



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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 2014

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

Chairman's Statement



Dear reader

I wish to present this annual report on behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety and more particularly on behalf of the three and a half thousand voluntary members, many of whom are continuously educating and training members of the public in Water Safety awareness.

Irish Water Safety is the statutory body with responsibility to promote water safety in Ireland.

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; the promotion of the efficiency and standardisation of the lifeguard service, both in our pools and open water, 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 this report.

Our activities are aligned with the targets set out in our Strategic Development Plan for the period 2012 – 2017. We have used this plan to set out our mission, vision, values, goals and objectives. 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 range of programmes and courses expands each year which imposes ever increasing challenges on our volunteers and staff. That challenge is to increase the number of people that hear our message and learn skills that enable them to stay safe in aquatic environments.

2014 saw, for the first time, €150,000 of ring-fenced funding from our parent Department, to target specific at risk groups. This allowed us have a national media campaign, both on radio and television, to promote water safety awareness. It also allowed us to fund our volunteers to bring our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme into more schools, which supplemented the work of our Education Development Officer. This saw a doubling of certificates issued under this programme, which meant we issued almost 70,000 certificates.

Our "Summer Weeks" programme also reaches this age group. During July and August alone, thousands of children were taught swimming and lifesaving skills throughout the country. The list of the 199 venues is in this report. We reach remote areas



IWS Chairman Breda Collins is presented with an IWS Chain of Office by designer Liam Costigan on left and Chairman of the sponsoring committee, Kilkenny's Syl Knox on right. The Chain is constructed of thirty links shaped as ringbuoys which represent the voluntary committees operating nationwide. Liam is an active Instructor since 1978.

programme of teaching swimming and lifesaving in an open water environment. Our winter programme runs in pools all around the country, from September to June. Unfortunately, with the privatisation of pools we have lost access to some pools. Despite this, through this programme, we issued over 20,000 swimming certificates and over 21,000 lifesaving certificates, including Basic Life Support.

Lifesaving Sport is growing in strength around the country and reaches thousands of young people, at nipper, junior and senior level. Lifesaving Sport has been developed to improve the standard of lifesaving and rescue skills among our lifeguards. It also introduces children to lifesaving skills at a young age. Irish Water Safety Lifesaving Sport had a great year in 2014. 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 three training camps for the national squad and associated trial days. These events catered for almost 2,000 competitors. I wish to extend my congratulations to all the competitors and a particular note of appreciation to the organisers for the great work in developing the sport. Great credit is also due to all the coaches for their long hours of voluntary training.

Through these four programmes outlined above we issue over 100,000 certificates to people nationwide and with our change to the Basic life Support (BLS) syllabus, almost 2,000 people received AED training.

We continue to work with all our Local Authorities through our designated Water Safety Development Officers. This group ensure the lifeguard service within their counties runs in a professional manner. During the summer of 2014, IWS assessed lifeguards rescued 831 people from lifeguarded waterways. Almost 400 lost children were reunited with their parents and guardians - almost half the 2013 figure. Hopefully this is a sign that we are becoming more vigilant in terms of supervision.

The Open Water Awareness course for people working on, near or in water which was launched in 2013 last year saw some 400 adults who work in aquatic environments get water safety training for the first time. In 2014, a further 280 people got this very important training.

The challenge for IWS is to continue to reach these at-risk groups in whatever way we can but principally through the “backbone” of our organisation....our volunteers. I wish to sincerely thank each and every single volunteer who has contributed by organising, teaching, training, serving on committees, commissions and working groups.

Our Instructors and Examiner's are supported by conferences and courses to ensure that we have the best standards at all times. This year we hosted our biggest ever Examiner's Conference, with over fifty new examiners receiving their certification. We qualified new International Still Water referees and our annual “Designated Liaison Person (DLP) conference ensures we are up to date with all child protection policies.

We continue to fundraise through our many activities and services that we provide on a voluntary basis. The expenditure saved through corporate sponsorship, media support and benefit-in-kind has made a high 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. I also gratefully acknowledge the contributions from our Local Authorities throughout Ireland. The support of these groups is of great value to us in developing programmes to reduce drownings.



Gerry Brennan from Monaghan received a 10-year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at Irish Water Safety's Annual Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle

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. I also gratefully acknowledge the contributions from our Local Authorities throughout Ireland. The support of these groups is of great value to us in developing programmes to reduce drownings.

We worked in co-operation with a number of agencies including the Irish 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, Royal Lifesaving Society, Swim Ireland, Waterways Ireland, the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, Coaching Ireland and An Taisce and with many other aquatic and sporting bodies.

All this work is supported by our staff at head office. This is a small core of five staff, headed up by our CEO. This number has not grown since 2000, with the exception of an IWS funded Education Development Officer. In an effort to support the staff, the Council commissioned a review of the office systems, which resulted in a new work plan being put in place. An internal audit of information and communications technology systems (ICT) and finances was carried out and many recommendations have been

considered for implementation in 2015. I wish to thank the staff for their great co-operation during this process.



Liam Corcoran from Tipperary receives his Examiner's Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Examiners Conference, Westmeath.

2014 saw the passing of one of our Life Governors, Seamus Finan and a Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO) John Martin. Many of our members lost close family members. I extend to all their families our sincere and deepest sympathy on the passing of these colleagues and friends.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr Phil Hogan T.D., Minister for the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Again he was a great support to us during his time as Minister. I look forward to working with Minister Alan Kelly into the future and keeping him updated on all the work of this great organisation. I also express my deep thanks to Tim O'Sullivan, who was our departmental representative on the Council until April 2014. He was an exceptional support to us all.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Council for their exceptional commitment and support in the management of our organisation

Breda Collins

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, is a member of the Board of Directors of ILSE and is the Chairman of the Rescue Commission of ILS. He has developed the ILSE Risk Assessment Project on a European wide basis.



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 other 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 Education Commission of which she is Vice Chair.

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. He is currently studying at the Law Society of Ireland and will qualify as a solicitor in 2016.



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 35 years. He is involved in IWS as an Instructor, Examiner, Pool & Beach Lifeguard Provider and Swim Teacher Tutor, He is currently the Vice-Chairman and Certificates Secretary of the Dublin Water Safety Area Committee. Paul has also served IWS on different Commissions over the last 15 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.



Lola O'Sullivan

Lola is from Tramore, County Waterford. She is Chairperson of Irish Water Safety's Waterford Water Safety Area Committee and is a Councillor with Waterford City and County Councils. Lola has been involved with Water Safety for over 20 years. She is an active instructor and Pool Lifeguard Course Provider in Waterford and teaches both in the pool environment and the open sea. Lola is very involved in Surf Lifesaving in Waterford and has competed in Surf Lifesaving both nationally and internationally. She currently also holds the position of Sports Officer for Waterford. Lola also served as a crew member with the RNLI in Tramore

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.



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. Tim is the 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 over 25 years. He is a part time lecturer on the Masters Programme in the School of Spatial Planning in DIT Bolton Street, and in the people College. Odran is the Corporate Strategy Manager for Northside Partnership and is currently the Chairperson of the ICTU Fingal Centre in Finglas, a Director and Company Secretary of Northside Homecare Board in Coolock and a Member of the QQI Appeals Panel. Odran was formerly a member of the Lord Mayor of Dublin's Anti Social Behaviour Commission and 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 and works at numerous galas from time to time. Odran is a professional member of the Irish Planning Institute, the Institute of Economic Development and the Institute of Managers of Community and Voluntary Organisations.



Council Meetings 2014 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.

Record of Council

Meetings attended		1	2	3	4	5	6
2014		05-Feb	02-Apr	13-Jun	13-Aug	08-Oct	03-Dec
Breda	Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John	Considine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael	Cuddihy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom	Doyle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Christy	McDonagh	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Brendan	McGrath	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul	Murphy	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Seamus	O'Neill	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lola	O'Sullivan	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N
Martin	O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tim	O'Sullivan	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Odran	Reid	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Anne	Ryan	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.

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
- Oisín Foden, Education Development Officer

National Office

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk
Galway

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

Accountants

Robert J Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Websites:

www.iws.ie

www.ringbuoys.ie

www.aquaattack.ie

www.iwsmembership.ie

www.iwsmemberinsurance.com

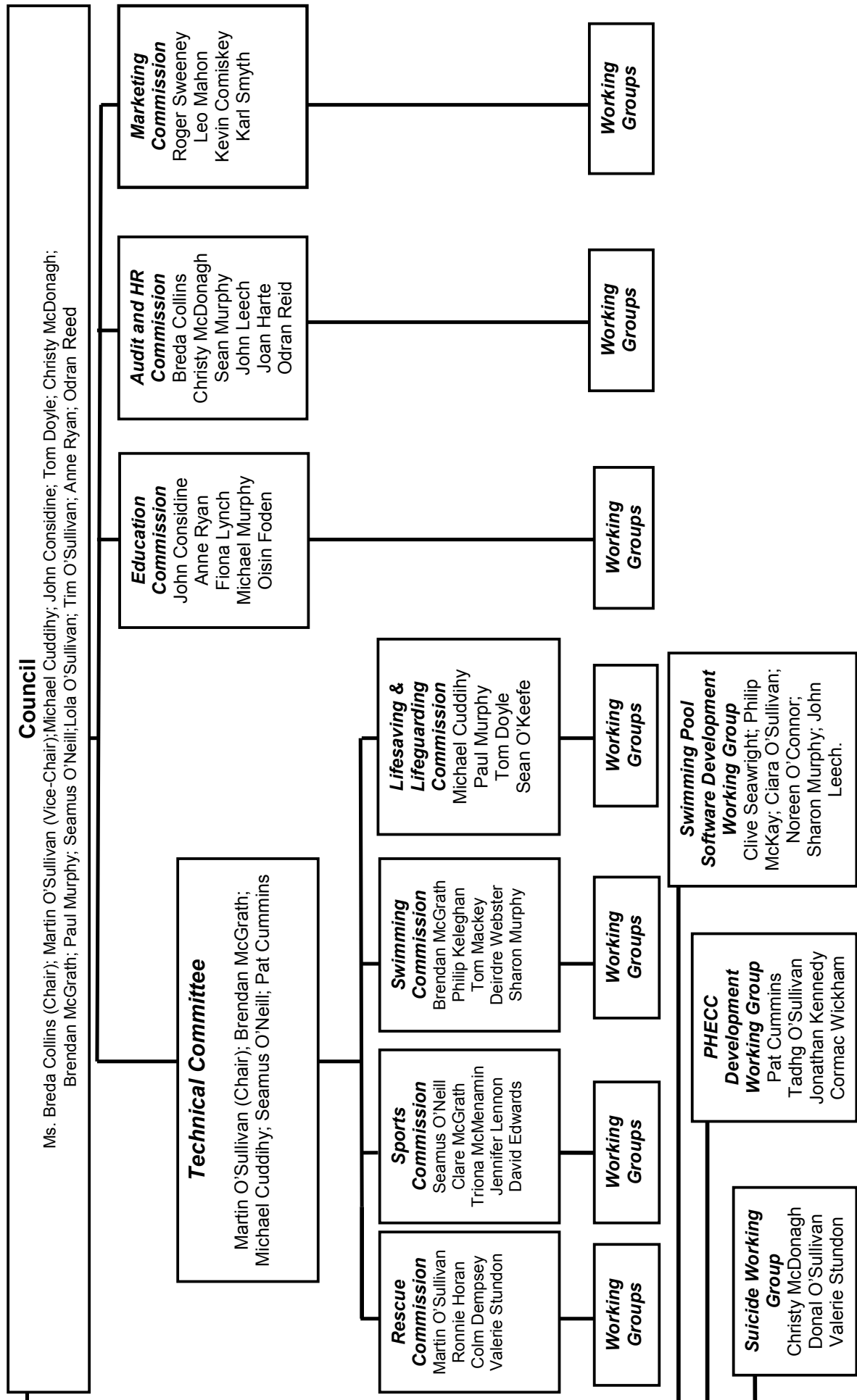
Accountants

CAG - Chartered Accountants Galway
Steamship House, Dock St, The Docks,
Galway



Smiles all round at the IWS National Examiner's Conference where IWS Chairman Breda Collins presented Examiner Awards to Ann-Marie McGee Campbell, Donna Ferguson, Sarah Meehan, Ann McLaughlin and Mary Anderson.

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
Office Manager – 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

Shane Byrne from Carlow received a 10-year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at Irish Water Safety's Annual Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.



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



Lifeguards at the ready as broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan launches National Water Safety Awareness Week with an appeal to bring children to swim at Lifeguarded waterways.

Rescue Commission:

Martin O'Sullivan – Chairman.
Ronnie Horan – Vice-Chairman
Valerie Stundon - Secretary
Colm Dempsey – 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 and run the training courses for Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI)
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
9. Develop and rollout a Safety Awareness Programme for those employed near aquatic environments.

Sports Commission:

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

Duties:

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



The President's Trophy surrounded by the Lifesaving winners from county Clare with IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Beach Rescue Championships, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow.

Lifesaving & Lifeguarding Commission:

Michael Cuddihy – Chairman
 Paul Murphy - Secretary
 Tom Doyle- Member
 Sean O'Keefe - 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

Education Commission:

John Considine – Chairman
 Anne Ryan – Vice-Chairman
 Oisin Foden – Secretary
 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.



Off to a flying start at the National Pool Lifesaving Championships.

Swimming Commission:

Brendan McGrath – Chairman
 Philip Keleghan – Vice-Chairman
 Tom Mackey – Member
 Sharon Murphy – Member
 Deirdre Webster - 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 2014

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. Irish Water Safety press releases resulted in 703 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals, 939 broadcast mentions and 84 media interviews conducted on television and radio.

PRESS RELEASES

- Weather warning February
- St Patrick's Day weekend
- Easter 2014
- May Bank Holiday
- Chain of Office
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- June Warm Weather Warning
- Full moon high tides warning
- Analysis of drowning statistics
- Farm Safety Awareness Day
- August Bank Holiday
- Lifeguard Rescue Statistics
- Lion's Mane jellyfish
- National Beach Rescue Lifesaving Championships
- Rescue 2014 Team Ireland compete in France
- October Bank Holiday Weekend
- National Awards Ceremony
- Christmas & New Year



Vincent Murphy of RTE's Morning Ireland at the annual Irish Water Safety Awards held at Dublin Castle receiving a Media Appreciation Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety in for covering Irish Water Safety related topics.



Broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan is joined by Sorcha Farrell and Emma Hill from Dublin to promote Irish Water Safety's "Uisce Bear" message to children and parents, emphasizing the importance of constantly supervising children near water.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Exhibitions

- Holiday World, Jan 24-26
- Ireland Angling Expo, Feb 15-16
- Dive Show, March 1
- Irish Skipper Show, March 7-8
- National Ploughing Championships, Sept 23-25
- Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show, Nov 15-16
- IWS Annual Awards Ceremony, Nov 19
- HSA “Keep Safe” partnership events nationwide



IWS Instructor Cathal Byrne brings Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Simon Coveney through some of the leaflets promoting simple rescue and ringbuoy throwing techniques at the Irish Skipper Show in Galway.

National Water Safety Awareness Week (May 26th – June 2nd)

- National media campaign, supported by broadcaster Miriam O’Callaghan, appealed to parents and schoolteachers to give children water safety information before summer holidays.

The SEIKO Just In Time Award

- Thirty-five rescuers received recognition at Irish Water Safety’s National Awards Ceremony at George’s Hall, Dublin Castle on Tuesday 18th November 2014. Twenty-two lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of these rescuers. IWS is grateful to Timemark for sponsoring the Seiko watches. Details of each rescue are listed in this report.

IWS Water Safety Themed Calendar

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



May Coyle from Louth receives her Examiner Award at the IWS National Examiner’s Conference in Westmeath.

Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Our Swim certificates are issued directly to and accounted for by our Water Safety Area Committees. The overall number of Swim certificates is significant and reflects the efforts of our voluntary members who instil water confidence and deep-water swimming and survival ability.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 25,843 Swimming and Lifesaving certificates in 2014. In addition, a further 67,368 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 19,467 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, and 266 PHECC Awards giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 112, 944.

Aquatics organiser	118
Assistant Swimming Teacher	582
Beach Lifeguard	258
Beach Lifeguard Course Provider	19
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	201
Basic Life Support (BLS) 1	2612
BLS 2	1891
BLS 3	1100
Challenge 1	189
Challenge 2	377
Disabilities Aquatics Assistant	12
Endurance 1	500
Endurance 2	985
In-house Pool Lifeguard Provider	20
Instructor	140
Inland Open Water (IOW) Lifeguard	18
IOW Lifeguard Revalidation	11
IWS Code of Ethics	82
Pool Lifeguard Level 1	303
Pool Lifeguard Level 1 Revalidation	123
Pool Lifeguard Level 2	1037
Pool Lifeguard Level 2 Revalidation	836

Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	44
Rescue 1	1517
Rescue 2	1233
Rescue 3	911
Rescue 4	395
Safety 1	1496
Safety 2	2851
Safety 3	2204
Safety 4	2212
Surf 2	15
Surf 3	12
Surf 4	16
Surf Award Instructor	3
Surf Instructor Beach Safety	58
Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	29
Survival 1	207
Survival 2	645
Swim Teacher Lifesaving	47
Swimming Teacher	247
Swimming Teacher Tutor	2
Water Safety Awareness	285
Total	25,843



Kathleen McNamara from Clare receives her 15-year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.

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 67,368 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2014.

Land PAWS 1	Land PAWS 2	Land PAWS 3	PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3
24341	6354	4642	1442	3618	5843
PAWS 4	PAWS 5	PAWS 6	PAWS 7	PAWS 8	PAWS Total
6272	2121	3096	1766	6873	67368
Pre Hospital Emergency Care (PHECC) Certificates:					
Community First Responder (CFR) - Community					90
Community First Responder (CFR) - Instructor					176



Paul Burke from Cork receives his 30-year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Sarah Kelly from Donegal receives her 20-year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Summer Water Safety Weeks

IWS Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of 199 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 www.iws.ie.

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	Grownneys 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	Curraclloe	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



IWS Examiner Paul Hayes from Dublin receives his 10-year Long Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the IWS National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.

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 & Colm Dempsey	
	Community Rescue Boats Ireland
Pat Cummins, Colm Dempsey & Paul Murphy	
	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	QQI – Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Roger Sweeney	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury
John Leech & Breda Collins	Charles Thomson Award Jury with the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS).
Séan Murphy	IWS Internal Auditor
Michael Murphy	National Designated Liaison Person & Codes of Ethics Inspector



Peadar O'Lamhna from Monaghan receives his IWS Examiner Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the Examiner's Conference, Westmeath.

IWS Representation at International Level

Breda Collins	International Lifesaving (Europe) ILS(E) Rescue Commission
John Considine	ILSE Education Commission
Martin O'Sullivan	ILS European (E) Board
Martin O'Sullivan	ILS World Rescue Commission
Michael Cuddihy	ILS(E) Sports Commission
John Leech	ILS(E) Management & Administration Commission
Brendan McGrath	International Federation of Swimming Teachers Association
Tom Doyle	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)
Michael Cuddihy	College of referees Panel ILS Europe
John Leech	International Maritime Rescue Federation

Conferences / Seminars

Water Safety Development Officer's Conference

9th – 11th April, Wexford

Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar

23rd September, Westmeath

Examiners Conference

18th October, Westmeath

Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) Conference

8th November, Westmeath

National Awards Ceremony

18th November, Dublin Castle

Risk Assessor Accreditation Course

26th & 27th April, Spanish Point, Co Clare. International Life Saving Federation of Europe accredited.

IWS Swim Tutors Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

15th June, Glasson, Co Westmeath

ILSE Senior Tutor Course

22nd March, Dublin

Beach Lifeguard Provider's Course

26th & 27th April, Tramore, Co Waterford

Pool Lifeguard Provider's Course

24th/25th May, Dublin

Inshore Rescue Boat Course

26th-28th Sept Fenit, Co Kerry

Siobhan Douglas from Monaghan receives her IWS Examiner Award from Breda Collins, IWS Chairman the National Examiners Conference.



Sinead Murphy from Dublin receives her 20-year Long Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Awards Ceremony, Dublin Castle.



Killian Dervan from Breaffy, Co. Mayo competing in the Board Rescue event at the National Beach Rescue Championships at Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow



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 2014, a total of 31 IWS Risk Assessments were carried out:

1	Cork	Owenahincha
2	Cork	Warren
3	Cork	Tragumna
4	Cork	Coolmaine
5	Cork	Galleycove
6	Cork	Redstrand
7	Cork	Rocky Bay
8	Cork	Greenland/Ring
9	Clare	Lahinch
10	Clare	Whitestrans (Miltown Malbay)
11	Clare	Cappagh
12	Clare	Kilkee
13	Clare	Fanore
14	Clare	Bishopsquarter
15	Donegal	Carrickfinn
16	Donegal	Culdaff
17	Donegal	Fintra
18	Donegal	Killahoey
19	Donegal	Murvagh
20	Donegal	Naran, Portnoo
21	Donegal	Portsalon
22	Donegal	Rathmullan
23	Donegal	Rossnowlagh
24	Donegal	Stroove
25	Donegal	Downings
26	Donegal	Marble Hill
27	Donegal	Bundoran
28	Fingal	Tyrrellstown
29	Fingal	Waterville
30	Louth	River at Dromin, Dunleer
31	Waterford	Dunmore East

Mary Barrett from Galway receives her 20-year Long Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Awards Ceremony.



Julie Ann Somers from Dublin received her 20-year Long Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the National Awards Ceremony.



Joseph Mooney from Sligo competing in the Board Race at the National Beach Rescue Championships at Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow.



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.

Lifeguard Returns 2014							
County	Rescue without using a Board/Craft	Rescue using a Rescue Board/Craft	First Aid	Lost Child	Advice Given	Accident prevented	Other
Carlow	1	0	175	0	857	297	0
Cork	22	2	298	17	7373	3055	7
Clare	41	78	948	31	12411	4851	385
Donegal	7	1	335	8	5612	2203	0
Dublin	18	2	165	2	300	30	0
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	13	1	85	0	270	45	0
Fingal	4	2	28	3	388	83	11
Galway	11	12	138	10	1037	191	377
Kerry	132	215	1740	102	5012	1578	592
Kilkenny	4	0	35	0	375	57	0
Limerick Co.	6	70	87	2	373	185	8
Louth	0	3	55	3	1150	98	62
Mayo	16	6	206	6	14283	3738	0
Meath	0	0	25	9	52	42	42
Roscommon	0	0	71	0	327	21	0
Sligo	2	97	10	1	585	308	92
Waterford	17	6	182	122	4342	1535	379
Wexford	3	1	663	47	2096	250	285
Wicklow	29	7	442	36	20,000	21	63
Tipperary	2	0	34	0	0	0	0
Total Lifeguard Actions	328	503	5,722	399	76,843	18,588	2,303
Total Rescues from drowning	831						

Patrick McBride from Creeslough, Co. Donegal competing in the Board Race event at the IWS National Beach Rescue Championships at Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow.



The Sport of Lifesaving

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'Ceallaigh 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 Still Water Lifesaving Championships.



Wicklow's John McCaul (left) and Scott Morton carry Thomas Keogh in the Rescue Tube event at the IWS National Beach Rescue Championships at Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow

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.

Coaching IWS National Squads

Alison Deane continued as the administrator of the National Squad. Brendan McGrath remained as Head Coach to the Squad with Andrew Lally and Daniel Wrafter working alongside him. In order to increased participation and engagement, a log book was designed and distributed to all squad members.

All squad members were requested to carry out test sets periodically and return same to the head coach and these would be used as part of the team selection procedure.

There were three squad camps held over the year some 1 days and some 2 day with the squad staying overnight which helped to bond the squad closer.

National trials for the World Championships in France took place on 4th July Stillwater in UL pool Limerick and open water in Spanish Point County Clare.

Sport online

The Sports Commission worked throughout the year to increase awareness of Lifesaving Sport in Ireland, beginning with the expansion of a social media presence with official Facebook and Twitter accounts. An email address (sport@iws.ie) was also created to make the sports commission more accessible to all members of Irish Water Safety and the public. Any queries for the Sports commission should be sent to this official email: sport@iws.ie.

Coaching Courses

The Sports Commission organised two coaching courses during the year prior to the Open Water Season.

Development Plan with Swim Ireland

Seamus O'Neill continued to work with Swim Ireland and the development plan was reviewed and updated.

International Life Saving Europe (ILSE) meeting

A meeting of the ILSE commissions meet in Stratford-upon-Avon on the 18th January and we had a representative on the Sports commission and also had an observer at the ILSE sports commission meeting.

National Stillwater Championships

The National Stillwater Championships took place in the University of Limerick on February 15th. It was a great day, well organised and efficiently run with a lot of National records and again this year Norma Cahill set two World Masters Records. Belgian International "A" Referee Frans Kenis ran a Stillwater Referee 'C' in the Kilmurray Lodge hotel on the 14th February.

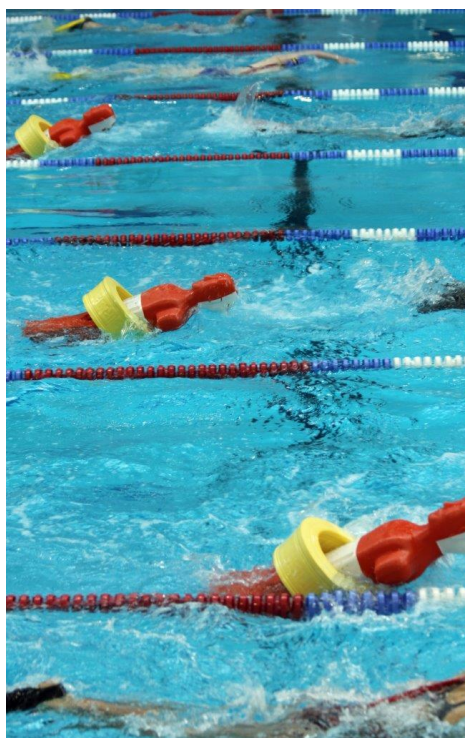
Still water results:-

Seniors: Ladies 1st Clare, 2nd Donegal, 3rd Waterford.

Men: 1st Clare, 2nd Waterford, 3rd Sligo.

Boys: 1st Clare, 2nd Wexford, 3rd Sligo.

Girls: 1st Clare, 2nd Wexford, 3rd Wicklow.



Intervarsity competition

This annual competition was held this year in Waterford on 7th and 8th March where all the Universities and third level institutions come together to compete in a swimming and lifesaving gala. Like to thank the IWS referees who attended to make this competition a success.

National Nippers Stillwater Championships

The National Nipper Championships was held on 26th April in Ennis swimming pool in County Clare and went off very successfully.

Regional Open Water Nipper Championships

Connaught/ Ulster -	Sligo	Chief Referee: Simon Mc Garrigle
Leinster -	Wexford	Chief Referee: Daniel Wrafter
Munster -	Cork	Chief Referee: Clare McGrath

All the competitions ran well and were a great success with in excess of 600 nippers competing at the regional championships. All winners received their medals on the podium for photographs.

National Nipper and Junior Championships

30th & 31st August, Kilkee Co. Clare.

The National Nipper & Junior Championships proved a very successful and enjoyable day for all involved with very active participation by all competitors.

Results:- Nippers.

1st Cork, 2nd Clare, 3rd Wicklow

Juniors:-

Girls: 1st Clare, 2nd Wicklow, 3rd Wexford

Boys: 1st Waterford, 2nd Mayo, 3rd Clare

National Senior/Masters Championships

National open water championship took place on the 6th September at Brittas Bay Co. Wicklow and was a great success.

Results:- Ladies: 1st Donegal, 2nd Clare, 3rd Waterford.

Men: 1st Clare, 2nd Wicklow, 3rd Waterford

Masters:- 1st Cork, 2nd Clare, 3rd Donegal

Medals

The quality and design of a newly designed IWS Sports medal was very well received by competitors.

World Lifesaving Championships Junior/Seniors / Masters

These were held on 17th – 28th September 2014 in Montpellier, France.

