



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



**ANNUAL REPORT
2011**

Irish Water Safety is the statutory and voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.
Tá Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann ina bhord deonach reachtúil a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chothú in Éireann.



Annual Report 2011

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**Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland
(Patron of Irish Water Safety)**

Chairman's Statement



It is with great pride and honour that I present this report on behalf of nearly 3,000 voluntary members who have achieved so much in the last twelve months in supporting a wide range of Irish Water Safety (IWS) activities. We continue to educate the public in basic swimming, lifesaving and water safety best practices, to prevent loss of life from drowning.

2011 was a year of transition in IWS. July saw the end of term of the Council who had steered the organisation through changes and challenges and growth for the previous five years.

The new Council was appointed on November 21st and I welcome the commitment of this new Council as we build on previous successes and continue the development of our organisation.

I wish to pay tribute to Frank J. Nolan, from whom I have the honour of taking up the helm as Chairman. Until July 2011, Frank had been Chairman of IWS since 1987 when our organisation spent some years under the umbrella of the National Safety Council and beyond when re-established by statute as an independent body in 2000.

Frank has served at National level from the time our body formed part of the Red Cross. The organisation has gone from strength to strength and has also seen a steady decline in overall drownings since IWS was re-established in 2000. Frank has many honours both National and International.

Frank's legacy will form part of the history of IWS, along with that of previous Chairs and many volunteers who have worked through the generations to achieve the goals of IWS.

I also wish to thank Brian Farrell, Jim Lawlor, Michael Murphy, Kathryn Byrne, Dave Corcoran and Martina Moloney for their dedicated, committed and valuable work as Council Members over the last eleven years or so.

This report contains a comprehensive review of the activities of Irish Water Safety volunteers for the past year and how they have met challenging economic times and achieved so much with limited resources.

The success of the Organisation in 2011 is due to the contributions of our volunteer members, who serve on Council, within Commissions, our Life Governors, Water Safety Area Committees nationwide, the examiners, tutors, Instructors, organisers and fundraisers at local level. As a colleague, I wish to thank them for their time and commitment to IWS. These are all supported by a dedicated hard working staff led by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the financial support that we received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government during 2011 and the contributions from our Local Authorities throughout Ireland. Our volunteers

continue to fundraise through our many activities and services that we provide on a voluntary basis. The contribution they make is acknowledged within the body of this report. The expenditure saved through corporate sponsorship and benefit-in-kind has made a great positive contribution towards saving life through the promotion of water safety awareness as we are grateful for their contributions over the last twelve months. For example, the SEIKO “Just in Time” Rescue Award continues to recognise those who have saved others from difficulty in water.

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2011 was 128. We averaged 140 drownings each year in the decade to 2011, a decade during which Irish Water Safety developed a range of educational and promotional campaigns to raise awareness about water safety.

The number of accidental drownings this year increased by 23, which is a matter of concern and which our body will work hard to reduce over the next year. We continue to address the drownings that are classified as suicide and undetermined by working with a number of agencies including the Samaritans, the National Suicide Research Foundation, the Association of Suicidology, the National Suicide Forum and Cope.

We engaged throughout the year on various initiatives with our parent, the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government and also with the Departments of Education, Transport, Communication and Marine. We also engaged with Local Authorities by training and examining lifeguards, conducting risk assessments and advising on water safety matters.

In an effort to improve safety awareness in our swimming pools and on and around our open water environments, we worked in co-operation with a number of committees including the Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána, the Marine Safety Directorate, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Community Rescue Boats Ireland, Irish Sailing Association, Irish Surfing Association, Commissioners of Irish Lights, the Defence Forces, ILAM, Royal Lifesaving Society, Swim Ireland, Waterways Ireland, the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland and An Taisce and with many other aquatic and sporting bodies who operate a code of good practice for their members.

Irish Water Safety is affiliated to three international bodies at European and World level, The International Life Saving Federation, the International Federation of Swimming Teachers Associations and the International Maritime Rescue Federation. Within these organisations Irish Water Safety members play some lead roles, contributing to world water safety. The International Life Saving Federation of Europe held its Board Meeting and Conference in Dublin in June. It is through these international associations that we gain ideas on new methodologies for water safety promotion, rescue techniques and best practices. It is necessary in certain cases to attend overseas conferences as full participating members of these international bodies, but this is done and has always been done in a cost effective manner and within Department of Finance guidelines.

I wish to acknowledge the achievements of the Irish Lifesaving team that represented us so well in the European Lifesaving Championships held in Alicante in Spain and to the Junior Team that represented Irish Water Safety in Copenhagen, Denmark. Alicante saw the best ever performance by an Irish team

with a tally of fourteen medals. Well known Clare member Oisín McGrath was voted European Lifesaver of the Year as a result of his performance in Alicante. In 2011, Irish Water Safety was recognised as the National Governing Body for Lifesaving Sport and will receive some funding for our International athletes in 2012 from the Irish Sports Council through Swim Ireland.

Our print publications were complemented by the production of two new campaigns for television broadcast. These hard-hitting commercials focus in on two key messages – the importance of wearing a lifejacket and the importance of learning water safety best practices in advance of any aquatic pursuits. We are extremely grateful to the corps of actors, film crew and support teams who gave so generously of their time to produce these two commercials.

Sadly each year we lose some of our serving and former volunteer members. The loss of committed and dedicated members within Irish Water Safety is felt throughout the organisation, particularly at local level where they operated on a voluntary basis. We extend to their families our sincere and deepest sympathy on the passing of these colleagues and friends.

Corporate Governance and accountability are an integral part of the management of our body in exercising our statutory responsibilities at each Council bi-monthly meeting. On a day-to-day basis, the Chief Executive Officer and staff ensure that best practice is adhered to and I take this opportunity to thank the Chief Executive Officer and his staff for their dedication and loyalty throughout the year.

A detailed financial statement forms part of this report giving the income and expenditure over the year 2011, which has been audited and certified by the Comptroller & Auditor General as meeting the requirements of the Department of Finance and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr Phil Hogan T.D. Minister for the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the Secretary General and her staff, who have been supportive of our efforts over the year to help us operate efficiently and deliver our services.

In conclusion, we can reflect back on 2011 as a year when the overall downward trend in drowning continued all the while recognising that further work must be done to raise awareness and promote best practices to reduce drownings even further.



Breda Collins
Chairman
Irish Water Safety

Irish Water Safety Council Outgoing Third Council: January to July 2011



Frank Nolan Chairman

Frank Nolan, retired member of Garda Siochana, having served in the Division of Waterford/Kilkenny, has been involved in water safety and rescue on a voluntary basis for over fifty years. He served as National Chairman of Irish Water Safety until July 2011, Senior Vice President of International Lifesaving Europe and a Director on the World Body of International Lifesaving. He holds many National and International Honours including being a "Grand Knight of the Order of Lifesaving" and served on many national water safety and rescue committees. He holds an "All Ireland" Lifesaving medal with Waterford and serves as Life President of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.



Breda Collins

Breda Collins joined Water Safety in 1986 and has served in many positions on Kilkenny WSAC since. She is an active Instructor, Swimming teacher/tutor, Examiner and Risk Assessor. She is an International Surf Lifesaving Referee and an ILSE Risk Assessor Tutor. Breda was elected to the National Committee of Irish Water Safety in 1999 and has been elected to each of the three councils since then during which time she chaired one of the various commissions.



Michael Cuddihy

Michael "Buddy" Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time he has served on many national and international committees and until July 2011 was Chairperson of the Lifeguard Commission and Vice Chairman of the Sports Commission of the European region (ILSE). He is also an executive member of the European College of Referees. 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. He is Treasurer of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.



Martin O'Sullivan

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 Area Committee at various times since 1973 and was the Chairperson of the Rescue Commission until July 2011. 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 is the IWS representative on the Blue Flag jury and is also the Chairman of the Rescue Committee of ILSF, the world body.



Brendan McGrath

Brendan served as Chairman of the Swimming Commission of IWS until July 2011 and has also chaired a number of other Commissions tasked with a number of National developments. He began his involvement in life saving with the Red Cross and is an active instructor, examiner and risk assessor. He is also very involved in coaching within the sports of life saving and swimming with much international experience in both areas. He represents IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teacher Associations (IFSTA) and is a senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS(E). Brendan is self employed, working in the field of training and development.



Michael Murphy, M.Ed.

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 was Chairperson of the Education Commission until July 2011. He led the development of a Code of Ethics for the organisation.

He is principal of a large primary school in Dublin and has been running very successful aquatics inservice courses for teachers for over 20 years. He also works with the Teacher Training Colleges in the area of P.E. and Health Promotion. He devised the PAWS programme for primary schools, is a member of the Council of IWS and is also a member of the Education Commission of ILSE. He is on the board of Stewarts Hospital and a long serving committee member of the Dublin West Education Centre.



Jim Lawlor

Jim Lawlor, Ministerial appointment and company director. President West of IFSTA, The International Federation of Swimming Teachers' Associations (with responsibility for Europe, Africa, Americas and Oceania and due to become World President of IFSTA in 2012). Jim has served as a Director of Sligo Regional Airport and is a former President of the Irish Basketball Association and was President of Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Industry on two occasions. He is a former member of the National Board of the Chambers of Commerce of Ireland and a member of Sligo Mental Health Association. He represented IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teachers Associations, is an Honorary Life Vice-President of STA UK and is also served as Chairperson of the Sports Commission until January 2011.



Brian Farrell

Brian M Farrell Lt Cdr (Retd.). Cadetship with Irish Shipping and entered Naval Service in 1972 where he served in command of naval vessels and other naval appointments over a twenty year period. Now working as Harbour Master Dingle, he is involved in running the Dingle Sailing Club and his main interests are sailing and boating.



Kathryn Byrne

Appointed to the Council in 2000, Kathryn Byrne is Managing Director of Limelight Communications, a public relations consultancy based in Dublin. Kathryn brings her background in PR to the Promotion Commission of which she was Chairperson until July 2011. Kathryn is an Honorary Secretary of the Public Relations Institute of Ireland.

**Martina Moloney**

A Ministerial appointment to the Council, Martina is County Manager at Galway County Council. She previously held the post of County Manager with Louth County Council, following a number of years as Director of Services with Galway City Council. She has had experience in working for numerous Local Authorities in her career to date, including Clare County Council, Limerick City Council, Donegal County Council, North Tipperary County Council and Galway City Council.

**Anne Ryan**

A Wexford Native, Anne is an Instructor and Volunteer with Irish Water Safety since 1995. Among her many credentials within the volunteering ethos of Irish Water Safety, Anne is also the Local Area Secretary, a Swim Teacher and Examiner and the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee Secretary. In addition to these activities, Anne finds the time to organise Cahore Outdoor Water Safety Week, with which she has played an active part since 1996. In addition to working on FETAC updates, Anne works on all matters assigned to the Lifeguard Commission of which she is a member.

**John Considine**

John Considine, former Local Authority Officer, was the Water Safety Development Officer in County Limerick for over twenty-five years, during which time he established the lifeguard service on the Shannon Estuary and was Secretary of the Irish Water Safety Development Officer's Association. He has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and Child Liaison Officer for the County Limerick Area Committee. He is a former member of the Council of the Irish Water Safety Association. He has served on the current Council as vice-Chair of the Lifeguard Commission and was Chairman of the Legal Commission until July 2011. He holds a LLB degree from University of Limerick and has also studied Planning and Environmental Law in Trinity College and at the Bar Council. His leisure interests include competitive sailing and powerboating, and he is also secretary of Newcastlewest Stage & Musical Society.

**Mr. David Corcoran**

Assistant Principal, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government; serves in the Local Government Personnel and Services section of that Department which liaises with and provides funding towards Irish Water Safety. He has served in a number of Government Departments, including Social and Family Affairs and Education and Science.

Irish Water Safety Council
Incoming Fourth Council: November to December 2011



Breda Collins
Chairman

Breda Collins joined Water Safety in 1986 and is an active Instructor, Examiner and Risk Assessor in Kilkenny. She is an International Surf Lifesaving Referee and an ILSE Risk Assessor Tutor. Breda served as Chairperson of the Lifesaving Commission and brings a wealth of experience to her role as IWS Chairman. Breda has been a member of Council since 1999 and has worked tirelessly on many water safety projects within provincial and national Committees.



Martin O'Sullivan
Vice-Chairman

Martin has been involved with water safety since 1970, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of Cork Water Safety Area Committee at various times since 1973 and is the current Chairman of the Rescue Commission. Martin is the IWS representative on the Blue Flag jury. He is an Examiner, Swimming teacher Tutor, Senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS (E) and Chairman of the Technical Committee of IWS. 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). He has developed the ILSE Risk Assessment Project on a European wide basis. He is also the Chairman of the Rescue Committee of ILS (World) and a member of the ILS Lifesaving Commission.



Michael Cuddihy

Michael "Buddy" 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 Chairperson of the Lifeguard Commission and Vice Chairman of the Sports Commission of the European region (ILSE). He is also an executive member of the European College of Referees. 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. He is currently Treasurer of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.



Brendan McGrath

Brendan is currently Chairman of the Swimming Commission of IWS and has also chaired a number of other Commissions tasked with a number of National developments. He began his involvement in life saving with the Red Cross and is an active instructor, examiner and risk assessor. He is also very involved in coaching within the sports of life saving and swimming with much international experience in both areas. He represents IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teacher Associations (IFSTA) and is a senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS(E). Brendan is self employed, working in the field of training and development.

**Anne Ryan**

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**John Considine**

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**Seamus O'Neill**

Seamus started lifesaving at the age of 10 and became an Instructor in 1975. Seamus is an Examiner, Lifeguard provider, International Beach Referee, Tutor and currently Chairman of the IWS Sports Commission and has served on the Education and Swimming Commissions. He is currently Treasurer of Donegal Water Safety Area Committee.

**Paul Murphy**

From Dublin, Paul has been involved in Irish Water Safety for over 30 years. He is involved in IWS as an Instructor, Examiner, Pool & Beach Lifeguard Provider and Swim Teacher Tutor. He is currently the Chairman of the Dublin Water Safety Area Committee. Paul has also served IWS on different Commissions over the last 12 years and at present is the Secretary of the IWS Lifeguard/Lifesaving Commission.



Tom Doyle

From Wexford, former Chairman of Wexford WSAC and Water Safety Development Officer for Wexford County Council.



Christy McDonagh

Member of Grainne Uaile Sub Aqua Club Ballina, County Mayo and an active member of its Underwater Search and Recovery Unit for many years.



Lola O'Sullivan

Lola is from Tramore, County Waterford, Sports Officer Waterford WSAC and Councillor of Tramore UDC. Lola has been involved with Water Safety for over 20 years. She is an active instructor in Waterford and teaches both in the pool environment and the open sea. Lola is very involved in Surf Lifesaving in Waterford. She has competed in Surf Lifesaving both Nationally and Internationally. She currently holds the position as Sports Officer for Waterford. Lola also served as a crew member with the RNLI in Tramore. She currently serves as a Councillor on Waterford County Council and Tramore Town Council.



Tim O'Sullivan – Official of Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government.

Assistant Principal Officer in the Community Division of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, based in the Department's offices in Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo. Department's representative on the Council of IWS since November 2011. Originally from Sneem, Co. Kerry and now living in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. Chairman of Ballinrobe Tidy Towns and a community director for Ballinrobe Community Playgroup.

Council Meetings 2011 Attendance Record

In addition to the Council meetings, members have also attended Commission meetings, conferences, exhibitions and other water safety events throughout the year on behalf of Council.

In alphabetical order:

Outgoing Council (4 meetings):

Kathryn Byrne	1,1,1,1
Breda Collins	1,1,1,1
John Considine	1,1,1,1
Dave Corcoran	1,1,1,1
Michael Cuddihy	1,1,1,1
Brian Farrell	1,1,0,1
Jim Lawlor	1,1,1,1
Brendan McGrath	1,0,1,1
Martina Moloney	1,1,1,0
Michael Murphy	0,0,1,1
Frank Nolan, Chair	1,1,1,1
Martin O'Sullivan	1,1,1,1
Anne Ryan	1,1,1,1

Incoming Council (1 meeting):

Breda Collins, Chair	1
John Considine	1
Michael Cuddihy	1
Tom Doyle	1
Christy McDonagh	1
Brendan McGrath	1
Paul Murphy	1
Seamus O'Neill	1
Lola O'Sullivan	1
Martin O'Sullivan	1
Tim O'Sullivan	1
Anne Ryan	1

Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Síochána Water Safety Area Committees. Much recognition must be afforded to these Water Safety Area Committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. In addition to delivering water safety promotional programmes and demonstrations at schools, colleges, businesses, exhibitions and community events, each Committee delivers an extensive programme of pool water safety sessions in the winter and beach, lake and river water safety sessions in the summer.

