



# ***Irish Water Safety***

## ***Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann***



**ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

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 2012**

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

## Chairman's Statement



I wish to present this annual report on behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety and more particularly on behalf of all the voluntary members working continuously to promote the activities of the organisation.

Irish Water Safety is the statutory body with responsibility to promote water safety in Ireland. Its remit covers the promotion of public awareness of water safety and an awareness of necessary attitudes, behaviours and rescue skills to prevent drowning.

This report outlines the wide range of programmes and activities the Organisation undertakes to achieve that objective including the advancement of education, the provision of nationwide instruction in water safety, rescue, swimming, resuscitation and recovery drills, the promotion of the efficiency and standardisation of the lifeguard service and the establishment of national standards for lifeguards, lifesaving and water safety.

The success of these programmes and activities is due to the contributions of our volunteer members, who serve on Council, within Commissions, Working Groups and Water Safety Area Committees nationwide. These volunteers serve as instructors, examiners, tutors, organisers and fundraisers both at national and local level and continue to fundraise through our many activities and services that we provide on a voluntary basis in every county in the country. The details and the range of these activities are outlined in the body of the report.

Irish Water Safety adopted a new Strategic Development Plan for the period 2012 – 2017. We have used this plan to set out our mission, vision, values, goals and objectives. We will use it as a method of ensuring that we are all aware of our objectives and that we are all working collectively towards the same goals.

The Plan lists the key goals that need to be addressed to raise awareness of water safety in Ireland under the responsibilities assigned to Irish Water Safety in our Statutory Instrument. Each goal has a list of tasks and objectives, ranked in order of priority, that need to be completed to achieve the goal. The Council of Irish Water Safety has adopted this document under a planned work programme. The various talents of the council members have been targeted into key areas of responsibilities, to drive the plan forward with timed objectives and regular evaluation. The methodology of achieving those objectives has been identified and assigned to the various commissions and working groups that have been established by the council.

The tasks which are being actively pursued include the development of further strategies to help reduce suicide through drowning; the application of new media techniques and initiatives to water safety awareness and education which are interactive and age-appropriate and promote the wearing of lifejackets and other key messages

Through our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme we are reaching out to primary school children. Our summer week's programme also reaches this age group. Details of these activities are outlined within the report.

Irish Water Safety is the only body that has a dedicated programme of teaching swimming and lifesaving in an open water environment. Our Lifesaving Sport clubs are growing in strength around the country. Lifesaving Sport reaches thousands of young people, at nipper, junior and senior level and has been developed to improve the standard of lifesaving and rescue skills among our lifeguards. Irish Water Safety Lifesaving Sport had a great year in 2012. The programme included three National Pool Competitions, three Surf Regional Nipper Competitions, the Surf National Nipper Competition, the Surf Junior Competition and a Senior and Masters Championships in addition to four training camps for the National Squad and associated trial days. These events catered to almost 1,500 competitors.

2012 also marks the year in which we received grant aid from the Irish Sports Council via Swim Ireland which allowed us to send full teams to two major international competitions and whose wonderful achievements are detailed in this report.

Our Junior team competed in Sweden taking Gold, Silver and Bronze and breaking several national records in the process – a wonderful achievement. In November the Irish Senior team competed in the World Championships at Rescue 2012 in Australia, from which we brought home 14 medals - 5 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze.

During the year we also launched and developed a number of major new programmes. The Open Water Safety Awareness course for people working on, near or in water. This will enhance the safety of all those who work in different aquatic environments and is aimed initially at Local Authority workers, many of whom work in the hazardous conditions where the risk of accidental drowning is all too real.

A three-tier Aquatics syllabus for people with Disabilities was devised to recognise the different levels of care offered to such people from volunteers to professionals. The qualifications are currently being delivered in a number of third level educational institutions and leisure centres nationwide. A new Apprentice Surf Lifesaving Coaching manual was launched to enhance the teaching of the Sport and a revised Rescue Skills Manual was launched that standardises the teaching of all our courses and uses photography so that techniques are easily understood.

However, even with all these programmes, activities and achievements, 147 people lost their lives through drowning in 2012. This is an increase of 19 on 2011. Our analysis of these figures reveal a worrying fact: in 2010, when the lowest number of drownings ever recorded stood at 112, there were only 33 accidental drownings, while in 2012 this figure has almost doubled to 65. The challenge for IWS is to identify the reasons for this significant increase and develop more programmes to target those most at risk. This will be the number one task for IWS in the coming period and will include the need to identify funding which will support more aggressive campaigns.

Although there were 147 drownings in Ireland during 2012, this figure could have been much higher were it not for the preventive actions effected by Irish Water Safety assessed Lifeguards who rescued 398 persons from drowning, administered first aid to 2,809 people and reunited 319 lost children with their guardians. Their positive effect on drowning prevention is further reflected in the 53,274 instances in which they issued advice to members of the public and a further 12,953 lifeguard actions that anticipated and thus prevented an accident occurring.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the financial support that we received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government during 2012. We equally acknowledge the contributions from our Local Authorities throughout Ireland.

While we acknowledge that all Government Departments and Agencies are coping with reduced finances, we note that fulfilling our remit is becoming increasingly difficult under continuing funding restraints. We also thank members of the public who have made generous donations to assist us with our work.

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 and 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 support of these groups is of great value to us.

We worked in co-operation with a number of agencies including the Irish Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána, the Maritime 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, Coaching Ireland, An Taisce, the Health and Safety Authority and with many other aquatic and sporting bodies.

Sadly, 2012 saw the passing of some of our long standing instructors and examiners. I extend to their families our sincere and deepest sympathy on the passing of these colleagues and friends.

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



Breda Collins  
Chairman  
Irish Water Safety





**Breda Collins**  
**Chairman**

Breda Collins joined Irish Water Safety in 1986 and is an active Instructor, Swimming Teacher, Examiner and Risk Assessor in Kilkenny. She is an International Surf Lifesaving Referee and an ILSE Risk Assessor Tutor. She served on the National Irish Water Safety Committee under The National Safety Council. She was elected to the Irish Water Safety Council when it was set up in 1999, and was subsequently elected to the Councils in 2003 and 2006. Breda has served as Chairperson of the Lifesaving, Swimming and Rescue Commissions, has been Director of many provincial and national courses and conferences and is currently the secretary of the ILSE Rescue Commission. She was appointed Chairman of Irish Water Safety in November 2011.



**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**

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 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, Chair of the Legal Commission and is currently Chairman of the Education Commission. 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.



#### **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, Chairman of Wexford WSAC and Water Safety Development Officer for Wexford County Council. Tom has been involved in Water Safety since the early seventies having worked in Wexford Swimming pool for over 30 years. He organizes the summer programme for the county each year. At present on the Lifeguard commission. He is also vice chair of the board of Wexford Credit Union and Chair of Chapter 9 which is a grouping of credit unions in south east of Ireland. His leisure interests include electrical design, scuba diving, and cycling.

**Christy McDonagh**

Christy lives in Ballina and is a member of Grainne Uaile Sub Aqua Club in County Mayo. He is an active instructor and examiner in SCUBA diving. He is a member of the Clubs Underwater Search and Recovery Unit which is affiliated to the Irish Underwater Council.

**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.



**Odran Reid** – is an economist and a planner who has worked in the NGO sector for the last 25 years. He is a part time lecturer on the Masters programme in the School of Spatial Planning in DIT Bolton Street and is the Corporate Strategy manager for Northside Partnership. He is currently the Chairperson of the Fingal ICTU Centre in Finglas, a Director of MABS Dublin North East and Northside Homecare Board in Coolock. Odran was recently a member of the Lord Mayor of Dublin's Anti Social Behaviour Commission and was formerly a member of the Garda Síochána Complaints Board. He has been involved with the Aer Lingus Swimming club for over ten years having been Secretary and PRO for the club. He has been trained in Child protection and as a team manager by Swim Ireland.

## Council Meetings 2012 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.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2012		25-Jan	21-Mar	22-Apr	06-Jun	08-Aug	03-Oct	05-Dec
Breda	Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John	Considine	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael	Cuddihy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom	Doyle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Christy	McDonagh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brendan	McGrath	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul	Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seamus	O'Neill	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lola	O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Martin	O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tim	O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Odran	Reid	Appointed August 2012				Y	Y	Y
Anne	Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## 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 two 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.



Congratulations to IWS Volunteer Liam Guilfoyle from Killarney, Co Kerry for receiving from Prof Don Barry, President of the University of Limerick (far right), a UL President's Volunteer Award for volunteering with IWS. Of the 130 students honoured, Liam was one of only three students to receive an "Outstanding Award" for his contribution to society through volunteering work.

## 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

## Websites:

[www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie)

[www.ringbuoys.ie](http://www.ringbuoys.ie)

[www.aquaattack.ie](http://www.aquaattack.ie)

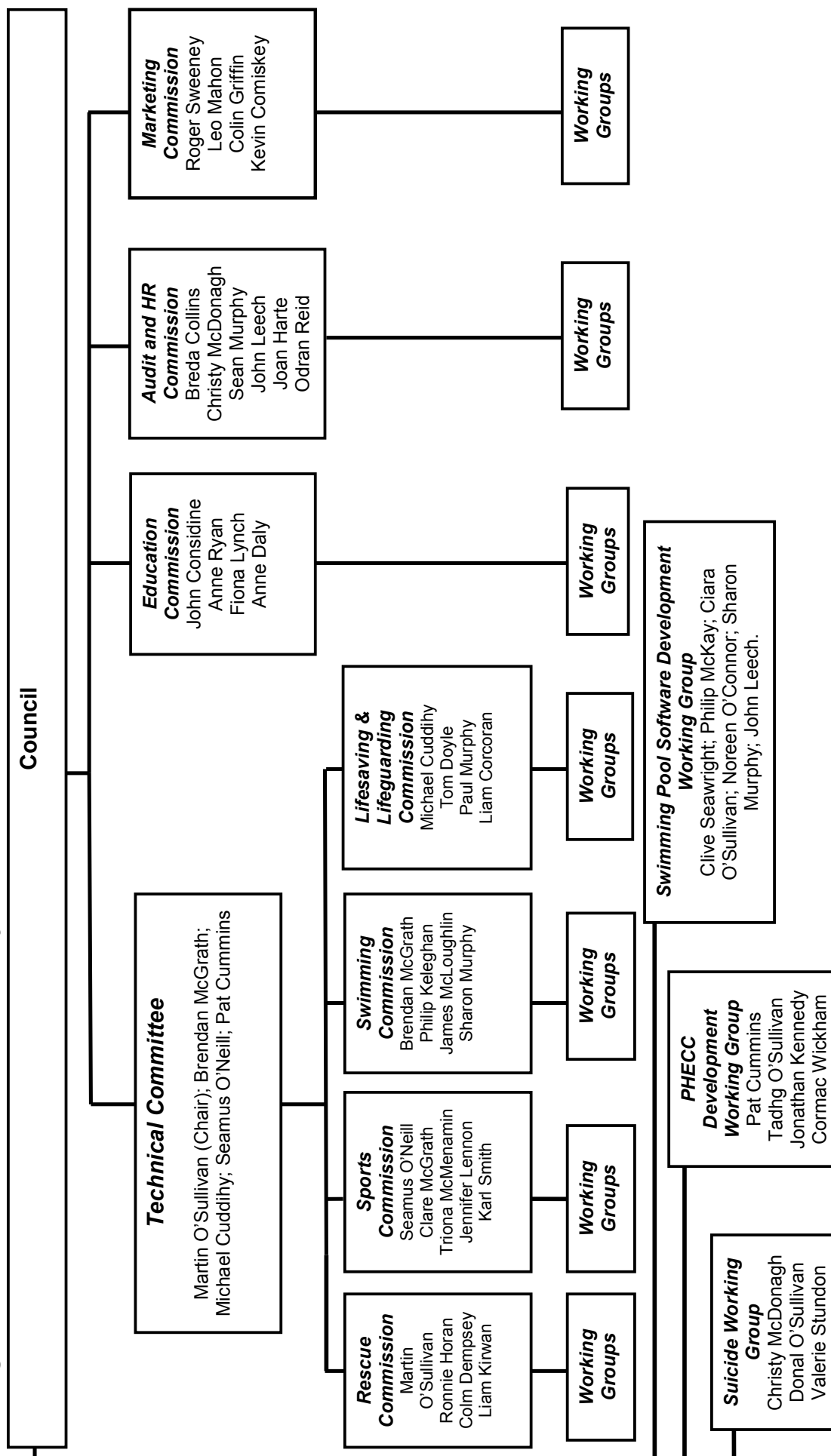
[www.iwsmembership.ie](http://www.iwsmembership.ie)

[www.iwsmemberinsurance.com](http://www.iwsmemberinsurance.com)



Ringbuoys in Limerick have been fitted with Loc8 codes containing GPS coordinates that enables emergency services to determine their exact location when a call is received. Launching the Pilot Programme is Brian Kennedy, Water Safety Development Officer, Limerick County Council, Cllr Leo Walsh, Limerick County Council, Mr Con Murray, Limerick Manager & Gary Delaney, CEO Loc8 Code.

## Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety





## **The Technical Committee**

Martin O'Sullivan - Chairman  
Michael Cuddihy - Vice Chairman  
Member – Seamus O'Neill  
Member - Brendan McGrath  
Member – Pat Cummins

### **Duties:**

1. Co-ordinate and monitor the work of all Technical Commissions
2. Review all Technical Commission recommendations and forward as appropriate all suitable recommendations to Council for approval
3. Review all Lifesaving syllabi & publications
4. Manage the Annual IWS Examiners Conference
5. Identify and Prioritise new projects with Technical Committee

### **Audit Commission:**

Breda Collins - Chairman  
Sean Murphy – Secretary  
Odran Reid - Member  
Christy McDonagh – Member  
Finance Officer – Member  
Chief Executive Officer - Member

### **Duties:**

1. Monitoring Expenditure and Income
2. Internal Financial Controls & Risk Management
3. Internal Audits
4. HR Matters
5. Define an approach for the continuation of management development for both existing and new staff
6. Health & Safety
7. National & International Travel
8. Develop strategies to increase membership
9. Recommend National & International Appointments
10. Improve links with Local Authorities, meet more County Managers and County Councillors



Karl Fitzgerald, Cork receives an IWS/Seiko Just In Time Rescue Award at the National Awards Ceremony from Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman.

**Marketing Commission:**

Roger Sweeney- Chairman & Secretary  
Leo Mahon – Vice-Chairman  
Colin Griffin – Member  
Kevin Comiskey - Member

**Duties:**

1. Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within the S.I. and Strategic Development Plan
2. Source forms of sponsorship
3. Market the IWS Brand
4. Standardisation of merchandise – certificates, etc.
5. Standardisation and publication of Books, Manuals, Leaflets, Posters
6. Manage the strategy for Press releases
7. Monitor Press Cuttings
8. Ensure that IWS is well represented at exhibitions countrywide
9. Liaise with RoSPA & the Marine Safety Working Group
10. Promotion of public awareness of Water Safety
11. Assist in organising National Ceremonies, Conferences & Events
12. Represent IWS at LAMA Awards
13. Promote the wearing of Lifejackets, particularly in the fishing industry
14. Develop the commercial strand to our organisation; improve branding and PR
15. Liaison with RLSS Charles Thompson Award
16. Analyse drowning statistics

**Rescue Commission:**

Martin O’Sullivan – Chairman.  
Ronnie Horan – Vice-Chairman  
Colm Dempsey – Secretary  
Liam Kirwan - Member

**Duties:**

1. Promote Blue Flag safety standards and other aquatic environmental issues
2. Manage Risk Assessments at local, national & international level
3. Manage the VAT Inspections
4. Manage the SEIKO JIT Rescue Award
5. Assist in Rescue on Inland and maritime Waters
6. Liaise with Community Rescue Boats Ireland
7. Test rescue equipment
8. Liaison with Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee



### **Sports Commission:**

Seamus O'Neill – Chairman  
Clare McGrath – Vice-Chairman  
Triona McMenamin - Secretary  
Karl Smith - Member  
Jennifer Lennon– Member

### **Duties:**

1. Improve liaison with Swim Ireland in regards to our NGB funding
2. Improve liaison with the Federation of Irish Sport
3. Improve liaison with Coaching Ireland
4. Manage International and National Competitions
5. Develop Life Saving Clubs nationwide
6. Train & appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials
7. Ensure all WADA regulations are enforced for our athletes
8. Recommend Sports Equipment
9. Manage International Life Saving Sport & Competitions
10. Promote and develop lifesaving sport in Ireland
11. Liaison with the Olympic Council of Ireland
12. Draw up procedures for all activities and competitions

### **Lifesaving & Lifeguarding Commission:**

Michael Cuddihy – Chairman  
Paul Murphy - Secretary  
Tom Doyle- Member  
Liam Corcoran - Member

### **Duties:**

1. The promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
2. The improvement of national standards for Lifeguards
3. All matters dealing with Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
4. Recommend national standard for all lifesaving equipment
5. Train Lifeguards in rescue crafts
6. Water Safety Development Officers Conference
7. The provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation and recovery skills
8. European Qualification Framework in Lifeguarding



The Water Safety Development Officers Conference was the venue for the launching of the new course "Water Safety For Those Employed Near Water" by Mr Phil Hogan TD, and (L-R) Joan McLoughlin, Kilkenny Water Safety Development Officer, Ms Breda Collins, IWS Chairman and Dan McDonnell, Carlow Water Safety Development Officer.

**Education Commission:**

John Considine – Chairman  
Anne Ryan – Vice-Chairman  
Fiona Lynch – Secretary  
Anne Daly (EDO) – Member  
Michael Murphy - Member

**Duties:**

1. Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in the aquatic environment
2. Maintain and develop training and water safety awareness programmes within the Irish Educational System.
3. Develop a Transition Year water safety programme
4. Manage the Teachers Training Courses
5. Development of further FETAC awards
6. Manage all Children's interests
7. Review and update all Children's and educational documents
8. Arrange seminars for Designated Persons
9. Liaise with the Dept of Education to maximise water safety awareness training and public awareness programmes.
10. Manage, monitor and enforce best practices in accordance with Children First and our own Code of Ethics for children.

**Swimming Commission:**

Brendan McGrath – Chairman  
James McLoughlin – Vice-Chairman  
Philip Keleghan - Secretary  
Sharon Murphy – Member

**Duties:**

1. The provision of instruction in swimming in order to teach lifesaving
2. Liaise with Swim Ireland in relation to swimming standards
3. Train & examine Swimming Instructors and Tutors
4. Manage the Annual Water Safety Area Committee Officers Conference
5. Improve membership and communication with WSAC's
6. Monitor standards of Governance of WSAC's
7. Represent IWS at IFSTA
8. Ensure IWS is represented on the White Flag Jury
9. Monitor Swimming Pool Standards
10. Develop a document and template for Risk Assessment in swimming pools
11. Evaluate the number of Swim Certificates in IWS
12. Develop better communications with ILAM

## Media Partnerships 2012

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. In addition to 57 media interviews conducted on television and radio, Irish Water Safety press releases resulted in 660 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals.

### PRESS RELEASES

- Shepard Search and Rescue Conference
- March Heatwave
- Easter Bank Holiday
- National Water Safety course for those working near water
- May Bank Holiday
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- Volvo Ocean Race
- Drink Aware & Irish Water Safety campaign
- August Bank Holiday
- European Junior Lifesaving Championships
- Portuguese Man of War on Irish shores
- National Surf Lifesaving Championships
- World Suicide Prevention Day
- Water Safety on Farms – a Ploughing Championships campaign
- October Bank Holiday Weekend
- Loc8 Codes Response To Limerick Water Incidents
- Irish Surf Lifesavers compete at World Lifesaving Championships
- National Awards Ceremony to honour dramatic rescuers
- Christmas and New Year Water Safety advice



Mr Noel McCarthy, Laois is recognised for 40 years voluntary service to IWS by Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at Dublin City Hall

Peter Kane, IWS Volunteer, Donegal and Anne Daly, IWS National Education Development Officer at the Letterkenny “Keep Safe” event aimed at primary school children in partnership with the Health & Safety Authority.



## PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

### Exhibitions

- Holiday World;
- Ireland Angling Expo;
- Hooked Live Show;
- Irish Skipper Show;
- National Ploughing Championships;
- Irish Fly Fair;
- IWS Annual Awards Ceremony;
- HSA “Keep Safe” partnership Events;
- Fish Ireland Show;
- Irish Primary School Principals Network (IPPN) Conference



Taoiseach Enda Kenny is joined by IWS trained Lifeguards in giving a thumbs-up to the new ISO “Wear A Lifejacket” signage at the Volvo Ocean Race, Galway.

Handing out information at the Voluntary Emergency Services Exhibition, Cork were Richard Mc Loughlin –IWS Volunteer, Cork, Hilary Lynch, Chair of IWS Cork Water Safety Committee. Joined by Mr John Buttmer Lord Mayor of Cork City.





## **National Water Safety Awareness Week (May 27<sup>th</sup> –June 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

- Drink Aware partnership campaign
- Online media campaign (YouTube) targeting Polish, Slovakian & Czech
- National and provincial media coverage

## **Volvo Ocean Race**

- Nineteen Lifeguards patrolled seven Lifeguard zones on two shifts between 30th June and 8th July.

## **SEIKO Sponsorship**

- Twenty-six rescuers from twenty-two dramatic near-death incidents will receive recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at City Hall on Tuesday 27th November 2012, from 3pm to 5pm. Thirty-six lives were saved through the brave actions of these rescuers.

## **SKY TV**

- Supported IWS with free TV campaign broadcasts

## **IWS Water Safety Themed Calendar**

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



The IWS Mobile Education Unit provided water safety advice to those attending Kilkenny City's largest open-water event – The River Nore Swim.

Lifeguards Simon Unsworth, Fiona Peppard and Donal Maddock launching the IWS/Drink Aware "Don't Drink and Dive Swim or Sail" campaign, Dublin.



## 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 26,221 Swimming and Lifesaving certificates in 2012. In addition, a further 40,033 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 6,605 of the new range of Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 72,859.

Aquatics organiser	132	Rescue 4	327
Aquatics Pool Assistant	13	Safety 1	1713
Assistant Swimming Teacher	472	Safety 2	2375
Beach Lifeguard	203	Safety 3	2174
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	205	Safety 4	2060
BLS 1	2492	Splash	204
BLS 2	1987	Surf 1	40
BLS 3	1117	Surf 2	53
Challenge 1	129	Surf 3	17
Challenge 2	237	Surf 4	9
Endurance 1	453	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	39
Endurance 2	587	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Revalidation	36
Instructor	114	Surf Lifesaving Introductory Coaching Course	103
IOW Lifeguard	17	Survival 1	121
IWS ILAM PLG Level 1	252	Survival 2	252
IWS ILAM PLG Level 1Revalidation	99	Survival 3	6
IWS ILAM PLG Level 2	994	Swim 1	373
IWS ILAM PLG Level 2Revalidation	681	Swim 2	351
Junior Aquatics Water Safety 1	17	Swim 3	375
Pool Lifeguard	121	Swim 4	351
Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	22	Swim 5	497
PHECC Pre-Hospital Care Council Cardiac First Responder	339	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	40
Rescue 1	1569	Swimming Teacher	226
Rescue 2	1277	Swimming Teacher Tutor	4
Rescue 3	946	Total	26221

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 40,033 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2012.

Land PAWS 1	Land PAWS 2	Land PAWS 3	PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3
5596	2310	2036	1539	3080	5271

PAWS 4	PAWS 5	PAWS 6	PAWS 7	PAWS 8	PAWS Total
7619	5365	3775	2100	1342	40,033

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 2012, a total of 6,605 certificates were issued.



Colourful concentration at the National Surf Lifesaving Championships, Rosslinagh, Co. Donegal.

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan is briefed about the new IWS "Aquatics Syllabus for People With Disabilities" at the National Examiner's Conference, Kilkenny. With Breda Collins, IWS Chair and Mary Foster, Carlow Water Safety Area Committee Chair.





## 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](http://www.iws.ie). Many counties experienced an exceptional interest in classes following a series of successful radio, press and TV campaigns. There were a total of 199 swim weeks run by our volunteers in 2012.

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety
Cavan	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lough McNeen, 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	Grownys Wood, Lough Ramor	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lavey Lake, Lavey	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Fitzpatrick's 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	Ballycotten	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



Ms. Helen O'Hara from Cavan is recognised for 10 years service by Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at Dublin City Hall.

## IWS Representation at National Level

John Leech	Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee
John Leech	(Users Group), Commissioner's Irish Lights
Roger Sweeney	Marine Safety Working Group
Martin O'Sullivan	Community Rescue Boats Ireland
Colm Dempsey	Community Rescue Boats Ireland
Pat Cummins	PHECC - Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council
Breda Collins	Forum of Chairpersons of State Sponsored Bodies
John Leech	ACESA - Assoc Chief Executives of State Agencies
Brendan McGrath	ILAM White Flag Jury
Martin O'Sullivan	An Taisce Blue Flag Jury
John Considine	Green Coast Award
Sports Commission	Federation of Irish Sports & Irish Olympic Committee
Seamus O'Neill	Swim Ireland – NGB for Lifesaving Sport
Anne Ryan	FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
Roger Sweeney	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury
John Leech & Breda Collins	Charles Thomson Award Jury with the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS).
Séan Murphy	Internal Auditor
Michael Murphy	National Designated Person & Codes of Ethics Inspector
Val O'Kelly	Assistant Designated Person

## IWS Representation at International Level

Sean Murphy	Auditor ILS
Sean Murphy	Auditor ILS(E)
Martin O'Sullivan	ILS European Board
Martin O'Sullivan	Rescue Commission Europe & World (ILS)
Michael Cuddihy	ILS(E) Sport Commission
John Leech	ILS(E) Management & Administration Commission
Brendan McGrath	International Federation of Swimming Teachers
Tom Doyle	ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents)
Michael Cuddihy	College of Referees Panel ILS (E)
John Leech	International Maritime Rescue Federation



The excitement of organised chaos at Irish Water Safety's National Pool Lifesaving Championships, University of Limerick.



