



IRISH WATER SAFETY

SÁBHÁILTEACHT UISCE NA HÉIREANN

ANNUAL REPORT 2015







Annual Report 2015

The Long Walk, Galway, Ireland
Tel: 091 564400; LoCall: 1890420202; Fax: 091 564700
Email: info@iws.ie
Website: www.iws.ie



**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, 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. These include education and training for both children and adults, the provision of nationwide instruction in water safety, rescue, swimming, resuscitation and recovery; the promotion of the efficiency and national standardisation of the lifeguard service, both in our pools and open water.

The success of these programmes and activities is due to the contributions of our four thousand 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.

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.

2015 saw, the continuing of a €150,000 ring fenced funding to target specific at risk groups. This proved highly successful in 2014. We had national media campaigns, both on radio and television, to promote water safety awareness. It also allowed us to fund our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme into more schools.

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 on our beaches, rivers and lakes. The list of the 199 venues is in this report. We reach remote areas where children do not have access to pools. 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. We are constantly looking for support to access these pools with our programmes. Despite this, through this programme, we issued over 28,000 swimming certificates and over 25,000 lifesaving certificates, including Basic Life Support. The total number of certificates issued across all our programmes was over 110,000. This is an increase of 10,000 on 2014, a wonderful achievement!

Lifesaving Sport is growing in strength around the country and engages thousands of young people, at nipper, junior and senior level. It 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 2015. Our National Competition programme catered for almost 2,000 competitors. Internationally we had the best year yet, with our senior team securing 18 medals, 9th place overall in Europe. Our Juniors and Masters secured 31 medals, with the Juniors coming 1st in Europe in the beach competition. I wish to congratulate competitors and particularly Coaches and organisers for their long hours of dedication.

New Adventures in 2015

March of this year we saw the opening of two dedicated National Lifeguard Training Centres. This is a great progression for our organisation. On March 9th centre in Tramore was opened. On March 20th, our Patron President Michael D. Higgins opened the Centre in Whitestrand, Co. Clare. Great credit is due to Waterford and Clare WSAC's for their vision and drive in bringing these projects to fruition. Also, thanks to Waterford and Clare county councils for their support of those projects.

In January 2015, IWS hosted the International Lifesaving Federation of Europe (ILSE) General Assembly and commission meetings in Dublin. We had almost 100 delegates from all across Europe during the three day conference. Discussions were held and views shared as to the best standards and methodologies used to reduce drownings in our countries. Minister of State Paul Kehoe T.D. addressed the conference.

We continue to work with all our Local Authorities through our designated Water Safety Development Officers. This group ensure the lifeguard service within their local authority runs in a professional manner. During the summer of 2015, IWS trained and assessed lifeguards rescued 418 people from lifeguarded waterways. This figure was down on 2014 and although this can be attributed to a large degree to the unfavourable summer compared to the previous year, hopefully this is a sign that the public are becoming more aware. Lifeguards located almost 450 lost children and reunited them with their parents and guardians, showing the constant need for constant uninterrupted supervision.

One of the highlights of our year was the publication of "The History of Irish Water Safety". This coincided with our seventieth year celebrations since being established under the Red Cross. The book details Irish Water Safety's journey through the decades, with evidence based stories and documents, superbly narrated by author Tiarnan O'Sullivan. We are grateful to all of you who too the time to contribute.

We continue to fundraise through our many activities and services that we provide on a voluntary basis. The expenditure saved through corporate sponsorship and benefit-in-kind has made a great positive contribution towards saving life through the promotion of water safety awareness and we are grateful for their contributions over the last twelve months. For example, the SEIKO "Just in Time" Rescue Award continues to recognise those who have saved others from difficulty in water. 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 six staff, headed up by our CEO. As a result of the internal audit of information and communications technology systems (ICT) that was carried out in 2014, a new ICT system was commissioned and is being put in place. I wish to thank the staff for their great co-operation during this process.

2015 saw the passing of three IWS Instructors, Eoin Rock in Leitrim, Niall O'Farrell in Clare, Bobby Hanna in Dublin and former members Jim Neylon, an Instructor in Limerick City and Jimmy O'Leary, a Water Safety Development Officer in Wexford. 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 Alan Kelly T.D., Minister for the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. His support to us as an organisation was very generous during the year. 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
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 and is the FETAC / QQI representative for IWS.

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, Tom is 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.



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 2015 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 4 th	2 4 th	3 1 st	4 17 th	5 12 th	6 7 th	7 2 nd
2015		Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec
Breda	Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John	Considine	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Michael	Cuddihy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom	Doyle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Christy	McDonagh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brendan	McGrath	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Paul	Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seamus	O'Neill	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lola	O'Sullivan	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Martin	O'Sullivan	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Odran	Reid	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Anne	Ryan	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Water Safety 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