The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over one thousand five hundred members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Life Governors, Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Tutors, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is a member of Irish Water Safety.

Thanks to all their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a significant increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

Staff

- Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO
- Roger Sweeney, Marketing Manager & Deputy CEO
- Joan Harte, Office Manager
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
- Alison Elstone, Clerical Administrator
- Anne Daly, Education Development Officer

Auditors

Comptroller & Auditor General
4-5 Harcourt Road
Dublin 2

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Mainguard St
Galway

Solicitors

Lewis C Doyle & Co.
Augustine Court
Augustine Street
Galway

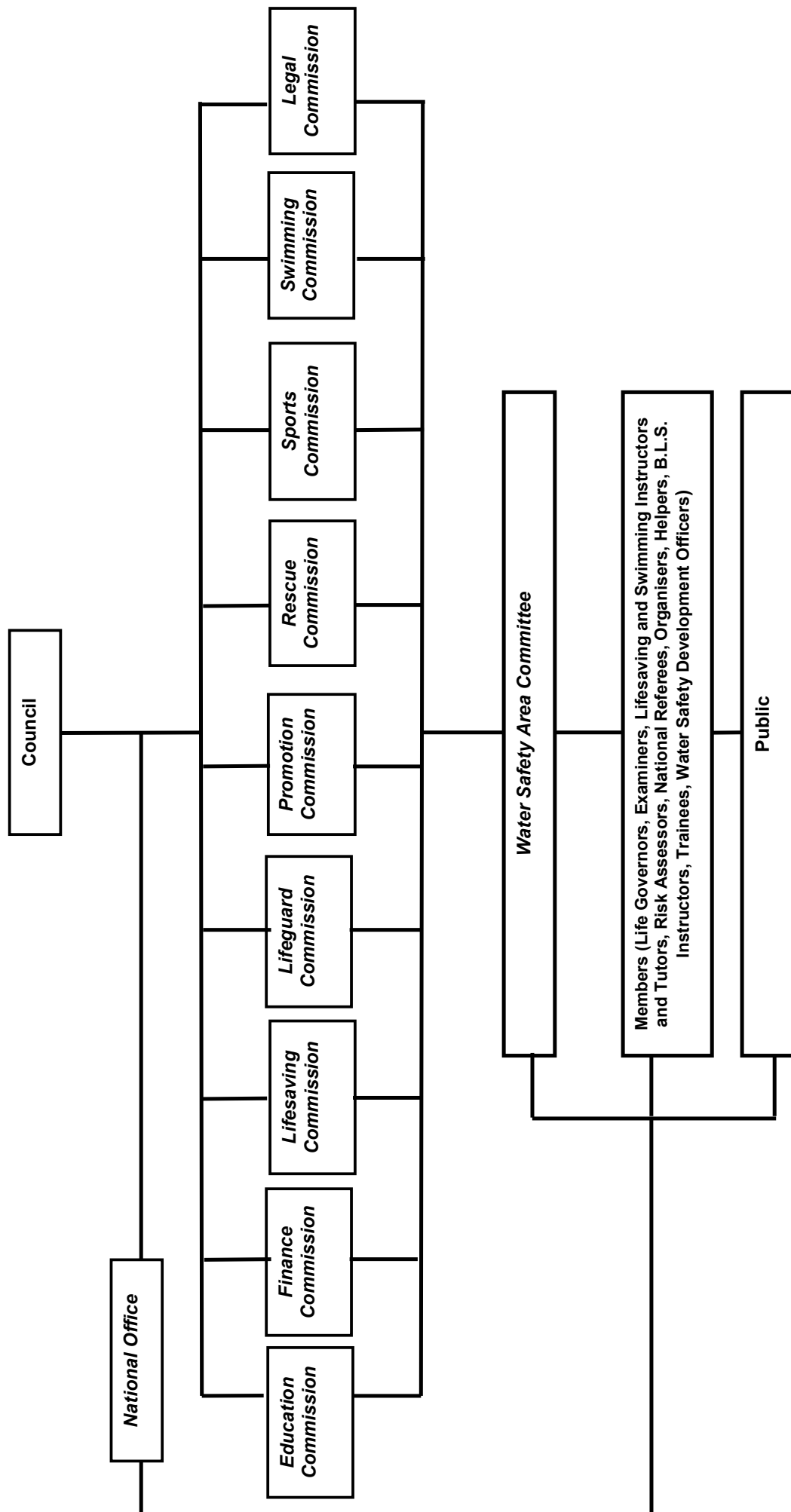
National Office

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk
Galway

Accountants

Robert J Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety



Finance Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Frank Nolan, Chairperson
- Joan Harte, Secretary
- David Corcoran
- Martina Moloney
- Sean Murphy
- John Leech

Duties Assigned:

- All Financial Matters
- Staff and HR
- Administration, including travel, National and International
- Membership all ranks
- National Ceremonies and Conferences (with the Promotion Commission)
- Internal Audit Committee & Risk Management

Frank Nolan, Chairman and John Leech, CEO are both Exofficio Members of all Commissions.

Rescue Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Martin O'Sullivan, Chairperson
- Ronnie Horan, Secretary
- Captain Liam Kirwan
- Colm Dempsey
- David Kenneally

Duties Assigned:

- Blue Flag
- Risk Assessments
- VAT Inspections
- Rescues Inland Waterways
- Rescue award and Just In Time award criteria
- Community Inshore Rescue Station Training
- Rescue Equipment
- Signs / ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation)
- ILSE (International LifeSaving Europe)

Sports Commission 2011

Outgoing Commission Members (*incoming appointed in March*):

- Jim Lawlor (*Seamus O'Neill*), Chairperson
- Paul Devins, (*Triona McMenamin*), Secretary
- Oisín McGrath, (*Daniel Wrafter*)
- Clare McGrath, (*Clare McGrath*)
- Triona McMenamin, (*Triona McMenamin*)
- Andrew Lally, (*Andrew Lally*)

Duties Assigned:

- Organise training courses.
- Liaison with the Sports Council.
- Liaison with the Federation of Sport.
- International and Home Sports Competitions.
- Role of Life Saving Clubs.
- Appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials.
- Drug Control in association with ILS.
- Sport Equipment.
- International Life Saving Sport & Competitions.

Lifesaving Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Breda Collins, Chairperson
- Pat Cummins, Vice-Chairperson
- Sharon McKeon
- Eileen Kelly

Duties Assigned:

- Provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation and recovery skills
- All matters dealing with Lifesaving
- Review syllabus for Lifesaving
- Resuscitation
- Hypothermia
- Liaison with PHECC - Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council
- Matters dealing with WS Examiners including Conference
- White Water Rescue & Flooding

Lifeguard Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Michael Cuddihy, Chairperson
- Paul Murphy - Secretary
- Anne Ryan
- Tom Doyle

Duties Assigned:

- Promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
- The establishment of national standards for Lifeguards
- All matters dealing with Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
- Develop standards for Lifeguard accommodation
- Develop national standards for all equipment
- Investigate and research rescue craft
- Train Lifeguards in rescue boating
- Health and Safety document appertaining to Lifeguards on beaches
- Beach Lifeguards as a declared facility
- Water Safety Officers Conference
- Development Aid to Poor Federations

Education Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Michael Murphy, Chairperson
- Val O'Kelly, Vice-Chairperson
- Anna Byrne, Secretary
- Fiona Lynch

Duties Assigned:

- Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents
- All matters dealing with water safety awareness within the Irish education system
- Teacher's courses
- Maintain current Standards of Child Protection
- Arrange seminar for Designated Liaison Persons
- Ensure that standards in relation to ethical matters are maintained
- Liaison with the Department of Education
- National Liaison Officer
- Address suicides and undetermined drowning issues

Swimming Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Brendan McGrath, Chairperson
- James McLoughlin, Vice-Chairperson
- Seamus O'Neill, Secretary; (appointed to Chair the Sports Commission in March; replaced by Philip Keleghan).
- Margaret McKay

Duties Assigned:

- The provision of instruction in Swimming
- Promotion of Swimming under Irish Water Safety
- Examine swimming syllabus and awards
- Agree Pool Safety Guidelines with ILAM in preparation for printing
- All matters dealing with Swimming Instructors and Tutors
- Matters dealing with Area Water Safety Committees
- Have the rule changes accepted by Council implemented
- Improving, membership, communication and profiles
- Organise Chairpersons meeting
- Represent IWS matter within IFSTA
- Liaison with Swim Ireland as necessary
- White Flag Jury
- Swimming Pool Standards excluding Lifeguards

Promotion Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- Kathryn Byrne, Chairperson
- Roger Sweeney, Secretary
- Donal O'Sullivan
- Eddie Hoyne
- Michael Gavin

Duties Assigned:

- Marketing and promotional matters as outlined within the Statutory Instrument
- Seeking Sponsorship (commercial and other)
- Marketing the organisation
- Standardisation of merchandise
- Standardisation and issuing of books, manuals, leaflets and posters from technical sources
- Monitor press releases
- Exhibitions
- Marketing issues
- Liaison with ROSPA and the Marine Safety Working Group
- Promotion of a public awareness of water safety
- National ceremonies & conferences (with the Finance Commission)

Legal Commission 2011

Commission Members:

- John Considine, Chairperson
- Carmel O'Toole
- Noel Power Jr

Duties Assigned:

- To review and advise on all legal matters pertaining to IWS activities.

Media Partnerships 2011

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. In addition to 59 media interviews conducted on television and radio, Irish Water Safety press releases resulted in 632 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals.

PRESS RELEASES

- Drowning Statistics – ten year analysis;
- Water Safety warning during February floods;
- National Stillwater Lifesaving Championships, February;
- Lunar Perigee will increase risk of stranding;
- Water Safety Development Officers Conference;
- Advice on safety at the Tall Ships Race;
- Launch of two new water safety TV campaigns;
- Easter Bank Holiday;
- Lifejackets Save Lives promotion to commercial fishing industry
- Ireland hosts International Lifesaving board meeting;
- German Water Safety honours IWS Chairman;
- Irish Water Safety Drowning Statistics;
- August Water Safety campaign;
- Launch of Safe Surfing poster campaign;
- World Suicide Prevention Day;
- European Lifesaving Championships;
- October Bank Holiday weekend;
- Always Wear A Lifejacket safety campaign;
- Joint lifejacket safety campaign to the fishing sector with BIM and the RNLI;
- IWS National Awards Ceremony;
- Appointment of the new IWS Council;
- National Water Safety Awareness Week;
- Water Safety over the St Patricks Day weekend;
- Christmas and New Year water safety campaign.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Exhibitions

- Holiday World;
- Ireland Angling Show;
- Hooked Live Show;
- Irish Skipper Show;
- National Ploughing Championships;
- Irish Fly Fair;
- IWS Annual Awards Ceremony;
- HSA “Keep Safe” partnership Events;
- Fish Ireland Show;
- Tall Ships;
- Adventure Weekend Show;
- ILAM Conference;

National Water Safety Awareness Week (May 30th –June 6th)

- Two new TV campaigns began broadcasting on SKY.
- Two translated versions began broadcasting on TG4.
- Collection boxes were distributed nationwide for use in local business premises.

- Children trained and certified in the PAWS curriculum (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) were presented with certificates on board the LE Aisling.
- Ten thousand of the new “On the Beach” guide, published in association with the RNLI, were circulated to committees nationwide.

SEIKO Sponsorship

- Rescuers from ten dramatic near-death incidents received SEIKO sponsored watches at Irish Water Safety’s National Awards Ceremony at Dublin Castle. Fifteen lives were saved through the brave actions of these rescuers.

Leaflets / Posters:

- Hypothermia / Farm / Home / Boating / Swimming / Inland Waterways
- Pool / Motorboating / IWS Courses / Holidays / Weils Disease
- Also available in Irish.

Websites:

- www.iws.ie: regularly updated with water safety advice, press releases and schedules of courses, conferences and seminars.
- www.ringbuoys.ie: a resource where the public can notify Local Authorities of missing, stolen or damaged ringbuoys.
- www.aquaattack.ie: a fun and informative website, primarily aimed at primary school children. The website contains games, exercises, quizzes and safety tips about water safety and is a popular resource for school teachers teaching Irish Water Safety’s PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme, a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum.

“Seal, Marlin & Orca” certificates and badges for leisure centres

- Promotional literature distributed nationwide.

SKY One, Sky Sports 1 & 2, Sky News & TG4

- Supported IWS with free TV campaigns coverage

IWS Water Safety Themed Calendar

- Distributed to members nationwide thanks to financial support from sponsors.

Safe Angling booklet

- A new Safe angling leaflet published by and in cooperation with the Marine Safety Working Group. A Polish version is also published.

Insurance for Members

IWS launched a new insurance policy for commercial swimming and lifesaving classes. The policy is competitively priced and available at www.iwsmemberinsurance.com.

European Lifesaver of the Year

Irish lifeguarding competitor, Oisín McGrath, was voted European Lifesaver of the Year 2011 by Coureurs d'Ecume, a French lifesaving magazine.

Oisín began lifeguarding at seventeen years of age and has competed for Clare and Ireland at national, European and world levels. He brought home three gold and a silver medal from the 2010 World Masters Lifesaving Championships in Egypt. His performance at the 2011 European championships in Alicante helped place Irish lifesavers sixth in Europe.

Chairman of the IWS Sports Commission Seamus O'Neill: “Oisín has brought this title to Ireland for

the first time which is a great achievement for him personally and is testimony to how hard he has trained over the years and how well he prepared for competitions annually."

"Lifesaving sport is primarily intended to encourage lifesavers to develop, maintain and improve the essential physical and mental skills needed to save lives in the aquatic environment and these lifesaving competitions consist of a variety of challenges to further develop and demonstrate lifesaving skills, fitness and motivation. Oisín reflects these traits well and is a deserving recipient of this accolade."

Oisín was appreciative of the title: "I wish to thank all of those who voted for me and I hope that this honour will be a motivation to the younger generation of lifesavers coming up through the ranks, that they will continue to enjoy lifesaving as a lifestyle and that they in turn remain active members of Irish Water Safety and in time become Instructors and Examiners of the future".

Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Our Swim certificates are issued directly to and accounted for by Area Committees. 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.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 25,562 Swimming and Lifesaving certificates in 2011. In addition, a further 34,933 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 3,505 of the new range of Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 64,000.

10	AED Operator	1176	Rescue 2
365	Aquatics organiser	788	Rescue 3
31	Aquatics Pool Assistant	307	Rescue 4
479	Assistant Swimming Teacher	1781	Safety 1
165	Beach Lifeguard	2313	Safety 2
1	Beach Lifeguard Course Provider	1985	Safety 3
178	Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	2072	Safety 4
2963	Basic Life Support (BLS) 1	162	Splash
1788	BLS 2	45	Surf 1
922	BLS 3	32	Surf 2
321	Challenge 1	37	Surf 3
341	Challenge 2	44	Surf Instructor Beach Safety
475	Endurance 1	26	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev
653	Endurance 2	124	Survival 1
121	Instructor	180	Survival 2
20	Inland open Water Lifeguard	11	Survival 3
227	IWS ILAM Pool Lifeguard Level 1	328	Swim 1
84	IWS ILAM PLG Level 1Revalidation	353	Swim 2
859	IWS ILAM PLG Level 2	374	Swim 3
641	IWS ILAM PLG Level 2Revalidation	406	Swim 4
104	Pool Lifeguard (PLG)	536	Swim 5
30	Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	56	Swim Teacher Lifesaving
1483	Rescue 1	165	Swimming Teacher

Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) is Irish Water Safety's program of certification for primary school children. Now a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum, PAWS is being implemented by teachers nationwide. A total of 34,933 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2011.

Land PAWS 1	Land PAWS 2	Land PAWS 3	PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3
3992	2400	1035	1747	2921	5049

PAWS 4	PAWS 5	PAWS 6	PAWS 7	PAWS 8	PAWS Total
6757	4697	3416	1786	1133	34933

The SEAL, MARLIN and ORCA range of certificates are tailored to the commercial sector and are available to leisure centres nationwide. Swimming Teachers use these colourful new awards to accredit their pupils as their competencies in water progress. In 2011, a total of 3,505 certificates were issued.

