hope to develop it even further in the coming years. In keeping with having the best available knowledge for the teaching of lifesaving and swimming, our members attend courses at home and abroad and the year 2002 was no exception. We qualified a number of our Water Safety Examiners as Tutors with the full cooperation of the Swimming Teachers Association UK. We also qualified eighty additional Examiners, which brings the total number of Examiners to well over 200. The number of our voluntary instructors continues to grow, notwithstanding the fact that many voluntary organisations similar to Irish Water Safety are striving to increase membership. The number of certificates issued both in swimming and lifesaving is increasing having been computerised.

Irish Water Safety is the "Voluntary/Statutory Body" responsible for water safety awareness in this country and we cooperate fully with the Departments of Environment & Local Government, Education, Local Authorities, Maritime Safety Directorate, Irish Coast Guard, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Community Inshore Rescue Groups, Irish Sailing Association, Commissioners of Irish Lights, An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces, ILAM and the Royal Life Saving Society Branches both north and south. It is pleasing to report that for the year 2002 the drowning figure of 148 persons was down on the number for 2001 of 177. This also showed a decrease in the number of accidental drownings for the year of 24. However, we are still concerned that many people, notwithstanding the promotional efforts to advise, disregard the basic water safety rules when going near, on or in the water be it for recreational or employment purposes! As an island nation, presented with the best available waters any country in the world has to offer, we must be at all times conscious of the need for proper environmental management, which includes a very high ratio of water safety awareness. Last November saw the end of the term of office of the Council and I take this opportunity as the Chairman to thank the members of Council, and other national

committees and commissions for the fine contribution made over the three year period of the newly constituted Irish Water Safety. Their time and energies given on a voluntary basis certainly saved life over the period in question and saw an expansion in the water safety message delivered by the media and other sources. I wish to thank our voluntary members, examiners, tutors, instructors, helpers and also the staff at headquarters for their support. Without their endless work and dedication we would not be where we are today and we would not be so strongly positioned for the future. I also thank Minister Cullen, Minister Dempsey and Minister Molloy for their support to Irish Water Safety during 2002.

In conclusion, our expertise and our professional approach is the source of envy of many lifesaving organisations worldwide. Our opinions on matters of water safety, resuscitation and rescue are highly valued at home and at international level. To think that we continue Irish Water Safety, based on a voluntary commitment is to the credit of our founding members some sixty years ago.

Frank J. Nolan.
G.Kt.Odr.L.S.
Chairman
Irish Water Safety

3 Irish Water Safety Council

Mr. Frank Nolan, Co. Waterford

Chairman

Has been involved in Water Safety and Sea Rescue on a voluntary basis for 50 years and was coxswain on Tramore Lifeboat for 28 years. He is the present Chairman of IWS and is senior Vice President of International Lifesaving (Europe) and a board member and Financial Examiner for International Lifesaving (World Body), these being two of the many national and international awards that have been awarded to him. He is one of 28 Worldwide "Grand Knights of the Order of Lifesaving". A previous winner of the All Ireland Life Saving Championships, he has served on many national and international Water Safety Committees. He is the present vice chairman of Waterford Water Safety Local Area Committee and a recognised inshore rescue and cliff rescue expert.

Ms. Kathryn Byrne, Co. Dublin

Occupation: MD of Limelight Communications

Kathryn is Managing Director of a Public Relations consultancy based in Dublin.

Kathryn brings her background in PR to the Advisory Promotion and Development Committee of which she is a member.

Ms. Breda Collins, Co. Kilkenny

Joined Water Safety in 1986 and is an active Instructor, Examiner and Beach Surveyor and serves on the Rescue Commission.

Mr. Michael Cuddihy, Co. Waterford

Michael Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time he has served on many national and international committees and is currently the Chairman

of the Sports and Lifesaving Commission. He has a special interest in promoting sport within international lifesaving and has brought teams to South Africa, Australia, the USA and mainland Europe to compete successfully in international events.

Ms. Breda Doherty, Co. Meath

Occupation: Manager of Trim Swimming Pool

A member of Irish Water Safety since 1979, she was a member of the Meath Ladies Lifesaving Team, Winners of National Championships 1986. Appointed to IWS Council 1999, she remains a very active water safety instructor.

Mr. Ian Keating, Co. Dublin

Occupation: Principal Officer - Department of Environment & Local Government

Ian has served in the Department of the Environment since 1973 and worked within many different divisions including Local Government, Planning and Construction. As Principal Officer in the Local Services Section, he has responsibility for Water Safety in the Department.

Mr. Jim Lawlor, Co. Sligo

A Ministerial appointment to the Council, Jim is a former two-term President of the National Basketball Association. He is currently the President of the Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Advisory Promotion Committee.