paws.iws.ie

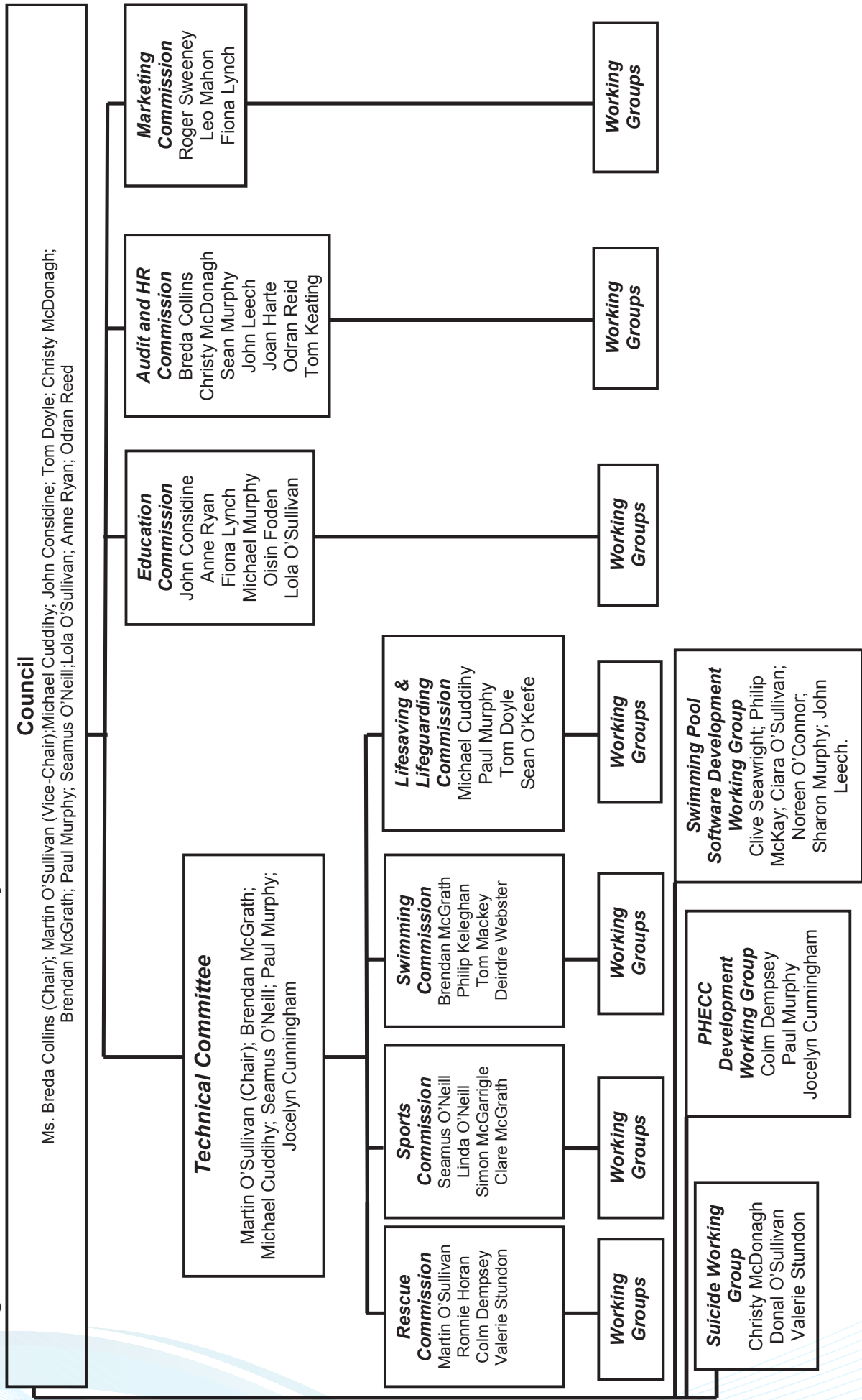
Accountants

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



On left, Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and on right Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government present Colin Griffin, Jackie Roche, Doreen Brennan and Leslie Lennox from Dublin with their 20-Year Service Award at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle on November 17th.

Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety



The Technical Committee

Martin O'Sullivan – Chairman; Michael Cuddihy; Seamus O'Neill;
Brendan McGrath; Paul Murphy; Jocelyn Cunningham.

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 Examiner's Conference
5. Identify and prioritise new projects

Audit Commission:

Breda Collins – Chairman; Sean Murphy; Odran Reid;
Christy McDonagh; Joan Harte; John Leech; Tom Keating

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

Ann McLaughlin from Donegal receives her 10-Year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins, and Mr Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.



Rescue Commission:

Martin O'Sullivan – Chairman; Ronnie Horan; Valerie Stundon; Colm Dempsey

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.

Marketing Commission:

Roger Sweeney- Chairman; Leo Mahon; Fiona Lynch

Duties:

1. Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within the S.I. and Strategic Development Plan
2. Standardisation of merchandise such as certificates, books, manuals, leaflets, posters and online.
3. Manage the strategy for press releases
4. Ensure that IWS is well represented at exhibitions countrywide
5. Liaise with RoSPA & the Marine Safety Working Group
6. Promotion of the public awareness of water safety
7. Assist in organising national ceremonies, conferences & events
8. Represent IWS at LAMA
9. Market the IWS Brand



Minister Alan Kelly launches safetyzone.ie flanked by Roger Sweeney, IWS Marketing Manager & Deputy CEO; Ciara Byrne, IWS Lifeguard Galway; Adam Caulfield, IWS Lifeguard Galway and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman.

10. Monitor Press Cuttings
11. Source sponsorship
12. Promote the wearing of lifejackets.
13. Develop the commercial strand to our organisation; improve branding and public relations.
14. Liaise with the Charles Thompson Award
15. Analyse drowning statistics

Sports Commission:

Seamus O'Neill – Chairman; Linda O'Neill; Simon McGarrigle; Clare McGrath

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



Simon McGarrigle of the IWS Sports Commission with Emma Toner, Marketing Manager of Peugeot Ireland, Breda Collins Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Seamus O'Neill, Chairman of Irish Water Safety's Sports Commission at the presentation of a Peugeot van to IWS for transporting sports equipment to the various events nationwide.