## Conferences:

- **Water Safety Development Officer's Conference**  
25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April, Carlow
- **Water Safety Area Committee Officer's Seminar**  
22<sup>nd</sup> April, Athlone
- **Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar**  
18<sup>th</sup> September, Mullingar
- **National Awards Ceremony**  
27<sup>th</sup> November, City Hall, Dublin
- **Examiner's Conference**  
13th-14th October, Kilkenny



Mayor of Galway, Hildegard Naughton (centre) joined Council and staff for a discussion about water safety issues.

## Risk Assessments

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 2012, a total of 42 IWS Risk Assessments were carried out:**

Clare	Spanish Point
Clare	Bishops Quarter
Clare	Fanore
Clare	Fergus in Ennis
Clare	Lahinch
Cork	Glengariff
Cork	Garryvoe
Cork	Garnish Strand
Cork	Pallas strand
Cork	Travarra Strand
Cork- Green Coast	Coolmaine D Daly & G O M
Cork - Green Coast	Sheeps Walkway, Dooneen Pier D.D & GOM



## Risk Assessments (Continued)

Cork -Green Coast	Greenlands, Ring Strand D.D & KON
Cork	Reenmeen Glengarriff
Donegal	Buncrana Diving Boards
Dun Laoghaire	Dun Laoghaire Baths
Dun Laoghaire	Seapoint
Dun Laoghaire	Sandycove
Fingal	Malahide Beach
Kerry	Kells Bay
Louth	Port B Flag
Louth	Clougherhead B Flag
Louth	Templetown B Flag
Mayo	Dooega, Achill
Mayo	Clare Island
Mayo	Mullaghroe, Belmullet
Mayo	Elly Bay, Belmullet
Mayo	Golden Strand
Mayo	Silver Strand
Tipp North	Terryglass
Tipp North	Kilgarvan
Tipp North	Mota
Tipp North	Glenbower
Tipp North	Luska
Tipp North	Urre
Tipp North	Dromineer
Tipp North	Youghal Quay
Tipp North	Garrykennedy
Tipp North	Castlelough
Tipp North	Clare Glens Newport
Tipp North	Ballina
Waterford	Bonmahon



Taoiseach Enda Kenny hears from Michael Gavin, Mayo Water Safety Development Officer about a local initiative to promote the reporting of missing and damaged ringbuoys to the IWS website [www.ringbuoys.ie](http://www.ringbuoys.ie).

## Risk Assessor Accreditation Course

International Life Saving Federation of Europe  
Risk Assessor Training Course  
Liscannor Co Clare,  
March 23/24

## National Referees Course

Riverbank House Hotel, Co. Wexford  
24th-26th August

## 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 2012, five VAT inspections were carried out:**

- Ballyheighue
- Bonmahon
- Cahore
- Carna
- Tramore

The Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI) are a nationwide group of independent voluntary rescue boats which are trained and administered by Irish Water Safety. Pictured is Schull Community Rescue Boats Ireland..



Jasmine lost her sister Kayleigh Flynn in a tragic drowning accident and in memory of her sister, ran a charity event in her school hall that raised €1,700 to run drowning prevention programmes to help keep children safe. Jasmine is pictured receiving her IWS Community & Social Responsibility Award from Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at Dublin City Hall.

## Lifeguard Rescues and Preventive Actions

Our Local Authorities employ Irish Water Safety assessed lifeguards during the bathing season at popular bathing sites nationwide. The table below gives a clear picture of the effectiveness and value they contribute to saving lives each year and we commend them for this work in drowning prevention.

County	Rescue Rescue	Rescue Craft	First Aid	Lost Child	Advice Given	Accident Prevented	Other
Carlow	1	0	120	0	235	18	5
Clare	62	33	653	72	12698	3698	73
Donegal	15	15	92	15	2309	1312	273
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	6	0	145	0	0	0	0
Fingal	4	2	27	3	50	0	8
Galway	14	7	170	7	981	301	552
Kerry	34	20	486	64	2733	552	498
Kilkenny	3	0	20	0	365	20	29
Laois	3	0	32	0	520	10	0
Leitrim	0	0	3	0	5	0	0
Limerick Co.	0	26	5	0	35	18	8
Louth	2	0	61	2	424	40	13
Mayo	25	16	98	13	17187	5132	0
Meath	0	0	26	6	12	17	16
Roscommon	0	0	136	0	270	46	0
Sligo	39	24	230	65	2286	839	122
Waterford	16	12	194	32	2109	883	24
Wexford	12	0	182	8	2030	46	3
Wicklow	6	1	129	32	9025	21	68
Total Lifeguard Actions	242	156	2809	319	53274	12953	1692



“Although there were 147 drownings in Ireland during 2012, this figure could have been much higher were it not for the preventive actions effected by Irish Water Safety assessed Lifeguards who rescued 398 persons from drowning, administered first aid to 2,809 people and reunited 319 lost children with their guardians. Their positive effect on drowning prevention is further reflected in the 53,274 instances in which they issued advice to members of the public and a further 12,953 lifeguard actions that anticipated and thus prevented an accident occurring.” Breda Collins, Chairman, Irish Water Safety.

## 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 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.

We had great results at the European Junior championships in Sweden, achieving 6 medals (3 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze).

We also had great results in Rescue 2012 in Australia:

Juniors: 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze.

Seniors: 2 Gold,

Masters: 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze.

### Competition Results 2012

- **The World Lifesaving Championships, "Rescue 2012", Adelaide, Australia**

7<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Ireland won fourteen medals, competing against athletes from 40 nations around the world. The competition included gruelling ocean-based rescue swimming of over 3km distances, rescue board paddling of 5km and specialised rescue ski paddling of 8km range. Commenting on the tremendous results for Ireland, the Chairman of Irish Water Safety's Sports Commission, Seamus O'Neill explained the importance of lifesaving sport in Ireland. "Lifesaving sport is all about perfecting the skills that prevent drownings. 140 people drown in Ireland every year. These figures present an unacceptable and preventable toll and are the driving motivation for Irish Water Safety's Lifeguard and Lifesaving training programme."

"Rescue 2012 is more than competition, winning medals and creating champions", he added, "It is about meeting fellow lifesavers, honing skills and exchanging ideas. Our competitors are lifesavers. Our lifesavers conduct patrols on beaches, lakes and pools. The competition is a method of improving lifesaving skills and engaging people in the overall global drowning prevention effort."



Dylan Barrett arrives to the Bouy, and signals to Rescuer Oisin McGrath on the beach in the Final of the Mens Board Rescue at Rescue 2012, the international Surf Lifesaving Championships held in Adelaide, South Australia.

- **European Junior Lifesaving Championships, Sweden**

16th August 2012

Ireland won Gold in the European Lifesaving Championships in Jönköping, Sweden. Both Bernard Cahill and Rory Sexton won their medals in the team beach event which simulates a board rescue from the water. Bernard also won a Gold medal in the "Run Swim Run" event whilst his teammate Rory Sexton won silver. Bernard then went on to win Silver in the individual Rescue Board Race. Meanwhile in the Girls "Run Swim Run", Lily Barrett from Ennis took a bronze medal. This is the first time that Ireland has made such an achievement, having won the beach competition overall. We were fourth Overall in the Boys Competition at beach and pool events combined and we are now ranked eighth overall in Europe. Seven National records were broken, a reflection of the excellent work done at local and national level in Lifesaving Sport. What makes this success special is the great work undertaken by the volunteers teaching and training these young athletes.

The Championships simulate real life rescue situations that these Lifesavers can expect to encounter as Lifeguards. To secure six 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 events that further develop and demonstrate lifesaving skills, fitness and motivation. Children around Ireland as young as eight can get involved in a series of progressive Lifesaving classes taught by Irish Water Safety, through the [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie) website and in due course have an opportunity to represent Ireland in these competitions.

- **National Nipper Championships 2012**

Ballyshannon Swimming Pool, Co Donegal.

Saturday 14th April 2012

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:**

<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>
1. Clare	Clare
2. Wicklow	Waterford
3. Cork	Wexford

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

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

#### *Senior Men*

1. Clare A
2. Waterford
3. Clare

#### *Senior Ladies*

- Clare A
- Donegal A
- Mayo

#### *Junior Boys*

1. Clare A
2. Clare B
3. Donegal

#### *Junior Girls*

- Mayo
- Clare A
- Donegal

- **National Junior Championships, Open Water, Curraloe, Wexford, 26th August 2012**

#### *Junior Boys*

1. Clare A
2. Wexford A
3. Donegal A

#### *Junior Girls*

- Clare A
- Donegal A
- Waterford A

- **National Senior Championships 2012, Open Water, 8th Sept 2012**

- **President's Trophy 2012 – Co Clare**

Rossnowlagh, Co Donegal

#### *Senior Men*

1. Clare A
2. Sligo A
3. Clare B

#### *Senior Ladies*

- Donegal A
- Clare A
- Sligo



Ireland won Gold in the European Lifesaving Championships in Sweden. The Championships simulate real life rescue situations that these Lifesavers can expect to encounter as Lifeguards. To secure six International medals at European level is testimony to how hard they trained and how well they prepared as individuals and as a team.

## National Awards Ceremony

**Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012, City Hall, Dublin.**

Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation presented “SEIKO Just in Time Awards”, “Life Governor Certificates and Medals”, Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for Services rendered to Irish Water Safety and also the “Charles Thomson Local Authority Award” and “Volunteer of the Year Award”. Among the recipients are members of the public, members of Irish Water Safety and other individuals and organisations who assist in the reduction of drownings by supporting the work of Irish Water Safety throughout the year.

The Service Awards recognised a total of 795 years of personal service of forty three Irish Water Safety volunteers in the teaching of swimming, lifesaving, rescue and the promotion of water safety awareness.

- **Community & Social Responsibility Awards:**

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.

### **Jasmine Flynn**

Jasmine lost her sister Kayleigh Flynn in a tragic drowning accident and in memory of her sister, she ran a charity event in her school hall that raised €1,700 which will be used by IWS to run drowning prevention programmes that help keep children safe. Jasmine rallied many of her friends and those of her sister Kayleigh together with great support from the school and her local press. Thanks to Jasmine, the focus on tragic drowning was refocused on creating an outcome that will have positive results for children nationwide.

### **Printed Blinds Factory**

The Printed Blinds Factory developed a range of blinds that are being introduced to primary schools at no cost to the schools and in partnership with a number of sponsors from the private and public sector. The blinds are designed to remain down to prevent glare and provide optimum lighting conditions. The resulting space on each blind provides an ideal medium to deliver messages to children. The company has included Irish Water Safety messages on its range of blinds for schools so that primary school children learn how to stay safe in, on and near water. This month the company was named best emerging business in the 2012 SSCUL Entrepreneurship Awards 2012 in the presence of An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD.

### **Jeremiah O’Dea**

Jeremiah went to market with an innovative product that solves every fisherman’s problem – the storing of flies for use during a day’s angling. The CD that Jeremiah includes with his storage product includes water safety information for anglers. Thanks to Jeremiah’s forethought, every angler purchasing his products from [www.thejodea.com](http://www.thejodea.com) will also receive information that can keep them safe while enjoying their leisure angling activities.

### **ILAM**

ILAM, the Irish Leisure Industry Body for Sports, Fitness, Aquatic, Health Spas and Associated Facilities partnered with the Irish Water Safety on a pool safety campaign that included safety messages to swimming pools. The associated poster campaign targets both children and adults with information on staying safe at pools in Ireland and abroad.

### **Irish Public Bodies**

Irish Public Bodies, a wholly Irish owned and managed general insurance company established in 1926 sponsored a two page advertising campaign in the popular Slainte Magazine that is read by thousands of patients in doctor’s surgeries nationwide. The campaign focused on giving water safety advice for those swimming, boating and visiting farms so that as many people at risk would receive the information they need to stay safe.

### **MEAS**

The Irish word for “Respect” is also the working name for the organisation that drives the mature enjoyment of alcohol in society. Their Drink Aware campaign partnered with Irish Water Safety to



advise people to avoid consuming alcohol before or during any aquatic activities. The press campaign was complimented with the distribution nationwide of thousands of posters and cards emphasizing the message “Don’t Drink and Dive, Swim or Sail”

### **HSA**

The Health & Safety Authority partnered on a campaign to target those at risk of drowning on farms. The HSA sponsored Irish Water Safety’s attendance at the National Ploughing Championships 2012 so that the key drowning-prevention messages could be delivered directly to those most at risk. This cooperative venture compliments Irish Water Safety’s drive to target vulnerable segments of our communities and the HSA are to be commended for prioritizing these efforts.