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Co. Clare

Brendan is current Chairman of Clare Area Water Safety Committee and serves on the Lifesaving Commission. Involved with water safety since 1970, Brendan is an active instructor, examiner and risk assessor.

Ms. Ann McGuinness, Co. Westmeath

Occupation: Westmeath County Manager

Ann has over 17 years experience with the Department of the Environment and has worked in the Roads, Local Finance, Personnel and Housing Sections. She has also dealt with international and environmental matters. In January 1999, Westmeath County Council appointed her as the first female County Manager in the country. In November 1999, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government appointed Ms. McGuinness to Irish Water Safety for a three-year period.

Mr. Michael Murphy, Co. Dublin

Occupation: Principal of National School

Michael's involvement in water safety goes back to 1963 when he took his Red Cross examinations. He became more involved with the administration of the organisation's instructors and examiners and is current Chairman of the Education Commission. He is leading in the development of a Code of Ethics for the organisation.

Mr. Martin O'Sullivan, Co. Cork

Martin has been involved with water safety since 1971, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of Cork Water Safety at various times since 1973 and is the current Chairman of the Rescue Commission. He has been involved internationally since 1990 as Chairman of World Lifesaving's Membership Committee and Chairman of the Rescue Committee of the European

Region of ILS (Europe). Martin has been the IWS representative on the Blue Flag jury for the past ten years.

Mr. Paddy Phipps, Co. Dublin.

In 1971, when the Irish Water Safety Association was set up, Paddy Phipps transferred from the Land Commission to the Custom House to look after Water Safety until it merged with the National Safety Council. Having retired in 1989, Paddy continues to work for IWS in a voluntary capacity as he has always done, and has interest and input into water safety issues nationwide, particularly in Dublin and Donegal.

4 LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES

The organisation has twenty-eight Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Siochana Special Water Safety Committees making a total of thirty.

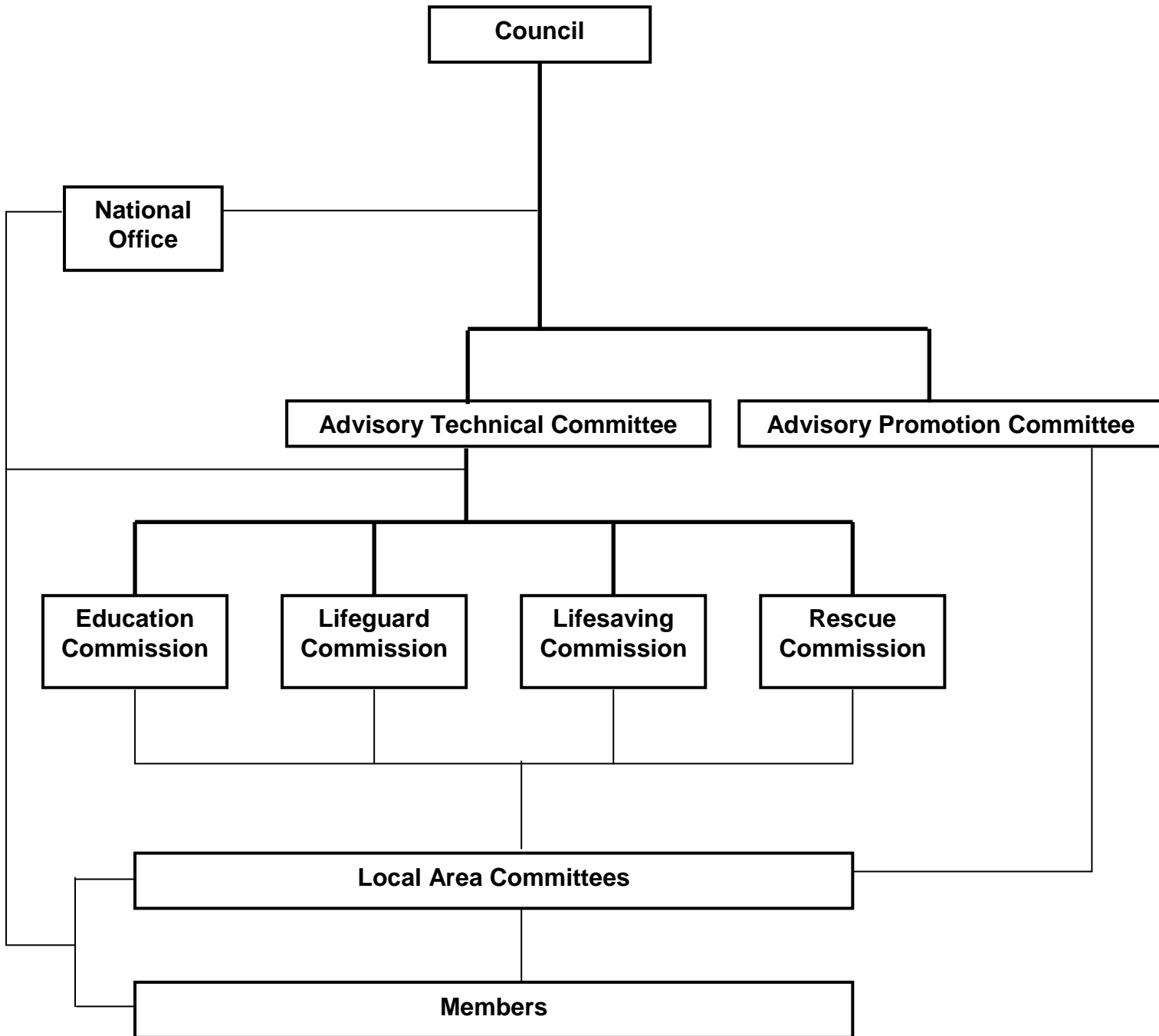
Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is on the Local Area Water Safety Committee. Much recognition must be afforded these committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. Most programmes consist of pool sessions in the winter and water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