Summer Water Safety Weeks

The thirty Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in pools, rivers, lakes and beachfronts. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have pools and leisure centres.

Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks develop skills in rescue, water survival and basic life support. Details of these programmes are regularly updated on the Association's website, www.iws.ie. Many counties experienced an exceptional interest in classes following a series of successful radio, press and TV campaigns.

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety
Cavan	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lough McNean, Blacklion	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Miltown	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Killykeen, Killeshandra	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Crover, Lough Sheelin	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Growneys Wood, Lough Ramor	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lavey Lake, Lavey	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Garty Lough, Arva	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	July	Water Safety
Clare	Miltown Malbay	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 4

Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 3 & 4
Clare	West County Hotel	August	Safety 3
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Endurance 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 2
Clare	Kilrush	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilrush	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Flagmount	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Doonbeg	July	Swim & Safety
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 3
Clare	Labasheeda	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Labasheeda	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	August	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	July	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Mountshannon	August	water safety
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 3 & 4
Clare	Ballyvaughan	August	Swim, Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Rescue 1
Cork	Ardgroom	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Sherkin	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Midleton	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Schull	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ardfield	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Carrignavar Pool	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballibrannigan	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Skibbereen	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Adrigole	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garrylucas	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Oysterhaven	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Bere Island	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballingeary	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cape Clear	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballymacoda	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Eyeries	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Courtmacsherry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Youghal	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Union Hall	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Kilcrohane	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Rosscarbery	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garnish Pier	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Glandore	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Urhan	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballycotton	July	Swim & Water Safety

Donegal	Malin Head	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Arranmore	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Mountcharles	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Moville	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Rathmullen	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Portsalon	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Greencastle	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kilcar	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Creevy	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Bun An Inver	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Bun An Inver	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Port Na Blaith	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Killybegs	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Downings	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Dublin	Rush	July	Swim & Water Safety
Dublin	Skerries	August	Swim & Water Safety
Galway	Portumna	July	Water Safety
Galway	Salthill	August	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Meain	July	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Oirr	July	Water Safety
Galway	Loughrea	August	Water Safety
Galway	Lettermullen	June	Water Safety
Galway	Carraroe	July	Water Safety
Galway	Salthill	June	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Mor	June	Water Safety
Galway	Clifden	July	Water Safety
Galway	Cor Na Mona	July	Water Safety
Galway	Tir An Fhia	August	Water Safety
Kerry	Brandon	June	Swim
Kerry	Minard	June	Swim
Kerry	Brandon	July	Safety
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Swim
Kerry	Waterville	July	Swim
Kerry	Cromane	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Swim
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballyheigue	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Safety
Kerry	Templemore	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Safety

Kerry	Meenoghane	July	Safety
Kerry	An Daingean	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballybunion	July	Swim
Kerry	Rossbeigh	July	Swim
Kerry	Castlecove	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballybunion	August	Safety
Kerry	Touist	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Swim
Kerry	Valentia	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Safety
Kerry	Valentia	August	Safety
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Swim
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Safety
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh	July	Water Safety
Laois	Ballinakill	July	Swim & Water Safety
Laois	Castletown Bridge	August	Swim & Water Safety
Leitrim	Keeldra	July	Swim
Leitrim	Gulladoo	July	Swim
Leitrim	Drumshambo	June	Swim
Leitrim	Fahy	August	Swim
Leitrim	Rossinver	August	Swim
Limerick	Copsewood	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Copsewood	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Askeaton	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Askeaton	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Glin Pier	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Glin Pier	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Pallaskenry	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Pallaskenry	August	Water Safety
Longford	Annagh	July	Swim & Water Safety
Longford	Annagh	August	Swim & Water Safety
Louth	Clogherhead	July	Water Safety
Louth	Gyles Quay	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballina	July	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	Ballina	August	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	Claremorris	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballyhaunis	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballycastle	June	Water Safety
Mayo	Lacken	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Clare Island	July	Water Safety

Mayo	Inishturk Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Kilmovee	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Charlestown	July	Water Safety
Offaly	Birr	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Banagher	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Clara	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Edenderry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Roscommon	Castlerea pool	July	Swim
Roscommon	Castlerea pool	July	Safety & Rescue
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	June	Swim
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	July	Swim
Sligo	Aughris pier	July	Water Safety
Sligo	Enniscrone	August	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Ballina	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Roscrea	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Nenagh	August	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Cahir	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Clonmel	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Ardfinnan	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Tramore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Boatstrand	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Ardmore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Ardmore	August	Water Safety
Westmeath	Mullingar	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	July	Safety, Rescue
Wexford	Rosslare	July	Swim
Wexford	Bunclody	July	Swim
Wexford	Tinabearna	July	Swim
Wexford	Courtown	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Bunclody	August	Water Safety
Wexford	Curracloe	August	Swim
Wexford	Cahore Pier	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Kilmore	July	Swim
Wexford	Ferrybank	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Carne	July	Swim
Wexford	New Ross	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Cullenstown	July	Swim
Wexford	Fethard	August	Water Safety
Wicklow	Wicklow Harbour	July	Swim



Pupils from Scoil Íde, Galway, having successfully completed their Primary Aquatics Water Safety training for primary schools stand with lifejackets and ringbuoy at the ready onboard the LE Aisling during National Water Safety Awareness Week.



Bernard Cahill and Donough Cronin received Irish Water Safety's "Seiko Just in Time Award" for saving young Gearoid Rogers at Spanish Point, Co Clare. Presented by Mr Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government with Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of IWS.



Mr Michael Gavin, Mayo, receiving Irish Water Safety's Volunteer of the Year trophy presented by Mr Phil Hogan TD with Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety.



Mr Peter McCarthy from Tipperary South is recognised for 40 years of service at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle. Presented by Mr Phil Hogan TD with Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety.



Ms Meimi Ui Cheallaigh from Carraroe, Co Galway is recognised for 30 years of service by Mr Phil Hogan TD and Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety.



Ms Alice Doorley from Dublin is recognised for 20 years of service by Mr Phil Hogan TD, and Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at the IWS National Awards Ceremony, Dublin Castle.



Garda Eileen Kelly receives a 15 years Medal of Service to IWS, presented by Mr Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government with Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety.



Ms. Siobhan Bradley from Cork receives a 10 Years of Service certificate at Dublin Castle presented by Mr Phil Hogan TD with Ms. Breda Collins, Chairman of IWS.



Kay and Ray Wickham from Dublin were made Life Governors of IWS at the National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle, presented by Mr Phil Hogan TD, with Ms Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety.



Ms Karen Cotter, Active School Flag, receiving a Community & Social Responsibility Award from Mr Phil Hogan TD and Ms Breda Collins, Chair of Irish Water Safety for promoting the IWS PAWS aquatics program in primary schools.



A drive that paid dividends. Members of the Irish Water Safety team at the European Lifesaving Championships in Alicante, Spain. Read about their success in this report.



Minister of State Mr Fergus O'Dowd TD, with Lauren and Andrea Behan and Luke Sunner from schools in the Ballybough Youth Resource Centre area for the launch of an IWS TV campaign to emphasize the importance of correctly wearing properly functioning lifejackets.



Lifesavers of the future – Samuel Moore on the crest of a wave in the final stages of the boys U12 Board Race of The Munster Nipper Lifesaving Championships.



Caimin Crowley, Cork and Luke Foran, Tramore battle it out in the Boys U12 Board Race of the Munster Nipper Lifesaving Championships.



At the April meeting of Life Governors in Dublin, The Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Department of Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe, TD presents Mr Jim Lawlor, Sligo with a ten year Service Appreciation Award. Pictured with IWS Chairman, Mr Frank Nolan.



The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, T.D. gets onboard Alan Fanning's "Lily Tom" in a lifejacket campaign with Killybegs Fisherman's Organisation (Sean O'Donoghue), IFA Aquaculture (Richie Flynn), Irish Water Safety (John Leech) and BIM (Jason Whooley).



The calm before the storm as competitors in the Ladies Surf prepare for the off at the National Lifesaving Championships, Miltown Malbay.



An eager start as competitors react to the whistle at White Strand, Miltown Malbay, Co Clare venue for the National Surf Lifesaving Championships.



Thankfully, not all is what it seems. This “casualty” has her hair dampened in preparation for shooting an IWS water safety TV campaign near Spiddal, Co Galway.



IWS members Liam Grace and Fiona Malone pictured with Prof Don Barry, President of the University of Limerick as they receive the “President’s Volunteer Award” for their volunteer work with IWS.



Surfers Lorna Haydon (12), Dublin and Harry Broderick (14) from Ennis Co Clare. Irish Water Safety and the Irish Surfing Association were at Lahinch Co Clare to launch a joint surfing safety poster to highlight the basic safety steps for a safe and enjoyable surfing experience.



Clare competitor Conor Hogan grits his teeth to secure a win at the Nipper Championships, Co Clare.

Eyes on the horizon at the Nipper Lifesaving Championships, Co Clare. The Annual competition gives the best young aspiring Lifesavers in Ireland an opportunity to compete in conditions that Lifesavers can encounter in real-life rescue situations when they get older. The sport of lifesaving teaches participants the skills necessary to rescue people in distress in water.



Representation at National Level

Frank Nolan	Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee.
John Leech	(Users Group), Commissioner's Irish Lights
Roger Sweeney	Marine Safety Working Group.
David Kenneally	Community Inshore Rescue Advisory Group
Pat Cummins	PHECC - Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council
John Leech	ACESA - Assoc Chief Executives of State Agencies
Brendan McGrath	ILAM
Martin O'Sullivan	Blue Flag
Margaret McKay	White Flag
Jim Lawlor	Irish Sports Federation & Irish Olympic Committee
Anne Ryan	FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
John Leech	
Frank Nolan	
Breda Collins	Charles Thomson Award Jury with the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS).

Representation at International Level

Frank Nolan	World Board, International Life Saving (ILS)
	& European Board ILS
Frank Nolan	Finance Commission ILS
Sean Murphy	Auditor ILS
Sean Murphy	Auditor ILS(E)
Martin O'Sullivan	European Board ILS
Martin O'Sullivan	Rescue Commission Europe & World ILS.
Michael Cuddihy	ILS(E) Sport Commission
Michael Murphy	ILS(E) Education Commission
John Leech	ILS(E) Management & Administration Commission.
Brendan McGrath & Jim Lawlor	International Federation Swimming Teachers Assoc
Kathryn Byrne	ROSPA (Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents)
Michael Cuddihy	College of Referees Panel ILS(E)
Brian Farrell	International Maritime Rescue Federation

Conferences:

- **Water Safety Development Officer's Conference**
6th – 8th April, Sligo
-
- **Water Safety Area Committee Officer's Seminar**
17th April, Athlone
- **Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar**
20th September, Mullingar
- **National Awards Ceremony**
22nd November, St. George's Hall, Dublin Castle, Dublin
- **The Triennial meeting of IWS Life Governors**
28th April 2011, Westbury Hotel, Dublin

Risk Assessments 2011

Irish Water Safety volunteers carry out Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public. In order to make these waterways safer, recommendations typically include the erection of public rescue equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also complete public rescue equipment usage checks and advise Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety.

In 2011, a total of forty IWS Risk Assessments were carried out:

Cork - Blue Flag	Warren
Cork - Blue Flag	Owenahincha
Cork - Blue Flag	Tragumna
Cork - Blue Flag	Youghal Front Strand
Cork - Blue Flag	Youghal (Claycastle)
Cork - Green Coast	Inch Strand
Cork - Green Coast	Rocky Bay
Cork - Green Coast	Red Strand
Cork - Green Coast	Garinish Beach
Cork - Green Coast	Galleycove Beach
Cork - Green Coast	Ballyrisode
Cork - Green Coast	Cadogens
Fingal	Malahide
Fingal	Sutton
Fingal	Skerries
Fingal	Balbriggan
Fingal	Donabate
Fingal	Rush South
Fingal	"Low Rock" Malahide
Kilkenny	Thomastown
Kilkenny	Inistioge
Kilkenny	The Sycamores (Linear Park) The Meadows
Kilkenny	Bleach Road
Kilkenny	Swimming Area at Poulannassy Waterfall near Mullinavat
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh
Galway	Traught, Kinvara
Galway	Long Point, Loughrea
Galway	Furbo Beach
Galway	Tra Mhor, Inverin
Galway	Tra an Doilin, Carraroe
Galway	Kilmurvey, Inis Mor
Galway	Inis Oirr Beach
Galway	Tra na Mban, Spiddal
Galway	Spiddal, New Pier
Galway	Portumna (Lough Derg)
Galway	Gorteen Beach, Roundstone
Galway	Dogs Bay, Roundstone
Galway	East End, Inishboffin
Galway	Banagher (Floating Pool)
Sligo	Bunduff Strand, Mullaghmore

Risk Assessment Accreditation Course

Twelve ILSE Risk Assessment Senior Tutors were re-validated in June coinciding with the meeting of the ILSE Board of Directors in Dublin. Five of these were from Irish Water Safety.

A Risk Assessment Training Course was successfully completed in Spanish Point, Co. Clare on the 17th & 18th September.

VAT Inspections

Irish Water Safety trains and examines rescue boat crews for Community Rescue Boats Ireland and the Coast Guard.

Craft, equipment, and buildings used in relation to rescue or assistance at sea or the training of persons in connection therewith are examined by Irish Water Safety and successful applicants receive a certificate in connection with a VAT refund for sea rescue craft, equipment and storage buildings under the VAT recoupment scheme.

In 2011, five VAT inspections were carried out:

- Bantry Community Inshore Search & Rescue Service;
- Derrynane Community Inshore Search & Rescue Service;
- Schull Community Inshore Rescue Service;
- Waterford City River Rescue Station;
- Banna Community Inshore Rescue Station.

Competitions

In 1948 it was decided that Ireland would follow a European initiative and create the sport of surf lifesaving based on the skills and equipment used in lifeguarding. Currently 168 countries are affiliated to International Life Saving which controls the sport worldwide.

In 1950 the President of Ireland, Sean T. O’Ceallaig presented a silver trophy to Irish Water Safety for competition between the counties of Ireland. This award is still the premier award associated with our National Lifesaving Championships. The winning County is based on cumulative points from all events in both the National Surf and the National Pool Lifesaving Championships.

National Championships are now divided into pool and surf competitions and include nippers, juniors, seniors and masters competitors.

Competitors at the National Championships have their skills tested in events that simulate emergency rescue and swimming scenarios. It is a credit to Irish Water Safety coaches nationwide who spent all year preparing competitors around Ireland’s coastline. The Sport of Lifesaving, which meets all Government guidelines towards lifelong involvement in water based lifesaving skills and the development of a healthy lifestyle, has been developed to improve the standard of life guarding in Ireland and assist lifesavers save lives.

Competition Results 2011

- **National Still Water Championships, University of Limerick Pool, Feb 2011.**

This Annual competition gives the best Lifesavers in Ireland an opportunity to compete in conditions that Lifesavers can encounter in real-life rescue situations. The sport of lifesaving teaches participants the skills necessary to rescue people in distress in water. Many of the competitors, having worked as Lifeguards in pools nationwide get their chance to pitch their skills against the finest lifesavers in the country. The events are varied and challenging with competitors swimming under immersed obstacles, rescuing “casualties” from the water and skillfully testing a variety of lifesaving skills in the process.

The National Championships are part of Irish Water Safety’s extensive programme to promote water safety in Ireland with a particular focus on the necessary skills required by pool Lifeguards nationwide. The Championships encourage people to enrol in one of IWS’s many courses nationwide in the valuable skills of swimming, rescue and lifesaving. The event promotes the fitness and readiness for action of the lifesavers and demonstrates Lifeguard water rescues to the public.