### **Sylwia Starkowska**

An important part of Irish Water Safety’s work is to target those living in Ireland from other countries who may be at risk of drowning. Tragically, there have been far too many such incidents in recent years but on the positive side, Sylwia has helped Irish Water Safety by translating a TV campaign for broadcast online to the Polish Community. Sylwia has also coordinated the translation of similar video to benefit those from Slovakia (translated by Lucia Libjakova) and Czechoslovakia (translated by Stephan Keph). The campaigns can be seen on YouTube and on Irish Water Safety’s website and we are grateful to Sylwia and her colleagues for helping to keep our friends from the Baltic States safe from harm at Irish waterways.

### **Sky Media Ireland**

Sky Media Ireland continues to support Irish Water Safety’s endeavours to target the general public with water safety advice that will raise awareness of best practices. By broadcasting Irish Water Safety campaigns on their TV channels, SKY are helping to change attitudes and behaviours so that are waterways are enjoyed with confidence and safety. Their support has already contributed to the increase in the numbers of people taking Irish Water Safety classes nationwide and has undoubtedly helped to reduce the overall average number of drownings from 186 when SKY first began their partnership to the current average of 140. For this we are extremely grateful.

- **Media Appreciation Award**

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

**Provincial Radio coverage:**

**Community Radio Station coverage:**

**Provincial Press coverage:**

**National TV coverage:**

**National Press coverage:**

Northern Sound

Athlone Community Radio

Clare Champion

Nuacht RTE/TG4

Irish Independent



Pupils at Naomh Bhríde National School, Ballycroy, Co Mayo with Ms. Anne Daly, IWS Education Development Officer receiving their aquatic safety certificates as part of the Primary Aquatics Water Safety Programme “PAWS”.

- **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 (10-Year Service)**

Ms Aisling Brennan  
Ms Sinead Brennan  
Ms Kathleen Gilmartin  
Mr Dermot McGlade  
Mr Bernward Schuermann  
Ms Helen O'Hara  
Ms Jean Mahon  
Mr Clive Seawright  
Ms Elizabeth Callaghan  
Mr Ruairi Farrell  
Ms Emer Doyle  
Mr Liam O Táilliúir

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

Mr Johnny Guidera  
Mr William Lonergan  
Ms Ann Marie Maher  
Ms Pat Scully  
Ms Nora Murphy  
Ms Sinead Byrne  
Ms Tracey Edwards  
Ms Anne Ryan  
Ms Mary O'Leary  
Ms Aine O'Connell  
Ms Alma Clancy

- **Bronze Bar to the SMH (20-Year Service)**

Ms May Coyle  
Ms Mary Harvey  
Ms Bernadette Parles  
Ms Valarie Case  
Ms Jackie Delaney  
Mr Leo Mahon  
Ms Alice Ward Crowley  
Ms Sharon Murphy  
Ms Anne McCreary  
Ms Catherine Fleming  
Mr Conor Dodd

- **Silver Bar to the SMH (30-Year Service)**

Ms Aisling Cushen  
Mr Stephen O'Toole  
Ms Enda O'Leary  
Ms Kathleen O'Connor  
Ms Eleanor Browne  
Mr Lar O'Connor  
Ms Nicola Dowdall

- **Gold Bar to the SMH (40-Year Service)**

Mr Jim Cushen  
Mr Noel McCarthy

- **Charles Thomson Award 2012:  
Westmeath County Council**

This Award is presented by IWS, RLSS Ulster Branch and Republic of Ireland branch in memory of Lt Cdr Chick Thomson who had dedicated his retired life to teaching swimming, lifesaving and generally promoting water safety in the UK and on the island of Ireland. It is presented to the Local Authority that has done most to promote Water Safety on the island of Ireland between 1st January 2011 and 31st December 2011.

- **Volunteer of the Year 2012:  
Brendan McGrath**

Brendan became a Water Safety Instructor in 1973, teaching water safety classes at White strand then progressing to Irish Water Safety Examiner, which he has been for over 20 years. Brendan currently sits on the Irish Water Safety Council, a position he has held for twelve years. He is chair of the Swimming Commission. He is an active member of Clare Water Safety Area Committee, a Beach and Pool Lifeguard Provider and Risk Assessor.



Brendan McGrath from Clare receives the IWS Volunteer of the Year Award from Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at Dublin City Hall.

Brendan has brought his swimming and lifesaving knowledge to his role as National Surf Lifesaving team coach and head coach of Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club. In the past year he has helped produce Junior European and U19 World champions and in the process contributed to boosting Ireland's world ranking to 16<sup>th</sup> at the recent World Championships in Adelaide, Australia.

Brendan is the driving force behind the current project of developing a Lifesaving Centre at White Strand, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare. This and its neighbouring beach, is where lifesaving developed in Co. Clare. Brendan is a valued member of Irish Water Safety and we are very honoured today to show our appreciation for all of his commitment, dedication and endeavours.

- **Life Governor Awards 2012**

The Award of Life Governor is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a particular dedication towards the humanitarian goal of saving life from drowning.

**Michael Murphy**

Michael's involvement with water Safety began in secondary school when he completed his Red Cross exams, Then in 1980 when he became Principal he became more involved in Water Safety activities at all levels. He has been an instructor since 1986 and an examiner since the early 1992 and overall a member of the Dublin WSAC for 30 years.

Michael helped devise the Aquatics module for the new Primary School Curriculum (PAWS) and ran summer inservice courses for teachers all over the country and is still involved in the Dublin courses which have now run for over 25 years. As part of the development of PAWS he introduced Water Safety classes and lectures into the Teacher Training Colleges.



Michael Murphy from Dublin receives the IWS Life Governor Award from Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at Dublin City Hall.

He served for many years on the Education Commission becoming Chair of the Commission when first elected to Council in 2000. He devised and wrote the water Safety schools pack, which is still used today.

He served on the IWS Council for more than 15 years until his retirement in 2011. He devised our Code of Ethics and Child Protection procedures in 1996 which he updated and revised on a number of occasions since. He served on the European Education Commission for ten years.

### **Richard McLoughlin**

In the late 1950's Richard began his career in water safety classes in Tullamore swimming pool and he qualified as an instructor in 1962. Richard's work has taken him around the country but he always maintained a strong and keen interest in water safety. He has been Chairperson of three area committees in Offaly, Limerick and then in his adopted county of Cork. This year he was made an honorary President of Cork Water Safety Committee. Richard is a swimming instructor, a swimming tutor, and Examiner. He has taught water safety in many open water locations around the country from Offaly to Galway to Westmeath, Longford, Limerick, Tipperary, Dublin, Roscommon, Laoise and Cork, arguably more than any Examiner in the country.

Richard McLoughlin from Cork receives the IWS Life Governor Award from Mr John Perry TD, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety at Dublin City Hall.





- **SEIKO Just In Time Awards**

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

**Ms Eve Copley, Clare; Ms Ellen McMahon, Clare; Ms Aisling O'Sullivan, Clare.**

On the evening of Tuesday the 12th June 2012, three friends, Aisling, Eve and Ellen, were walking home from town when they noticed a woman in distress at the edge of the River Fergus, trying to retrieve her dog by calling to him. The woman entered the water and soon got into difficulty due to the strong current. Without hesitation the three friends quickly ran to the aid of the woman. They got the lifebuoy that was located at Steels Rock, Lifford town and threw it towards the woman who grabbed hold of it and they pulled her in towards them to safety. Thanks to the quick thinking and actions of these three friends a drowning was prevented.

**Mr Paddy Casey, Clare; Mr Peter Downes, (Posthumous), Clare.**

Paddy Casey now 85 years of age, was involved in many rescues during the 1940's, 50's and 60's. Paddy was one of the first officially appointed lifeguards in Ireland at a time when training and equipment were few or non-existent. Support services were scarce and communication was limited to print and word of mouth. Lifeguards were on their own and reliant on their own skills, knowledge & experience. Paddy was one of the first members of the Miltown Malbay Swimming and Life Saving Club in 1937. Paddy was appointed Lifeguard in 1943. Also appointed was Mr Peter Downes. Together they prevented loss of life due to drowning in their years as lifeguards. On 15th July 1944, Paddy was patrolling Spanish Point beach when he noticed a woman in distress in the water. He immediately reacted and swam to her aid and succeeded in bringing her safely ashore. He was assisted by Peter Downes at the later stages of the rescue. On the 14th August 1949, at Spanish Point beach, three people got into difficulty. Peter Downes swam to their assistance, The second lifeguard Paddy, observed his companion and rushed to their assistance. After fighting his way through waves which reached 4-5 feet in height, Paddy brought one of the female swimmers to safety and returned to the water to retrieve a male swimmer. Paddy then entered the water for a third time in search of Peter and the third person who had by now drifted seawards. Both lifeguards took the lady to safety and performed CPR on her and thankfully she recovered well. In September of 1955, at Spanish Point, despite the warning given to a male swimmer regarding poor bathing conditions, the swimmer entered the water and got into difficulty. Without hesitation Paddy entered the water and succeeded in bringing the exhausted swimmer to safety. In August 1955, 2 female swimmers got into difficulty at Spanish Point. Both lifeguards Peter Downes and Paddy Casey went to their assistance and brought them to safety. In July 1956, two students found themselves in danger after they ventured too far out to sea. Again both lifeguards, Paddy Casey and Peter Downes, were to hand and brought the two female students to safety. In 1957, four young students entered the water at Spanish Point despite having been warned of the dangers of bathing that day. The students got into difficulty and both Paddy and Peter decided that the only safe way to rescue them, due to the inclement conditions, was to take a line either side of them. They entered the water and instructed the four young men to swim to the line and hold on, which they did, and with the help of the lifeguards they were then able to wade to shore. In 1969 while standing on a cliff overlooking the beach at Spanish Point early one morning, Paddy Casey observed a young woman had got into difficulty in water, her husband a non-swimmer was calling for help. Without hesitation, Paddy entered the water and swam to her and brought her to safety. From 1944-1962 Fifteen lives were saved - Paddy Casey saved ten lives and Mr Peter Downes R.I.P. saved five lives.

**Ms Bebhinn Crowley, Cork.**

On Sunday 7th October 2012, The Munster School championships took place at UL. Fifteen year old Bebhinn came to the rescue of her friend. During a 100m final, a female competitor collapsed, having completed the race. It was the observation and quick response of Bebhinn that resulted in saving this student.

**Mr Karl Fitzgerald, Cork.**

On Saturday 25th August 2012, the Fitzgerald family were at Chimney Cove, Crookhaven, Co Cork. Karl's parents entered the water and they were wading until the current pulled them out of their depth. They tried to swim back to shore but the force of the current was too strong. Karl immediately made his way down along the rocks towards them. He entered the water and rescued his mother first. Once she was safe, he assisted his cousin Michael in rescuing his father. If it were not for the quick thinking and actions of Karl, this incident may have ended in tragedy.

**Mr Jason McClay, Donegal.**

Around midnight, on the 2nd June 2012, a car had left the road, careered fifty yards through a field and went off a steep drop into the Crana river near Buncranna. Nineteen year old Jason McClay from Kinnego, had been at a friend's house when he heard the screeching of tyres followed by a loud bang. He left the house and ran down through a field and saw that a car was submerged in the water. Without hesitation, Jason jumped off the 40 ft Ravine. Upon entering the water he noticed a girl who had managed to escape out of the car. Jason swam in through the car window. Visibility was poor as it was very dark and he could not see anyone else in the car. On leaving the car, he noticed a boy and dragged him over to the bank. He then went back and got another boy out and dragged him to safety. There were four passengers in total, all teenagers. Only two were swimmers. Due to the quick thinking and selfless courage of Jason's actions, four lives were saved.

**Mr Patrick Moss, Donegal.**

On the afternoon of the 27th of December 2011, twenty year old Patrick Moss was taking a walk along the Rosbeg pier when he saw a car enter the water. He assessed the situation and ran to the shore where he entered the water and swam out towards the car which was sinking. He grabbed onto the driver of the car and took her to safety. He placed her into the recovery position until the emergency services arrived.

**Mr PJ Patton, (Posthumous), Donegal; Mr Larry McGonigle, (Posthumous), Donegal; Mr John Patton, Donegal; Mr Hugh John McGonigle, Donegal.**

In June of 1955, two men from Ballyshannon set out to bring up their fishing punt, which they had anchored the previous evening. One of the men, Mr McCusker, waded out to it, but he suddenly found himself out of his depth. He tried to swim against the strong current but he could not, his friend tried to reach him but it was too dangerous.