The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over one thousand three hundred members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Thanks to their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a huge increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

5 STAFF

Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO
Roger Sweeney, Marketing Executive
Joan Harte, Office Manager
Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
Caitriona Hanley, Clerical Administrator

6 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE 2002



7 The Rescue Commission

Members

Ms. Breda Collins, Co. Kilkenny, Chairperson
Mr. Ronnie Horan, Co. Dublin, Secretary
Mr. Kevin Desmond, Co. Wicklow
Mr. Dave Kenneally, Co. Waterford
Mr. Frank Nolan, Co. Waterford, (ex officio)

▪ Risk Assessments

Areas surveyed included beaches, quays, piers, lakes and rivers. Assessors must identify hazards and make recommendations on signage, rescue equipment, lifeguard service and access.

In 2002, fifty-five sites were assessed.

Forty-four of these were Local Authority sites as follows:

Kildare - 16 sites	Mayo - 16 sites
Dublin - 1 site	Clare - 6 sites
Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown - 4 sites	Louth - 1 site

New developments on risk assessments occurred in 2002.

For the first time IWS carried out risk assessments for the following organisations:

Bord na Mona - 5 sites

E.S.B.- 4 sites. IWS have been tasked to carry out a risk assessment on all ESB sites nationwide.

▪ Blue Flag

IWS Council member, Mr Martin O'Sullivan is the appointed IWS representative to the Blue flag jury. A number of developments occurred in 2002.

A successful Risk Assessment will be essential criteria for gaining Blue Flag status as and from 2005. I.W.S. is the designated body to carry out these assessments. A number of assimilation courses are planned for Assessors.

▪ Courses run by Rescue Commission in 2002

A Risk Assessors Refreshers Course was held in September 2002. There were twenty-four participants.

Three Rescue-Boat courses were held - one for Community Rescue Stations and two Inshore rescue Boat courses for the Irish Coastguard)

▪ V.A.T. relief inspection

There are eight Community Inshore Rescue Stations registered as a "Declared Facility" with the Irish Coastguard. These require a bi-annual inspection to ensure that they are up to the required standard. IES have a team of land based and sea-going inspectors, which include members of the RNLI, whose assistance we greatly value.

Two new IWS personnel have agreed to join the panel of assessors.

Rescue commission members also visited a number of communities requiring assistance with establishing new Community Inshore Rescue Stations.

A manual of guidelines for the establishment of a C.I.R.S. was revised and launched at the 2002 Boat Show.

- **Rescue Awards**

In 2002 the Rescue Commission approved seven Rescue Awards. It was heartening to note that four of these rescuers had I.W.S. Lifesaving qualifications.

8 The Lifesaving Commission

Members

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Co. Clare, Chairman

Ms. Bernadette O'Connor, Co. Kerry

Mr. Seamus O'Neill, Co. Donegal

Mr. Paul Murphy, Co. Dublin

Mr. Willie Doyle, Co. Wexford

Mr. Frank Nolan, Waterford

- **Examination Syllabus Review.**

The Lifesaving commission undertook a complete review of the entire syllabus. Feedback from the IWS Examiner's conference was added and the syllabus was prepared for publication.

- **Surf Life Saving Awards**

A number of awards were developed. These have received trial runs in a number of locations around the country. As a result of excellent feedback, the Lifesaving Commission have proposed the introduction of a number of outdoor specific awards.

- **Liaison with the Swimming Teachers Association**

IWS has attended STA council meetings and the STA annual conference. A joint STA/IWS swimming teacher tutors course was successfully run during February 2002. It has been agreed that an IWS member attend an STA Disability Awareness course. IWS look forward to delivering such courses in the near future.