Lifesaving & Lifeguarding Commission:

Michael Cuddihy – Chairman; Paul Murphy; Tom Doyle; Sean O'Keefe

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



David Pringle from Wicklow at the IWS Surf Rescue championships on Saturday 12th September 2015, Spanish Point, Co. Clare.

Over 150 lifeguards from eleven counties competed in 21 events that saw Co. Clare emerge overall winners.

Education Commission:

John Considine – Chairman; Anne Ryan; Oisin Foden; Michael Murphy

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



Maura Burns from Louth receives her 15-Year Service Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Minister Alan Kelly.

Education to maximise water safety awareness training and public awareness programmes.

10. Manage, monitor and enforce best practices in accordance with Children First and our own Code of Ethics for children.

Swimming Commission:

Brendan McGrath – Chairman; Philip Keleghan; Tom Mackey; Deirdre Webster

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



Wexford's John Matthews competing in the Men's Manikin Tow event at the Irish Water Safety National Stillwater Championships in the University of Limerick's 50 metre pool.

Media Partnerships 2015

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

566 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals, 616 broadcast mentions and 67 media interviews conducted.

PRESS RELEASES

- International Life Saving Europe (ILSE) meets in Dublin
- National Lifeguard Training Centre opens in Tramore, Co Waterford
- National Lifeguard Training Centre opens in White Strand, Co Clare
- Easter Appeal - ensure your child is wise to staying safe near water
- May Bank Holiday increases risks so Stay Away From Edges
- Inflatable toys are not suitable for Irish waters
- Be water wise this June Bank Holiday weekend
- Spring tide warning
- Safety in the fishing industry – a working group report
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- August bank holiday - full moon's high tide warning
- Rescue 2015 - Team Ireland on the crest of a wave
- Team Ireland makes history at European Championships
- Lifeguards rescued 173 swimmers in July.
- National Beach Rescue Championships
- European Junior and Masters Championships, Alicante, Spain
- Five people drown every fortnight - stay safe, smart and sober near water
- National Awards Ceremony: Twenty-eight lives saved in near-drowning rescues
- Christmas and New Year



Mark Cagney from TV3 – Ireland AM receives a Media Appreciation Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.

Johnny O'Hanlon of The Southern Star newspaper receives a Media Appreciation Award for the Southern Star from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.



PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Exhibitions

- Holiday World, Jan 23-25
- Ireland Angling Expo, Feb 21-22
- Dive Show, March 1
- Irish Skipper Show, March 6-8
- Galway Watersports Show, April 11-12
- National Ploughing Championships, Sept 23-25



Joe Bergin, IWS Laois Volunteer demonstrates BLS skills to Taoiseach Enda Kenny at the National Ploughing Championships

- Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show, Nov 7 - 8
- IWS Annual Awards Ceremony, Nov 10
- HSA "Keep Safe" partnership events nationwide
- National Water Safety Awareness Week, May 25th – June 1st
- The SEIKO Just In Time Award



IWS Education Development Officer Oisín Foden teaches the IWS PAWS programme to primary school children in Gort.

National Awards Ceremony at George's Hall, Dublin Castle on Tuesday 18th November 2014. Twenty-eight 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.

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 25,242 Swimming, Lifesaving and Water Safety certificates in 2015.

In addition, a further 56,494 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 28,176 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, and 271 PHECC Awards giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 110,183.

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 56,494 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2015.



LEFT: Natalie O'Meara from Dublin receives her 15-Year Service Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.



RIGHT: Noeleen Skelly from Cavan receives her 10-Year Service Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Minister Alan Kelly.



LEFT: Finbarr Woulfe from Mallow Search & Rescue receives his 15-Year Service Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Minister Alan Kelly.



RIGHT: Greg Collins from Cork receives his 15-Year Service Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Minister Alan Kelly.

Certificates issued in 2015

Aquatics organiser	109	Rescue 3	912
Aquatics Pool Assistant	1	Rescue 4	383
Assistant Swimming Teacher	587	Safety 1	1747
Beach Lifeguard	244	Safety 2	2387
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	171	Safety 3	2045
BLS 1	2829	Safety 4	2038
BLS 2	1801	Surf 1	51
BLS 3	1085	Surf 2	18
Challenge 1	189	Surf 3	3
Challenge 2	268	Surf 4	4
Disabilities Aquatics Leader	7	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	48
Disabilities Aquatics Teacher	7	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	82
Endurance 1	404	Surf Rescue Boat Crew	13
Endurance 2	858	Surf Rescue Boat Driver	14
In-house Pool Lifeguard Provider	12	Surf Rescue Boat Senior Tutor	5
Instructor	137	Surf Rescue Boat Tutor	13
IOW Lifeguard	16	Survival 1	284
IOW Lifeguard Course Provider	2	Survival 2	576
IOW Lifeguard Revalidation	8	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	32
IWS Code of Ethics	128	Swimming Teacher	255
National PLG Level 1	414	Swimming Teacher Tutor	2
National PLG Level 1Revalidation	105	Water Safety Awareness	272
National PLG Level 2	1160	Water Safety Awareness Beach Aware	1
National PLG Level 2Revalidation	924	Water Safety Awareness Boating Aware	20
Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	10	Water Safety Awareness General & Pool	71
Rescue 1	1394	Water Safety Awareness IOW Aware	18
Rescue 2	1078	PHECC certificates	271
Seal, Marlin, Orca certificates	28176	PAWS for primary schools	56494
Total	110,183		