Mr McCusker found himself sucked down by the swirling water yet he continued swimming until he broke the surface. He tried to swim towards the "Black Rock" but was taken away by the current again. He spotted an old boat wreck and he managed to grasp it and pull himself up. It was extremely cold. He saw men in the distance and waved. He could feel his feet go numb and he knew he had to try to get his circulation back. Four young men, John Patton now aged 78, Larry McGonigle R.I.P., Hugh John McGonigle now aged 78 and P.J. Patton R.I.P., went to the rescue of Mr McCusker. Upon assessing the situation they got a boat and went out into the channel where the water was sluicing past them. They dropped an anchor and then let the boat out on a rope trying to get close to the wreck. It took them four attempts before they managed to reach Mr McCusker and eventually managed to get him into the boat. The rescue took over one hour.

**Mr Daragh Lavelle, Dublin; Mr Kevin Barry, Dublin.**

On the 25th May 2012, at the 40 foot, Sandycove, Dun Laoghaire, Kevin Barry was taking his regular swim when he heard a male shouting for help. He observed two males in trouble in the water. Without hesitation, Kevin immediately swam to one struggling male, placed his arm around him and brought him to safety. On hearing shouts for help, Daragh entered the water and swam 200 meters out to assist Kevin with the rescue of the other male. He checked the male once at the shore and placed him into the recovery position.

**Mr Ian Brennan, Galway.**

Galway On Sunday 7th October 2012, Ian Brennan, a duty manager at Leisureland, Galway, was at work when a call came to reception saying that a person was in difficulty in the water at Salthill. Without hesitation, Ian grabbed a ringbuoy and went to the scene. He entered the water and swam out to the man. He held onto the man until the Galway Lifeboat reached them both. The man was suffering from hypothermia and was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.

**Garda John Callahan, Monaghan.**

On the 30th August 2010, Garda John Callahan responded to a call at Lough Muckno, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan. He observed a young girl in distress in the water. Without hesitation, Garda Callahan swam to her aid but as he approached the girl, she disappeared under water. Garda Callahan dived under water and brought her to the surface and safely back to shore. The girl made a full recovery.



**Mr Colin Lawlor Laois**

On the afternoon of the 17th August 2011, at Johns Bridge, on the River Nore, Kilkenny, Colin Lawlor was out running along the riverbank when he noticed a person in distress in the water. He instructed two passersby to call the emergency services. Without any hesitation he grabbed a lifebuoy and then entered the water. The person was tiring and had gone under the water a few times. As he went under again Colin grabbed his wrist and carried him to the bank. Emergency Services arrived and commenced first aid. He made a full recovery.

**Mr Brian McLaren, Meath.**

At approximately 6pm on the 12th August 2012 at Mornington Beach, five children were playing in the waves when a ripcurrent swept them out of their depth and they got into difficulty. Brian McLaren observed the children and asked his partner to phone emergency service before entering the water. He swam fifty meters to the children and encouraged four of the children to swim to rocks. He then swam out to the youngest child and upon reaching him he managed to bring him to safety and onto rocks where he performed CPR. Brian had also drawn the attention of a group of people on Jet Skis. He instructed them to help him remove the child to the shore. Brian and other members of the public helped carry the other four children off the breakwater to the safety of the shore. All children made a full recovery.

**Mr Jack Donohue Westmeath.**

At approximately 11pm on the 5th July 2012 a car crashed and plunged into Lough Ree at Coosan Point, Athlone. When Jack Donohue arrived at the scene he grabbed a lifebuoy and entered the water. He reached the car and opened the door and put the lifebuoy around the driver and pulled him out of the car and took him to safety where emergency services were waiting. The man made a full recovery.

**Mr John Ross, Wexford; Mr Fergie Kehoe, Wexford.**

On the 10th March 2012 a female got into difficulty at Commercial Quay, Wexford. Without any hesitation John Ross and Fergie Kehoe came to the rescue of the woman. They lowered themselves onto a raft and upon reaching the woman John Ross with the use of ringbuoy pulled her up onto the raft and took her to safety. The Woman made a full recovery.

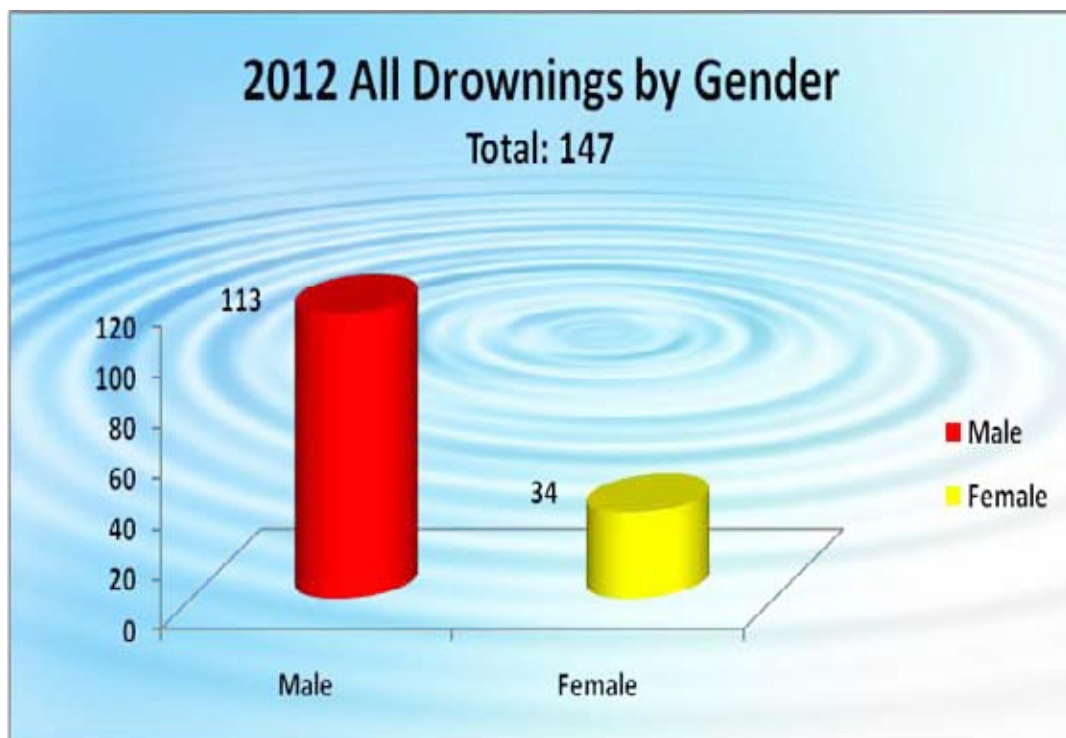
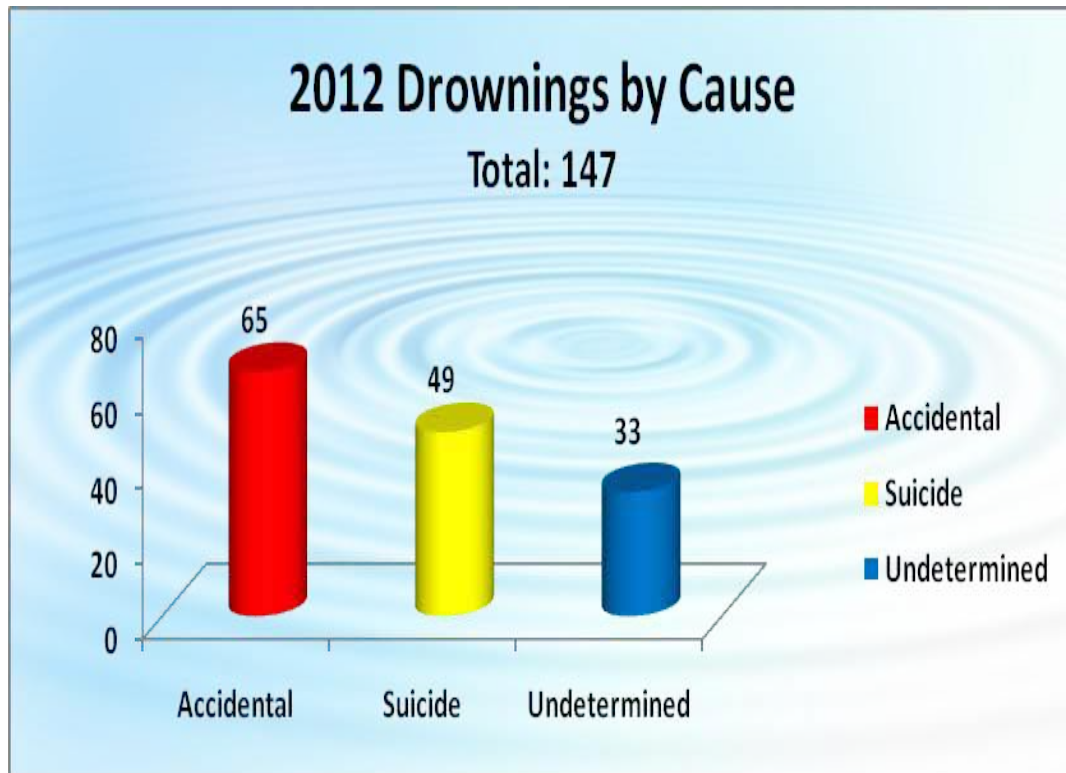
**Mr Gus Cooney, Wicklow; Ms Deirdre Fitzgerald, Wicklow.**

On Saturday 26th May 2012, Gus Cooney observed a man had got into difficulty at Glen Strand, Wicklow. Without any hesitation Gus entered the water and with the aid of Deirdre Fitzgerald brought the man to safety. The man made a full recovery.

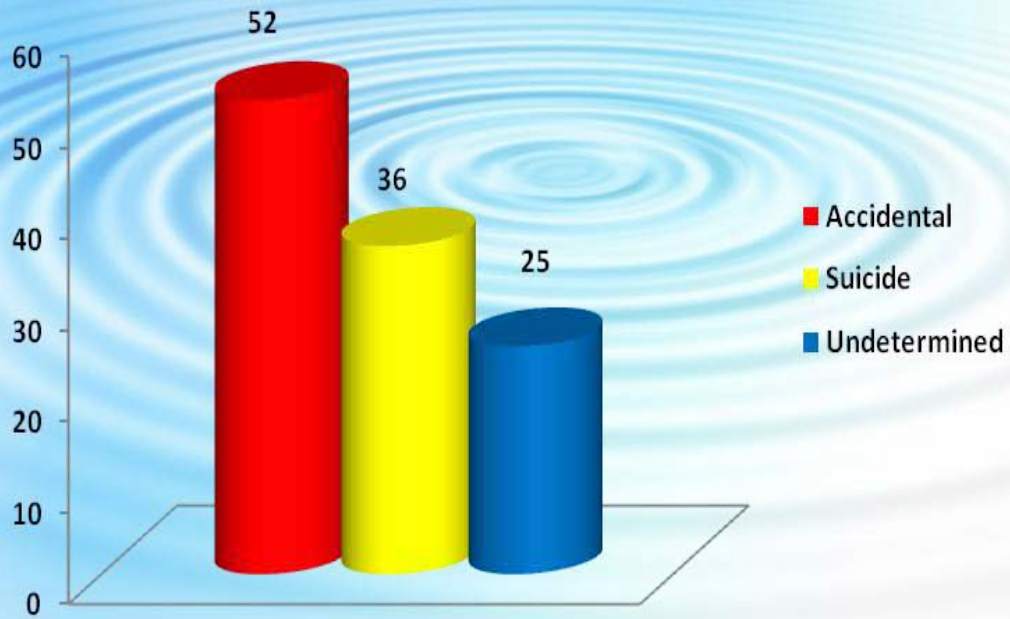
**Ms Beverly Dunne, Wicklow.; Ms Lorraine Hamm, Wicklow; Mr Arthur Muizininks, Wicklow; Mr Demitri Agurazov, Wicklow; Mr Norman Kudla, Wicklow.**

On the evening of the 10th of August 2012 at Brittas Bay North beach, a ten year old boy was playing with other children at a sand dune when it collapsed suddenly, burying the boy. Friends Beverly Dunne and Lorraine Hann were packing up with their families when their attention was drawn to the area by a boy in distress. It became evident that there was someone trapped in the sand dune. Lorraine telephoned the emergency services. Meanwhile, three friends, Arthur, Demitri and Norman immediately began digging. After approximately twelve minutes they pulled the boy to safety. He began breathing and was taken away by ambulance. He made a full recovery.