Logistics was a problem because the pool was 30 minutes by car from our accommodation and the beach was a 15 minute walk. All competed hard and we had a very good competition. The Masters were our most successful getting 17 medals in the Stillwater and 22 in open water, overall achieving 21 Gold, 3 Silver and 15 Bronze.

Junior results:-

Gold: Denise Bolger, Emma O'Brien (Line Throw)

Silver: Lily Barrett, Roisin Cahill, (Board Rescue)

Bronze: Denise Bolger, (90m sprint).

This was a commendable result by IWS athletes, being a World Championships and one that gives great pride to all members of IWS.



*Competing at Rescue 2014 in France were Irish Water Safety's Team Ireland
L-R: Emma O'Brien, Brodie Edmead, Denise Bolger and Lily Barrett.*

National Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, 18th November 2014, St. George's Hall, Dublin Castle.

The Chairman of Irish Water Safety, Breda Collins presented a range of Awards including the "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 2,210 years of personal service of 135 Irish Water Safety volunteers for their 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.

Timemark

Timemark Limited is a distributor of leading Watch and Jewellery Brands. Founded in 1979, and entirely Irish owned and managed, Timemark are sponsors of the SEIKO Just In Time Award which they have supported since its inception in 2001 and for which we are deeply grateful.

The Drowning Statistics Research Group comprising of Martina Jordan, Barry Heskin, Luke Gallagher & Brendan Connolly –represented by Luke Gallagher.

For working on the analysis of drownings to help IWS target at-risk groups. Their work included scrutinising reports on a decade of drowning tragedies and the creation of a database to record their analysis for use in education campaigns.

Water Babies represented by Carol and Therese McNally.

Water Babies is a group of teachers who focus in on teaching babies swimming courses in Ireland and abroad. They teach vital life skills from birth such as learning to get to the side, holding on, getting out or swimming and have been credited for having helped save a significant number of children's lives when their trained "Water Babies" have fallen into canals, swollen streams, private swimming pools - and survived, thanks to the skills they learnt. Water Babies have partnered with Irish Water Safety to produce water safety awareness publications for the public and actively promote our guidelines to the public during National Water Safety Awareness Week and beyond and for this we are extremely grateful.



IWS Chairman Breda Collins presenting Carol McNally and Nicola Watkins of Water Babies with a Community & Social Responsibility Award.

Mr. Joe Logue of "Advanced Engineering", Kildare

Joe's children are active in water safety classes and surf lifesaving in Kildare. Joe has supported the development of Kildare's Surf Lifesaving venue at Blessington lakes, by securing a club house on their behalf and also the donation and fitting of a flag pole to enhance the surf lifesaving facilities at Blessington Lakes. We greatly appreciate his support which will motivate many more to join local classes.

Ms. Mary Elliffe of The Town House Hotel, Naas

For the last twenty years, Mary has welcomed Irish Water Safety's local Committee to her establishment providing halls for meetings, training events and functions at no cost. Mary has

personally and financially contributed to promoting water safety activities in Kildare and we are grateful to her for helping us raise awareness and reduce drownings.

Graphic Workshop, represented by Tomas & Sylvia McGuinness

Since 1997 Tom & Sylvia, owners of Graphic Workshop, have personally and financially contributed to promoting Kildare Water Safety, a contribution that has brought the message of lifesaving and water safety to a much broader audience through the number of projects that they have contributed to, including a website www.ringbuoys.ie which enables the public to report missing ringbuoys nationwide, the design and support of fundraising projects such as Red Whistle Day & Irish Water Safety's Polar Bear mascot, Uisce Bear. Their assistance has brought the message of lifesaving and water safety to a much broader audience and for this we are deeply grateful.

The “Wise Buoys” from Thurles CBS

represented by Jamie Stapleton, Paul Hennessy, James O’Sullivan

In this case WISE Stands for “Water Ireland Safety Education” after the group of the group identified that there was a major issue with lifebuoys being vandalised and misused so they focused their efforts on creating a new lifebuoy prototype with security features. The students choose this social issue as it has personally affected them, having lost a friend in a water related accident. When the rope on the team’s lifebuoy is pulled to a certain distance an alarm and a camera with a light in a box at the back of the lifebuoy holder will be activated. This alarm will notify nearby people if someone is in danger in the water to assist with the rescue. This alarm will also send a message to local authorities such as the Gardaí so they can help. If the Buoy is being vandalised the camera will take a picture of the person and the alarm will sound. The electronics in this box will be powered by a solar panel so will be very efficient and reliable. The group from CBS have already won the Young Social Innovators Award and we appreciate their innovation in trying to reduce drownings.



IWS Chairman Breda Collins presenting the Community & Social Responsibility Award to “Wise Buoys” of Thurles CBS - James Stapleton, James O’Sullivan and Paul Hennessy.

Media Appreciation Awards

Provincial Radio Station Award: 98FM

Presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year. 98FM broadcasts to the greater Dublin area. A number of interviews have highlighted water safety issues and for this we are very grateful.

Community Radio Station Award: Radio Na Life

Broadcasting in Dublin since 1993, Raidió na Life was set up to provide a community-oriented Irish language radio service to the Irish-speaking community of Dublin and surrounding areas on a non-profit basis. Community and education are some of the key pillars of Raidió na Life’s broadcasting philosophy. We congratulate them and wish them every success into the future and thank them for their coverage of water safety matters.



IWS Chairman Breda Collins presenting the Community & Social Responsibility Award to Trish Laverty of 98FM.

Provincial Press Award: The Kerryman

The Kerryman is a weekly local newspaper published in County Kerry and founded in 1904 and in that time the newspaper has served the people of Kerry by factually reporting the daily news. Many of its articles cover water safety topics of concern to the general public. They regularly provide extensive coverage on such stories and for this we are very grateful.

National Press Award: The Irish Daily Mirror

The Irish Daily Mirror has served Ireland in print form since 1998 when it was established to provide Irish readers with homegrown Irish news and has covered topical water safety issues that are important to their readers in terms of raising awareness of the dangers of Ireland's aquatic environments. The Irish Daily Mirror provides a nationwide medium and as such reaches at-risk groups in every part of the country which is hugely appreciated at National level and by our thirty Water Safety Area Committees nationwide.

National Radio & TV Award: RTE

The particularly good summer this year attracted hundreds of thousands of people to Ireland's waterways nationwide. Many of those taking to our wonderful aquatic environments had very little experience of the dangers of open water. People's unfamiliarity with the dangers is reflected in the fact that in July alone 413 people were rescued by Irish Water Safety trained and assessed Lifeguards employed by Local Authorities.

We are grateful to RTE for liaising with Irish Water on many fronts to deliver important water safety messages to the public. A key element of this partnership was the efforts of RTE's Morning Ireland team and in this regard we are deeply grateful to them for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

Online Media Award: "First Online Radio"

First Online Radio is an on-line radio station broadcasting on the web and around the world 24/7. The station is 100% Irish owned with a variety of presenters contributing to news content for people nationwide and abroad. Journalists like John Prendergast are helping Irish Water Safety to deliver key water safety messages of topical interest to listeners and we are very grateful to him and his colleagues for placing water safety so high on their agenda.

Primary School Appreciation Award:

St Paul's National School, Ratoath, Co Meath

We wish to thank St Paul's National School, Ratoath, Co Meath for delivering Irish Water Safety's Primary School Aquatics Programme, a national water safety programme that is now a voluntary component of the primary school curriculum.

The emphasis that the school places on water safety since the school was established in 2005 is reflected in the fact that in the last year, 328 certifications were presented to pupils. St Paul's organises swimming classes for 1st through to 6th class pupils and the school is now dedicated to complimenting this strong tradition with Irish Water Safety's structured classroom and pool based programme which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviours necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. It is a tremendous achievement by all involved and we extend our congratulations to all of those pupils who passed their water safety exams and also extend our grateful appreciation to all teachers involved. Congratulations.



Smiles of celebration as teachers Áine O'Toole and Lizzy Ward from St. Paul's National School, Ratoath, Co. Meath join with Roger Sweeney of IWS on the presentation to students Laoise Murphy and Eve Drysdale with the Primary School of the Year Award.

Sports Person of the Year Award

Triona McMenamin, Donegal.

Triona has been involved in surf lifesaving in Ireland for 15 years when she competed in the first Junior Surf Lifesaving beach competition in Galway in 1998. Since then she has been involved with Donegal surf lifesaving as a coach, manager and competitor winning numerous National titles including captaining Donegal Ladies to the overall National beach title for 8 years. She is a fantastic competitor as part of the Irish Team winning European Senior medals in the SERC and this year coming home with 8 World Masters Medals from the World Lifesaving Championships in France.

Triona travelled to Australia where she trained and coached with Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club and also qualified as a level 1 coach with Surf Lifesaving Australia. When she returned to Ireland she put together a level 1 Surf Lifesaving Coaches Course and manual for Irish Water Safety and has travelled the country delivering the course to over 300 coaches, parents and competitors. This along with Nipper development days has helped enormously with setting up and improving the Nipper Surf Lifesaving set up in Ireland.

As part of the Sports Commission for the past 5 years Triona is continually working behind the scenes promoting the sport through face book and newsletters, organising National competitions, events, trips abroad, attending meetings etc. As a qualified International Beach and Pool referee Triona has also refereed at National competitions when not competing or coaching. When she was in college Triona set up the first Intervarsity Pool and Beach lifesaving competitions which are still continued today.

Triona is also involved in the training, selection and organisation of the Irish Team for international competitions. Throughout the year she has organised and coached Irish Squad Camps for both juniors and seniors and did fantastic organisational work in the lead up to the recent World Championships in France. She has managed the Junior Team for European Competitions for the past few years where they have been very successful and are now a team to watch on the International Stage.

It is a pleasure for the Sports Commission to nominate Triona for this award. She is continually smiling and well known by competitors, coaches and parents alike not only in Ireland but at European and World events where her bubbly personality has meant she has made many friends.



Triona McMenamin receives the IWS 2014 Sports Person of the Year Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins at the IWS National Awards Ceremony.

Long Service Awards:

○ Certificate of Service

Mr	Paddy	Drumgoole	Louth
Ms	Noreen	Ormsby	Tipp North
Mr	Stephen	Baker	Banna Rescue
Ms	Vicki	Foley	Banna Rescue
Ms	Blaithin	Murphy	Cavan
Ms	Sinead	Dolan	Cavan
Ms	Margaret	Reilly	Cavan
Ms	Maire	Jones	Dublin
Mr	Paul	Hayes	Dublin
Mr	Eoin	Blacklock	Dublin
Mr	Anthony	Manning	Dublin
Mr	Chris	O Sullivan	Ballybunion
Ms	Grace	Flahive	Ballybunion
Mr	Gearoid	O Connor	Ballybunion
Mr	Brian	Mannion	Ballybunion
Mr	Omar	Fitzell	Ballybunion
Mr	Jonathan	Mahoney	Ballybunion
Ms	Ann	Downes	Clare

10-Year Service

Ms	Ann	Healy	Mayo
Ms	Hilary	Bennet	Cork
Ms	Norianne	Harrington	Cork
Mr	Patrick	Mahon	Kildare
Mr	Tomas	McGuinness	Kildare
Ms	Tara	O Connor	Kerry
Ms	Heather	Coombs	Kerry
Mr	Eddie	Walsh	Clare
Ms	Tara	Spry	Clare
Ms	Grace	O Sullivan	Waterford
Mr	Tom	Fenton	Waterford
Mr	Seamus	Willmott	Waterford
Ms	Mary	Power	Waterford
Mr	Shane	Byrne	Carlow
Ms	Blathnaid	Wall	Carlow
Ms	Noreen	King	Kerry
Mr	Gerry	Brennan	Monaghan

Recipients of the 10 year Long Service Award included (clockwise) Tom Fenton from Waterford, Vicki Foley from Kerry, Tom McGuinness from Kildare and Blaithin Murphy from Cavan. With Breda Collins.



○ Service Medal of Honour (SMH)

Ms	Darina	Byrne	Dublin
Mr	Kevin	McMahon	Ballybunion
Mr	Paul	O Connor	Ballybunion
Mr	Frank	Whelan	Ballybunion
Ms	Geraldine	Murray	Clare
Ms	Kathleen	McNamara	Clare
Ms	Michelle	Healy	Mayo
Ms	Liz	Healy	Mayo
Ms	Noelle	O Leary	Cork
Ms	Josephine	Moloney	Cork
Ms	Trish	O Callaghan	Cork
Ms	Ann	McCarthy	Cork
Mr	Christopher	Reilly	Ballybunion

15-Year Service

Ms	Niamh	Moran	Kildare
Ms	Karen	O Driscoll	Kerry
Ms	Paula	O Shea	Kerry
Ms	Sadhbh	O Neill	Kerry
Ms	Josephine	Cahill	Kerry
Ms	Marjorie	Gallagher	Donegal
Mr	Pat	Fenton	Waterford
Mr	Kevin	Downey	Waterford
Ms	Lisa	Hickey	Carlow
Ms	Michelle	Gaynor	Carlow
Mr	John	McNally Jr	Carlow
Mr	Anthony	Nolan	Carlow
Ms	Deirdre	Wall	Carlow

Recipients of the 15 year Long Service Award included (clockwise) Liz Healy from Mayo, Michelle Healy from Mayo, Pat Fenton from Waterford, Karen O'Driscoll from Kerry, Marjorie Gallagher from Donegal and Darina Byrne from Dublin, pictured with IWS Chairman Breda Collins.