Results

<i>Senior Men</i>	<i>Senior Ladies</i>
1. Clare Men A	Clare Ladies A
2. Waterford Men	Donegal Ladies
3. Donegal Men	Mayo Ladies

Junior Boys

Junior Girls

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Clare Boys | Clare Girls |
| 2. Mayo Boys | Mayo Girls |
| 3. Donegal boys | Waterford girls |

- **National Nipper Pool Championships, Kilkenny, March 2011**

This Annual competition gives the best young aspiring Lifesavers in Ireland an opportunity to compete in conditions that Lifesavers can encounter in real-life rescue situations when they get older. The sport of lifesaving teaches participants the skills necessary to rescue people in distress in water. Many of the competitors hope to work as Lifeguards in pools nationwide when they get older and this competition gives them the chance to pitch their newly acquired skills against other 9-14 year olds from around the country. The National Championships are part of Irish Water Safety's extensive programme to promote water safety in Ireland with a particular focus on teaching youngsters the necessary skills required to be safe from drowning throughout their lives. The Nipper Lifesaving Sports Championships promotes to parents the importance of enrolling their children in one of IWS's many courses nationwide in the valuable skills of swimming, rescue and lifesaving.

Results:

1. Clare
2. Waterford
3. Mayo

- **National Openwater Nipper Championships, Clare, August 2011**

1. Clare
2. Wicklow
3. Waterford

- **National Masters Championships, Clare, September 2011**

1. Clare
2. Donegal
3. Cork

- **National Junior Championships, Openwater 2011, Clare**

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Junior Boys | Junior Girls |
| 1. Clare A | Clare |
| 2. Waterford | Donegal |
| 3. Clare B | Clare B |

- **National Senior Championships 2011, White Strand, Miltown Malbay, Clare**

- **President's Trophy 2011 – Co Clare**

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Senior Men</i> | <i>Senior Ladies</i> |
| 1. Clare | Donegal |
| 2. Waterford | Clare |
| 3. Wicklow | Waterford |

- **European Lifesaving Championships,**
15th – 23rd Sept, 2011, Alicante, Spain.

Ireland won fourteen medals in the European Lifesaving Championships in Alicante, Spain. The efforts of Ireland's fittest Lifeguards ensured a place in the top ten internationally, coming sixth overall in the premier Lifesaving event in Europe that saw the best lifesavers from twenty countries pitted against each other in a number of race-style lifesaving events in both the pool and in the sea. The Championships simulate real life rescue situations that

these Lifesavers can expect to encounter as Lifeguards. To secure fourteen International medals at European level is testimony to how hard they trained and how well they prepared as individuals and as a team.

Lifesaving sport is primarily intended to encourage lifesavers to develop, maintain and improve the essential physical and mental skills needed to save lives in the aquatic environment. Lifesaving competitions consist of a variety of competitions to further develop and demonstrate lifesaving skills, fitness and motivation. Children around Ireland as young as eight get involved in a series of progressive Lifesaving classes taught by Irish Water Safety.

Undaunted by the searing Spanish temperatures, Ireland's best ever performance is evident from the tally of medals - Six Gold Medals, Five Silver, Three Bronze. The Irish team got off to a great start, winning the first event in the pool, the SERC (Simulated Emergency Response Competition). This is a simulated rescue situation in which four members of the team have to work together to rescue all the subjects involved. Ireland's proficiency across a range of disciplines is reflected in the range of medal wins - Gold in SERC and in Line Throw. Silver in Taplin and in Board Race; Bronze in Board Rescue and in Oceanman.

European Lifesaving Championships Team:

Colm Fitzgerald (Clare); Bernard Cahill (Clare); Dylan Barrett (Clare); Joe Murphy (Waterford); John Morton (Wicklow); Oisin McGrath (Clare); Grace Doyle (Waterford); Triona McMenamin (Donegal); Sara English (Mayo); Siobhan McGrath (Clare); Aimee Walsh (Galway).

National Awards Ceremony

22nd November, St. George's Hall, Dublin Castle.

Rescuers from ten dramatic near-death incidents received recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at Dublin Castle on Tuesday 22nd November 2011. Fifteen lives were saved through the brave actions of these rescuers. Mr Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government presented the "SEIKO Just in Time Rescue Award" to these rescuers in appreciation for saving so many lives.

Service Awards were also presented to recognise the 1,510 years personal service of 77 Irish Water Safety volunteers from around the country in teaching swimming, rescue and water survival skills.

- **Community & Social Responsibility Award**

In recognition of the support given to Irish Water Safety's community work, charitable activities and commitment to drowning prevention initiatives and the reduction of aquatic related injuries.

- **SKY Media Ireland**

For broadcasting drowning prevention water safety awareness commercials on a number of Sky television channels. This coverage has had a hugely positive effect on the general public. The number of enquiries to Irish Water Safety's Head Office and to the website increases significantly when the commercial is broadcast. The number of people wearing lifejackets has increased, as has the level of awareness about Irish Water Safety's messages. Much of this is thanks to SKY's broadcasting of Irish Water Safety Public Service Announcements and for this we are very grateful.

- **Seiko**

Timemark Ltd sponsors the "SEIKO Just in Time" Rescue Award, now in its tenth year. The Award recognizes the efforts of a member of the public to save a person from drowning "just in time", hence the sponsorship of a high quality SEIKO watch for every recipient and to Noel Wall and SEIKO we are very grateful.

- **Health & Safety Authority**

For partnering on an initiative at the National Ploughing Championships that targeted visitors with water safety awareness material and advice. The HSA also works with IWS through the Marine Safety Working Group.

- **Graphic Workshop**

For providing advertising and design services to Kildare Water Safety and for developing the website www.ringbuoys.ie where the public can report missing, stolen and vandalised Ringbuoys.

- **TG4 - Pádhraic Ó Ciardha**

For broadcasting Irish Water Safety TV campaigns in the Irish language. As a result, our classes in Gaeltacht areas are extremely popular with locals and visitors alike.

- **Mara Media**

IWS Volunteers distributed information to fishermen at the Skipper Expo and to anglers at the Ireland Angling Expo and the Irish Fly Fair.

- **Holiday World**

IWS Volunteers distributed information to Holiday World Show visitors.

- **Media Team / Hooked Live**

IWS Volunteers distributed information at Hooked Live & Toys4bigboys shows.

- **Catapult / Adventure Weekend**

IWS Volunteers targetted those at risk of drowning by distributing info at the Adventure Weekend Show, RDS.

- **Active School Flag**

For help and support in promoting the primary school water safety programme, PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety). IWS also accessed a number of education centres to teach schoolteachers in conjunction with the Active School Flag programme.

- **Decisions For Heroes - Robin Blandford**

For providing IWS with Emergency Response Team Management and Analytics Software.

- **LE Aisling**

For raising water safety awareness by allowing children onboard from a Galway primary school in recognition of their work completing water safety training in the classroom.

- **Irish Surfing Association**

For raising water safety awareness by partnering on a safe surfing poster aimed at making a surfing experience safer and more enjoyable.

- **COGG - An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta**

For distributing IWS Irish language material to Gaelscoils nationwide and to additional schools in Gaeltacht areas.

- **Social Web Strategy – NOT ATTENDING**

For raising water safety awareness by creating a redesigned user-friendly Facebook presence for IWS that promotes a safer experience when involved in aquatics activities.

- **The production team for the 2011 water safety TV campaign**

The new IWS TV campaigns would not have been possible without the generous assistance of the following people.

Comer Films; actors: Michael Browne, Helen Gregg and Paula Molloy; voiceovers: Paraic Breathnach and Alan Stanford; set design: Dara McGee; Garda Sgt Peadar Ryan; HSE Ambulance cover: Tommy Monaghan and Sharon Kavanagh; Tony Russell, Moynihan Russell Studio, Dublin; The Forge Recording Studio, Galway.

- **Media Appreciation Award**

In appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year.

- **Provincial Radio Award: Ross FM Roscommon**

Ross FM receives the provincial radio station Media Appreciation Award for promoting water safety issues throughout the year. Their coverage of water safety topics of interest to their

local audience ensured that their listeners in Roscommon were kept informed throughout the year.

- **Community Radio Station Award: CRCFM, Mayo**

Listnership to community radio stations is at an all time high and we are very grateful to the coverage given to water safety issues by Castlebar Community Radio.

- **Provincial Press Award: Donegal Democrat**

The Donegal Democrat receives the Provincial Press Media Appreciation Award for their coverage of water safety issues, both of National and local interest. The Democrat has kept readers in Donegal well up to date by including articles on the sport of lifesaving for which we are very grateful.

- **National TV & Radio Award: TG4 - Pádhraic Ó Ciardha**

This award is issued to a National TV station for covering topical water safety issues as they arise throughout the year. TG4 receives Irish Water Safety's Media Appreciation Award for their National coverage of water safety issues.

- **National Press Award: The Irish Times - Joe Humphreys**

This award is issued to the National Press for promoting topical water safety issues as they arise throughout the year. The Irish Times receives Irish Water Safety's Media Appreciation Award for their National coverage of water safety issues that help us to raise awareness of water safety best practices and so help to reduce drowning.

- **Long Service Awards**

This service represents a voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescues based on the humanitarian goal of saving life.

- **Certificate of Service**

Mr	Johnny	Guidera	Tipp South
Mr	Darrell	Evans	Waterford
Ms	Helen	Kiersey	Waterford
Mr	William	Murphy	Waterford
Ms	Marion	O Connell	Kerry
Ms	Hilary	Lynch	Cork
Ms	Siobhan	Bradley	Cork
Ms	Celine	Hyde	Cork
Mr	Sean	O Keeffe	Cork
Ms	Anne	Curtin	Cork
Ms	Mary	Dennehy	Cork

- **10-Year Service**

- **The Service Medal of Honour (SMH) 15-Year Service**

Mr	Patrick	Cummins	Tipp South
Ms	Bernadette	Parles	Tipp South
Mr	William	Loneragan	Tipp South
Mr	Brendan	O Dwyer	Tipp South
Mr	David	O Brien	Waterford
Mr	Kevin	Wilmott	Waterford
Ms	Ciara	McSweeney	Waterford
Ms	Tara	Coady	Waterford
Mr	David	Flynn	Waterford
Mr	Michael	O Sullivan	Waterford
Mr	Eamonn	Mongey	Waterford

Ms	Denise	Collins	Kerry
Mr	Pat	O Mahony	Kerry
Ms	Kitty	Doyle	Kerry
Ms	Janet	Murphy	Kerry
Ms	Colette	Casey	Kerry
Ms	Kitty	Meehan	Kerry
Ms	Kathleen Casey	O Connell	Kerry
Ms	Denise	Traynor	Kerry
Ms	Patricia	Griffin	Kerry
Mr	Morgan	Fagg	Westmeath
Ms	Mary	Dunne	Kilkenny
Mr	Brian	Dunne	Tipp North
Mr	Peter	Hennelly	Tipp North
Ms	Doreen	Brennan	Dublin
Garda	Marie	Daly	Garda
Garda	William	Ryan	Garda
Garda	Valarie	Tobin	Garda
Garda	Sandra	Gillick	Garda
Garda	Karl	Fleming	Garda
Garda	Eileen	Kelly	Garda
Garda	Michael	Daly	Garda

▪ **Bronze Bar to the SMH**

20-Year Service

Ms	Elizabeth	McCaul	Cavan
Mr	Chris	McCormack	Westmeath
Mr	Ciaran	Whelan	Westmeath
Mr	Brendan	Whyte	Westmeath
Mr	Tom	Keating	Kilkenny
Mr	Sylvester	Knox	Kilkenny
Ms	Breda	Collins	Kilkenny
Mr	Eamonn	Murtagh	Dublin
Mr	Julian	Caffrey	Dublin
Ms	Alice	Doorly	Dublin
Mr	Paul	Burke	Cork
Ms	Geraldine	Lehane	Cork
Ms	Fiona	Dinneen	Cork
Garda	Anthony	Merrigan	Garda
Garda	Ken	Hogan	Garda
Garda	Joan	Hogan	Garda
Garda	Maurice	Murphy	Garda
Ms	Mary	O'Sullivan	Kilkenny

▪ **Silver Bar to the SMH**

30-Year Service

Mr	Donal	McNamara	Tipp South
Mr	Michael	Kelleher	Tipp South
Ms	Rosaleen	Brady	Cavan
Mr	Brian	Fagg	Westmeath
Ms	Mary	Fagg	Westmeath
Ms	Tina	Fagg	Westmeath
Mr	Eddie	Hoyne	Kilkenny
Ms	Méimí	Uí Cheallaigh	Galway

▪ **Gold Bar to the SMH**

Mr	Peter
Ms	Sally
Mr	Des
Mr	Noel
Mr	Gerry
Mr	Michael
Mr	Gerry
Mr	Martin

40-Year Service

McCarthy	Tipp South
Mooney	Waterford
Lavelle	Kerry
Power	Kerry
Flannery	Westmeath
Power	Kilkenny
O Sullivan	Cork
O Sullivan	Cork

• **Charles Thomson Award 2011: Kilkenny County Council**

Presented annually to the Local Authority that contributes most towards the promotion of water safety in Ireland. This was accepted by the Chairman of Kilkenny County Council Mr Paul Cuddihy who himself is an IWS Volunteer.

• **Volunteer of the Year**

Irish Water Safety relies on the efforts and hard work of its committed volunteers, those who again and again willingly contribute their time and skills so that others learn the skills of swimming, lifesaving, rescue, risk assessment and lifesaving sport.

The IWS Volunteer of the Year Award recognises the great work that is completed by these committed volunteers who selflessly give up of their time to complete the vision and mission as laid down in our Strategic Development Plan.

Michael Gavin, Mayo

Michael has been involved with Irish Water Safety for 20 years. He has assumed many roles within Mayo Water Safety including Hon. Secretary from 1991 to 2003, PRO from 2003 to 2004 and Designated Liaison Person from 2004 to 2009. He is the current Chairperson of Mayo Water Safety and has held the position of Water Safety Development Officer with Mayo Co. Co. since 1990. Michael is also a member of the IWS Promotion Commission and continues his work with the commission to date.

Michael has worked tirelessly to improve standards of beaches and lifeguarding in Co. Mayo. He promotes Mayo's Blue Flag Beaches, lifeguarding services and Irish Water Safety through local media, especially during the busy summer season. Thanks to Michael's hard work, Mayo Co. Co. received first place in the 2010 Charles Thomson Award, in recognition of their contribution towards water safety promotion and awareness in Co. Mayo.

Michael was appointed Children's Liaison Officer with Castlebar Swimming Club and has held the position for some time. He has supported the team manager of the Nippers Training Programme, providing knowledge and guidance when required. His dedication has benefited many children in their development through sport.

Michael is thorough in all that he does, he is reliable, trustworthy and a consummate professional. He is approachable and enthusiastic when asked for advice. He is a natural leader, who makes practical and sound recommendations and decisions. Michael Gavin is a valued member of Mayo Water Safety and IWS is very honoured to show appreciation for all of his endeavours.

• Life Governor Awards 2011

Given to persons who have made an exceptional contribution towards water safety and / or rescue in Ireland or internationally over the years.

- **Mary McAleese**
 - Patron of IWS during her time as President of Ireland.
- **Ray Wickham and Kay Wickham**
 - Beginning lifesaving in 1958, Dublin based husband and wife Ray and Kay have over 100 years of service combined.
- **Bill Corcoran**
 - Involved in water safety since 1945, Bill taught swimming and lifesaving during his time at the Garda Training College, Templemore.

• ILSE Awards 2011, Citations of Merit

- **Mr John Martin**
 - CEO, Waterways Ireland, for his contribution towards water safety awareness and drowning prevention.

• SEIKO Just In Time Awards

Sponsored by SEIKO for coming to the assistance of a person or persons in distress in water.

Mr Mr	Pat Dean	Ward Ward	Co. Donegal	On the morning of the 12th October 2010, Fishermen Dean Ward and his Grandfather Pat Ward noticed a man in distress in the water off Creevy Pier, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. The man had been fishing and was thrown from his boat after the steering wheel broke. Upon reaching the man, Dean & Pat discovered that the man was unconscious. They immediately called the emergency services. They pulled the man out of the water to safety onto the pier. The man was wearing a lifejacket and was in the water for almost an hour before he was rescued.
Garda	Jonathan	Gallagher	Co. Louth	On the night of 11th of May 2011, Garda Jonathan Gallagher plunged into the River Boyne, Drogheda, Co. Louth, after he observed a man face down in the water. He brought the man to safety and awaited the rescue services. The man was then taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.
Mr Mr Garda	Sean Darren Tom	Sharkey Dwyer McKenna	Co. Cavan	On the afternoon of 20th March 2011, Garda Tom McKenna received a call that a young man had fallen from a boat at Lough Ramor, Virginia, Co. Cavan. He immediately went to the scene where he saw a young man in distress in the water. Garda McKenna entered the water wearing a lifejacket and swam towards the boy. Upon reaching the boy, Garda McKenna saw a rowing boat with Darren Dwyer and Sean Sharkey on board approaching them. They pulled both the boy and Garda McKenna onto the boat. An Ambulance was waiting onshore to transfer them to Cavan General Hospital where the boy made a full recovery.
Mr Mr	Richard Tony	Young Mills	Sligo	On Tues 29th of April 2003, at approximately 7.30pm, Richard Young & Tony Mills were preparing their yacht when they heard screams coming from Hughes' bridge, Sligo Harbour. They observed someone splashing in the water, they steered their boat over towards the man and pulled him on board. They took the man to safety where emergency services were waiting. He was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.