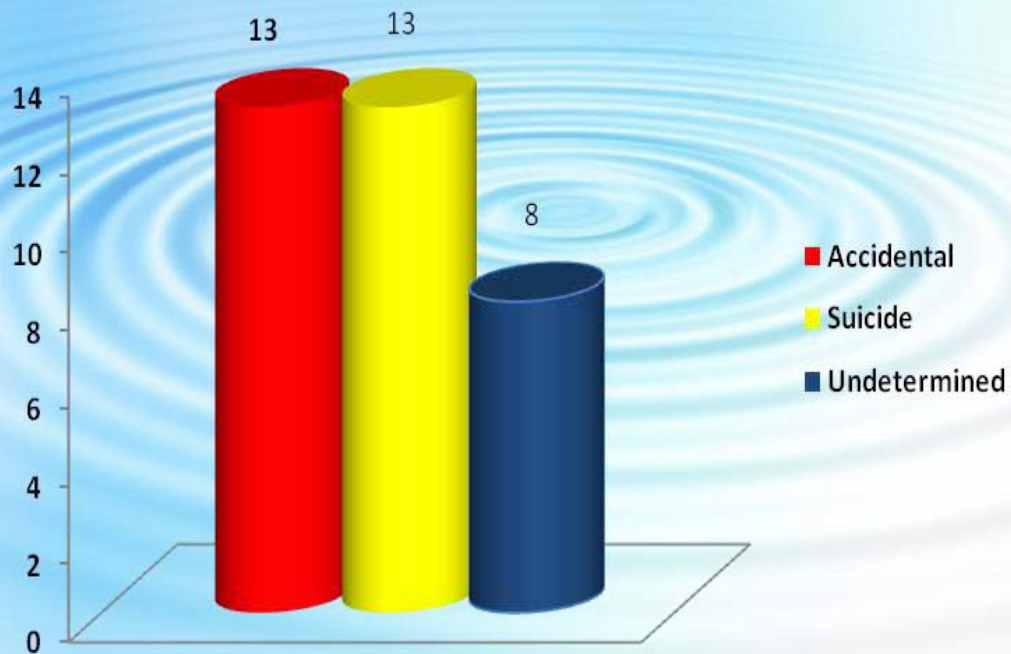
## Analysis of Drownings 2012



## 2012 Male Drownings by Cause

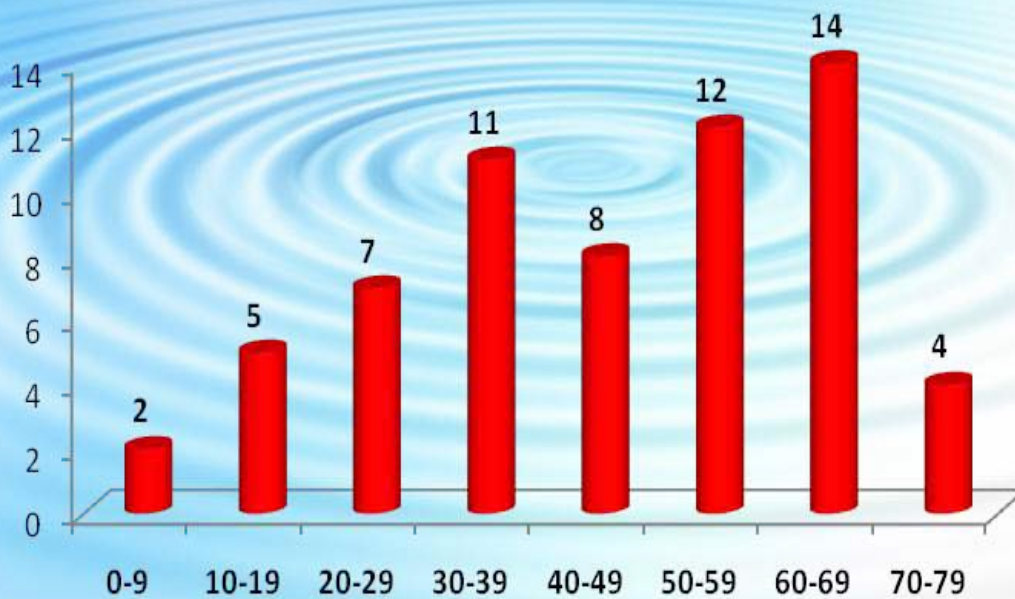


## 2012 Female Drownings by Cause

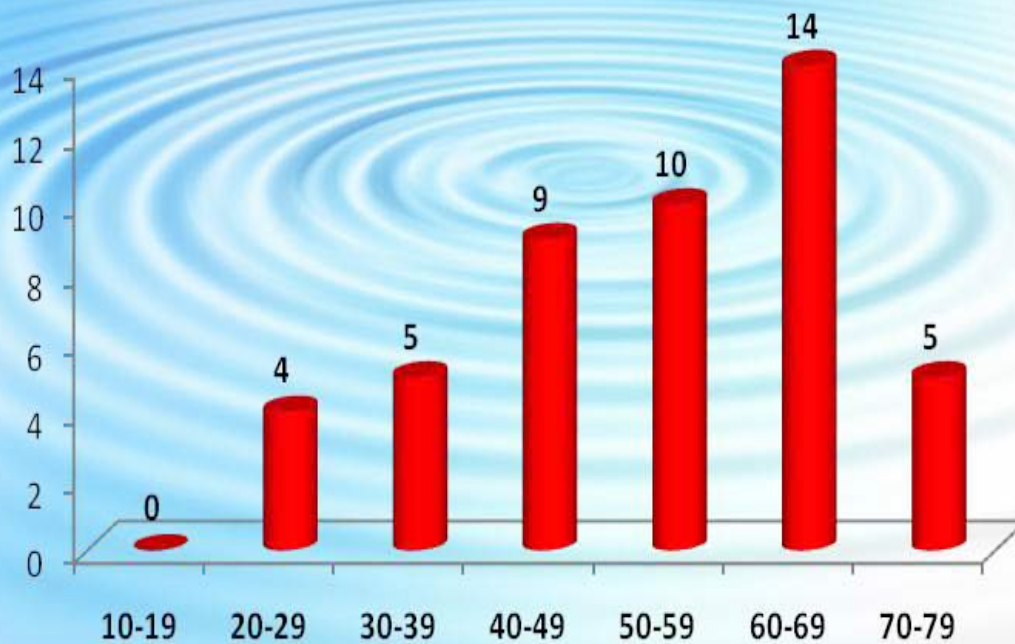




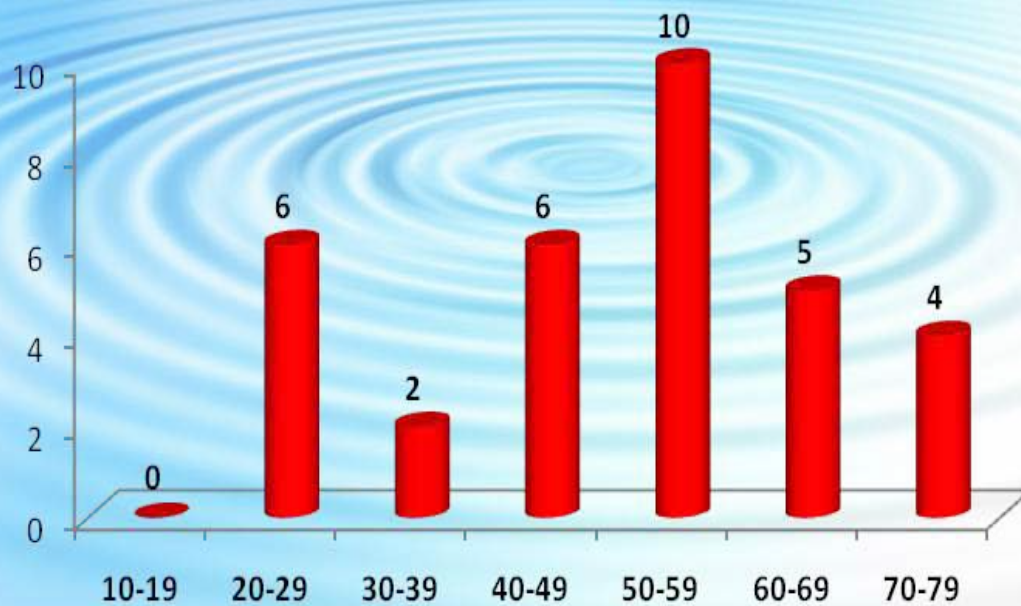
## 2012 Drownings by Age: Accidental (Total: 65)



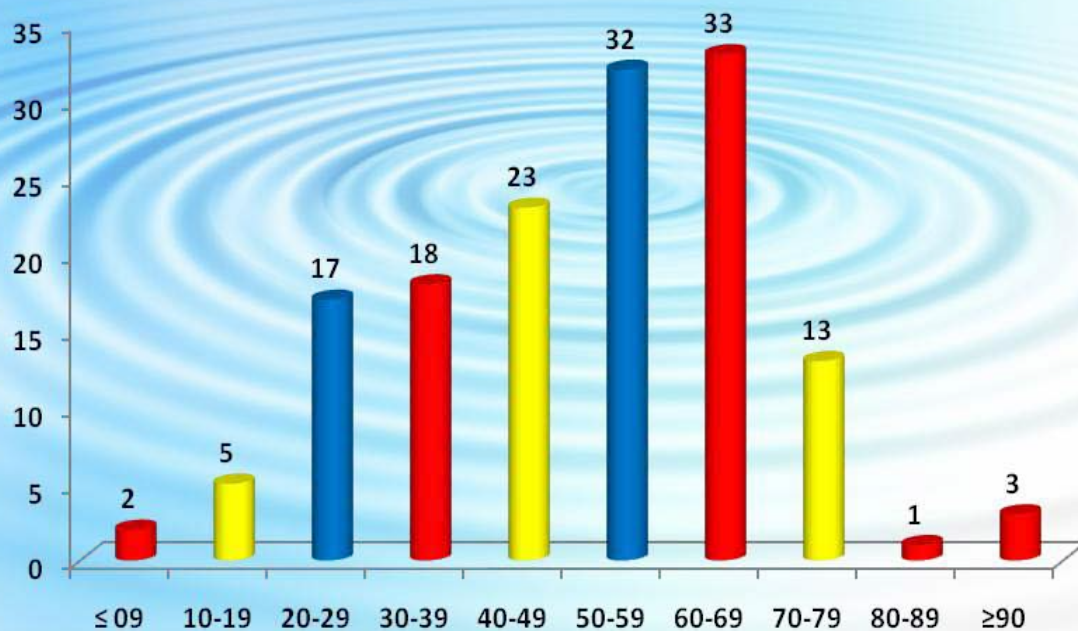
## 2012 Drownings by Age: Suicide (Total: 49)