- **Irish Heart Foundation**

Liaisons continue with the Irish Heart Foundation with a view to establishing a number of joint IWS/IHF projects. IWS member, Mr Ronnie Horan has attended a full IHF instructors training course on behalf of IWS.

- **Review of Trainee Examiner courses**

A proposal was prepared and presented to the Advisory Technical Committee for completion.

- **Examination Return Forms**

Draft examination return forms were prepared and subsequently completed by the Advisory Technical Committee.

- **Organisation of AED courses**

A number of training courses in the use of Automatic External Defibrillators were organised around the country.

- **Development of Basic Life Support teaching aids.**
- **Development of Swimming Teacher Courses.**
- **The commission also considered the development of awards with the Irish Surfing Association and the Irish Sailing Association.**

9 The Sports and Lifeguarding Commission

Members

Mr. Michael Cuddihy, Co. Waterford, Chairman

Mr. Jack Mason, Co. Dublin

Mr. Paul Burke, Co. Cork

In 2002 the Commission was responsible for all matters concerning Lifeguarding and Competitions including:

- IWS National Junior Lifesaving Championships in Cork
- IWS/Vodafone National Senior Lifesaving Championships in Wicklow at which a DLRG team from Germany also competed.
- The Commission also organised a team to represent Ireland in the Nivea Cup (The German Surf-Lifesaving Championships), which is held annually in Warnemunde, near Rostock. Trials for this team were held in County Clare in early June, and from these trials five males and five females were chosen. This team were very successful on their first outing with all of the members reaching finals in their disciplines.

There were some notable results, namely:

Peter Conroy: Gold in 90m Beach Sprint

Oisín Mc Grath: Silver in the Board Race

Both male and female teams came fourth in their respective taplin finals.

- The Donegal Local Area Committee entered a team in the Celtic Games, which were held in Donegal in August.
- The Commission envisaged that a winter league competition structure would be activated with a pool competition being hosted by a Local Area Committee every four to six weeks (rotated). This would be important for keeping competitors fit and interested in competition.
- The Commission set out three years ago to raise the profile of competitions in this country. While, inevitably, some problems occurred along the way, the Commission members are pleased with the fact that the standard of lifeguarding in the country is ever improving. Competitions ensure that lifeguards are fit and skilled at their job and the international success of our Nivea Cup team has shown us that our lifesavers are amongst the best in Europe.
- IWS national referee course / IWS level 1 coaching course / IWS beachguard provider course:
 - Fourteen candidates took part in these courses that were completed in 2002. All candidates were successful in exams for each of these

courses and only a few have yet to complete their log books in the Level 1 coaching course.

- It is envisaged that the Level 2 Coaching course will contain much more practical work and information. Having a number of people qualified to referee at competitions is a great help at competition time.
- The competition rule book was updated to include a section on fair play and drug free policies
- The Beach Lifeguard re-validation form was improved.
- A Course was provided to the Royal Lifesaving Society, explaining the IWS Rule Book, prior to Nivea Cup Trials.
- The Commission continues to monitor the situation with the Community Game's link to water safety.

10 The Education Commission

Members

Mr. Michael Murphy, Co. Dublin, Chairman

Dr. Ita Richardson, Secretary, Limerick City

Mr. David Devine, Dublin

Mr. Eamonn Murtagh, Dept. of Education Appointee, Co. Wicklow

Ms. Evelyn McFadden, Co. Kildare

In 2002 the Commission was responsible for all matters concerning Education including:

- **In-Service Courses**

- Areas that have held courses since their inception in 1986 are:

Dublin	Kilkenny
Limerick	Donegal
Cork	Meath
Wicklow	Tipperary South
Louth	Galway
Wexford	Mayo
Waterford	Monaghan
Carlow	Clare
Kildare	Westmeath

- In 2002 courses were held in Dublin (2), Kildare (2), Wexford, Limerick, Cork (2), Donegal and Clare. Two hundred and eighty primary teachers received IWS certification during these courses. The Education Commission congratulates Clare and Kildare on holding their first courses in 2002.
- The Education Commission has worked to prepare the Aquatics Programme for Primary Schools, which will come on stream in September 2003. Mr. Michael Murphy has been appointed by the Department of Education to participate in the Primary Curriculum Support Programme working group. This team is responsible for

designing the in-service aquatics courses for teachers in the Physical Education Curriculum.

○ Teacher Training

- These courses have proved very popular with teachers. Two new awards, *Aquatics Organiser* and *Aquatics Pool Assistant*, are offered to every student. The Education Commission congratulate Local Area Committees on the work they are doing because at least 10% of the students in the colleges have passed Rescue 4. Students in the following training colleges are taking these IWS courses:

- St.Patrick's College, Drumcondra
- Foebel College
- Marino College of Education
- Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines
- Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick

- **Awards**

Work on new awards, *PAWS* – Primary Aquatics Water Safety, paralleling the Primary Schools' aquatics program was completed during the year. All Education Commission Awards are included in the new syllabus. These are *PAWS*, *JAWS* (*Junior Aquatics Water Safety*), *Aquatics Organiser* and *Aquatics Pool Assistant*.