Irish Water Safety

Mr Mr	Bernard Donough	Cahill Cronin	Co. Clare	On Monday 18th of July 2011, at Spanish Point, Co. Clare, Within minutes of being in shallow water, an 8-year old boy got into difficulty. His father, an experienced diver, went to his assistance. His wife soon realised that both father and son were in difficulty. She observed Bernard Cahill and Donough Cronin exiting the water with surf boards. Both Bernard and Donough re-entered the water and upon reaching the 8 year old, Bernard placed him onto his surf board and took him to shore. He re-entered the water and together with Donough persistently formed and reformed a triangle with their surf boards and eventually succeeded under very difficult conditions in bringing the father of the child to safety.
Mr	Patrick	O Mahony		On the morning of the 25th of July 2010, while out walking, Patrick O Mahony observed a couple in distress in the water at "Mall Dock" Youghal beach. Patrick immediately began to shout instructions to the couple on how to come out of the tide. He called out to a local resident to call emergency services and then entered the water. He waded up to his chest and continued to guide both persons until they eventually reached Patrick and he took them to safety. First aid was applied and the emergency services attended the scene.
Garda	Michael	Baugh		On the morning of 5th June 2011 at the River Boyne, Drogheda, Garda Michael Baugh responded to an emergency call and upon arriving at the scene observed a man in difficulty in the water. Garda Baugh waded in to the river to rescue a man who had fallen from the Boyne Cable Bridge. He got a piece of driftwood and encouraged the man to grab onto the wood and with that took hold of the victim's clothing and managed to drag him ashore to safety. The emergency services arrived at the scene and took the man to hospital where he made a full recovery.
Mr Mr	Kevin Issac	Buckley Wheelock	Co. Wexford	On the 1st January 2011, two men, Mr Kevin Buckley & Isaac Wheelock, observed a female in the River at Old Bridge, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. They threw a lifebuoy to her and successfully brought the female to safety where they rendered first aid.
Garda	Andrea	Doyle	Co. Kilkenny	On the 26th of July 2011, Garda Andrea Doyle, along with other Gardai, responded to a report of a female in difficulty at Greensbridge, The River Nore, Kilkenny City. Garda Doyle entered the water and swam towards the woman. Garda Doyle managed to get hold of the woman and drag her to the River bank where CPR was performed until the arrival of the ambulance personnel. The woman was taken to hospital where she made a full recovery.

3rd August 2012

Irish Water Safety

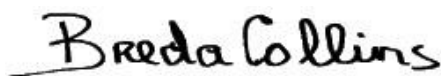
We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief, and having made the appropriate enquiries of other Council Members and Officials of Irish Water Safety, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Association's financial statements of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2011.

1. We acknowledge as Council Members our statutory responsibility for the financial statements. All of the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Association have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Council meetings, have been made available to you.
2. There are no financial commitments of a revenue or capital nature other than those as disclosed in the financial statements.
3. Annual lease commitments at 31 December 2011 amounted to €41,722 in respect of leased offices occupied by the Association at The Long Walk, Galway.
4. Full disclosure and provision has been made for all liabilities at the Balance Sheet date. Contingencies have been appropriately disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
5. There are no legal actions, which were instigated against the Council.
6. The Association has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Association's assets, except as disclosed in the financial statements.
7. At the Balance Sheet date cash on hand and at bank amounted to €240,638.
8. The Council Members are of the opinion that the Association will have sufficient working capital to meet its foreseeable requirements for at least the next twelve months.
9. No transactions were entered into shortly before the accounting date with the intention that they should be reversed shortly after that date, so as not to present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association.
10. There were no third party guarantees or letters of comfort issued by the Association.
11. No irregularities or frauds have occurred or are being investigated as at 31 December 2011.
12. The Association has not exceeded the borrowing limits approved by the Department of Environment and Local Government.
13. No circumstances have arisen or events occurred between the Balance Sheet date and the date of this letter, which would require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.

Irish Water Safety

14. Payments and transactions in respect of any grants, loans and investments made during the year conformed with legislation and with Government and Department directives and were authorised, approved and processed in accordance with the Association's internal procedures and controls.
15. The Council Members do not have an interest in any grant or other contract entered into by the Association during the year other than as disclosed in the financial statements.
16. All transactions with subsidiary and related parties have been properly recorded and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
17. The Association complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There have been no communications concerning non-compliance with requirements of regulatory or tax authorities with respect to any matter.
18. The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies has been adopted and is being complied with, and in particular:
 - All appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and assets disposals are being carried out;
 - Codes of Business Conduct for Council Members and Employees have been put in place and adhered to;
 - Government policy on the pay of the Chief Executive and all employees is being complied with;
 - The Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals are being complied with.
19. The Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control reflects our compliance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
20. We have no subsidiaries, joint ventures or shareholdings acquired other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

For and on behalf of the Council.



CHAIRMAN



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 3rd August 2012

Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Irish Water Safety

I have audited the financial statements of Irish Water Safety for the year ended 31 December 2011 under the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993. The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, for ensuring that they give a true and fair view of the state of Irish Water Safety's affairs and of its income and expenditure, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and report on them in accordance with applicable law.

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

My audit is carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and in compliance with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Council's circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit.

In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the financial statements, which have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, give a true and fair view of the state of the Council's affairs at 31 December 2011 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by Irish Water Safety. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

Matters on which I Report by Exception

I report by exception if

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- my audit noted any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them, or
- the information given in Irish Water Safety's Annual Report for the year for which the financial statements are prepared is not consistent with the financial statements, or
- the Statement on Internal Financial Control does not reflect the Council's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, or
- I find there are other material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I have nothing to report in regard to those matters upon which reporting is by exception.



Andrew Harkness
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General
21st September 2012

Irish Water Safety
Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2011

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Accountants	Robert J. Kidney & Co. Chartered Accountants 11 Adelaide Road Dublin 2
Business Address	The Long Walk Galway
Auditor	The Comptroller and Auditor General

Statement of Responsibilities of the Council of Irish Water Safety

Irish Water Safety was established on 24 July 2006 by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006 (S.I. 389 of 2006). The order re-established the former Irish Water Safety Association as a corporate body under its new title "Irish Water Safety" and expanded the services to be provided by the body.

Irish Water Safety is required to prepare financial statements, in the form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, which give a true and fair view of its state of affairs and income and expenditure for the period. In preparing the financial statements, Irish Water Safety is required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether any applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Irish Water Safety will continue in operation.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Irish Water Safety and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006. The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Irish Water Safety, and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Chairperson



Chief Executive

Date: 3 August 2012

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Responsibility for the system of Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Council has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by;

- Clearly defining management responsibilities;
- Establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.

The Council established a Finance Commission consisting of three non-executive and two executive members and that Commission reviews internal control matters and issues raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General. At present Irish Water Safety does not have an internal audit function.

The Council has a formal process to identify and evaluate business risk by;

- Identifying the nature, extent and financial implication of risks facing the body including the extent and categories which it regards as acceptable;
- Assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring;
- Assessing the body's ability to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur;
- Assessing the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefit obtained.

In 2009 the Finance Commission carried out this exercise and reported to the Council.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- A budgeting system with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Council;
- Regular reviews by the Council of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecast;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.


The Council's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is based on the work of the Financial Officer and CEO who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of an appropriate financial control framework. The Council also takes into account reports and comments made by the Finance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter or other reports.

Annual Review of Controls

The Council and Finance Commission headed by me as Chairman, with the full cooperation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Officer, both of whom have been designated by the Council to ensure that the necessary controls are in place, review these controls on a continual basis in line with any directions received. One of the non-executive members of the Finance Commission has been appointed as an independent reviewer/examiner of Internal Financial Controls. His function is to report back to the Finance Commission and the Council on the appropriateness and correctness of the standards of internal financial control to date in place.

We confirm that in the year ended 31 December 2011 the Council has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety.



Breda Collins
Chairman



John Leech
Chief Executive

Date: 3 August 2012

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, under the accruals method of accounting except as stated below and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. The statements are in a form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006 (S.I. 389 of 2006).

Period of Accounts

The financial statements cover the 12 month period to 31 December 2011.

Income

Oireachtas Grants represent the actual cash receipts in the year.

Deferred income is taken to account in line with related expenditure.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed Assets are shown at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis as follows:

Leasehold Improvements	21 years
Office Equipment	5 years
Computer Equipment	3 years
Motor Vehicles	5 years
Promotional Equipment	10 years

Artworks donated to Irish Water Safety over a number of years were valued by an independent valuer during 2006 and are included in the financial statements at this valuation. Artworks are not depreciated, as the Council believes that they are unlikely to suffer a loss in value.

Capital Account

The capital account represents the unamortised value of income used for capital purposes.

Pensions

Under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006, schemes and regulations made under the Local Government (Superannuation) Act 1980 (No. 8 of 1980) apply to Irish Water Safety as if it were a Local Authority.

Irish Water Safety operates a defined benefits scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Pension Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by Irish Water Safety. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Irish Water Safety

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Water Safety Committees

Committees, which are responsible for the organisation of water safety activities at local level, undertake local fundraising activities. Fundraising income is retained by the Water Safety Committees to finance local activities. Financial transactions of these Committees are not incorporated into these accounts.

Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2011

	Note	2011 €	2010 €
Income:			
Oireachtas Grants		512,000	548,000
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10c	<u>90,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
		602,000	648,000
Contributions from Local Authorities		148,650	179,231
Miscellaneous	1	<u>248,326</u>	<u>229,289</u>
		998,976	1,056,520
Transfer from Capital Account	9	1,916	20,286
		<u>1,000,892</u>	<u>1,076,806</u>
Expenditure:			
Administration Expenses	2	576,834	604,291
Travel and Subsistence Expenses	3	119,221	117,968
Promotions, Publicity and Training	4	146,147	204,187
Grants to Water Safety Committees		96,500	78,030
Special Projects	5	33,898	17,533
Total Operating Costs		<u>972,600</u>	<u>1,022,009</u>
Surplus for the Year		28,292	54,797
Accumulated Surplus 1 January		181,256	126,459
Accumulated Surplus 31 December		<u>209,548</u>	<u>181,256</u>

The statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.

Breda Collins

Chairman

John J. Reech

Chief Executive

Date: 3 August 2012

Irish Water Safety

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

for the year ended 31 December 2011

	Note	2011 €	2010 €
Surplus for the Financial Year		28,292	54,797
Experience Gains on Pension Scheme Liabilities		50,000	90,000
Changes in Assumptions Underlying the Present Value of Pension Scheme Liabilities		-	-
Actuarial Gain on Pension Liabilities		50,000	90,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		(50,000)	(90,000)
Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Financial Year		28,292	54,797

The statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.

Breda Collins

Chairman

John J. Reel

Chief Executive

Date: 3 August 2012

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2011

	Note	2011 €	2010 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	6	<u>221,129</u>	<u>223,045</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	37,447	36,507
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>241,792</u>	<u>202,581</u>
		279,239	239,088
CREDITORS - Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and Accruals	8	<u>(69,691)</u>	<u>(57,832)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>209,548</u>	<u>181,256</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		430,677	404,301
DEBTORS/(CREDITORS) - Amounts falling due after one year			
Deferred Pension Funding	10d	590,000	550,000
Pension Liabilities	10e	<u>(590,000)</u>	<u>(550,000)</u>
		<u>430,677</u>	<u>404,301</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Capital Account	9	221,129	223,045
Income & Expenditure Account		<u>209,548</u>	<u>181,256</u>
		<u>430,677</u>	<u>404,301</u>

The statement of accounting policies and notes 1 to 14 form part of these financial statements.



Chairman



Chief Executive

Date: 3 August 2012

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011

Note		2011	2010
1.	Miscellaneous Income	€	€
	Sales	185,935	164,826
	Membership	2,860	5,290
	Ring Buoy Contribution	27,000	27,000
	Sponsorship	13,975	27,000
	RI Royalties	3,480	3,720
	Donations Received	12,100	-
	Other Income	2,976	1,453
		<u>248,326</u>	<u>229,289</u>

Note			€	€
2.	Administration Expenses			
	Salaries and Temporary Staff	2(a)	319,333	326,416
	Pension Costs	10(a)	76,066	85,911
	Staff Training		517	275
	Rent, Rates, Light and Heat		53,071	54,652
	Insurance		19,914	19,042
	Stationery		6,144	8,509
	Postage and Telephone		22,756	25,416
	Maintenance and Cleaning		29,465	33,446
	Audit Fee		7,700	8,648
	Accountancy		3,220	3,777
	Legal & Other Professional Fees		4,370	4,626
	Bank Charges		681	108
	Miscellaneous Administration Expenses		4,694	6,033
	Depreciation		28,903	27,432
			<u>576,834</u>	<u>604,291</u>

Note
2a. Salaries & Temporary Staff

The salaries and temporary staff costs for 2011 include the following amounts:

- **Council Members Emoluments**

The Chairman of the Council received a stipend of €6,573 in 2011 (2010 - €8,500) after a voluntary reduction of €2,000. No other Council Member received any fees in 2011 or 2010.

- **Chief Executive Remuneration**

The Chief Executive's remuneration for 2011 was made up of an annual basic salary of €88,292 (2010 - €88,467). His pension entitlements do not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the public sector defined benefit superannuation scheme.

- **Pension Levy Deductions**

Pension related deductions of €19,042 (2010 - €17,209) were made from staff salaries and paid over to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Note 3. Travel and Subsistence Expenses		2011	2010
		€	€
Council	3(a)	28,366	33,595
Committees and Commissions		20,417	24,015
Office	3(a)	18,713	16,846
Ring Buoy Inspectors		22,380	22,499
International Travel		18,454	10,952
Other Travel		10,891	10,061
		119,221	117,968

Travel and Subsistence Expenses

The travel and subsistence expenses in 2011 include €11,282 received by the Chairman (2010 - €13,334) and €9,008 received by the Chief Executive (2010 - €8,134). Amounts are calculated in accordance with relevant Department of Finance Travel & Subsistence Circulars.

Note 4. Promotion, Publicity and Printing Expenses		2011	2010
		€	€
Advertising and Press Cuttings		45,395	36,498
Education Development Officer - Expenses		8,136	1,771
Seminars and Training Courses		25,325	55,374
Non Saleable Books and Manuals		24,405	49,526
Purchase of Saleable Items		38,090	55,082
Memberships		4,796	5,936
		146,147	204,187

Note 5. Special Projects		€	€
Senior & Junior Surf and Pool Competition		3,561	2,157
Life Saving Competitions Abroad		20,852	15,376
Life Saving Equipment		9,485	-
		33,898	17,533

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011

Note 6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Interest €	Computer Equipment €	Other Office Equipment €	Promotional Equipment €	Motor Vehicles €	Art & Paintings €
Cost or Valuation						
Opening Balance 1 Jan 2011	260,458	51,255	60,999	36,828	-	64,150
Additions	-	7,893	138	-	18,956	-
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2011	<u>260,458</u>	<u>59,148</u>	<u>61,137</u>	<u>36,828</u>	<u>18,956</u>	<u>64,150</u>
Depreciation						
Opening Balance 1 Jan 2011	136,380	47,120	52,413	14,732	-	-
Charge For Year	12,397	6,582	2,450	3,683	3,791	-
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2011	<u>148,777</u>	<u>53,702</u>	<u>54,863</u>	<u>18,415</u>	<u>3,791</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Book Values						
At 31 December 2011	<u>111,681</u>	<u>5,446</u>	<u>6,274</u>	<u>18,413</u>	<u>15,165</u>	<u>64,150</u>
At 31 December 2010	<u>124,078</u>	<u>4,135</u>	<u>8,586</u>	<u>22,096</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,150</u>

Leasehold improvements pertain to fit out costs in the premises occupied by Irish Water Safety.