## 2012 Drownings by Age: Undetermined (Total: 33)

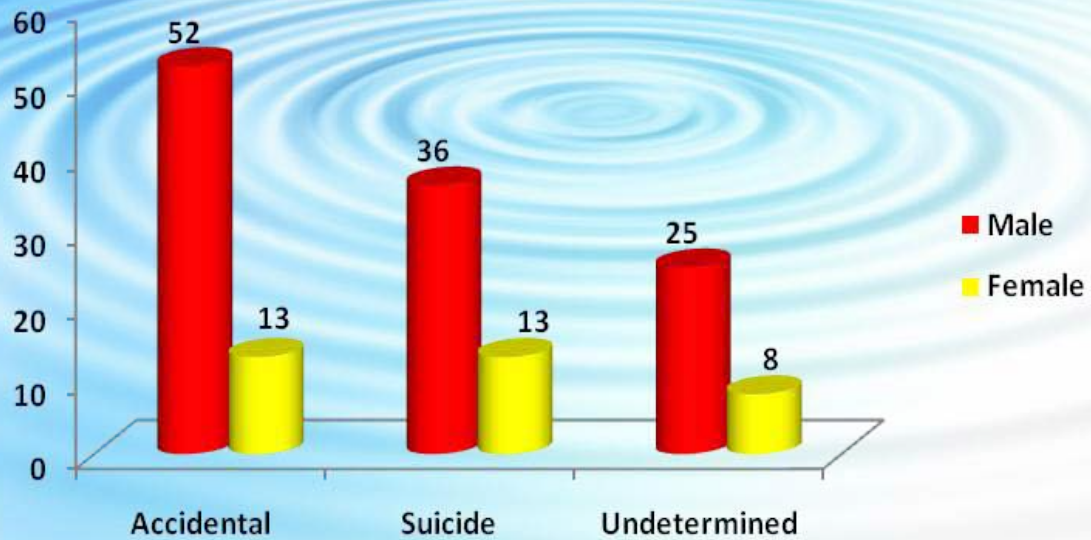


## 2012 All Drownings by Age Total: 147

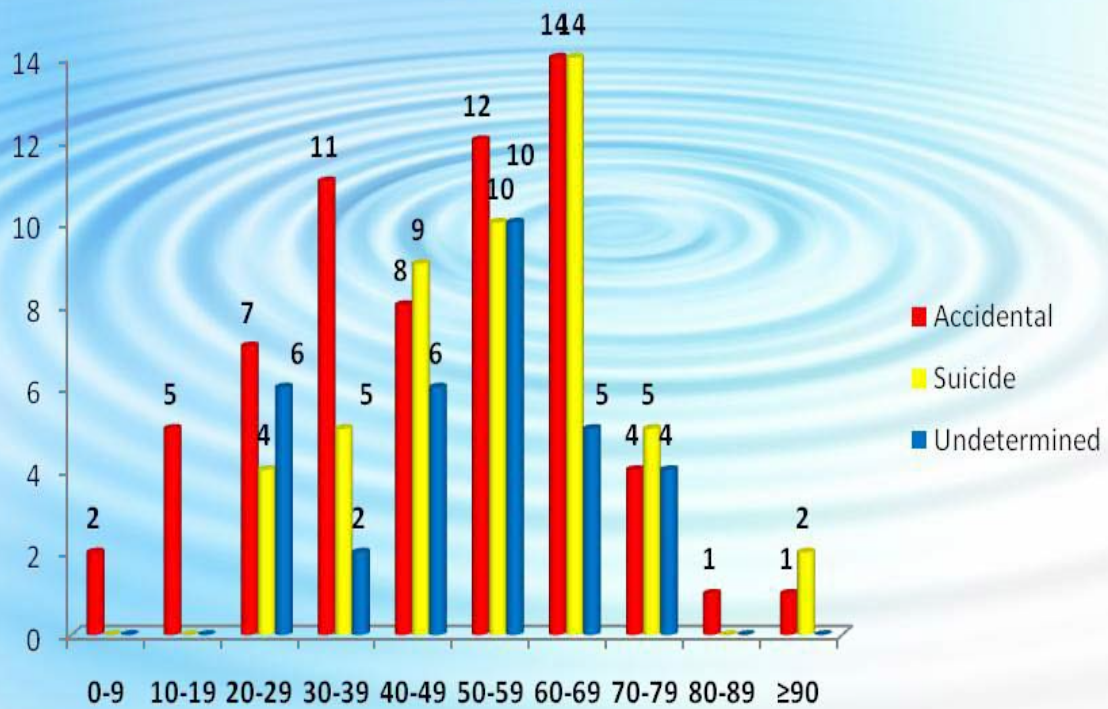




## 2012 Drownings by Gender and Cause



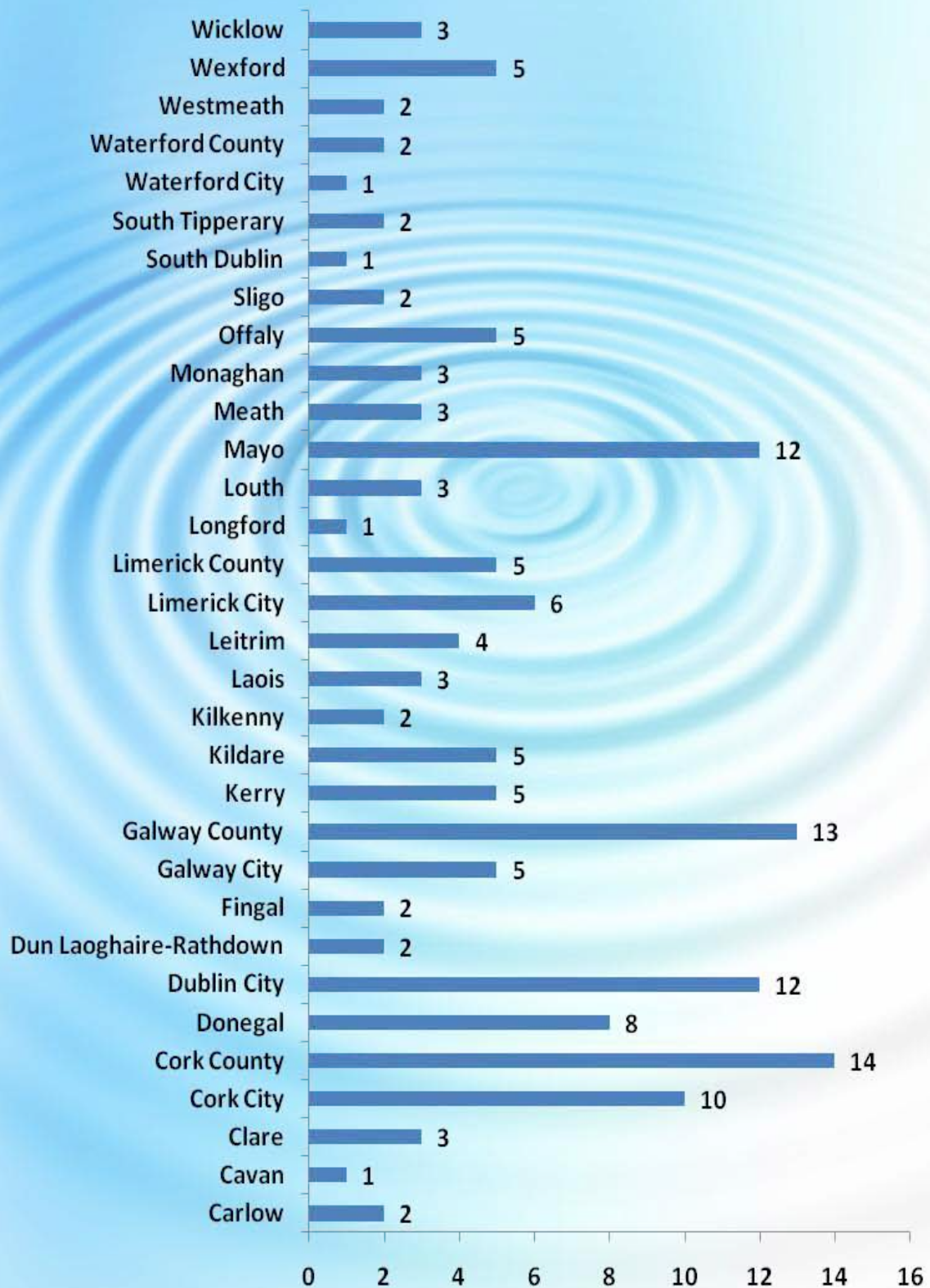
## 2012 Drownings by Age and Cause Total: 147