- **Child Protection**

The Education Commission is devising a new membership form, which will be incorporated in a new booklet with the Code of Ethics. A number of concerns have been brought to the commission, which are under review, e.g. use of cameras and videos at swimming pools. A sub-committee of Council has been set up to examine membership types and the current Instructor Log Book will be modified to become the Class Attendance Record Book.

- **Special Needs**

We are aware of the need to integrate Special Needs Awards into our syllabus. This will be expedited following IWS attendance at an STA Special Needs Provider Course.

- **P.E. Teachers**

We have held discussions with the Physical Education Association of Ireland and have agreed that IWS will compile a Water Safety Pack, which can be distributed to P.E. teachers nationally. Pack will include:

- Rescue Skills Manual
- Summary of Junior and Senior Aquatics Course
- JAWS Syllabus
- Sample JAWS Certificates
- Posters
- Leaflets, etc.

- **Sports and Recreation at Third Level**

The Commission carried out a detailed investigation into the availability of Water Safety Courses in third level institutions and on post primary certificate courses such as Recreation and Leisure Studies, Sports and Leisure Management, Leisure Studies, Health and Leisure Studies including and excluding pool lifeguard courses.

There is a need to address IWS's input into third level colleges, particularly with respect to the Pool and Beach Lifeguard Awards. The commission have recommended that a full-time Education and Training Officer be appointed, whose remit would include research into the development of a plan for third level for the future.

Availability of Water Safety Courses:

St. Kevin's College, Crumlin, Dublin.	IWS
Dundrum College, VEC	IWS
Sallynoggin College of Further Ed.	IWS
DIT, Cathal Bruagha St., Dublin	No award
Inchicore College of Fur. Ed	RLSS
Colaiste Ide, Finglas, Dublin	RLSS
Community College, Moneenageisha, Galway	No award
Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, Cork	IWS
Sligo, IT	IWS
Waterford, IT	IWS
Tralee, IT	RLSS
Athlone, IT	IWS
Enniscorthy Vocational College, Wexford	RLSS
Bray Inst. Fur. Ed.	RLSS – bronze medallion
Carlow VEC	IWS
Croom, Limerick	IWS

11 The Advisory Technical Committee

Members

Martin O'Sullivan, Co. Cork, Chairman
 Brendan McGrath, Co. Clare
 Michael Murphy, Co. Dublin
 Breda Collins, Co. Kilkenny
 Michael Cuddihy, Co. Waterford

The ATC met on seven occasions in 2002 and dealt with all technical matters brought forward by the four commissions.

Trainee Examiners courses were completed, with Stages 2 and 3 being carried out for the largest number of trainee Examiners in the history of the organisation.

The circular entitled “The Period of Validity” was completed and procedures for Instructor/Examiner qualifications and for Refresher Courses were agreed and an Appeals Procedure has been completed.

The IWS Assistant Swimming Teacher Award may be run as a stand alone course with its own certification

The new Pool Lifeguard Award has been developed in conjunction with the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM).

The new Pool Lifeguard Manual has been completed and all manuals have been reviewed, updated and prioritised for printing.

The ATC organised an AED tutors course to cater for eight trainee tutors. Either those who have successfully completed the AED trainee tutors course or those who have already qualified as AED Tutors with the IWS medical officer, Dr Tony Handley, will train all other personnel delivering the AED module of the new Pool Lifeguard Award.

12 The Advisory Promotion & Development Committee

Members

Mr. Jim Lawlor, Co Sligo, Chairman

Ms. Kathryn Byrne, Co. Dublin

Ms. Breeda Doherty, Co. Meath

Mr. Paddy Phipps, Co. Dublin

Mr. Ray Wickham, Co. Dublin

Mr. Donal O’Sullivan, Co. Dublin

The Advisory Promotion and Development Committee was responsible for guiding the efforts to promote the Association through corporate partnerships, marketing and public relations. The Commission set the following goals:

- Develop a distinct brand identity
- Increase brand awareness
- Identify at-risk groups
- Establish a full range of branded products
- Effectively and efficiently deliver the water safety message
- Recruit new partners
- Maintain and develop existing partners
- Improve internal communications

13 Press Releases

Irish Water Safety thanks all media channels for bringing the water safety message to the public throughout the year. This coverage generated a significant increase in the number of queries handled through the National office.