Artworks donated to Irish Water Safety over a number of years are included above at valuation following an independent valuation carried out in May 2006.

Note		2011	2010
7. Debtors		€	€
Trade Debtors		22,503	23,731
Other Debtors		14,944	12,776
		<u>37,447</u>	<u>36,507</u>

Note		2011	2010
8. Creditors and Accruals		€	€
Trade Creditors		13,623	11,133
Accrued Expenses		56,068	46,699
		<u>69,691</u>	<u>57,832</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011

Note		2011		2010
9.	Capital Account	€	€	€
	Balance as at 1 January		223,045	243,331
	Income Allocated for Capital Purposes	26,987		7,146
	Amortisation in Line with Depreciation	(28,903)	(27,432)	(20,286)
	Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account		(1,916)	(20,286)
	Balance as at 31 December		221,129	223,045

Note 10. Pension Costs

a. Analysis of Total Pension Costs Charged to Expenditure

	2011	2010
	€	€
Current Service Cost	60,000	70,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	30,000	30,000
Employee Contributions	(13,934)	(14,089)
	76,066	85,911

b. Movement in Net Pension Liability during the Financial Year

	2011	2010
	€	€
Net Pension Liability at 1st January	550,000	540,000
Current Service Cost	60,000	70,000
Interest Cost	30,000	30,000
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss	(50,000)	(90,000)
Pensions Paid in Year	-	-
Net Pension Liability at 31 December	590,000	550,000

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011

Note

10. Pension Costs (Continued)

c. Deferred Funding for Pensions

Irish Water Safety recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. Irish Water Safety has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The Net Deferred Funding for Pensions recognised in Income and Expenditure Account was as follows:

	2011 €	2010 €
Funding Recoverable in Respect of Current Year Pension Costs	90,000	100,000
State Grant Applied to Pay Pensioners	-	-
	<u>90,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2011 amounted to €590,000 (2010: €550,000).

d. History of defined benefit obligations

	2011 €	2010 €	2009 €	2008 €
Defined benefit obligations	590,000	550,000	540,000	370,000
Experience (gains)/losses on scheme liabilities amount	(50,000)	(90,000)	90,000	(17,000)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(8%)	(16.4%)	16.7%	(4.6%)

The cumulative actuarial gain recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses amounts to €55,000.

e. General description of the scheme

The pension scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current “model” public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (eightieths per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse’s and children’s pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member’s 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

Note

10. Pension Costs (Continued)

The valuation used for FRS17 (Revised) disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation during February 2012 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2011.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows

	2011	2010
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	4.0%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	4.0%	4.0%
Discount rate	5.5%	5.5%
Inflation	2.0%	2.0%

Details of the mortality assumptions have not been given but it is intended to give them next year.

f. Average life expectancy used to determine liabilities

The average future life expectancy according to the mortality tables used to determine the pension liabilities were as follows:

	2011	2010
Male – aged 65	22	22
Female – aged 65	25	25

Note

11. Lease Commitments

Irish Water Safety occupies premises at Long Walk, Galway, under a lease for 21 years, which commenced in July 2000. The current rental is €41,722 per annum. The lease has break options after ten and fifteen years.

Note

12. Council Members Interests

The Council adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of Interests by Board Members and those procedures have been adhered to in the year. There are no transactions in the year in relation to Irish Water Safety's activities in which Council members had any beneficial interest.

Note

13. EU Late Payments Regulations

The regulation imposes a legal requirement on bodies to make interest payments in respect of invoices that are paid in excess of 30 days after receipt. Irish Water Safety has a system in place to identify overdue invoices and to calculate and pay the interest due as part of the invoice payments. No interest payments were made under the terms of the regulations in 2011 or 2010.

Note

14. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 3 August 2012.

Analysis of Drownings 2011

Total Drownings each year:	2011: 128
	2010: 112
	2009: 145
	2008: 158
	2007: 156

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2011 was 128, the second lowest figure since 1957 when 123 people drowned. The highest figure recorded in any one year to date is 229 in 1994.

Ireland averaged 141 drownings each year in the decade to 2011, during which time Irish Water Safety developed a range of educational and promotional campaigns to raise awareness about water safety. The work of Irish Water Safety and our partners in the public and private sector is having the desired outcome – an overall decrease in the number of drownings at a time when more people are enjoying our wonderful aquatic facilities.

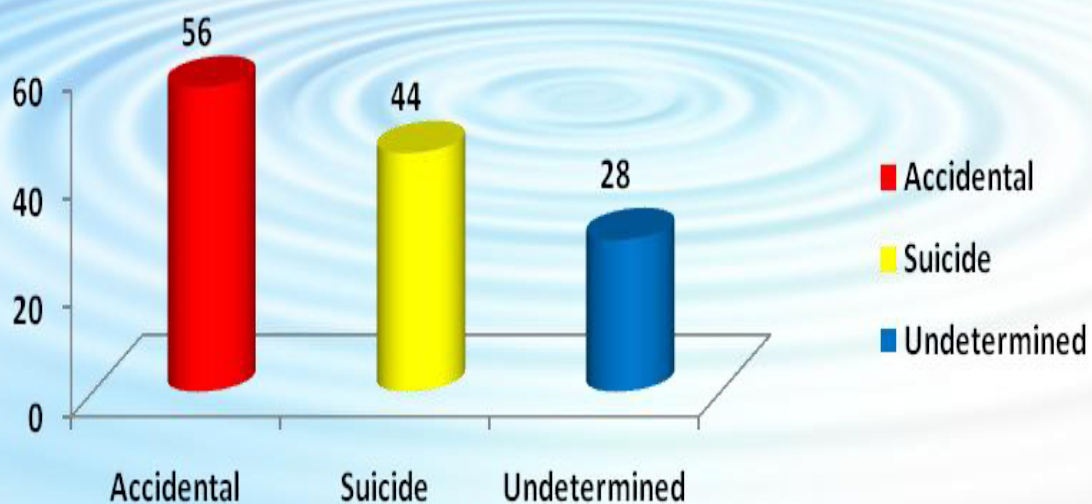
Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Irish Water Safety continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drowning statistics continue this overall downward trend.

A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

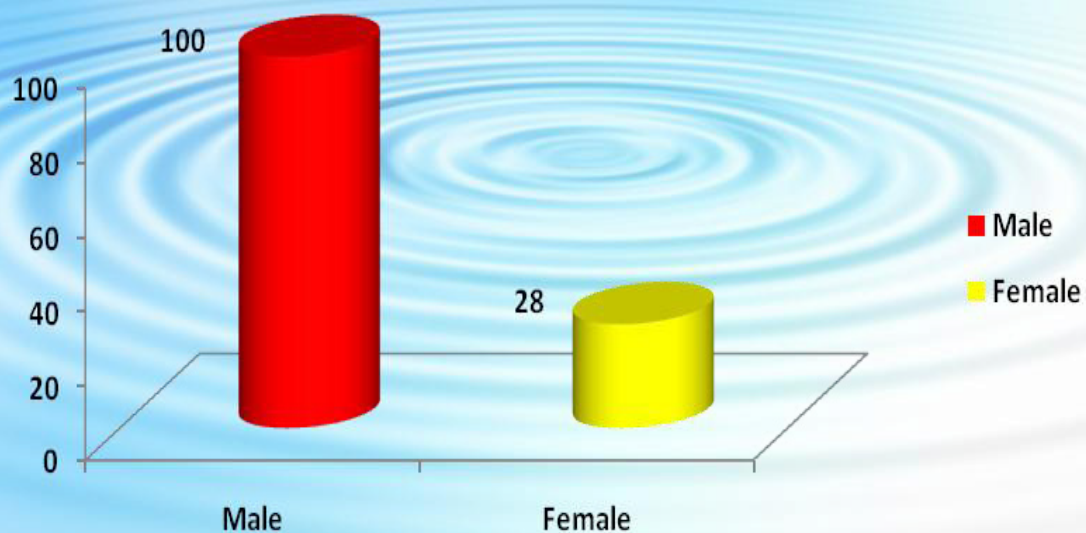
1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket;
2. Alcohol consumption;
3. Falling unexpectedly into water;
4. Improper use of boats and equipment;
5. Overestimation of skills;
6. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
7. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
8. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
9. Cold water shock and hypothermia;
10. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
11. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
12. Pre-existing diseases;
13. Underwater entanglement;
14. Bottom surface gradient and stability;
15. Waves (coastal, boat);
16. Water transparency;
17. Impeded visibility (including coastal configuration, structures and overcrowding);
18. Lack of parental supervision (infants and children);
19. Change in weather conditions;
20. Excessive „horseplay“ or over exuberant behavior (including “tombstoning” from cliffs);
21. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