○ Bronze Bar to the SMH

Ms	Sarah	Kelly	Donegal Bonmahon
Ms	Mary	Wall	CRBI Bonmahon
Ms	Anna	O Shea	CRBI Bonmahon
Mr	PJ	O Shea	CRBI Bonmahon
Mr	John	Doyle	CRBI
Mr	Patrick	Cummins	Tipp South
Mr	PJ	Riordan	Banna Rescue
Mr	Donal	Dowling	Banna Rescue
Mr	Francis	Lawlor	Banna Rescue
Mr	Thomas	Fitzgerald	Banna Rescue
Dr	John	Casey	Banna Rescue
Ms	Kathy	Griffin	Cavan
Mr	John	Reilly	Cavan
Ms	Sinead	Murphy	Dublin
Ms	Anne	Cassidy	Dublin
Ms	Claire	Kelly	Dublin
Ms	Julie-Ann	Somers	Dublin
Mr	Jim	Banks	Dublin
Ms	Bernie	Gaines	Dublin
Mr	John	Egan	Dublin
Mr	James	Enright	Ballybunion
Mr	Michael	Costello	Ballybunion
Mr	Danny	Scanlon	Ballybunion
Mr	Noel	Finucane	Ballybunion
Ms	Zena	Fitzmaurice	Ballybunion
Mr	Thomas	McCarron	Ballybunion

20-Year Service

Mr	Michael	Flahive	Ballybunion
Mr	Frank	O Connor	Ballybunion
Mr	Michael	Ryan	Ballybunion
Mr	Pat	Ryan	Ballybunion
Mr	Liam	Muhvihill	Ballybunion
Mr	John	Walsh	Ballybunion
Ms	Patricia	Butler	Clare
Ms	Elaine	Ensko	Clare
Ms	Tanya	Carroll	Clare
Ms	Geraldine	Cleary	Clare
Ms	Noreen	O Connor	Mayo
Ms	Michelle	Carey	Mayo
Ms	Ann	Carey	Mayo
Ms	Pauline	O Sullivan	Cork
Ms	Ann	O Sullivan	Cork
Ms	Deirdre	Webster	Kildare
Ms	Elizabeth	Tivnan	Kildare
Ms	Maebh	Ni Chionnaith	Kerry
Ms	Marion	O Shea	Kerry
Mr	David	Flynn	Waterford
Mr	Eamonn	Mongey	Waterford
Ms	Elsie	Hickey	Waterford
Mr	Michael	O Sullivan	Waterford
Ms	Corrine	Power	Waterford
Ms	Mary	Barrett	Galway

Recipients of the 20-year Long Service Award included John Egan from Dublin and Michael Flahive from Kerry, pictured with IWS Chairman Breda Collins.



○ Silver Bar to the SMH

Mr	Paul	Burke	Cork
Ms	Frances	O Regan	Louth
Mr	Mike	McCarthy	Banna Rescue
Mr	James	O Loughlin	Banna Rescue
Mr	William	Mimnagh	Cavan
Mr	Sheila	Brady	Cavan
Mr	Michael	O Connell	Dublin

30-Year Service

Mr	Gary	Smyth	Mayo
Ms	Marie	Farrell	Wicklow
Mr	Philip	McKay	Kildare
Ms	Margaret	McKay	Kildare
Mr	Michael	O'Brien	Kildare
Mr	Seamus	Maher	Carlow
Ms	Mary	Foster	Carlow

Recipients of the 30-year Long Service Award included (clockwise) Marie Farrell from Wicklow, Gary Smyth from Mayo, Frances O'Regan from Louth, Phillip and Margaret McKay from Kildare, Michael O'Brien from Kildare and William Mimnagh from Cavan. Pictured with IWS Chairman Breda Collins.



Life Governor of IWS

1. Elmar Nolan – Cork

Cork Water Safety Area Committee recommends Elmar Nolan of Union Hall Cork for the award of Life Governor. Elmar Nolan has been the Local Area Contact and Summer Week organiser for the Union Hall region for over 50 years and is an important influential member of the community. During that time she put up the instructors in her home, fed and transported them before they possessed cars to the swimming locations.

She maintained the IWS instructing location at the pier as it developed from a small stone pier to one of the busiest piers in Ireland. Local people have always understood the benefit of learning swimming and lifesaving skills which she promoted throughout her service.

Elmar has 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She instilled in them a love of the water – one of the 12 (Lauren) was a lifeguard for past 2 summers (her team got IWS County Cork best lifeguard/beach award) and is IWS contact & Chair of the St Patricks College, Drumcondra, Dublin, swimming club. Elmar is now retiring as Local Water Safety Area Committee Contact but, typical of her, she has organised her successor, who just happens to be her daughter-in-law.



2. Dolores O'Sullivan – Waterford



Dolores O'Sullivan is recommended for a Life Governorship on the bases that for 50 years as a volunteer/ helper in Irish Water Safety, she has contributed to the advancement of Water Safety and Rescue in this county/country beyond the call of duty. She first became involved in Water Safety in the mid sixties under (Irish Red Cross) when during the Water Safety Summer Week programmes in Tramore, she became the local Organiser assistant to Mrs Dunlop, and on her demise in 1970, Delores took over that function, which she continues to date, but in a much more expanding and active way. She has been

a great representative for Irish Water Safety, indeed, if one uses the word "Ambassador" for the organisational role she has played here in Waterford, it would be under valuing her commitment. On many occasions she opened up (with her husband "Johnny") her home to the Ministers of the day (regardless of Politics), also to Presidents and Members of the Boards of ILS/ILSE. and for many other distinguished Dignitaries of World Lifesaving. She and her husband entertained them for hours on end at their own expense on each occasion. She has been most dedicated to the role of Helper/Organiser over many years at Wintertime in Waterford Glass water safety classes. When Inshore Rescue Boat courses were being run in the early 80/90's, many a time and oft were boats stored and logistics taken care of by Delores. She is known throughout Tramore for her dedicated involvement in IWS and has been active on the local Committee since first involved, and has been Chairperson of the Committee on several occasions. Suffice to say that many of her family have become likewise involved through her encouragement and example. While to this day, having just celebrated her Diamond Wedding Anniversary and indeed moving into her "Younger Years" she never fails, but to oblige if asked to undertake any task on behalf of Irish Water Safety.

3. Sonny Condon – Waterford

Sonny Condon came to Irish Water Safety with an excellent knowledge of both the River & Marine Environment he having been an Employee of the Waterford Harbour Board. In making this recommendation for Life Governorship the Committee have been very cogniscent and taken into consideration the dedicated service that Sonny gave to the Royal Life Saving Society Waterford in the 1960's/70, this because the RLSS is a Member of International Life Saving. Sonny transferred to Irish Water Safety in 1970 at the invitation of Sean Hennessy (LG). Sonny immediately became actively involved and taught swimming both during the Winter and Summer programs

for IWS. The National Technical Committee selected Sonny Condon as one of the first candidates to go on a Swimming Teaches Course in 1973 to Courtown Harbour, where the first IWS "Swimming Teaches" course under the auspices of Loughborough ASA(UK) was run. On return off the course and having passed with honours, he imparted his knowledge of teaching swimming at the IWS Winter Classes in Waterford Glass. He also instructed hundreds of potential Swimming Teachers of Irish Water Safety in the skills of Natation. During the years that followed he became an Instructor in Lifesaving and also an Examiner, in roles, which he functions today. He is recognised locally as having an in debt knowledge of Resuscitation and Child Protection procedures within Irish Water Safety. He has served on the local committee for the last 43 years and has been Chairman on several occasions. He is the Senior DLP for many years in Waterford and performs these duties with dedication, courtesy and determination. His commitment over the past 50 years to saving life through the teaching of swimming and lifesaving in Waterford is exceptional and this commitment adds to hours of voluntary time given both winter and summer in the humanitarian cause of saving life in Waterford and nationwide on behalf of IWS



4. Tony Lynch – Clare



Tony Lynch has given over 50 years of service to the promotion of water safety in Ireland and in Co Clare. His involvement began with swimming and life saving as a member of Ennis Swimming and Life Saving club in the early 1950s, when all training took place at open water venues around the town of Ennis, but primarily at the swimming area known as the Turret. Tony and his brothers were the leading lights for swimming in the Ennis area during the 1950s.

Tony started to teach swimming and life saving as a Red Cross Instructor during the mid 1950s and an Examiner in the 1960's.

He was on the Ennis Life saving team which won the President's Trophy in 1957, the first Co Clare team to do so. He was also on the panel that won this trophy again in 1958 but due to the rules of the time where counties had to change at least three members of the previous year's team to assist in the development of the sport, therefore he could not be on the first team. He remained an integral part of Life Saving teams thereafter and became one of the leading Co Clare Life Saving coaches and Instructors during the 1960s and early 1970s.

He trained teams until the mid 1970s for County, Regional and National competitions and ensured teams were prepared to attend numerous regattas in the county to put on displays of life saving techniques and disciplines.

He was a Red Cross Examiner since the early 1960s and when the first indoor pool was built and opened in Ennis in 1969, he was once more to the fore in ensuring that Life Saving continued to be taught at the this new indoor venue.

In 1971 he helped lead the change from the Red Cross to the newly established body, the Irish Water Safety Association. He had a great interest in Lifeguard standards and joined a small National group of Examiners to visit Huntington Beach in California to see how Lifeguards were trained and managed there. This knowledge was used to begin the process of increasing lifeguard standards throughout Ireland. He examined lifeguards for over two decades for Clare County Council, sometimes in open water rather than in the heated pool to ensure they were fit and strong enough. He has been a true gentlemen of swimming and life saving and has been responsible for the ongoing involvement of many people in the promotion of water safety through his positive supportive nature.

1. Liam Griffin – Clare

Liam Griffin has been WSDO in Clare from 1996 up until his recent retirement. He followed in the large footsteps of the late Noel Carmody, who died before his time and was regarded by his contemporaries as one of the best WSDO's ever. Liam has maintained and then improved standards in the performance of his duties as WSDO and as a member of IWS. Clare is one of the most challenging counties in which to hold this brief, being surrounded by water on three sides. To the West is the Atlantic Ocean, and the renowned West Coast of Clare is famous for its many wonderful swimming and surfing beaches, from Bishop's Quarter in North Clare, to Fanore, Lahinch, Milltown Malbay, Spanish Point and Kilkee in the South. Inland, Clare is bounded by the Shannon and Lough Derg in the East, where thousands of people enjoy these waters each year angling, sailing and cruising. We then have the Fergus and Shannon estuaries to the south which are also busy waterways enjoyed by the public. There are many small lakes in Clare, and several substantial rivers.

Every conceivable use is made of those waters, including angling, bathing, surfing, dolphin-watching, sailing, kayaking and commercial fishing, to name but a few. Managing public safety in that context is therefore a significant and onerous responsibility, which Liam has discharged for fourteen years.

Liam is held in the highest regard by his colleague WSDOs in all other local authorities, and his contributions to debates at their conference and meetings have always been renowned for his wisdom gained through experience and his endless common sense, which has carved a sensible drowning prevention strategy carefully executed by Clare Co Co.



Liam Griffin is presented with a Life Governor Award by IWS CEO John Leech in Galway.



Breda Collins, Chairman of IWS presenting a Community & Social Responsibility Award to Joyce Ní Chionnaith and Cian MacCárthaigh of Radio Na Life at the annual Awards Ceremony held at Dublin Castle.



Michelle Gaynor from Carlow receives her 15-year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins.

Volunteer of The Year Award

Charles Kennedy – Donegal

Charlie has been involved with Irish Water Safety for many years. He is an integral part of Donegal Water Safety Area Committee, is current vice-chairman and past chair. Charlie has many feathers in his cap: Irish Water Safety Examiner, Instructor, Swim Teacher and Teacher Tutor, Pool and Beach Lifeguard Course Provider, Surf Instructor Tutor, PHECC Instructor, Risk Assessor and Water Safety Awareness Tutor.

Charlie often brought his extensive swimming and lifesaving knowledge to his role as coach to the Donegal Surf Lifesaving Team and now works selflessly coordinating Surf Lifesaving competitions. An example of this selfless work was when he recently volunteered to transport all the National team equipment to Montpellier in France for the World Championships. Charlie is also a national still water referee and international open water referee. He is actively involved in planning the new Surf Lifesaving facility in Rossnowlagh.

This year alone, Charlie co-ordinated eighteen summer water safety weeks around Donegal and is joint deck manager for the winter programme in Ballyshannon.

Charlie continues to work tirelessly for Donegal Water Safety. His commitment and dedication as a volunteer is inspiring to those around him and Irish Water Safety are indebted to him for his hard work and competency. We are very honoured today to show our appreciation for all of his endeavours.



Charlie Kennedy from Donegal receives Irish Water Safety's 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award at Dublin Castle.

International Life Saving Europe Award

Captain Robert McCabe

Captain Robert McCabe first went to sea for Irish Shipping in 1973 and he gained his Class 1 Master Mariner Foreign Going Certificate of Competency in 1986 and has worked for the Commissioner's of Irish Lights (CIL) since then both at sea and ashore. He is currently the Director of Operations and Navigation Services with the CIL and earlier this year he was elected President of the Nautical Institute, the international representative body for maritime professionals with 6,500 members worldwide in 110 countries. His appointment was ratified during their recent AGM, held in Sydney, Australia, on June 17. "Safety and Service" are watchwords for both the Nautical Institute and CIL and throughout his career he has contributed in a significant way to the safety of all mariners both at home and abroad through his commitment and dedication to his work and thereby has contributed to the reduction of drownings worldwide.



Charles Thomson Award

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council



This Award is presented by IWS, RLSS Ulster Branch and Republic of Ireland branch in memory of Lt Cdr Charles "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 being presented to the Local Authority (LA) that has done most to promote Water Safety on the island of Ireland between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2013.

Breda Collins, IWS Chairman presenting the Charles Thomson Award to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council received by Cathaoirleach Marie Baker and Dara McGowan, Water Safety Development Officer, with Eddie Duffy of the Royal Life Saving Society at the annual Irish Water Safety Awards held at Dublin Castle.

Rescue Appreciation Award

Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club, Sandymount, Dublin

Mr Conor Dodd, Sandymount, Dublin

On the evening of Tuesday 25th February 2014, at Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club in Sandymount, Conor Dodd came to the aid of a man who had suffered a heart attack at the side of the pitch. Upon hearing about the incident he immediately went to the scene and administered CPR. After some time he was assisted by another man while Conor prepared and administered the AED. He administered a further two shocks and then man started breathing. The paramedics arrived and took him to hospital. The man made a full recovery.



SEIKO Just In Time Awards

Presented to those who came to the assistance of person(s) in difficulty in water and in danger of drowning.