- 79 Media Interviews on TV and radio
- 24 Press Releases
- 203 articles in National and local press and specialist periodicals
 - Press Releases 2002

- **Quarter 1**
 - Martin O’Sullivan conferred Knight of the Order of Lifesaving
 - Minister for Defence visits IWS
 - Urgent press release flooding Jan 2002
 - Press release Boat Show
 - Urgent press release flooding Feb 2002
 - St Patrick’s Day Press Release
 - Easter Press Release
- **Quarter 2**
 - May Bank Holiday Press release
 - National Water Safety Week
 - Silage runoff poses drowning risk
 - Vodafone provide mobile phones for lifeguards
 - Drowning Statistics in Ireland
- **Quarter 3**
 - Ireland competes in International Nivea Cup Lifesaving Championships
 - Junior Lifesaving Championships
 - Search and Rescue Demonstration
 - Germany Award Order of Merit to Lifesaver
 - IWS / Vodafone Lifesaving Championships 2002
 - Vodafone provide extended coverage at sea
 - Flood warning as highest tides hit Ireland
- **Quarter 4**
 - October Bank Holiday
 - Examiners Conference
 - Urgent flood warning
 - Garda receives IWS/Seiko Just In Time Award
 - School Poster Competition
 - Avoid hypothermia during your Christmas swim

14 ADVERTISING

- Four national radio campaigns (June, August, September and October)
 - These campaigns raised the number of public water safety queries processed nationwide and resulted in greater up take of lifesaving classes.
- Three national TV campaigns on RTE, BSKYB and TG4 over a seven-month period. Our thanks are extended to Sarah Keating from the pop group SIX for voicing a national TV advertising campaign.

15 PROMOTIONS

- Website: www.iws.ie : a “one-stop-shop” for water safety matters
- IWS Newsletter - Irish Water Safety News
- Wall Planner
- Pocket Diary – our thanks to the sponsors
- 14 Steps to Safe Swimming poster for Schools Poster Competition
- Safe Boating poster
- Safe Swimming leaflet

- Safe Boating leaflet
- Water Safety Signs Code Leaflet
- Hypothermia Leaflet reprint
- 40,000 Car Stickers. These water safety messages can be seen on cars, watercraft and windows of buildings nationwide.
 - 25,000 car stickers distributed with certificates
 - 10,000 inserted in Afloat & Inland Waterways magazines
 - 5,000 distributed to boating and sailing clubs nationwide.
 - 5 messages
 - Swim Near A Lifeguard
 - Learn Lifesaving Skills
 - Always Swim With Others
 - Don't Eat Before Swimming
 - Always Wear A Lifejacket.
- Four million Shop Till Receipt Advertising Coupons
 - This promotion highlighted the importance of learning life saving skills and built on our radio promotion to reach a larger audience in supermarkets nationwide.

16 EVENTS

- Water Safety Awareness Week: May 27th – June 3rd 2002
 - launched at Boat Show 2002
 - A radio campaign voiced by RTE TV and radio presenter and DJ Mr Dave Fanning targeted the 20-29 age group nationwide
- Junior Lifesaving Championships
- Water Safety Weeks
 - There were 145 registered classes on the website in 2002
- IWS/Vodafone National Lifesaving Championships

17 SPONSORSHIP

- Our thanks to the many sponsors who partnered with us to raise water safety awareness throughout the year.
 - Marine Safety Working Group
 - North Western Health Board
 - Inland Waterways Association
 - Department Of Marine and Natural Resources
 - Vodafone
 - Irish Insurance Federation
 - RTE / Aertel
 - Department of Education
 - DLRG (German Water Safety)
 - Yachtsman Insurance, Dublin
 - Dave Fanning, broadcaster
 - Sarah Keating, pop singer
 - BSKYB
 - TG4
 - Lough Ree Powerboat School
 - Shop & Save Limited
 - Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management

- Pole Covers Limited
- ESB
- RNLI
- Seiko
- The many sponsors of the IWS Annual Diary

18 WEBSITE

- www.iws.ie and www.aquatics.ie
- www.iws.ie was a winner of a Public Sector Times Excellence in E-Government Websites Merit Award 2002, presented by An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern.
- Online Shop
 - The product range has expanded to include personal flotation devices and other water safety related products.
 - A range of good quality branded Lifeguard clothing now provides a professional image for Lifeguards nationwide.
- The Links section contains over 80 links to water safety related sites.
- There is a free job vacancy advertising section for leisure centres and local authorities and a free courses section for details of lifesaving courses nationwide.
- A growing amount of uploaded information and links has made the site a one-stop-shop for water safety advice.

19 MEMBERSHIPS

- 1305 IWS members nationwide

20 CERTIFICATION

The IWS certification process takes advantage of Internet technology to dramatically reduce the time taken to process certificates. Each Local Area Committee enters candidate results to an online database at the back end of the IWS website. This information is relayed immediately to the national office where certificates are printed and distributed.