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	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Garty Lough, Arva	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	July	Water Safety
Clare	Miltown Malbay	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 4
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 3 & 4
Clare	West County Hotel	August	Safety 3
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Endurance 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 2
Clare	Kilrush	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilrush	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Flagmount	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Doonbeg	July	Swim & Safety
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 3
Clare	Labasheeda	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Labasheeda	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	August	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	July	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Mountshannon	August	water safety
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 3 & 4
Clare	Ballyvaughan	August	Swim, Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Rescue 1
Cork	Ardgroom	August	Swim & Water Safety

Cork	Sherkin	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Midleton	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Schull	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ardfield	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Carrignavar Pool	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballibrannigan	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Skibbereen	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Adrigole	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garrylucas	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Oysterhaven	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Bere Island	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballingeary	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cape Clear	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballymacoda	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Eyeries	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Courtmacsherry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Youghal	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Union Hall	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Kilcrohane	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Rosscarbery	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garnish Pier	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Glandore	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Urhan	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	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	Curragloe	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



Josephine O'Rourke from Monaghan receives her 15-Year Service Award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.

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
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	FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
Roger Sweeney	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury
John Leech & Breda Collins	Charles Thomson Award Jury with the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS).
Séan Murphy	IWS Internal Auditor
Michael Murphy	National Designated Liaison Person & Codes of Ethics Inspector



Jimmy Connors and Martin Quinn from Limerick Marine Rescue receive 30-Year Service Awards from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.

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

- **Water Safety Development Officer's Conference**
15th – 17th April, Donegal
- **Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar**
29th September, Miltown Malbay, Co Clare
- **Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) Conference**
17th October, Lucan, Co Dublin.
- **National Awards Ceremony**
17th November, Dublin Castle
- **In-house Pool Lifeguard Provider's Course**
Dublin
- **Swim Teacher's Tutor's Course**
Feb & Mar, Athlone
- **Inshore Rescue Boat Course**
22nd & 23rd May & 17th & 18th April, Maritime College, Cork
- **World Congress on Drowning Prevention**
4th – 6th November, Malaysia
- **International Life Saving Europe (ILSE) Extraordinary General Assembly, Commission meetings and Best Practice Seminar**
Jan 15 – 17, Dublin



Nora Hassett from Waterford receives her 10-Year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins, and Minister Alan Kelly.



Dr. Detlev Mohor, President of ILSE with Paul Kehoe, Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Departments of An Taoiseach and Defence, Breda Collins, IWS Chairman and John Leech, IWS CEO at the ILSE assembly in Dublin.



Kilkenny & Dublin Gardaí Aidan Monahan and Niall Kenny receive Seiko Just In Time awards from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

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 2015, a total of 14 IWS Risk Assessments were carried out:

Kilkee, Co. Clare
Rossbeigh, Kerry
Traught, Galway
Blackrock, Galway
Keem, Mayo
Keel, Mayo
Dugort, Mayo
Golden Strand, Mayo
Ross, Mayo
Glenmire, Cork
Loughrea Lake, Galway
Tra an Doilin, Galway
An Tra Mhor, Galway
Kilmurvey, Galway



Erika McCarthy from Cork receives a Seiko Just In Time award from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.



At the prize-giving for the IWS National Beach Rescue Championships at Spanish Point, receiving the overall trophy for the best Youth Beach and Pool Rescue combined performance in 2015 were (L/R) Samuel Moore with Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Aodhran Savage and Ben Dunphy representing Waterford Boys.

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

County	Rescue without using a Board / Craft	Rescue using a Rescue Board / Craft	First Aid Given	Lost Child Found	Advice Given	Accident prevented	Other Incident
Carlow	0	0	115	0	588	148	0
Cork	18	11	372	19	10336	3448	11
Clare	10	27	411	202	11931	1292	191
Donegal	0	0	57	8	3348	1189	0
Dublin	6	6	197	31	1146	648	26
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	7	0	31	1	171	37	0
Fingal	2	1	71	11	2391	301	29
Galway	14	9	192	2	1661	336	469
Kerry	25	122	549	76	3186	1296	950
Kilkenny	9	1	620	0	3011	600	1
Limerick Co.	1	54	18	1	982	662	0
Louth	0	2	44	2	495	78	17
Mayo	6	17	121	6	12646	4087	3
Meath	0	0	31	0	30	0	0
Roscommon	0	0	63	0	245	6	0
Sligo	2	25	6	1	1034	565	297
Tipperary	0	0	11	0	3718	0	0
Waterford	4	1	108	18	5208	1560	693
Wexford	8	6	592	49	1672	266	310
Wicklow	16	8	228	21	133,316	0	84
Totals	128	290	3837	448	197115	16519	3081

Total Rescues from Drowning

418

Odhran Savage from Waterford at the annual IWS Surf Rescue Championships in Spanish Point. Over 150 lifeguards from eleven counties competed in 21 events.



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'Ceallaig presented a silver trophy to Irish Water Safety for competition between the counties of Ireland. This award is still the premier award associated with our National Lifesaving Championships. The winning County is based on cumulative points from all events in both the National Surf and the National Still Water Lifesaving Championships.



The start of the Men's Ski Rescue event Water Safety at the annual IWS Surf Rescue Championships in Spanish Point, Co Clare.

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.

It was a busy year in lifesaving sport. The European Senior team brought home eighteen medals, placing them fifth overall in the beach competition and ninth overall in Europe. The European Juniors and Masters brought home thirty-one medals, placing the girl's team first in the beach competition and sixth in Europe.

It was also a busy year for Head Coaches Triona McMenamin and Oisín McGrath with Brendan McGrath and David Butler working alongside them and Squad Administrator Alison Deane working in support. Four squad camps and four coaching courses took place as did an Intervarsity competition and a total of eight Nipper competitions, four pool based and four in open water. There were five Junior competitions, one pool based and four in open water. There were two Senior competitions, pool and open water. There were also two

Master's competitions, pool and open water. A well needed Sports Van was purchased to accommodate the logistics of this busy schedule.