2011 Drownings by Cause

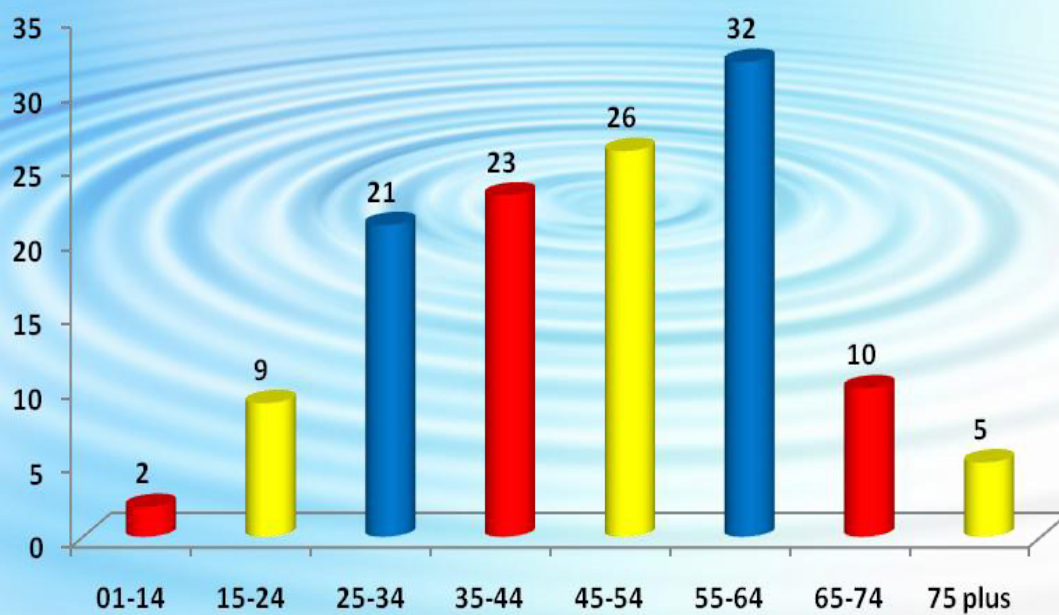
Total: 128



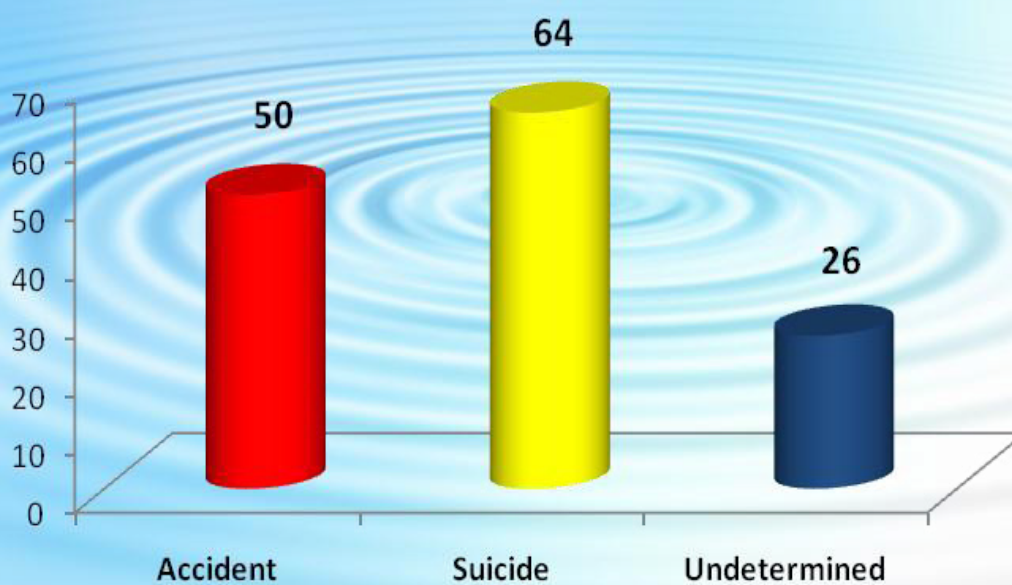
2011 All Drownings by Gender



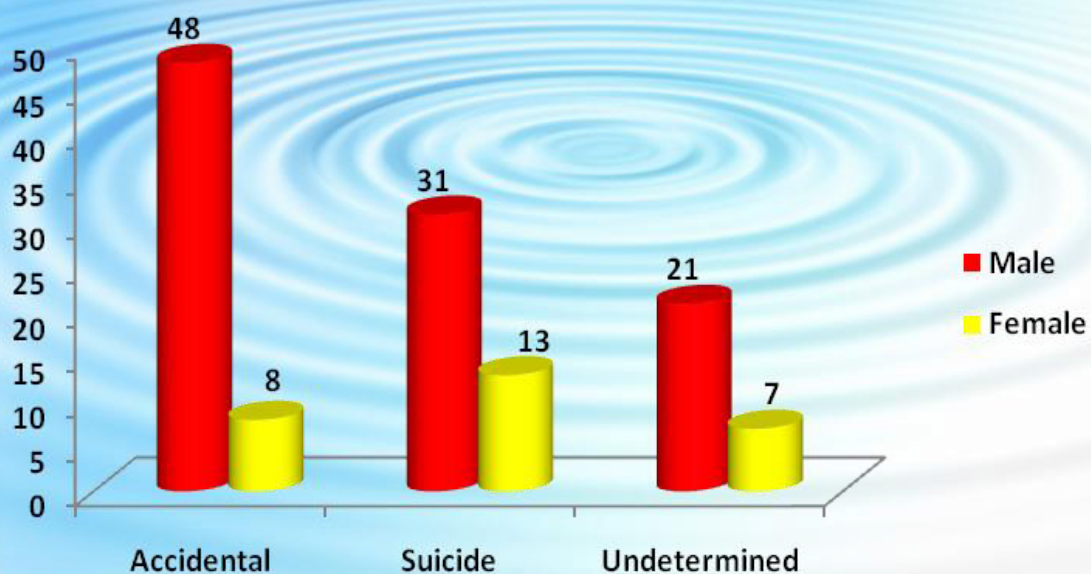
2011 All Drownings by Age



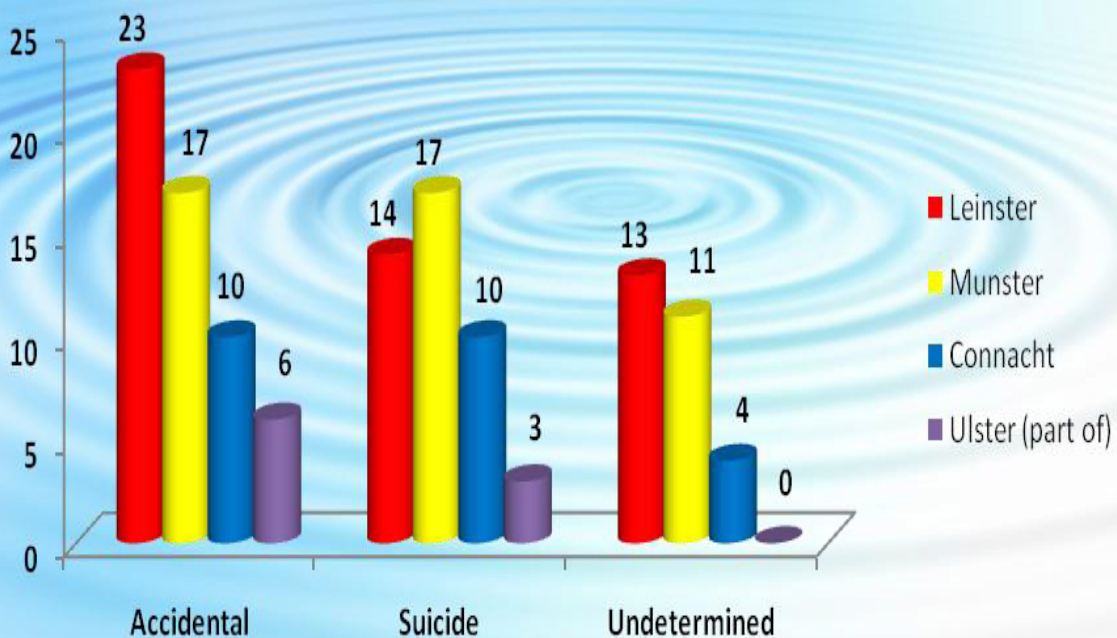
Average Drownings: Decade to 2011



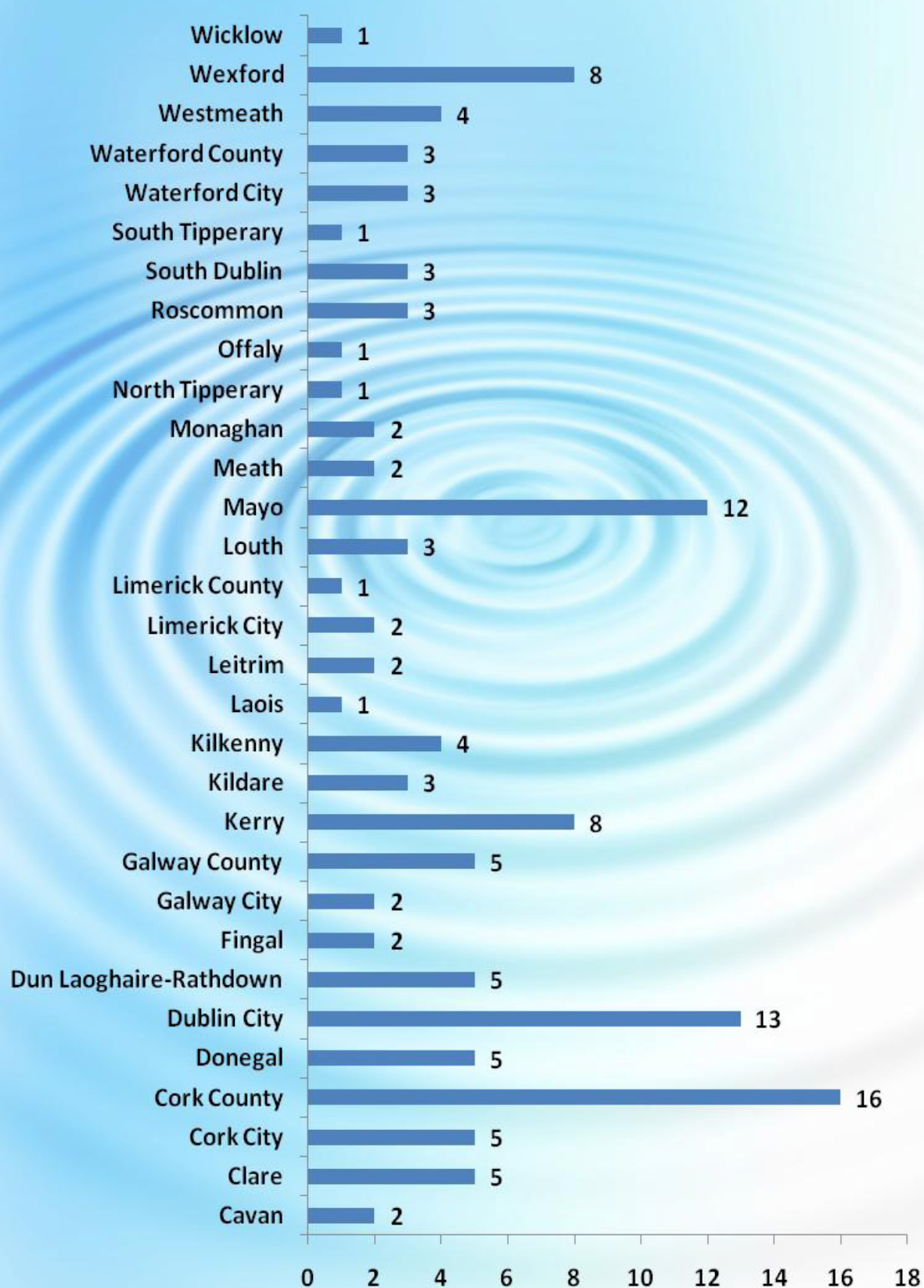
2011 Drownings by Gender and Cause



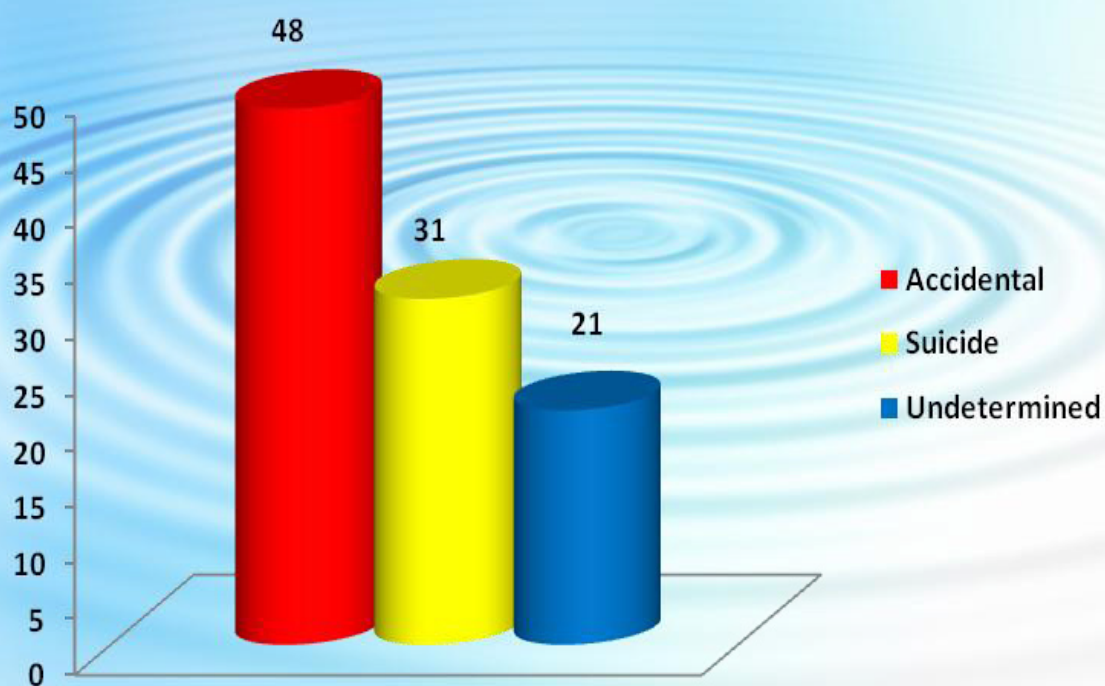
2011 Drownings by Province and Cause



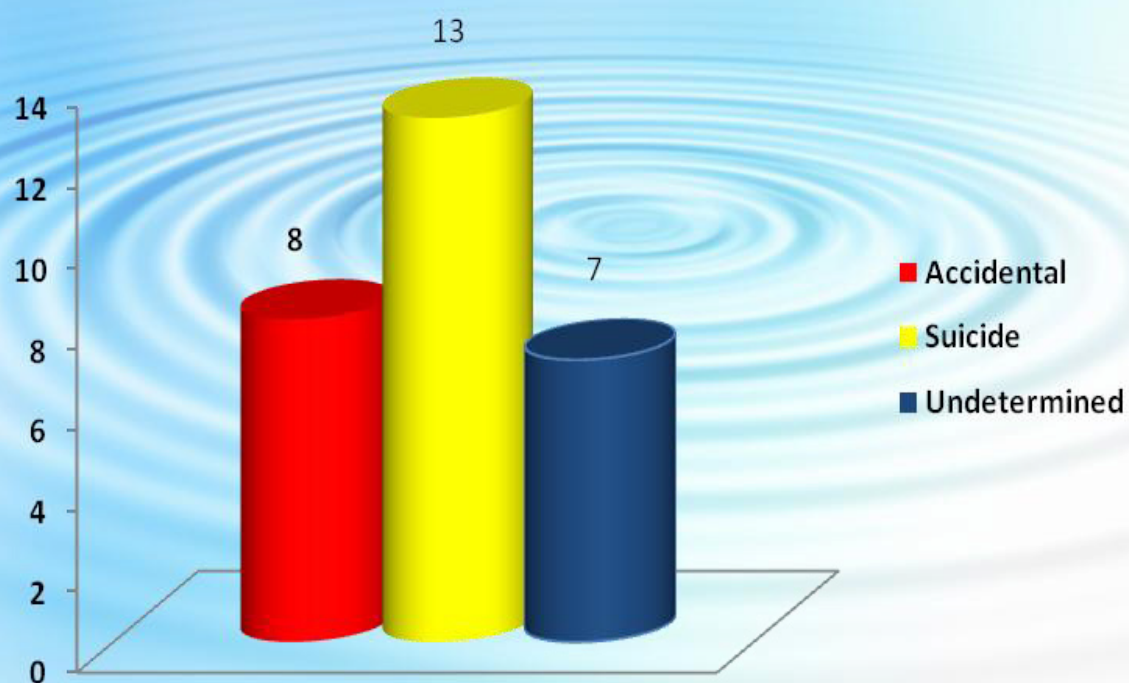
2011 All Drownings by Area



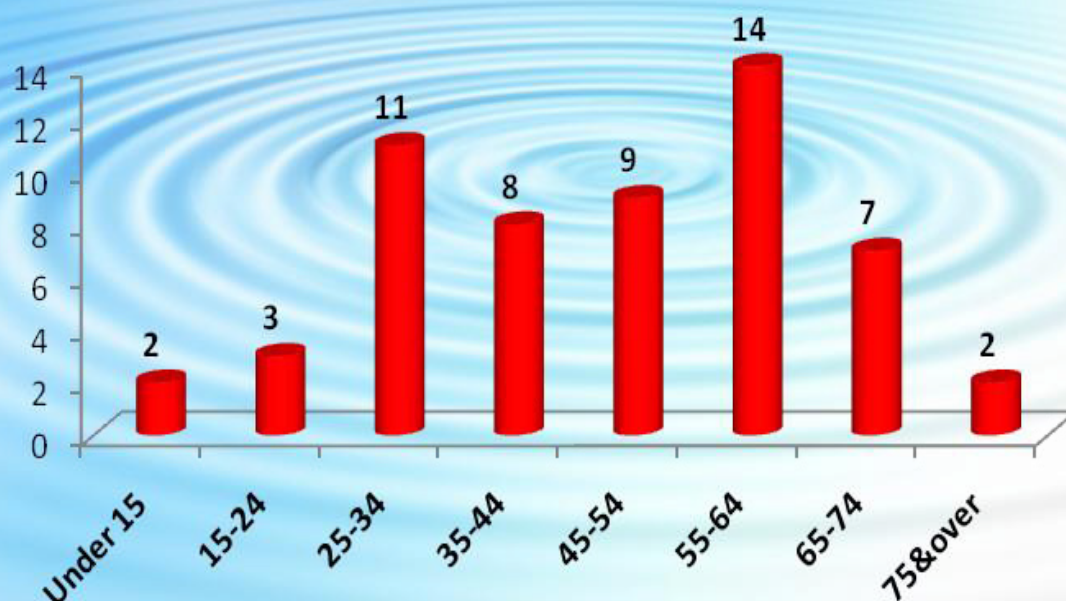
2011 Male Drownings by Cause



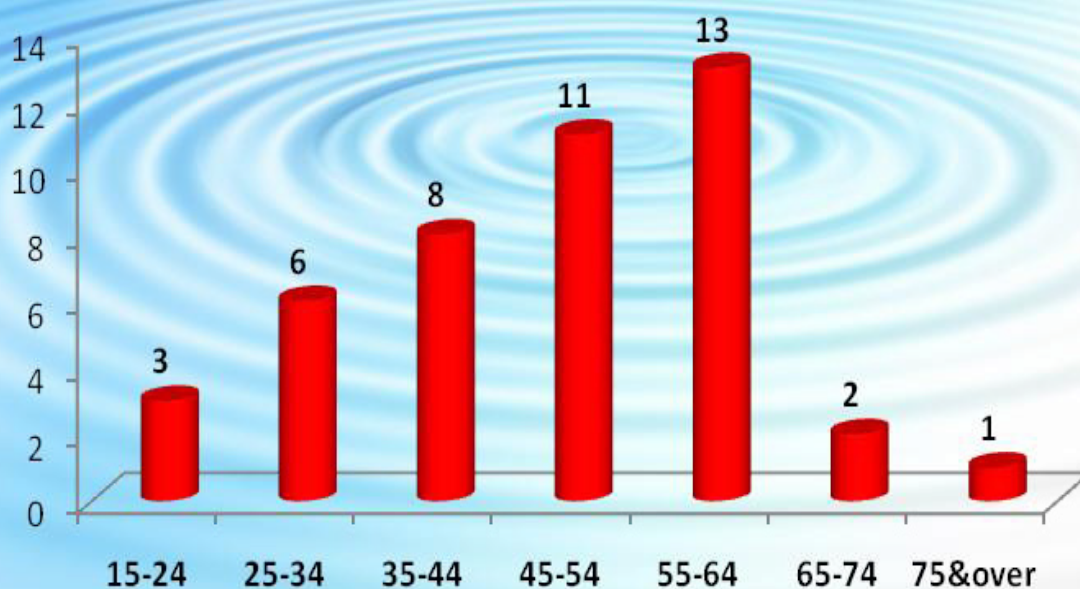
2011 Female Drownings by Cause



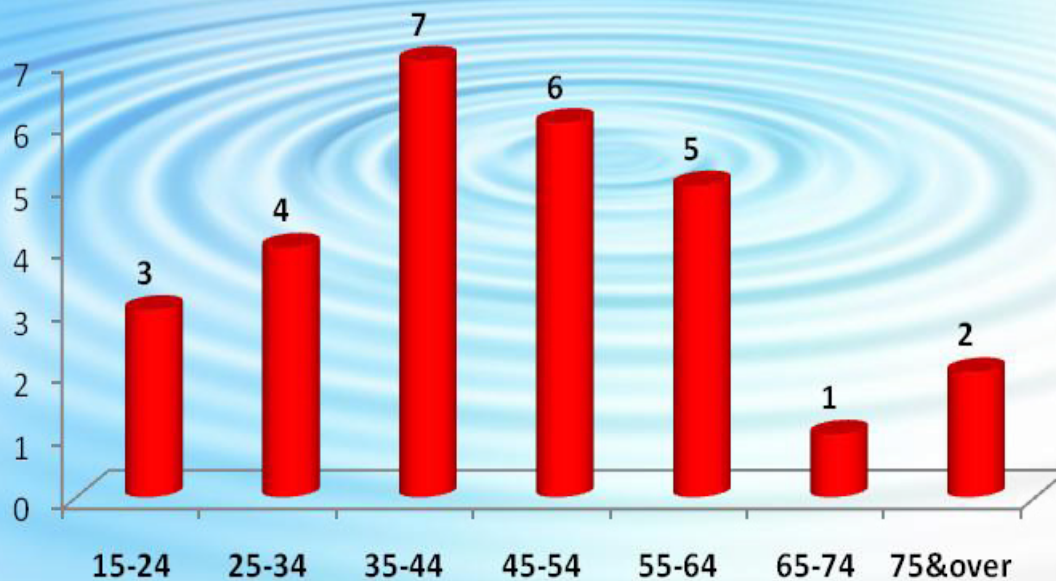
2011 Drownings by Age: Accidental



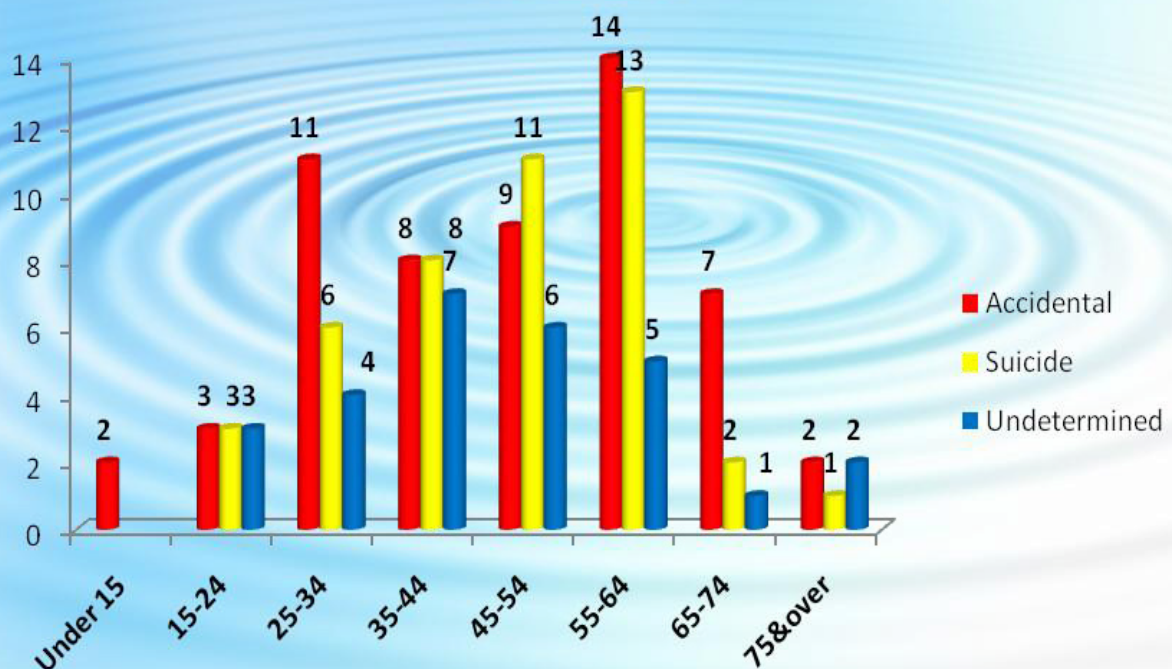
2011 Drownings by Age: Suicide



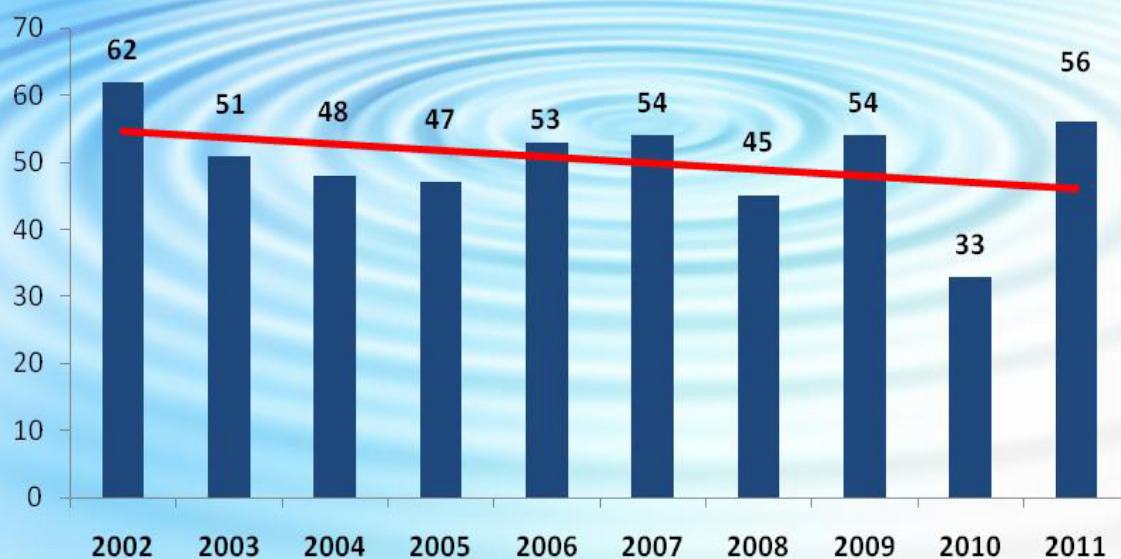
2011 Drownings by Age: Undetermined Cause



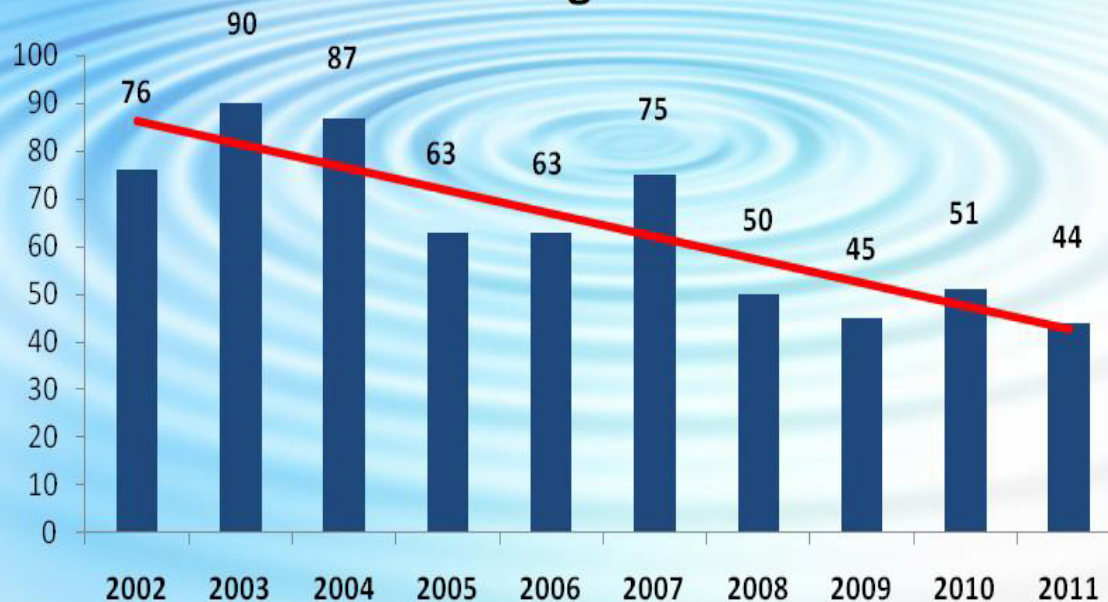
2011 Drownings by Age and Cause Total: 128