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Our Swim certificates are issued directly to and accounted for by Area Committees, however we are now examining the possibility of monitoring the distribution of Swim certificates. The overall number of Swim certificates is significant and continues to grow reflecting the efforts of our voluntary members who instil water confidence and deep-water swimming ability in thousands of people every year. In recent years, these are accounted for at local level. In addition to the 43,590 Swim certificates issued to Area Committees, a further 21,580 Lifesaving certificates were processed through the online system in 2002 (see table below).

Aquatics Organiser	234
Aquatics Pool Assistant	99
Assistant Swimming Teacher	62
Beach Lifeguard	61
Inshore Rescue 1 Day R.I.B.	0
Inshore Rescue 2 Day D Class	8
Inshore Rescue 3 Day D Class	22
Instructor	72

Junior Aquatics Water Safety 1	29
Junior Aquatics Water Safety 2	23
Pool Lifeguard	851
Rescue 1	1283
Rescue 2	1049
Rescue 3	919
Rescue 4	422
Basic Life Support 1	3682
Basic Life Support 2	1867
Basic Life Support 3	1288
Basic Life Support 4	18
Safety 1	2138
Safety 2	2265
Safety 3	1875
Safety 4	1581
SEAL 2	14
Survival 1	768
Survival 2	876
Survival 3	73

21 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

IWS maintains a comprehensive database of drowning incidents in Ireland. This database is constantly updated using information provided by the Central Statistics Office, An Garda Síochána and extracts from the national and local press.

Tragically in 2002 there were a total of 148 drownings.

62	Accidental drownings
76	Non-Accidental
10	Undetermined whether accidental or non-accidental.

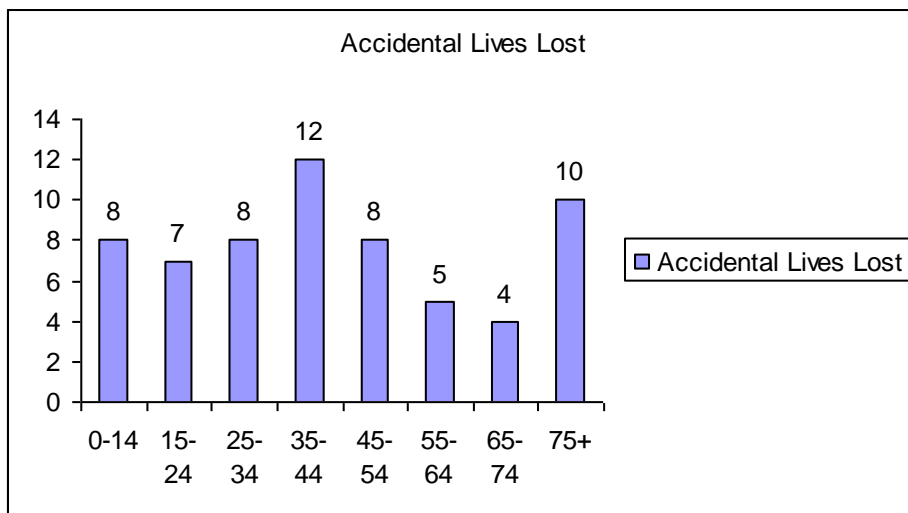
Total drownings by gender:

Accidental	Male	52
	Female	10
Suicide	Male	57
	Female	19
Undetermined	Male	8
	Female	2
All		148

Total drownings by age group:



Total accidental drownings by age group:



Total drownings by county:

Province	County of registration	All	Male	Female	0-24	25-34	35-64	65&over
Leinster	Dublin C.B.	15	12	3	2	2	8	3
	Dun Lgh. Rdown	3	2	1	0	1	1	1
	Dublin Belgard	3	1	2	1	0	2	0
	Carlow	2	2	0	0	0	2	0
	Kildare	7	6	1	1	2	4	0
	Kilkenny	4	4	0	0	0	3	1
	Laois	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Longford	2	1	1	0	1	1	0
	Louth	2	2	0	0	1	1	0
	Meath	2	1	1	0	0	2	0
	Offaly	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Westmeath	3	2	1	0	0	3	0
	Wexford	9	9	0	2	3	3	1
	Munster	Waterford Co.	2	2	0	0	0	1
Waterford C.B.		3	1	2	1	1	1	0
Clare		5	5	0	0	0	5	0

	Cork C.B.	14	12	2	2	4	7	1
	Cork Co.	12	9	3	1	2	7	2
	Kerry	3	3	0	0	1	1	1
	Limerick C.B.	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Limerick Co.	9	5	4	5	1	1	2
	Tipperary N.R.	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Tipperary S.R.	3	3	0	1	1	1	0
Connacht	Galway Co.	4	3	1	0	1	2	1
	Galway C.B.	8	6	2	2	2	3	1
	Leitrim	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Mayo	13	10	3	2	3	4	4
	Roscommon	2	1	1	0	0	1	1
	Sligo	4	4	0	1	1	1	1
Ulster (part of)	Cavan	3	3	0	1	1	1	0
	Donegal	6	3	3	1	2	2	1
All		148	117	31	23	30	72	23

22 Courses

A number of courses were coordinated during the year by the various commissions and committees (see commission reports) including a Coaching Course, a National Beach Lifeguard Providers Course and a National Referees Course.