National Senior & Masters Surf Rescue Championships:

Clare won The President's Trophy, presented to Ireland's top Lifeguards competing at Irish Water Safety's National Beach Rescue Championships at Spanish Point beach, Co Clare on Saturday 12th Sept 2015. 152 of Ireland's best Lifesavers from eleven counties contended with challenging open water conditions in simulated emergency rescue scenarios designed to test their swimming and rescue board skills. Competitions throughout the year see Lifeguards qualify as the top competitors in their respective counties before going head to head for the overall national title.

OVERALL RESULTS:

President's Trophy (overall highest points): **Clare Ladies**

Men's Surf Rescue: 1st: Clare; 2nd: Waterford; 3rd: Wexford

Ladies Surf Rescue: 1st: Clare; 2nd: Waterford; 3rd: Cork

Master's Surf Rescue: Cork

Best Inland County: Kilkenny

Best Youth Team: Waterford boys



Receiving the President's Trophy for the best Beach and Pool Rescue combined performance were (L/R) Britney Heagney, Katie Shannon with Breda Collins, IWS Chairman and Lily Barrett, Roisin Cahill, flanked by Clare Water Safety's Sinead Mortell and Norma Cahill.

Team Scores

Senior Ladies	Score	Senior Men	Score
Clare A	273	Clare A	269
Waterford A	140	Waterford A	153.3
Cork A	114	Wexford A	87
Wicklow A	98	Wicklow A	81
Wexford A	48	Waterford B	80
Kilkenny A	40.5	Sligo A	76
Clare B	38	Waterford C	59
Galway A	34	Galway A	76
Waterford B	31	Clare B	55
Donegal A	29	Donegal A	38.5
Cork B	25.5	Cork B	31
Dublin A	23	Waterford D	23
Sligo A	1	Dublin A	19
		Cork A	18
		Mayo A	18
		Meath A	8
		Galway B	8
		Kilkenny A	8
		Wexford B	6

National Junior & Youth Surf Rescue Championships:

Girls Team Scores

1 Wicklow 386; 2 Clare 370; 3 Waterford 350;
4 Cork 295; 5 Wexford 230; 6 Donegal 143; 7 Dublin 123; 8 Sligo 116; 9 Mayo 49; 10 Kildare 27; 11 Donegal Girls A 14

Boys Team Scores

1 Waterford 526; 2 Wexford 481; 3 Clare 287;
4 Cork 266; 5 Wicklow 110; 6 Donegal 104; 7 Louth 101; 8 Sligo 99; 9 Mayo 96; 10 Galway 74; 11 Mayo Boys A 34; 12 Dublin 7

National Nipper Surf Rescue Championships:

Combined Team Scores

1 Cork 2,037; 2 Clare 1,746; 3 Wicklow 1,568;
4 Donegal 1,288; 5 Waterford 1,128; 6 Wexford 955.5; 7 Sligo 471.5; 8 Mayo 244; 9 Kildare 231; 10 Galway 54; 11 Dublin 52; 12 Kilkenny 47; 13 Louth 30

Regional Junior & Youth Surf Championships

Leinster: 23 August – results online

Munster: 23 August – results online

Connaught / Ulster: 23 August – results online

Regional Nipper Surf Championships

Leinster: 22 August – results online

Munster: 22 August – results online

Connaught / Ulster: 22 August – results online



Eoghan Trihy from Waterford competing in the Manikin Tow event at the National Stillwater Championships.

National Nipper Stillwater Championships

11 April – results online

National Junior, Senior & Masters Stillwater Championships

The defending champions Clare won the title of Pool Rescue Champions 2015. A field of 250 competitors took part in the nine-hour competition of swimming pool rescues at the University of Limerick's 50-metre pool. Many of the competitors, having worked as Lifeguards in pools nationwide, got their chance to pitch their skills against the finest lifesavers in the country.

RESULTS:

Senior Men:	1st Clare A;	2nd Wexford A;	3rd Waterford A
Senior Ladies:	1st Clare;	2nd Cork;	3rd Donegal A
Junior Boys:	1st Waterford A;	2nd Wexford A;	3rd Louth A
Junior Girls:	1st Wicklow A;	2nd Clare A;	3rd Wexford A
Masters Men:	1st Cork;	2nd Kilkenny;	3rd Clare
Masters Ladies:	1st Donegal;	2nd Cork;	3rd Waterford

European Lifesaving Championships

Ireland's top Lifeguards won eighteen medals in Wales competing against Europe's finest athletes at the European Lifesaving Championships.

Medal Winners were:

Bernard Cahill from Clare won Gold in the Surf Swim at 500m. Denise Bolger from Wexford & Emer Kelly from Wicklow won Gold in the Line Throw. Dave Butler from Dublin and Cameron Steele from Wexford won Gold in the Line Throw. Denise Bolger from Wexford won Gold in the 90-metre Sprint

Roisin Cahill & Lily Barrett from Clare won Silver in the women's Board Rescue race. Bernard Cahill won Silver in the Surf Board Race at 500m and Silver in the Ironman competition which is a combination of a 2000 Metre Swim, Board, ski and run race.

Dave Butler from Dublin, Joe Mooney from Sligo, Bernard Cahill from Clare and James Hassey Waterford won Bronze in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC)

Denise Bolger from Wexford, Emer Kelly from Wicklow, Emma O'Brien from Wicklow and Brodie Edmead from Cork won Bronze in the Sprint Relay.