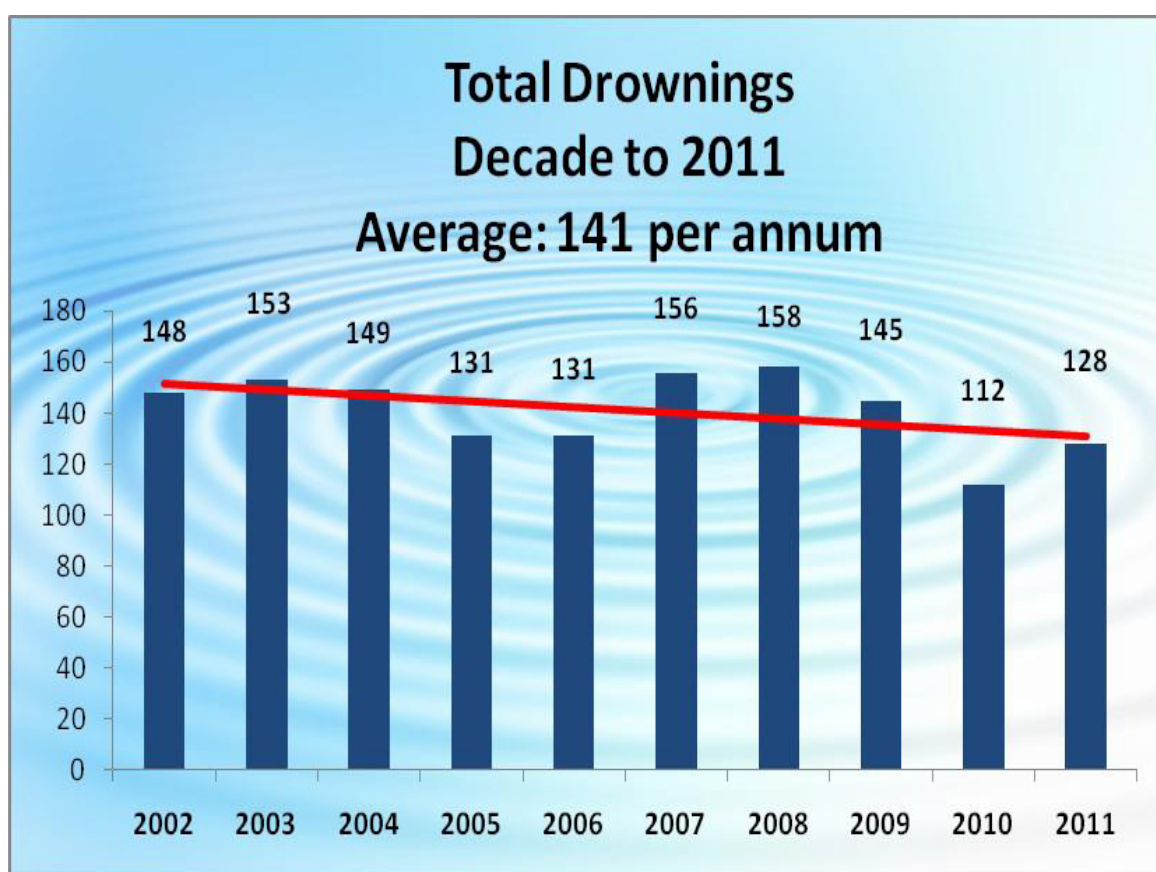
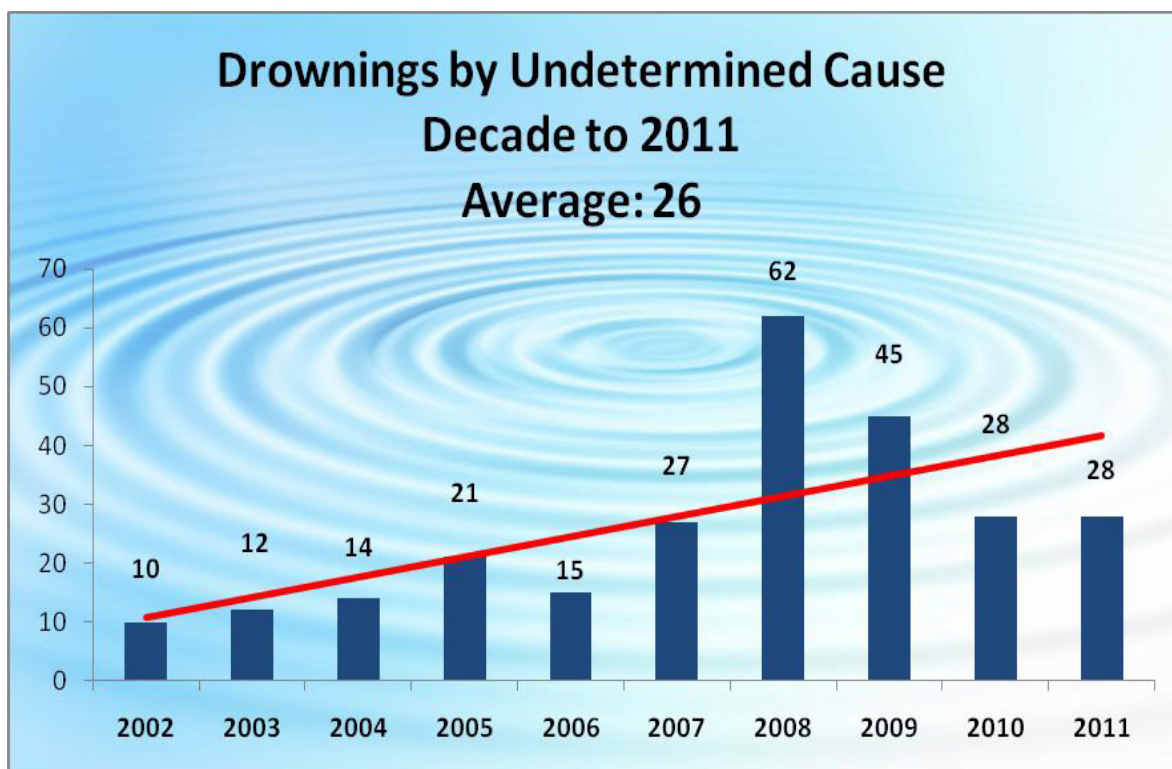


Drowning Accidents Trendline: Decade to 2011 Average: 50



Suicide Drownings Trendline: Decade to 2011 Average: 64





Drowning Statistics – Irish Citizens abroad in 2011

The Consular Assistance section of the Department of Foreign Affairs was informed of the deaths of 197 Irish citizens abroad in 2011. Of these, 9 were by drowning.

The breakdown by continent is as follows:

Europe: 6

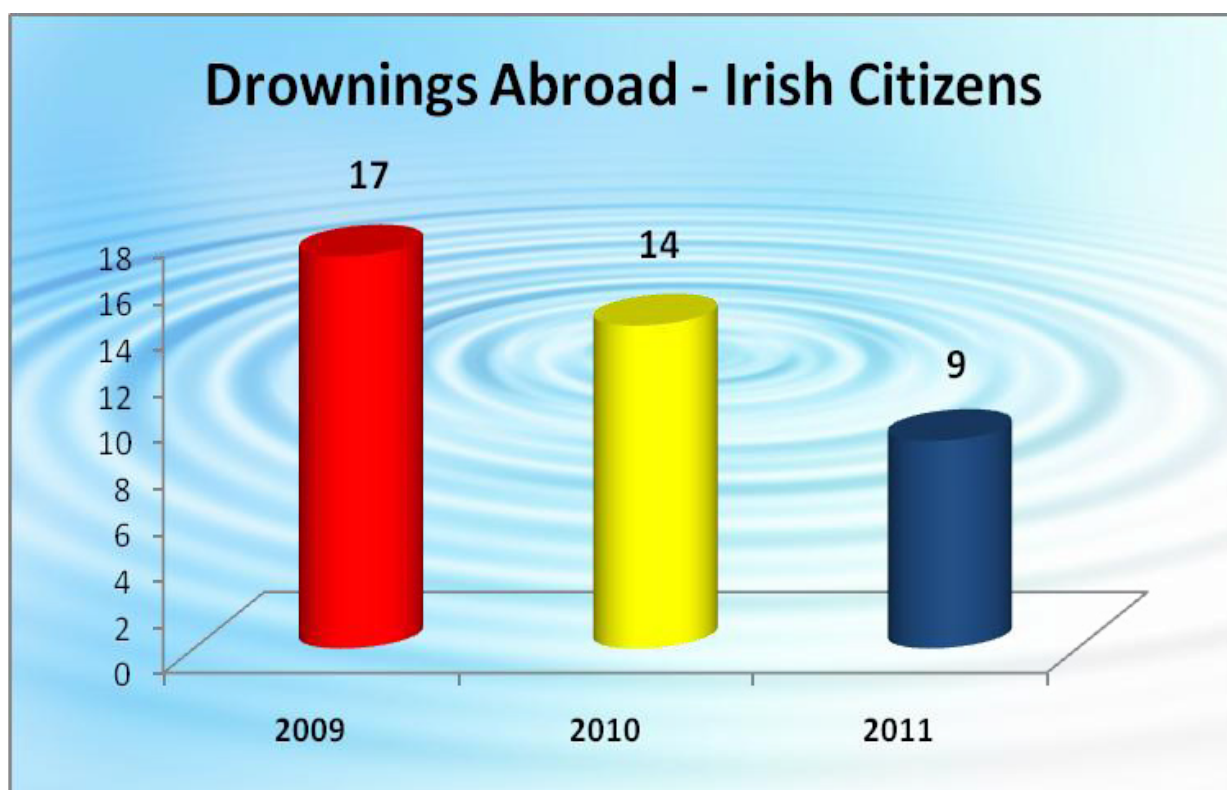
Americas: 1

Australia: 1

Asia: 1

In 2010, of the 211 deaths of Irish citizens abroad that were notified to the Department of Foreign Affairs, there were 14 deaths in water-related incidents (Europe 7; Americas 3; Australia 3; Other 1).

In 2009, of the deaths abroad which were notified to the Department of Foreign Affairs, there were 17 deaths in water-related incidents.



NOTES:



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