23 Summer Water Safety Weeks

Irish Water Safety's Local Area Committees run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks. The winter programmes are run in pools nationwide and the summer programmes extend to rural areas with river, lake and beachfronts.

Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks develop skills in rescue, survival and basic life support. Details of these programmes are posted every year on the Association's website, www.iws.ie.

25 International Activities

Irish Water Safety had the pleasure of meeting the following international water safety representatives during their respective visits to the IWS national office:

- ROSPA, Royal Society Prevention of Accidents, Holly Henderson, Peter Cornwall
- U.S. Lifesaving Association, Michael McKenna
- Auckland N.Z. College of Education, Kevin Moran
- President, International Life Saving Europe, Dr. Klaus Wilkens, Germany
- DLRG team, Germany, competing in the IWS National Lifesaving Championships

In addition, IWS was represented abroad during the year:

- International Life Saving Europe Board meetings, Frank Nolan
- International Life Saving Europe Commission meetings, Martin O'Sullivan
- DLRG meeting, Germany, John Leech, Roger Sweeney
- World Congress on Drowning, Holland, John Leech, Frank Nolan
- International Referees Course, Germany, Breda Collins

- Swim Teachers Course, U.K., Brendan McGrath.
- ILSE Open Water Referee B Course, Paul Burke, Paul Devins, Breda Collins, Charles Kennedy, Sheila O'Driscoll
- Irish Team competed in Nivea Cup, Germany. Five men and five women competed under the supervision of two coaches, Paul Burke and Michael Cuddihy. Oisín McGrath, secured Silver in the board event and Peter Conroy secured Gold in the 80-metre beach sprint. Overall, the Irish team came ninth overall – a very credible position in a field of thirty-one international teams.
- Also in 2002, Michael Cuddihy was appointed to the Executive Committee of The European College of Referees. Mr Cuddihy attended the European Sports Commission meeting in Bulgaria.
- Paul Burke was appointed to the European Commission for Development Aid whose remit is to assist developing countries build up water safety. Mr Burke attended the 2002 International Development Aid meeting in Bulgaria.

26 Conferences

During the year the following Irish Water Safety conferences were held:

- Water Safety Development Officers Conference, Westport, Co Mayo
- Child Protection Officer, Nenagh, Tipperary
- Water Safety Examiner's Conference, Tramore, Co Waterford
- Chairperson's Conference, Nenagh, Tipperary

25 Competitions

- IWS / Vodafone National Lifesaving Championships
 - Venue: Brittas Bay, Co Wicklow
 - 21 teams participated from around the country and IWS was delighted to welcome teams from the Royal Life Saving Society and from the DLRG Germany.
 - The event was broadcast live by the RTE 2FM Roadcaster and East Coast Radio. AA Roadwatch broadcast regular radio traffic reports.

Results:

PRESIDENTS TROPHY

Mayo (women) and Clare (men) 106

BEST INLAND COUNTY

Kilkenny (men)

POOL MEN/MIXED

Mayo	66
Clare	60
Waterford	32.5
Wicklow	27
Kilkenny	26
Wexford	20.5
Dublin	17
Cork	13
Donegal North	9

Kildare	2
Donegal West	0

POOL WOMEN

Mayo	68
Waterford	49
Donegal	40
Clare	33
Kilkenny	32
Wicklow	26
Wexford	18

SURF MEN

Clare	46
Waterford	36
Wicklow	31
Mayo	29
Cork	23
Donegal North	21
Dublin	17
Wexford	13
Donegal West	9
Kilkenny	6
Kildare	3

SURF WOMEN

Donegal	47
Waterford	44
Clare	39
Mayo	38
Wicklow	27
Kilkenny	18

BEST NOVICE COUNTY

Kildare

▪ Junior Lifesaving Championships

Pool Results

BOYS

	Place
Wicklow	1
Cork	2
Waterford	2
Dublin	4
Kilkenny	5
Donegal	6

GIRLS

	Place
Donegal	2
Dublin	1

Surf Results

BOYS / Mixed Place

Wicklow	1
Kilkenny	2
Waterford	3
Cork	4
Donegal	5
Dublin	5

GIRLS Place

Donegal	1
Dublin	2