Ireland was 5th overall in the Beach Competitions and 9th in the combined pool and beach events. The teams broke 27 Irish Records.

European Junior & Masters Lifesaving Championships

Ireland's top Lifesavers brought home a total of thirty-one medals and were crowned European Female Junior Beach Champions in the European Junior & Masters Lifesaving Championships in Torrevieja, Alicante, Spain (23 – 27 Sept).

The Championships simulate real-life rescue situations that Lifeguards can expect to encounter and pits the best Junior and Masters Lifesavers from around Europe against each other in a series of gruelling water rescue scenarios in both pool and beach environments.

Having dominated the beach competition, Team Ireland's female juniors secured 1st place in the Beach competition and 2nd place when combined with the pool results. The Boys and Girls Beach teams combined finished 3rd overall in Europe.



Lily Barrett secures Gold in the Board Rescue at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships in Alicante, Spain

This gave the Junior Girls and Boys Teams a 6th place overall in Europe with a total tally of 31 medals (pool and beach combined).

National Lifeguard Training Centre opens in Tramore, Co Waterford

A newly-built National Lifeguard Training Centre officially opened on the Lower Promenade in Tramore, Co Waterford on Monday, March 9th.

The first of its kind in Ireland, the €500,000 centre was developed through a unique partnership between Tramore Surf Lifesaving Club, Irish Water Safety and Waterford City & County Council with support from Waterford Leader Partnership.

The three-storey building has a spectacular ocean-themed design reflecting its seafront location. It accommodates Tramore Surf Lifesaving Club on a year-round basis and Waterford City & County Council's beach lifeguards during the summer season. The lifeguards will use an observation deck on the third floor that provides excellent views across Tramore Bay.



Aside from the obvious water safety and community benefits of having a National Lifeguard Training Centre in Tramore, there is also a positive economic impact for the town from increased visitor numbers as people from around Ireland come to Tramore for lifesaving training programmes.

National Lifeguard Training Centre opens in White Strand, Co Clare

President Michael D. Higgins officially opened a new Lifesaving Training Centre at White Strand, Miltown Malbay, Co Clare on Friday March 20th. It provides training for Lifeguards and the general public in Irish Water Safety's syllabus for swimming, water survival and rescue skills that save lives from drowning.



The centre was developed through a partnership between the Clare committee of Irish Water Safety and Clare County Council. It accommodates the year-round training of Clare's beach lifeguards, surf lifesaving teams and a wide range of aquatic skills training. Other community use is also planned.

All of the volunteers involved can be very proud of this wonderful achievement and it is fitting that the centre marks the birthplace of lifesaving training in Ireland now in its 70th anniversary year since the official establishment of Irish Water Safety in 1945."

Thousands of children and adults have already benefitted from the training provided by Clare volunteers and the skills instilled in so many have saved many lives over the decades. This new centre now provides the ideal support necessary to expand the delivery of life saving training courses to benefit even more within the community.

National Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, 17th November 2015, The Print Works Conference Centre, 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 1,535 years of personal service of 84 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.

Rosie Foley

Rosie Foley is a mother, a teacher, an international rugby player for Ireland and has been volunteering for IWS in Clare, Tipperary and Limerick for about thirty years. She is also the first person to swim down the 38km of Lough Derg and four weeks after that she swam the English channel from Shakespeare’s beach in Dover to Wissant in France – a feat she accomplished in 15 hours and 53 minutes. She got out of the water in time to



Rosie Foley receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins, and Minister Alan Kelly.

commentate for SKY television when the Irish women’s rugby team played and beat the All Blacks in August 2014. The Irish Long Distance Swimming Association gave Rosie a “Performance of the Year” for those two swims and Irish Water Safety is grateful for Rosie’s fundraising efforts throughout those two wonderful achievements.

James Lynch

James Lynch cannot be with us today but receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award for also raising funds for having swam the 38km of Lough Derg with Rosie Foley. These funds are used for events that target those at risk of drowning and we are indebted to James for his efforts.

Students from NUIG's School of Business "Skills For Work Life" community partner programme

Four students: John Porter, Ka Hei Cheng, Cillian Poole and Conor Rafter

Staff: Michael Campion

The Skills for Work Life Community Partner programme is a module taken by students of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics at NUI, Galway. The programme integrates meaningful community engagement with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen community links.

By taking part in this module, students are provided with a valuable opportunity to develop new skills, which will ultimately make them more employable. Four students developed a project to reach and engage the public with an online, radio and press campaign highlighting the fact that six children aged fourteen and under drowned in Ireland in 2014. The campaign prompted parents, guardians and schoolteachers to teach Irish Water Safety's primary school curriculum and for this we are very grateful.

Garda Brian McDonnell

Brian is a Garda on Inish Mor, one of the Aran islands off the west coast of Ireland. Following the dramatic rescue by SEIKO Just In Time recipients Seamus McCarthy and Fionnuala Quigley of Apu Gupta, a tourist visiting from India, Brian helped to raise public awareness about the dangers of being too close to the edges of the Atlantic ocean coastline by sending the video of the incident to Irish Water Safety which became a feature on the RTE news and quickly went viral online with hits to date in excess of 1.2 million. Brian also ensured that the rescued girl and her family were accommodated by the relevant authorities while the 21 year old visitor made a full recovery in hospital. Irish Water Safety's public awareness campaigns rely on the input of people like Brian to bring stories to the public and for this we are deeply grateful.