Herbert Bridge, Ballsbridge, Dublin

Garda Ciarán Sweeney

On the 17th August 2013, at Herbert Bridge, Ballsbridge, Garda Ciaran Sweeney responded to a call that a man had entered the water. The river was fast flowing yet without hesitation, Garda Sweeney entered the water and swam to the victim, who was conscious but dazed. Garda Sweeney brought the man to safety, administered first aid and waited with the man until the emergency services arrived.

Bunmahon Beach, Waterford

Ms Annie Laffan; Mr Kieran Laffan; Mr Pat Nolan (L - R)

On the evening of the 18th of June 2014, at Bunmahon Beach, Kieran, Annie & Pat noticed two teenagers (non-swimmers) in difficulty in the water. Both Kieran and Pat entered the water without delay. Annie fetched a ringbuoy and also went to the aid of the teenagers in distress. All three managed to take both persons to safety. They placed the girl into the recovery position, wrapped both casualties in towels to prevent hypothermia and waited with them until emergency services arrived. Both teenagers made a full recovery.



Spencer Harbour, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim

Mr James Bould; Mr Raven Genson (L – R)

On the 6th of July 2013 at Spencer Harbour, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim, a party of thirteen - seven adults, three teenage boys and three children - were enjoying a day out when one of the teenagers got into difficulty in the water. Both James and Raven went to the assistance of the boy and managed to keep his head above water whilst swimming towards a platform. Once on the platform, they successfully encouraged the boy to get back into the water and return to shore. Between them, they were able to keep the boy's head above water and bring him back to the safety of the lakeside.



Skerries, Co Dublin

Mr Brian MacMahon

On the 16th of June 2014, at Springers bathing area in Skerries, Brian observed a person in difficulty in the water. He immediately called emergency services. After assessing the situation, he got a ringbuoy and swam approx 250 metres out to the casualty. He reassured the casualty, threw the ringbuoy towards him and towed the casualty to the steps of the Springers. The Lifeboat arrived at the scene shortly afterwards and the man was taken on board, where first aid was administered. The man made a full recovery.

Carnivan Beach, Fethard-on-Sea, Wexford

Mr Bernard Steemers

On Tuesday 12th August 2014, at Carnivan Beach, Fethard-on-Sea, Bernard, a trained Lifeguard, came to the rescue of a surfer who had gotten into difficulty in the water and was being pulled out to sea. Bernard surfed out, pulled the man onto his surfboard and pushed him safely ashore whilst doing the breast stroke.

Wexford Harbour

Mr Ian Jackman

On the 3rd of October 2014 at Wexford Harbour, Ian (33), a trained Lifeguard, came to the rescue of a man who had fallen into the water from a fishing boat. Ian observed the man in distress and without hesitation, entered the water with a ringbuoy, persuaded the man to take hold of the ring buoy and swam back to shore. It was difficult to exit the water so Ian held onto the man until the Lifeboat arrived at the scene and pulled him to safety.



River Slaney, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

Mr Damien Dempsey

On the afternoon of Sunday 22nd of June, at the River Slaney, Enniscorthy, Damien and his crew had just arrived at their concert venue when they noticed two men in difficulty in the water. Damien grabbed a sheet from his minivan and waded into the river. As one man managed to swim back to shore, Damien made an approach to the other man, threw the sheet to him and towed him back to safety. Both made a full recovery.



River Boyne, Drogheda, Co Louth

Mr Paul Ivan Maguire; Mr Jack Hoey; Mr Dylan Rogers; Mr Justin McKenna

On the evening of the 28th of December 2013 at the River Boyne, Drogheda, Co Louth, Dylan, Jack, Paul and Justin were playing football when they were informed that a boy had fallen into the river nearby. The boys ran to the location. Paul called emergency services and Dylan went to the assistance of a twelve year old boy in distress. Dylan took up a position on the bank and lay down to reach out to the casualty. He got hold of the boy by the wrist and held onto him. Jack and Justin dashed along the ramparts, located a ringbuoy and brought it to the scene, where they passed the ringbuoy to the boy and encouraged him to take hold of it. The boys reassured the casualty and continued to talk to him until emergency services arrived. The Irish Coast Guard successfully brought the boy to safety. The boy was treated for mild hypothermia and made a full recovery.

River Moy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Mr John Clarke; Mr Michael Mahony

On the 25th January 2014, at The River Moy, Ballina, Michael Mahony was alerted to John Clarke calling to someone in difficulty in the water. John had thrown a lifebuoy to the man and Michael immediately went to his Jeep and fetched a long rope which he also threw to the man. The man took hold of the rope and when he was close to the bank, Michael and John pulled him to safety.



River Moy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Mr Brian McGinty; Mr Allen Scully

On the afternoon of the 11th of March 2014, at the River Moy, both Allen and Brian were in Allen's apartment when they were alerted to a woman in distress in the river. The woman was holding onto a branch and they quickly threw a ringbuoy to her. Brian then jumped over the railings, reached down and caught her hand. Unfortunately, she slipped from his grip. At this point, Allen had tied a loop on the Ringbuoy rope and let it down to Brian. Although she was then unresponsive, they managed to pull the woman over the railings to safety.



Coolmain Beach, West Cork

Mr Barry Murphy

On the 7th of July 1983, at Coolmain Beach, West Cork, Barry happened to be on a family day out when he heard a woman calling for help. Observing a man in distress, Barry entered the water and with the aid of a ringbuoy, managed to swim to the man and pull him safely to shore. CPR was commenced with the assistance of others and the casualty was eventually taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.

Rathmullen Pier, Co. Donegal

Mr Sean Haughey

On the 24th August 2014, at Rathmullen Pier, Co. Donegal, Shaun heard screams from where four people had jumped into the water. Only two had made it safely back to the steps of the pier. Shaun reacted quickly, removing some of his clothing and entered the water. He took hold of a ringbuoy that one of the others had previously thrown and swam towards the now hysterical casualties. He managed to calm the distressed swimmers, support them with the ringbuoy and swim towards the pier steps where another man helped all three to exit the water.



East Pier, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Garda Peter Daly; Garda Darragh Quinn

On the 29th June 2012, at East Pier, Dun Laoghaire, Garda Peter Daly received a call about a man in difficulty in the water. He raced to the scene, immediately entered the water and swam to the man's aide. Meanwhile Garda Darragh Quinn retrieved a ringbuoy and threw it to Garda Daly. Garda Daly swam to the man and got him to hold onto the ringbuoy and with great difficulty, dragged the man to the shore. Both Gardai pulled the man to safety and waited with him until the emergency services arrived. The man made a full recovery.

Colligan River, Dungarvan, Co Waterford

Garda Dave Hearne

On the 14th of July 2014 Garda Dave Hearne received a call about a man who had entered Colligan River in Dungarvan. He immediately went to the scene and without hesitation he entered the water and swam to the assistance of the person. Upon reaching him, he swam towards the shore and with the assistance of the fire brigade, the man was pulled ashore.

**Gas Lake, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan
Ms Linda Brereton**

On Monday the 20th of August 2012, at Gas Lake, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, Linda was sitting on a bench at the park when she was approached by a lady who informed her that two young boys were in difficulty in the water. Without delay, Linda entered the water and swam to the two boys. They held onto Linda and she managed to bring them safely ashore.



**Tolka River, Clontarf, Dublin
Mr Dean Treacy; Mr Paul Dolan; Mr Michael Treacy**

On the 6th of October 2012, at the Tolka River, Clontarf, Paul Dolan noticed a RIB in the water 1/2 mile from the shore. It was apparent that there was a person in distress. Paul dispatched a kayaker, Dean Treacy and upon reaching the scene, Dean observed that the boat operator was in immediate peril and not breathing. He exited his kayak, boarded the RIB and performed CPR on the man. Michael Tracey and Paul Dolan arrived alongside the RIB and after assessing the situation, alerted the MRCC. Unfortunately, there was no helicopter available so all three men took the RIB back to shore whilst continuing CPR on the man. The man was taken to hospital and made a full recovery.

**The Pier, Castletownbere, Cork
Garda David Fenton; Garda Caroline Guest; Mr Martin O'Donoghue (Rescue Appreciation Award) (L-R)**

On the 4th of May 2014, at The Pier, Castletownbere, Garda David Fenton and Garda Caroline Guest were on patrol when they were alerted that a man had fallen into the water. They rushed to the scene and while Garda Guest threw a lifebuoy to the man, Garda Fenton secured a rope ladder to the pier and climbed down into the water to the casualty. He managed to get the man to hold onto the ladder while using the ringbuoy as a buoyancy aid. Garda Guest telephoned Martin O'Donoghue, an on duty lifeboat mechanic to assist them. While Garda Guest reassured and waited with the casualty, Garda Fenton and Martin O'Donoghue launched a "D Class" Boat and were able to get alongside the casualty and pull him out of the water. They brought him to safety and waited with him until emergency services arrived. The man made a full recovery.



**Usher's Quay on the River Liffey, Dublin
Garda Colin Davidson**

On the afternoon of the 11th of February 2008, at Usher's Quay on the River Liffey, Garda Colin Davidson was on mountain bike patrol in the Smithfield area when he received a call about a man who had entered the water. Upon arriving at the scene, Garda Davidson observed a man face down in the water and without hesitation, entered the water and held onto him for approximately ten minutes until the Dublin Fire Brigade arrived. This was achieved by holding onto a ladder with one arm while successfully keeping the casualty's head above water with the other. The man spent some time in the high dependency unit and fortunately made a full recovery.

The Slaney River, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow
Garda John Paul Kennedy

On the 11th of November 2013, at The Slaney River, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, Garda Kennedy was alerted to the situation where a woman was in distress in the water. Garda Kennedy quickly entered the water and brought the victim to the safety of the river bank, wrapping her in his fleece to keep her warm until emergency services arrived. The woman made a full recovery.

Neds Point, Buncranna, Co Donegal

Garda Trevor Keating; Garda Shaun Sweeney; Garda Grainne McLoone

On the 18th of September 2014, at Neds Point, Buncranna, Gardai, Trevor Keating, Shaun Sweeney and Grainne McLoone were called to a scene, where a father was concerned about his twelve year old Down' Syndrome son who had swam out too far. They attempted to have the boy swim back but he misunderstood and thought it was a game. Garda Sweeney and McLoone kept the boy occupied whilst Garda Keating entered the water, swimming to the boy, reassuring him and brought him to safety.



Assistant Garda Commissioner John O'Mahoney with members of An Garda Síochána who received Rescue Awards at the IWS National Awards Ceremony, Dublin Castle.

Analysis of Drownings 2014

Irish Water Safety - targeting at-risk groups with drowning prevention initiatives...

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2014 was 114*, 9 fewer than in 2013 when 123 drowned. The lowest recording of any year was 73 in 1936. The highest figure recorded in any one year was 235 in 1983.

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 drownings are reduced.

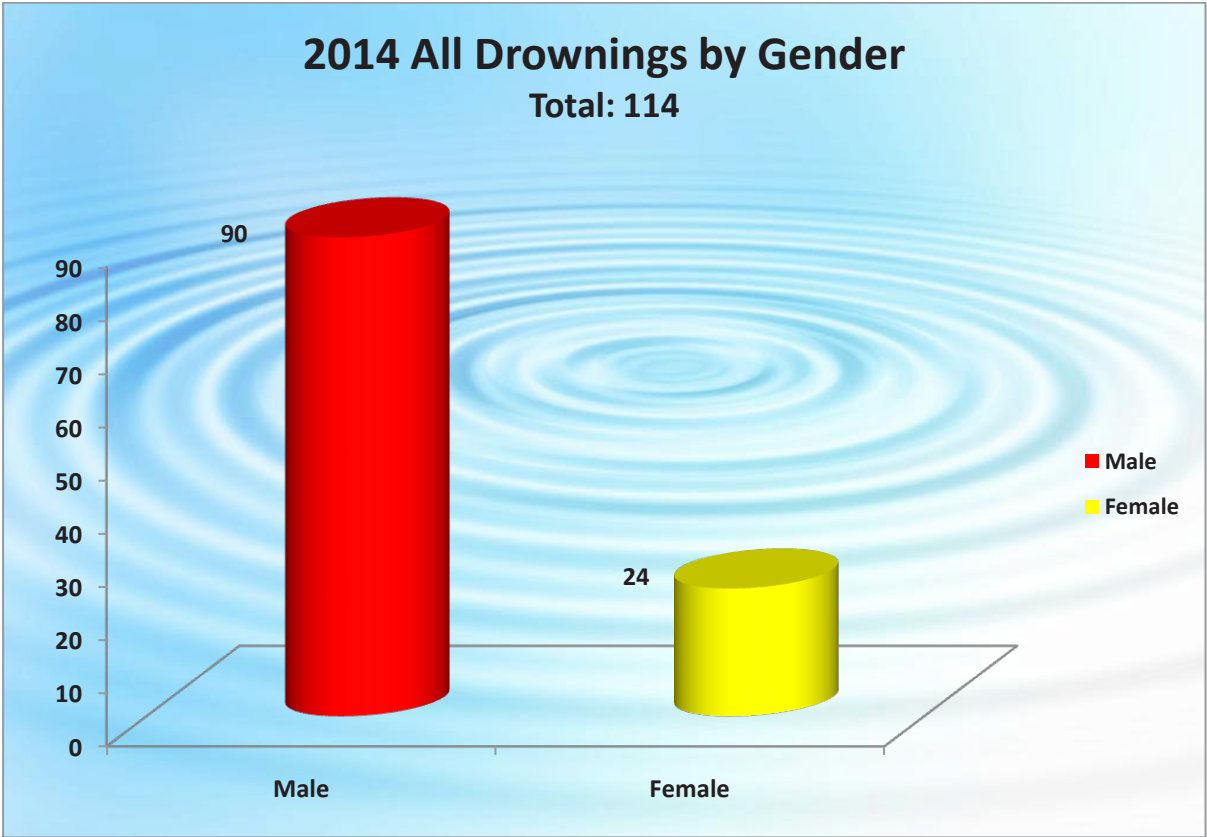
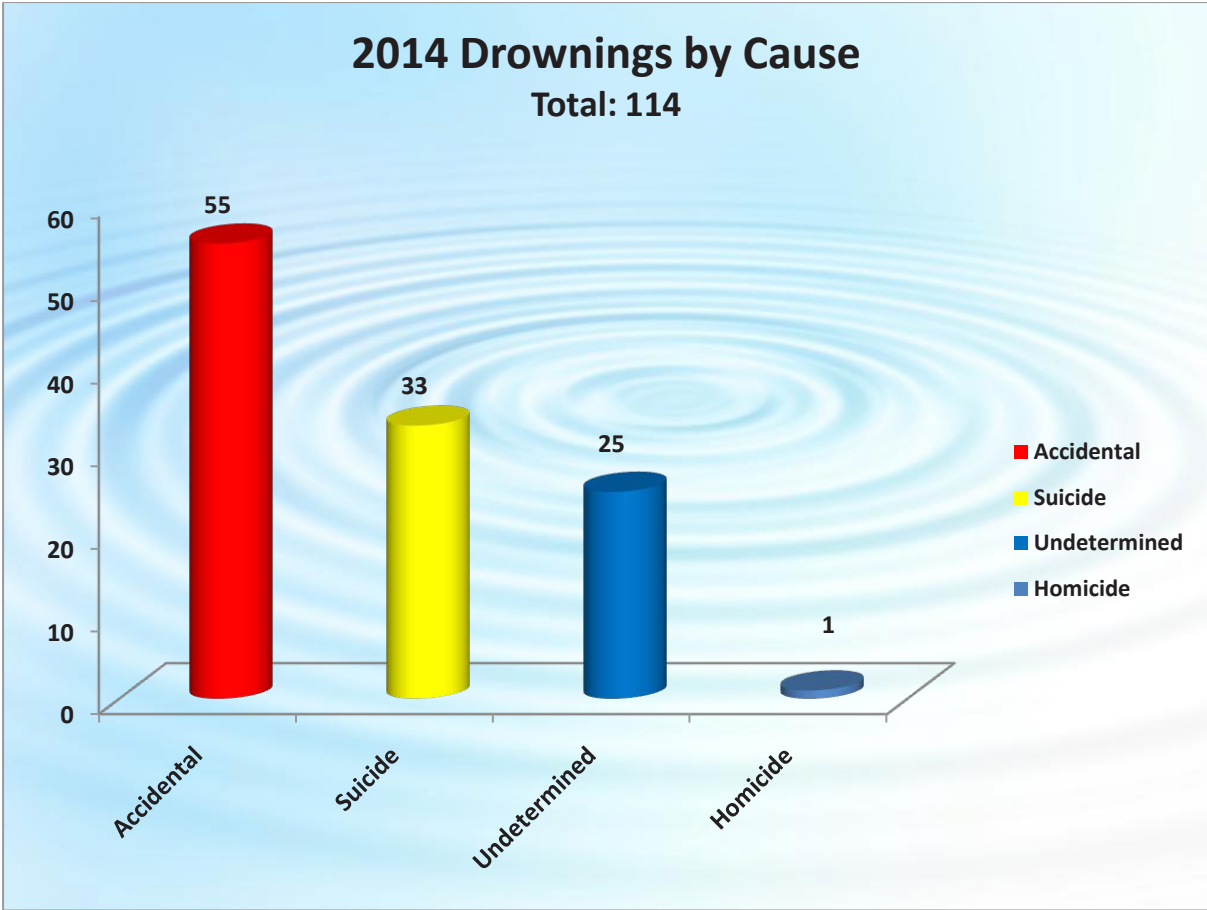
A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