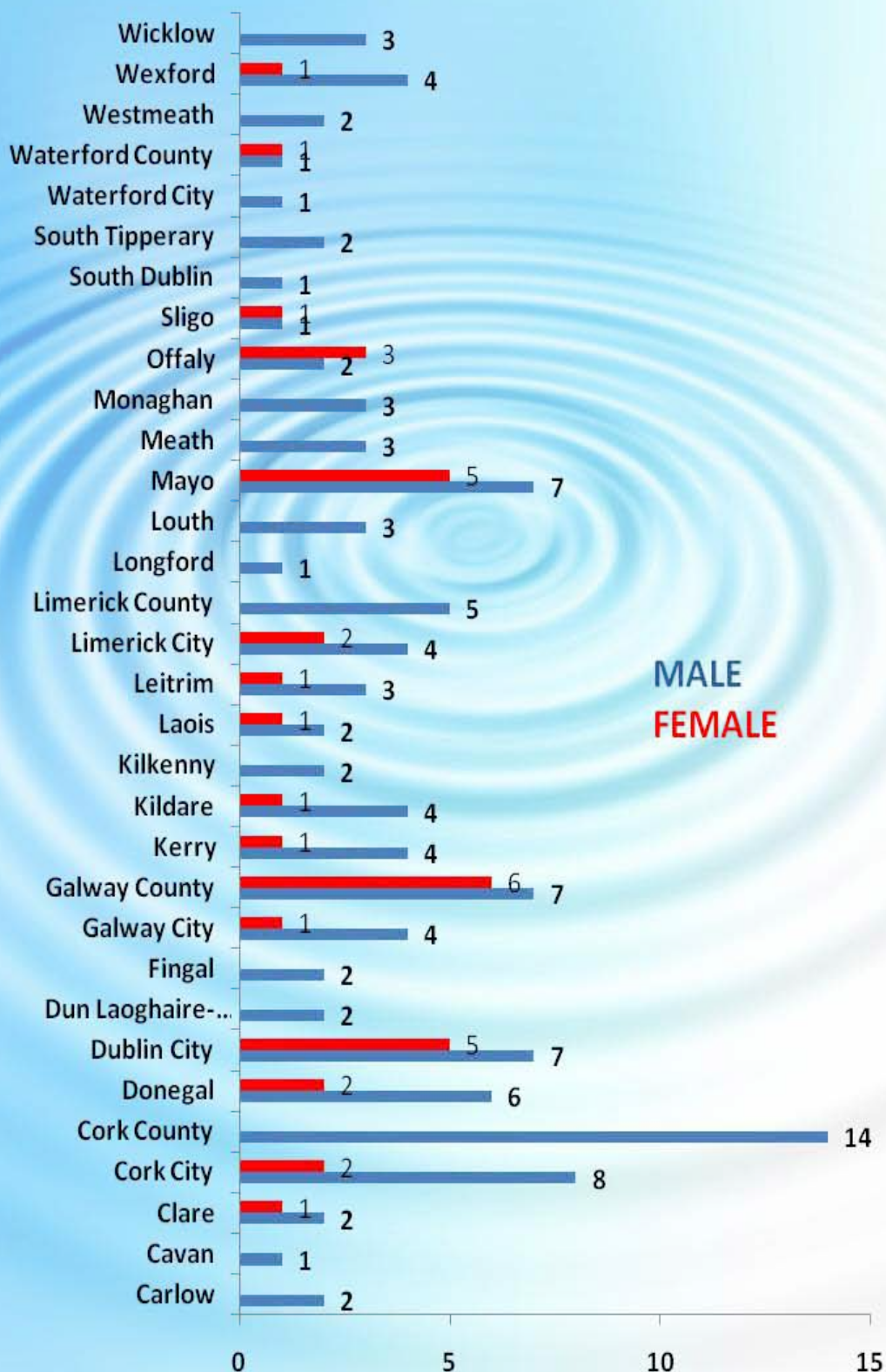
## 2012 Drownings by Area

Total: 147

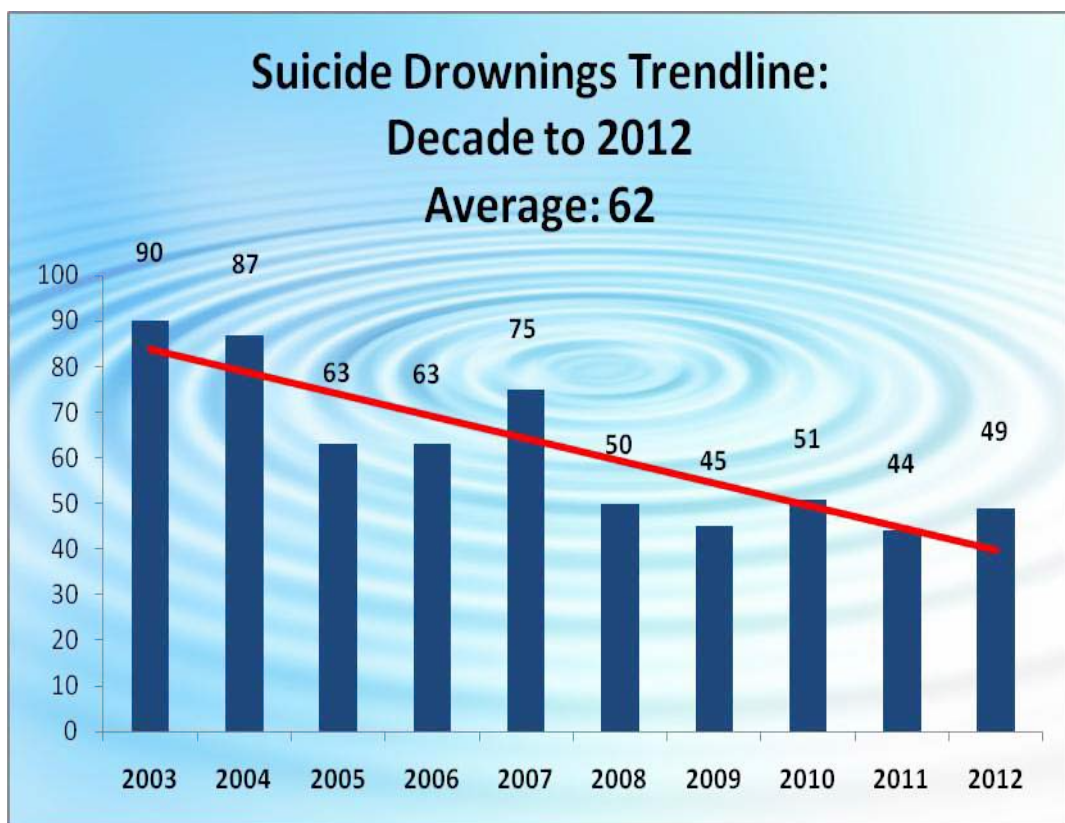
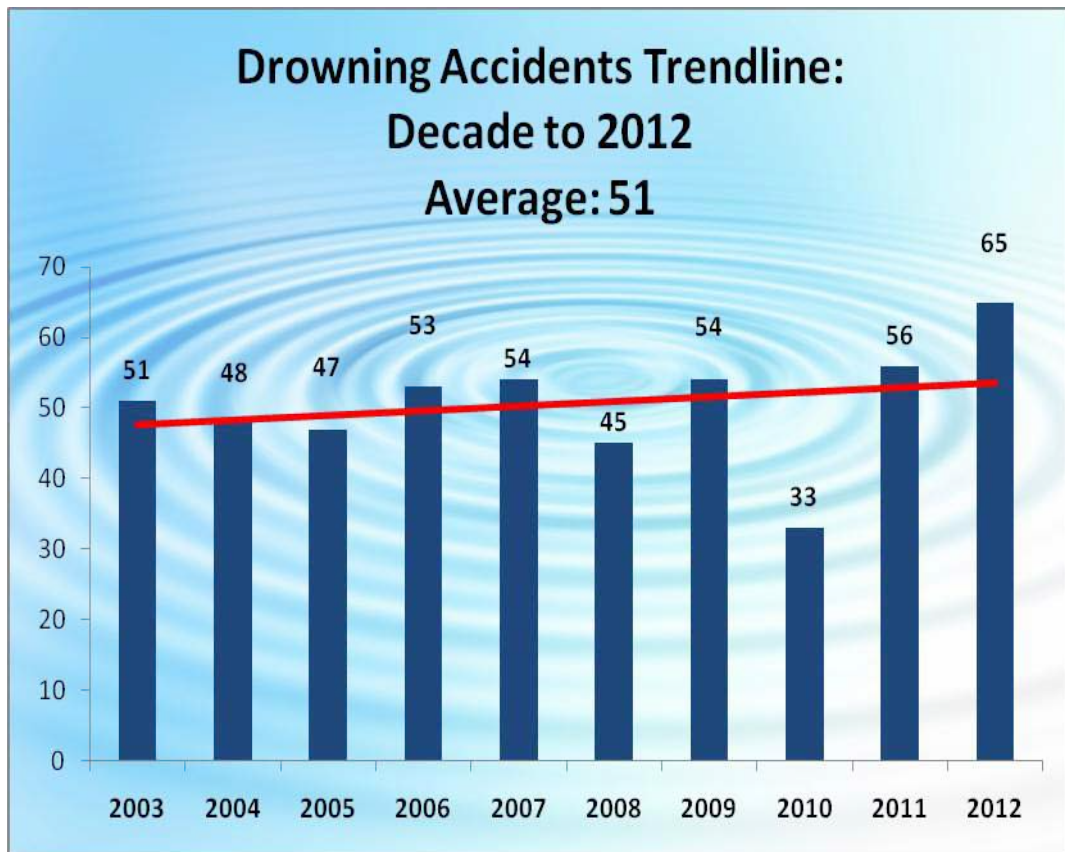


## 2012 Drownings by Gender and Area

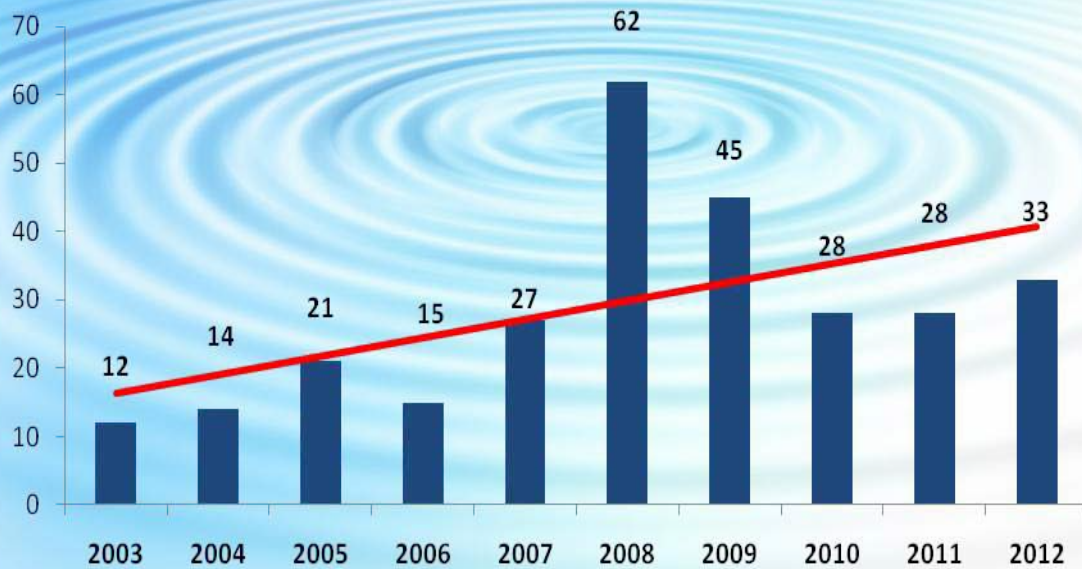
Total: 147



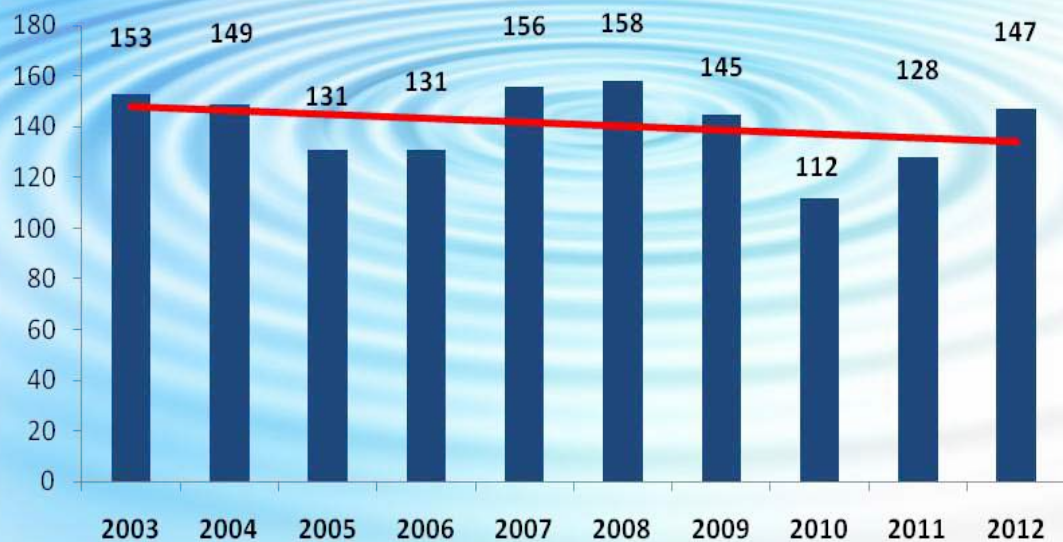


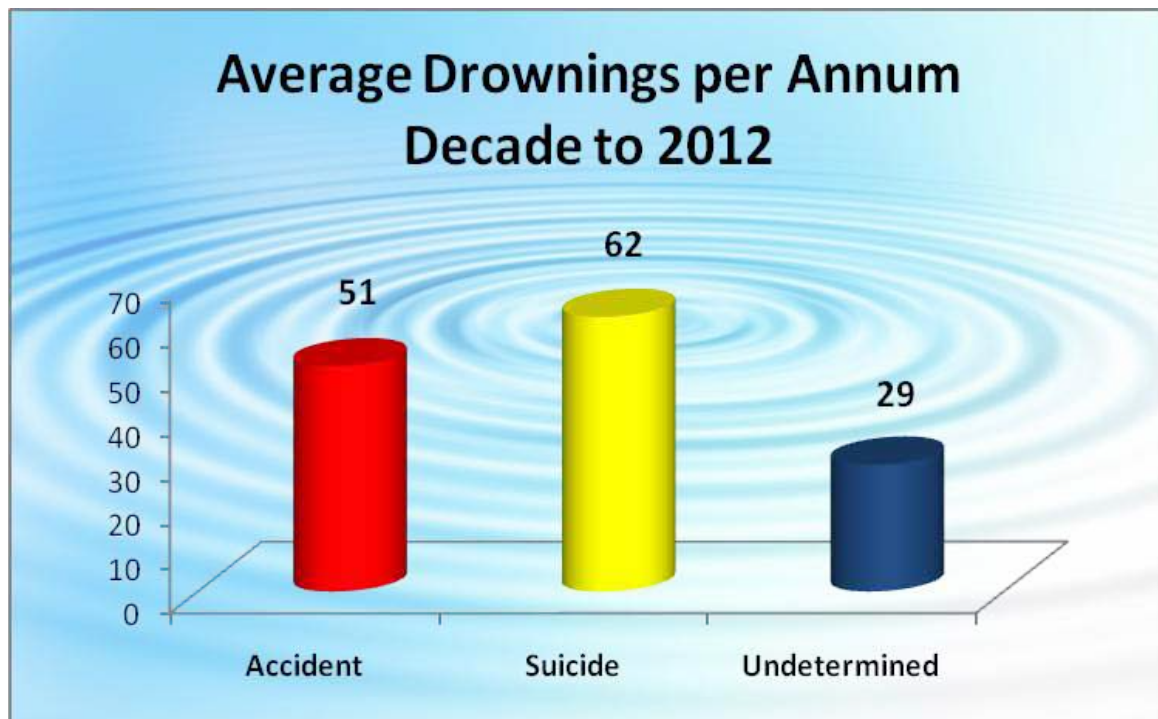


### Drownings by Undetermined Cause Decade to 2012 Average: 29



### Total Drownings Decade to 2012 Average: 141 per annum

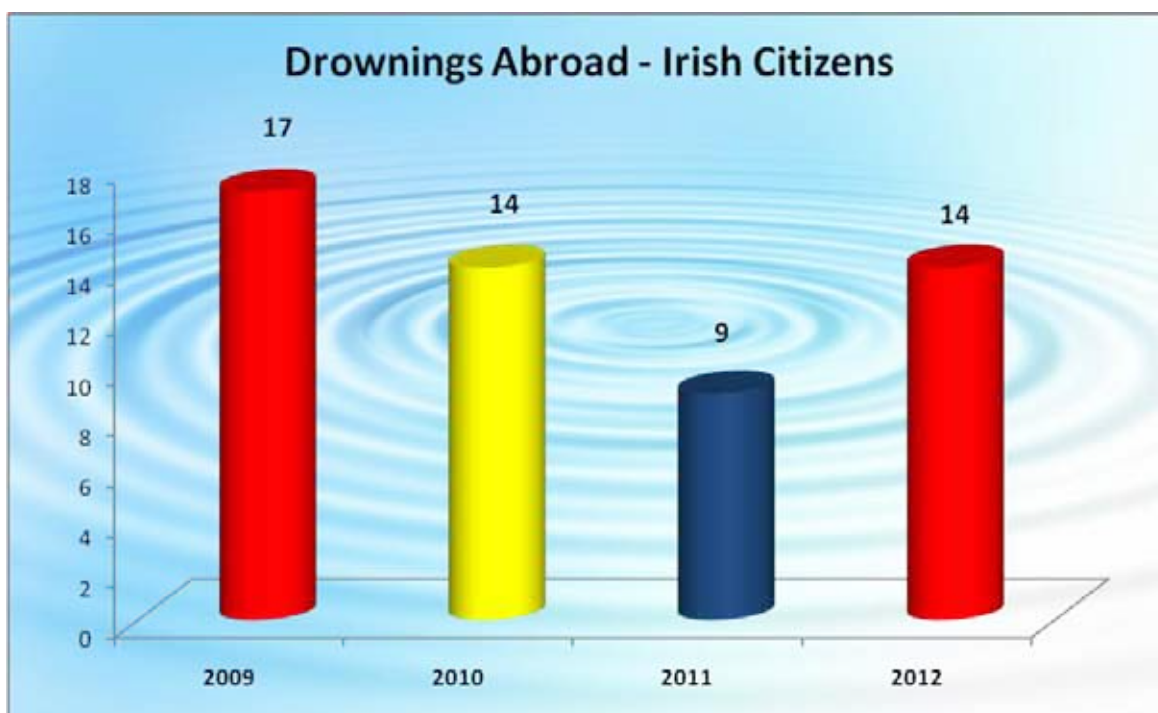




## Drowning Statistics – Irish Citizens abroad in 2012

The Consular Assistance section of the Department of Foreign Affairs was informed of the deaths of 194 Irish citizens abroad in 2012. Of these, 14 were by drowning.

The breakdown by continent is as follows:  
Europe: 6; Americas: 4; Australia: 3; Asia: 1.





NOTES:





MEMBER



MEMBER



MEMBER

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The Long Walk  
Galway

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