The Forge Recording Studio, Galway

Irish Water Safety's radio and television campaigns are made possible thanks to the generous assistance of various contributors, in this case the Forge Recording Studio in Galway for kindly donating studio time and the resources necessary to create a radio campaign featuring Irish Actor Paraic Breathnach which broadcast as a prompt to constantly supervise children without any interruption. We are deeply grateful to Bernard O'Connell at The Forge for facilitating this campaign which was an important element of our October Bank Holiday awareness campaign.

Miriam O'Callaghan

Miriam kindly offered to raise awareness of a new initiative by IWS that brings all the National Governing Bodies of various aquatic activities together under one website so that the public can easily and quickly find training for the aquatic activity of their choice. The new site www.safetyzone.ie was promoted by Miriam using her own Twitter feed and she kindly recorded both a radio campaign and TV campaign to encourage the public to get training. We rely on many people to promote



Safetyzone.ie provides a wide range of training contacts.

water safety best practices and we are particularly grateful to Miriam for using her profile to get the attention of those at risk of drowning.

Colm Plunkett

In August of this year, Colm Plunkett, an experienced sea angler was fishing on the Beara Peninsula when he was swept into the sea by an enormous wave and unlike others who tragically drowned in similar circumstances over the years, Colm was wearing a lifejacket and he credits this with saving his life. Conscious of the importance of prompting other anglers to wear a lifejacket, Colm contacted Irish Water Safety and

recorded a radio campaign that broadcast on national and local radio stations. By setting himself up as an example of how quickly an accident can happen and how tragedy can be averted, Colm became a key element of an awareness campaign that continues to run and will hopefully prompt others to make a habit of wearing a lifejacket even when on shore.



Colm Plunkett receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

Scrogall TV

Scrogall TV is a small community TV project for the Dingle Peninsula in Co Kerry founded in 2010. In August 2015, Déirdre Ní Ghrifín reported on the dramatic rescue of eight people caught in a rip current at the back beach on Brandon Bay. In a special extended edition, Scrogall TV spoke to local water safety experts about rip currents - what they are, how to spot them, and what to do if you get caught in one. They also produced an Irish language version and the item is available on YouTube. We are delighted to highlight Scrogall TV for their work in helping to keep people safe from rip currents when enjoying our wonderful waterways and particularly the scenic beaches of the Dingle Peninsula.

Emergency Services Ireland magazine

Irish Water Safety relies on the assistance of a host of partners in various media to promote



Grace Heneghan from Emergency Services Ireland magazine receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

our water safety messages. A particularly strong element of this support comes from Grace Heneghan at Emergency Services Ireland magazine. 'Emergency Services Ireland' provides a platform for the state and voluntary emergency services to highlight their initiatives and projects. This quarterly magazine is circulated to personnel working in both the state and voluntary emergency services agencies, including An Garda Síochána, Fire Services, HSE Ambulance Service, Defence Forces, Irish Prison Service, the Irish Coast Guard, Mountain Rescue, Civil

Defence, and Irish Red Cross. Since the first issue was published in April 2001, the magazine has developed a very strong readership base, both at home and abroad and Irish Water Safety is deeply appreciative to Grace for delivering our safety messages to these groups.

Irish TV

Irish TV broadcasts local stories to a global audience on Sky channel 191 and is viewed in 140 countries across the world. They have supported Irish Water Safety by creating and broadcasting public service announcements that give viewers the knowledge they need to stay safe near water. In addition to this free advertising, Irish TV dedicated a full half hour prime time programme to the coverage

of Irish Water Safety's National Lifesaving Championships in Spanish Point, Co. Clare. This programme highlighted the importance of learning swimming and lifesaving skills and promoted the important work of our Lifeguards around the country.



Irish TV's Sally Harding receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

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.

Donncha O'Siadhail

In September, Donncha O'Siadhail, chair of our Meath Water Safety Committee, overcame huge physical adversity to be crowned Liffey Swim Champion 2015. He also holds the Irish Long Course Freestyle record in the 1,500, 800, 400 and 200 metres in his age group. This was accomplished even though Donncha, a teacher in Meath, had suffered a shattered collarbone in July 2014 before winning the 100-year old Liffey Swim Trophy. Donncha continues to volunteer running lifesaving classes in Trim.



Donncha O'Siadhail receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

Peugeot Ireland

Peugeot Ireland has kindly facilitated the acquirement by IWS of a new van that will be used to transport the equipment necessary to run the wide range of activities nationwide. This ranges from Lifesaving sport competitions both here and abroad and a number of conferences, exhibitions and exhibitions given every year by IWS volunteers around the country. The sponsored branding of water safety messages on the vehicle will deliver key messages to the passing public about how to stay safe in, on and around water and will prompt people to take IWS classes wherever the vehicle travels in the country. We are deeply grateful to Peugeot for helping us to raise awareness and reduce drownings.



Emma Toner, Marketing Manager of Peugeot Ireland with Simon McGarrigle of the IWS Sports Commission at the presentation of a Peugeot van to IWS.

Active School Flag

An Active School is a school that strives to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. Irish Water Safety is partners with Active School Flag as part of our remit to deliver water safety information to primary school children within the primary school syllabus created by IWS.. Karen Cotter and her team support the programme by providing PAWS information to teachers at active school flag information nights and through their website. Over the years, they have helped Irish Water Safety to reach hundreds of primary school children at risk of drowning and for this we are hugely grateful.



Karen Cotter of Active School Flag receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

Media Appreciation Awards:

Provincial Radio Station Award: TippFM

The provincial radio station award is presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year, TippFM has highlighted a number of water safety issues and for this we are very grateful.