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; underestimation of ability;
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 behaviour;
21. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

1. Public education by Irish Water Safety regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the IWS PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. IWS media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in IWS press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Irish Water Safety of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Irish Water Safety Risk Assessments that include assessments of local hazard warning notices, access to emergency response and availability of resuscitation skills/facilities and other factors;
9. Development by Irish Water Safety of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;
10. Coordination by Irish Water Safety with user group associations concerning hazard awareness and safe behaviours;
11. Wearing of adequate lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices when boating;
12. Fencing and doors to isolate outdoor aquatic environments.

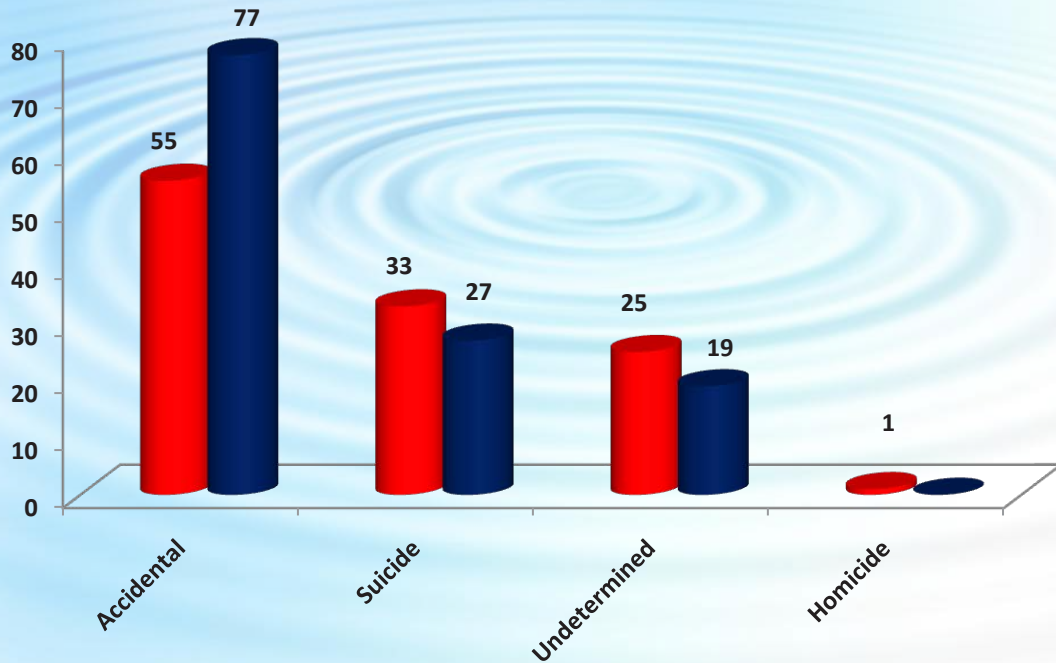
**Any interpretation of these figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.*



2014 Drownings by Cause

2014: 114

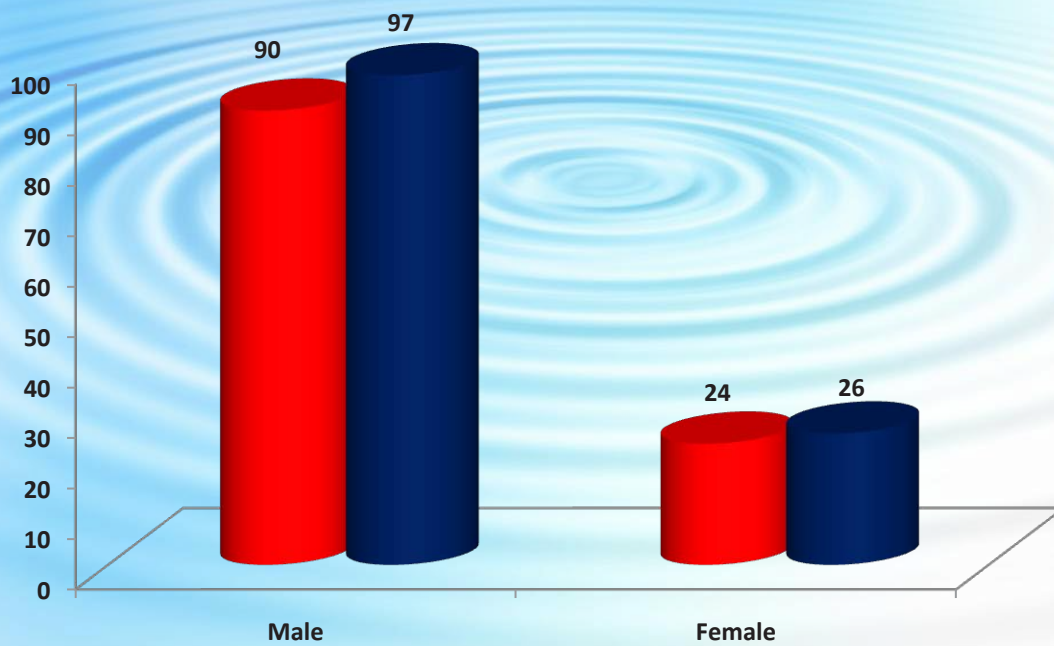
2013: 123



2014 All Drownings by Gender

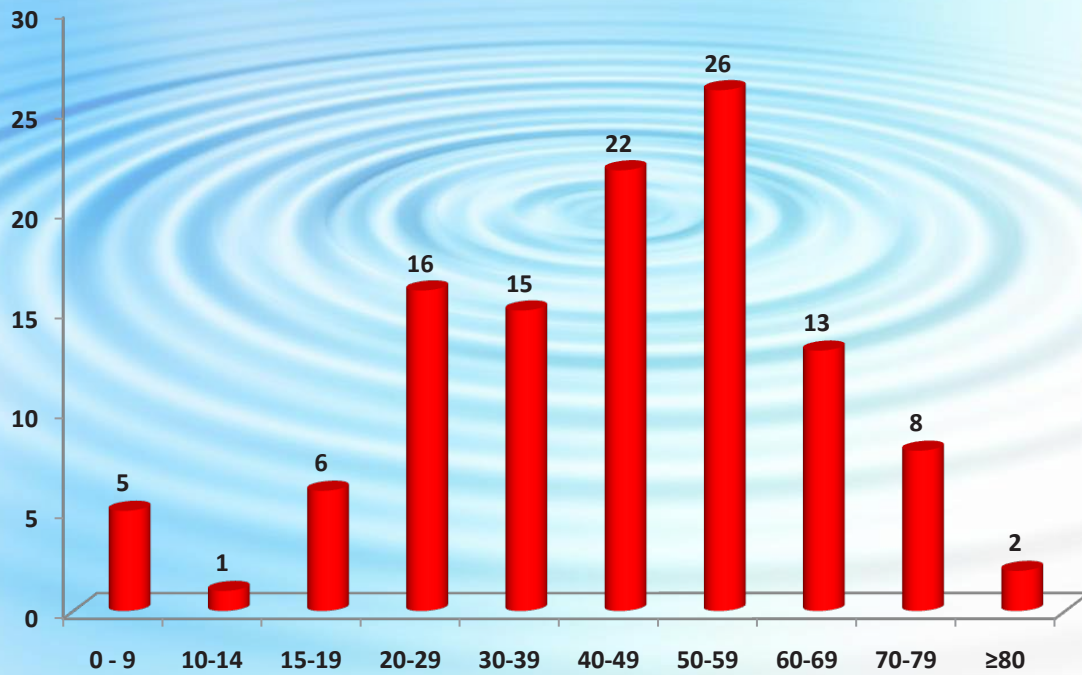
2014: 114

2013: 123



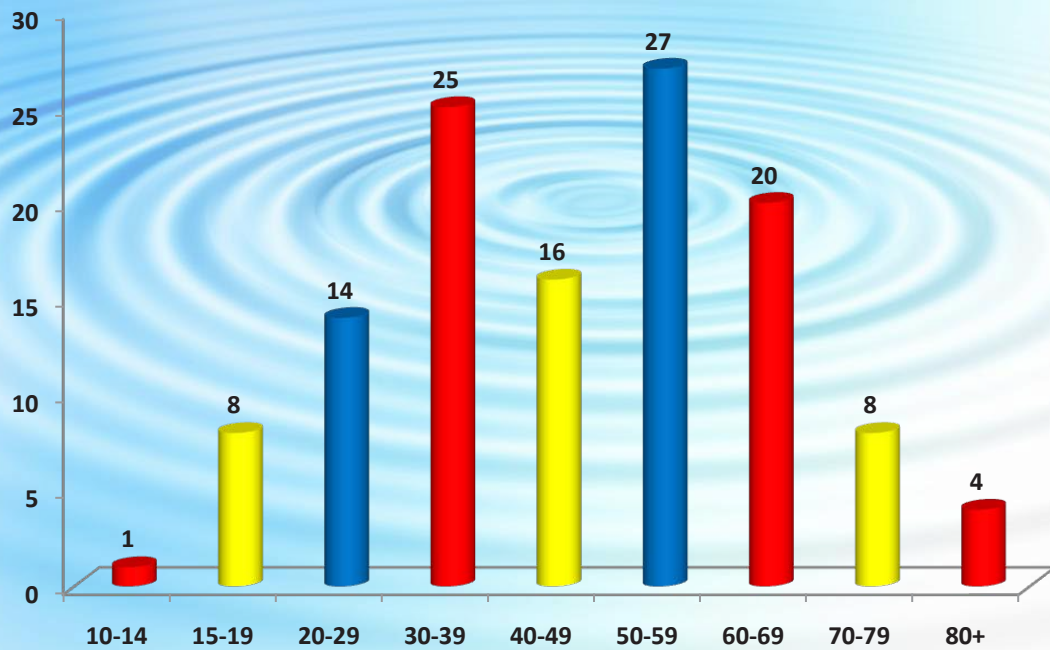
2014 All Drownings by Age

Total: 114



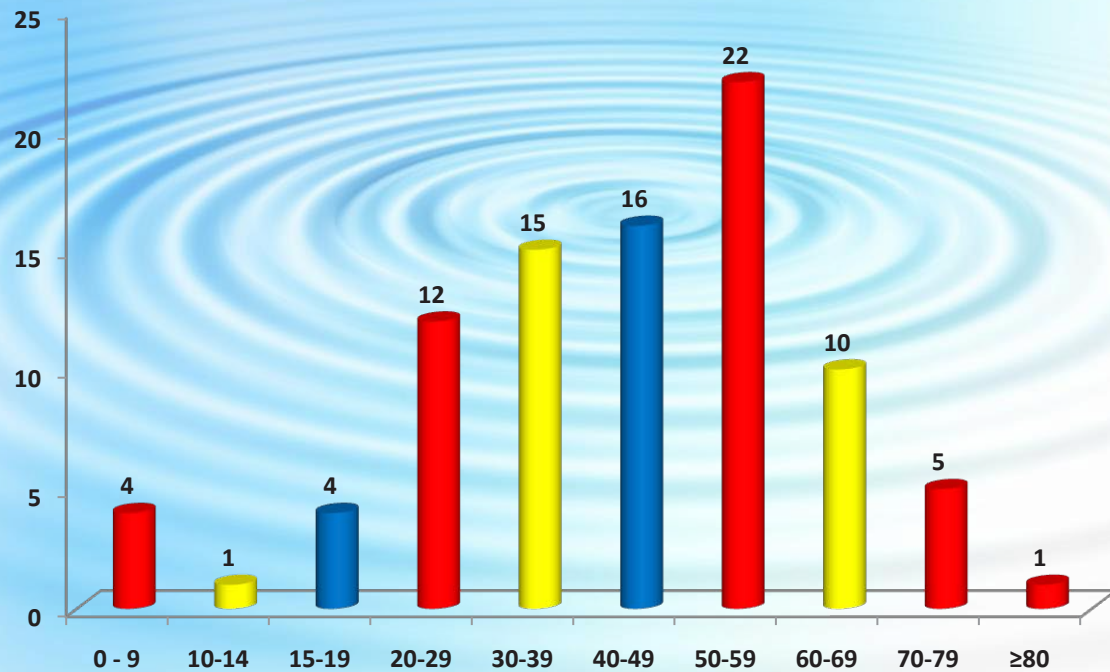
2013 All Drownings by Age

Total: 123



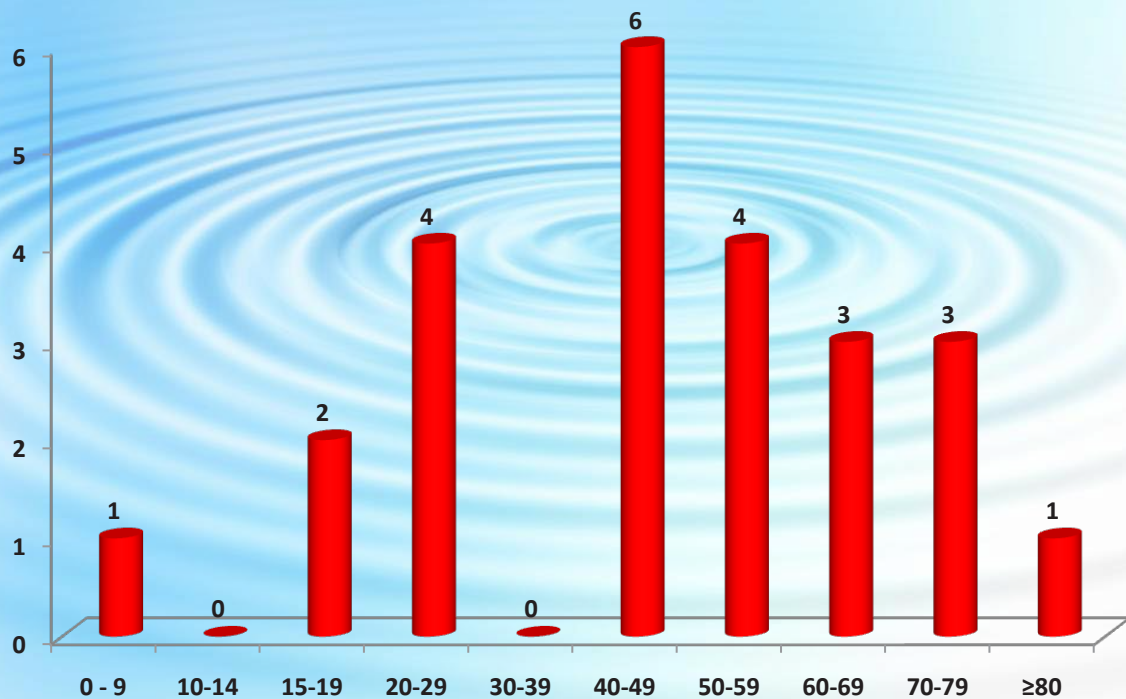
2014 Male Drownings by Age

Total: 90 of 114

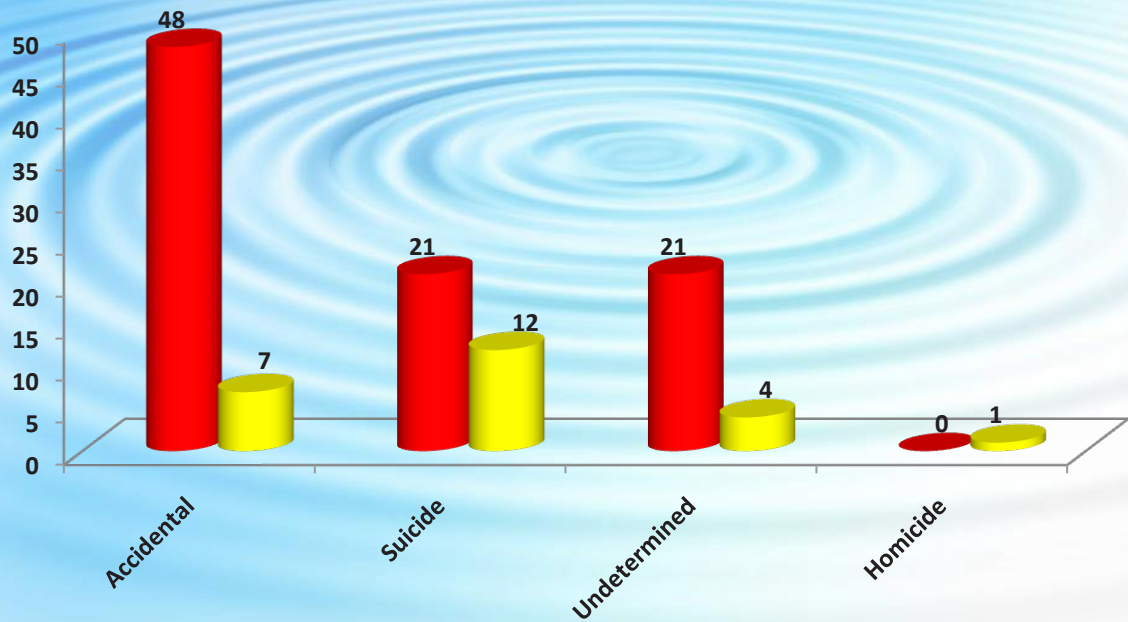


2014 Female Drownings by Age

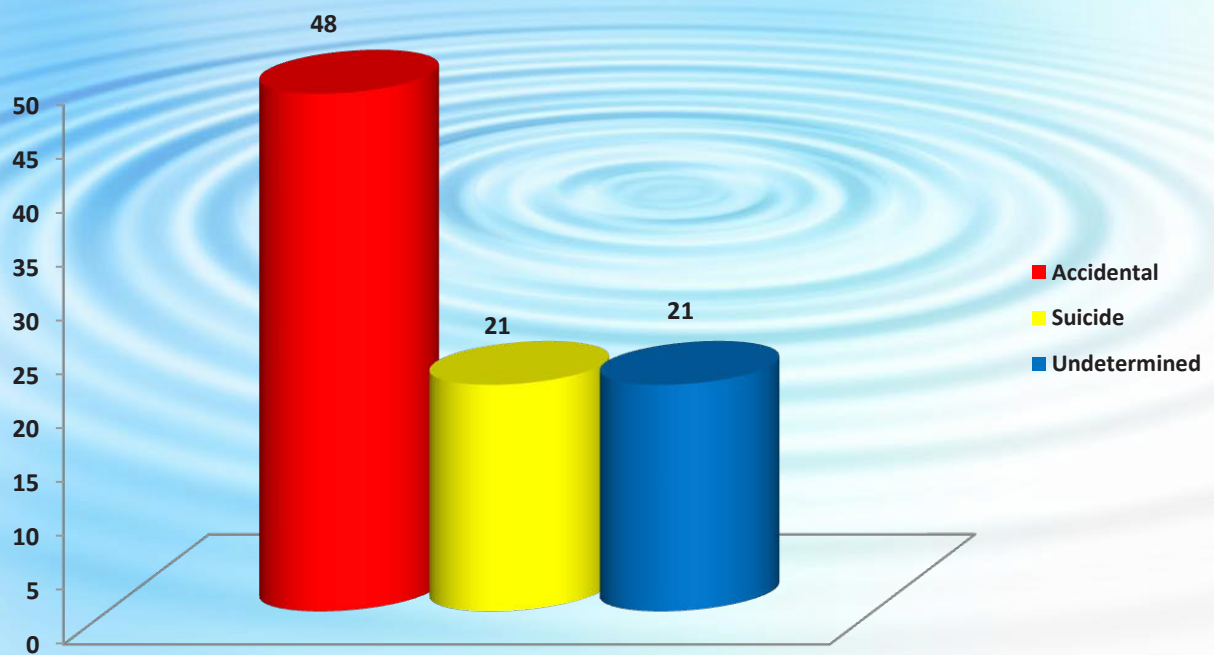
Total: 24 of 114

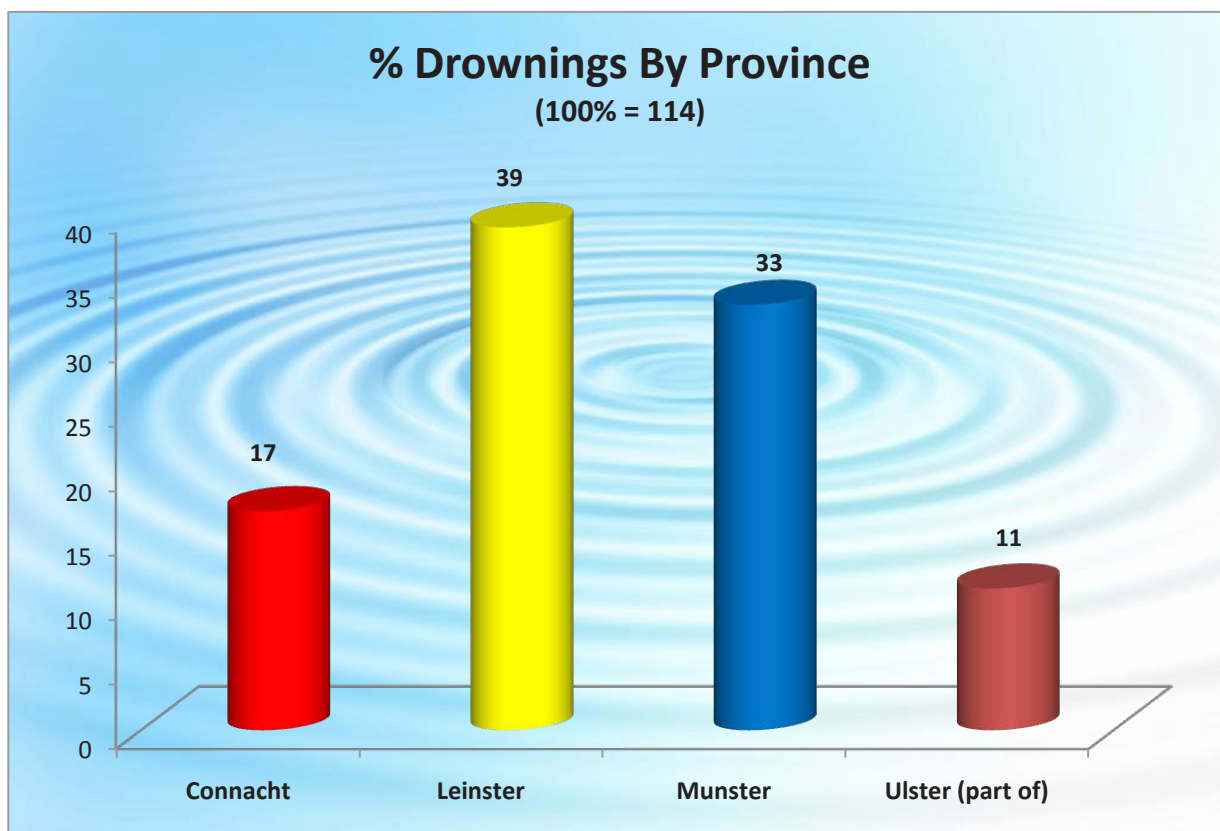
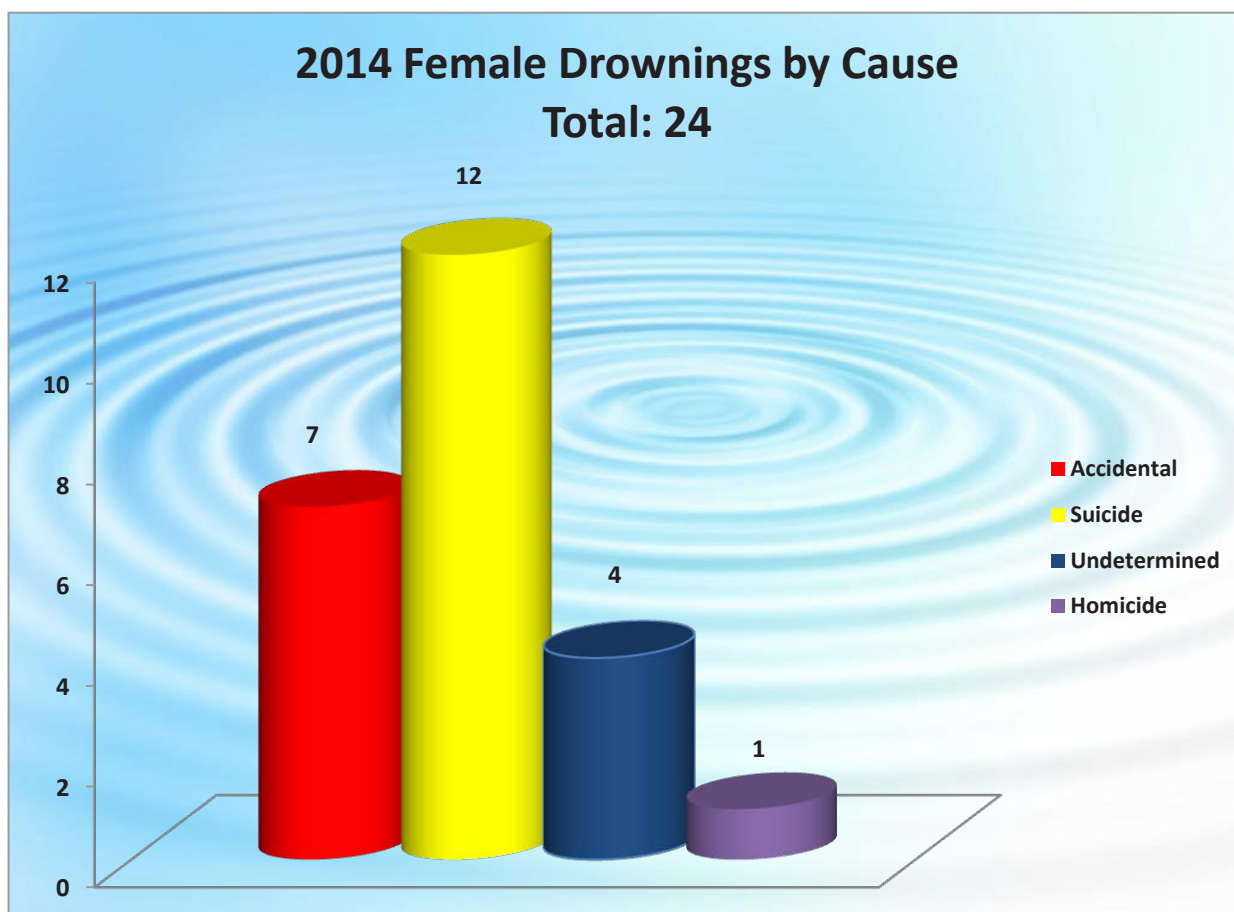


2014 Drownings by Gender and Cause Male / Female (Total: 114)



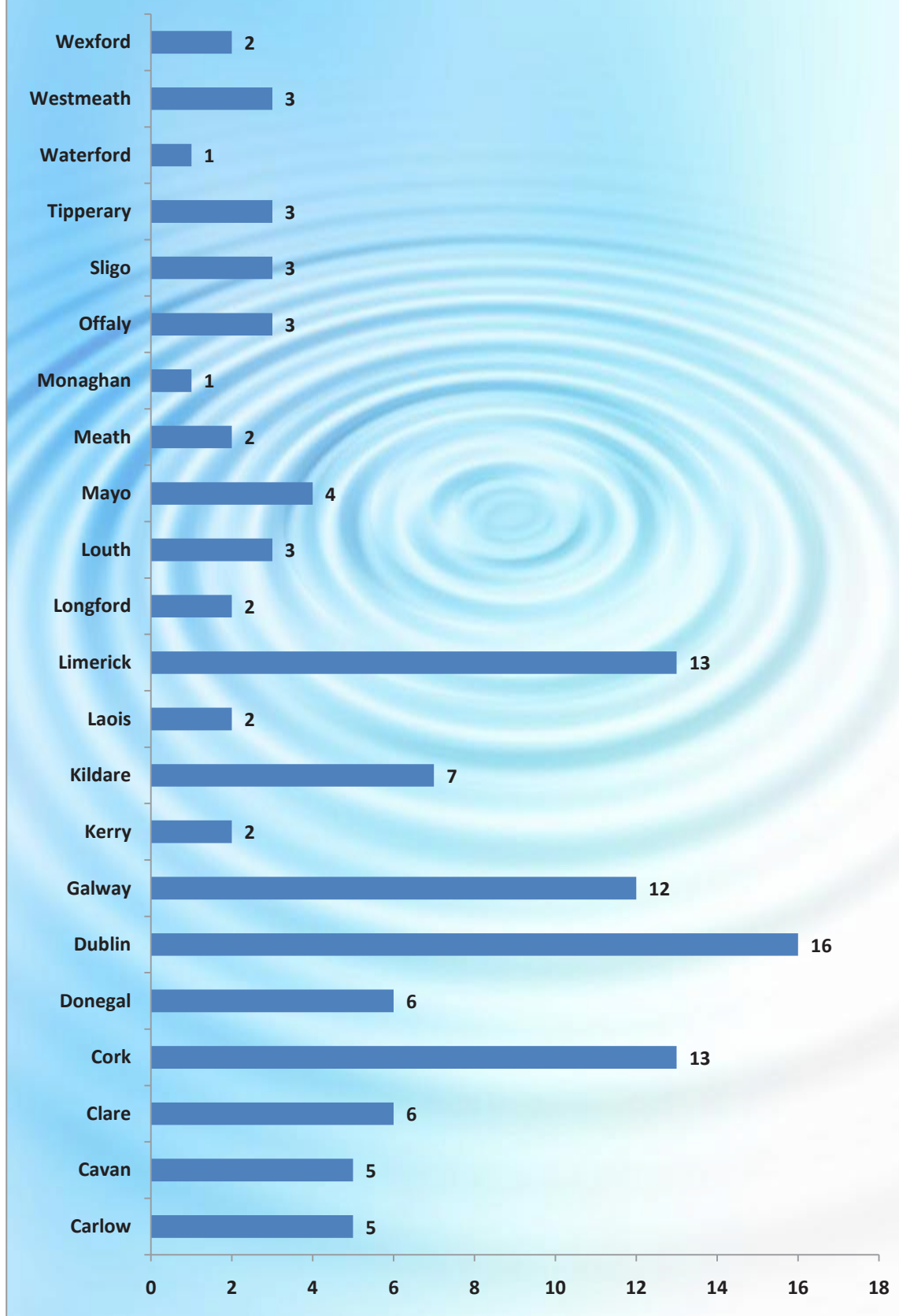
2014 Male Drownings by Cause Total: 90





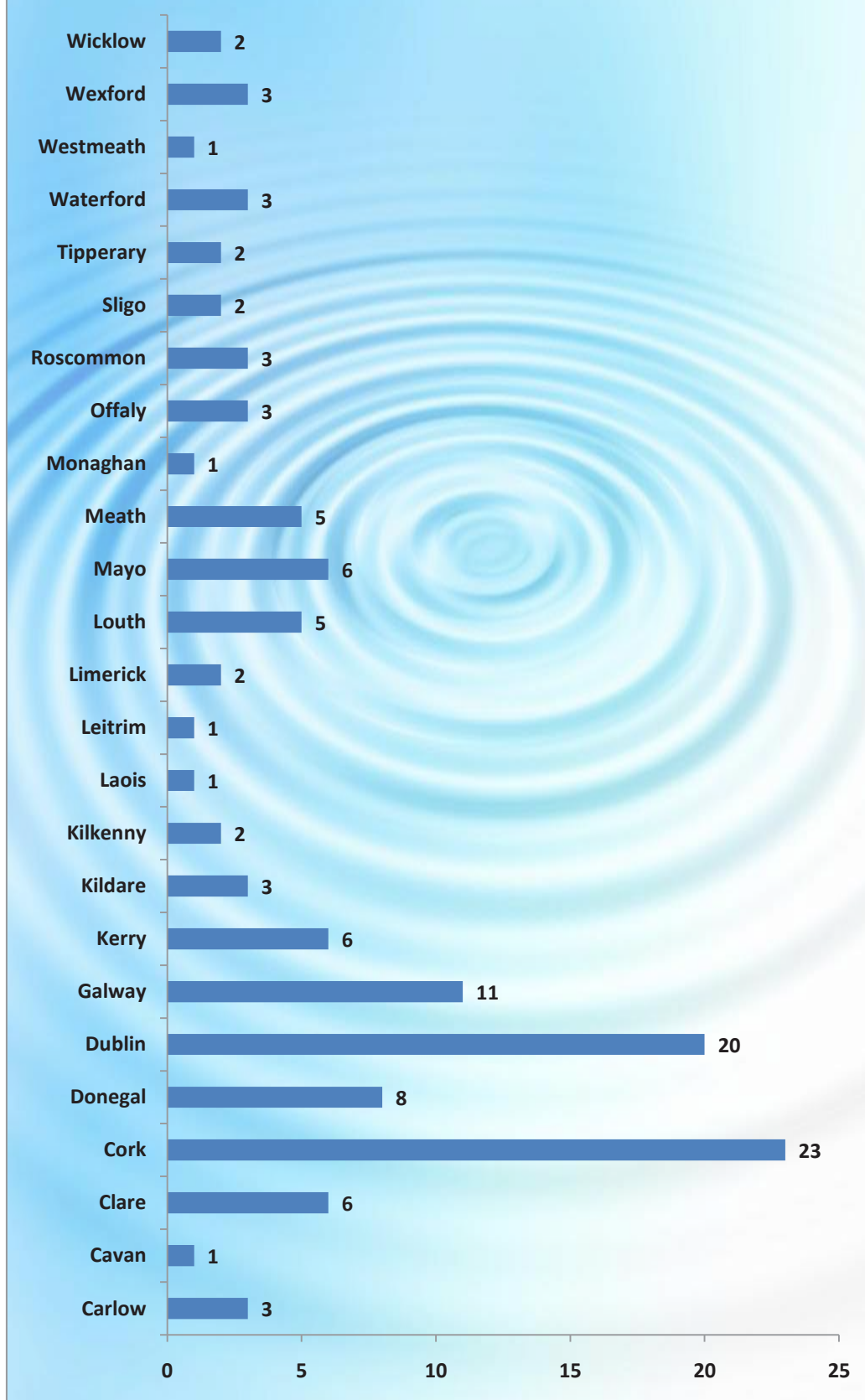
2014 Drownings by County

Total: 114



2013 Drownings by County

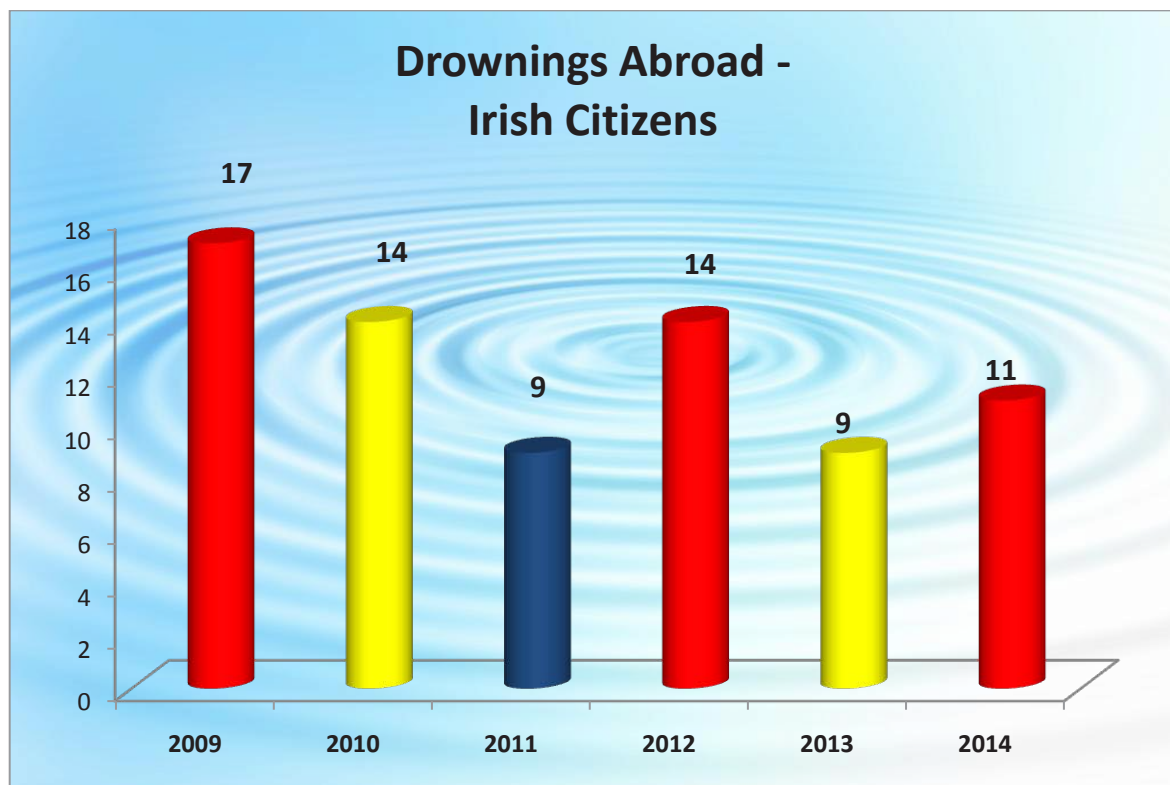
Total: 123



Drowning Statistics – Irish Citizens abroad in 2014

The Consular Assistance Section was informed of the deaths of 217 Irish citizens in 2014. Of these, 11 were by drowning, of which 10 were male and 1 was female.

The breakdown by continent is as follows: Europe: 4; Americas: 3; Asia: 2 Australia: 2.



Report under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 for the period:

1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

Background

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 is intended to provide a robust statutory framework to protect workers who raise concerns regarding potential wrongdoing (whistleblowers) that has come to their attention in the workplace. The legislation provides a comprehensive suite of employment and other protections to whistleblowers that are penalised by their employer or suffer a detriment from a third party on account of raising concerns regarding possible wrongdoing in their workplace. They will benefit from civil immunity from actions for damages and a qualified privilege under defamation law. Making a protected disclosure or reasonably believing a disclosure is protected is a defence to any offence prohibiting or restricting the disclosure of information.

The Act sets out a number of ways in which disclosures can be made – for example, to a person's employer and, in some circumstances, to an external 'prescribed' person. The Act also provides for a worker who is or was employed in a public body to make a disclosure to a Minister of the Government on whom any function relating to the public body is conferred or imposed by or under any enactment.

Annual Report

Each public body is required (under Section 22 of the Act) to publish an annual report setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). This report must not result in persons making disclosures being identifiable. This is the 2014 Annual Report of Irish Water Safety under Section 22 of the Act. It covers the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. Irish Water Safety has issued written procedures to workers to advise them of the approach to take when seeking to make a protected disclosure. There were no such disclosures in 2014.



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