Trudy Waters and Sarah McCormack of Tipp FM receive a Media Appreciation Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly

Community Radio Station Award: Athlone Community Radio

Broadcasting since 2006, Athlone Community Radio was set up to entertain, engage and inform its listenership in the Athlone region. We congratulate them and wish them every success into the future and thank them for their coverage of water safety matters.



Provincial Press Award:

Southern Star

The Southern Star is a weekly newspaper out every Thursday that has covered the areas of South, East, Mid and West Cork since 1889. Many of its articles covered water safety topics of concern to the general public. They regularly provide extensive coverage on such stories and for this we are very grateful.

Ed Coyle & Ursula Ledwith of Athlone Community Radio receive a Media Appreciation Award IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

National Press Award: The Irish Daily Star

The Irish Daily Star has served Ireland in print form since 1988 when it was established to provide Irish readers with home grown 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 Star 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. For reaching those at risk with relevant water safety messages, we are very thankful.

National Radio Award: Today FM

We are grateful to TodayFM for liaising with Irish Water on many fronts to deliver important water safety messages to the public and for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

National TV Award: TV3 – Ireland AM

Ireland AM featured an in-studio interview with IWS Lifeguards along with a couple who nearly lost their three grandchildren to drowning. The coverage highlighted the importance of child supervision and in the wake of six child drownings in 2014, the interviews were particularly relevant.



Lindsay Stevens from Dublin receives her 15-Year Service Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins, and Minister Alan Kelly.

Sports Persons of the Year Award:

Lily Barrett

Lily Barrett, aged 18 from County Clare had a phenomenal year in surf lifesaving this year being crowned European Junior Iron woman and Board Champion at the European Junior Surf Lifesaving Championships in Spain in September of this year. This talented athlete anchored a superb Irish Girls team to win the European Beach competition overall and coming 3rd place with the pool and beach combined.

Lily teamed up with Roisin Cahill, Clare to win gold in the Board Rescue and the Junior Girls team also won the taplin relay with Lily on the board, Roisin on the ski, Emer Kelly, Wicklow swimming and Denise Bolger, Wexford on the run leg. Lily also showed her strength on the sand picking up a silver medal with Emer, Denise and Emma O'Brien from Wicklow in the 4.90m sprint relay just behind a strong French side. Not just a beach athlete Lily also qualified for the final of the 200m super lifesaver event in the pool as well as picking up valuable points in the relay events.

Bernard Cahill and Lily Barrett from Clare receive their Sports Persons of the Year Awards from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.



At the European Senior Lifesaving Championships in Wales in August Lily showed how good Irish lifesaving is when she picked up a silver medal in the board rescue with team mate Roisin Cahill. These two girls, both juniors had a fantastic race and fought to the line with current World Senior silver medalists from France. Lily also had superb races in the swim, board and iron with 3 top 10 finishes in Europe.

Lily is an outstanding athlete winning her first National title at age 12 representing county Clare, following this up with her first international medal at age 15 in the European Junior run swim run in Sweden, she is now one to watch on the European and World stage.

Bernard Cahill

Bernard Cahill from Clare was one to watch at the European Senior Lifesaving Championships in Aberystwyth, Wales where in August of this year he was crowned European Senior Surf Race Champion.

Bernard won international lifesaving medal, bronze in the board rescue with Dylan Barrett at the European Junior Championships when he was 15 and he hasn't stopped winning National and international medals since.

This year he won gold in the surf race at the European Senior Lifesaving Championships in a superbly competitive field of international lifesaving super stars. He followed this with silver in the iron man event, silver in the board race and a bronze in the SERC (Simulated Emergency Rescue Competition).

Bernard also picked up gold at the National Lifesaving Championships in September this year in the swim, board, iron man, ski and board rescue, setting a super high standard for the other athletes.

Bernard who trains in Limerick with the Swim Ireland high performance team is also the National Senior 400m Short Course Champion with a time of 3.50.6. He has also just won an impressive 9 Munster Gold's at the Munster SC Championships last month.

A fantastic, dedicated athlete Bernard is now looking forward to the World Lifesaving Championships in Holland in 2016 where he hopes to show the World lifesaving super stars just how well he can compete.



A History of Irish Water Safety, written by IWS Cork member Tiarnan O'Sullivan (left) and launched by Minister Alan Kelly (right) with IWS Chairman Breda Collins.

Long Service Awards:

Certificate of Service

Ms Valerie Stundon
Mr Michael Turner
Mr Noel Donnelly
Ms Geraldine Deasy
Mr Noel Donnelly
Ms Jackie O'Reilly
Mr Vincent O'Regan

10-Year Service

Limerick Marine
Derrynane CRBI
Derrynane CRBI
Derrynane CRBI
Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI

Mr Bruno Segnodat
Mr Martin O Sullivan
Mr Greg Clifford
Ms Nora Hassett
Mr Justin Crowley
Mr James Hassey
Ms Ann McLaughlin

Mallow S&R
Mallow S&R
Mallow S&R
Waterford
Cork
Waterford
Donegal
Ballyunion

Mr Robbie Shelly
Mr Aidan Coughlan
Mr Martin O'Sullivan
Mr Jeremy Brosnan
Mr Denis Quinlan
Mr Gerard Prendiville
Mr Kevin Murray

Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI
Schull CRBI

Mr PJ O Gorman
Mr Declan Marnane
Ms Aoife Fitzpatrick
Ms Linda O'Neill
Ms Noeleen Skelly
Ms Darina Halpenny

CRBI
Wicklow
Wicklow
Wicklow
Cavan
Dublin

Recipients of the 10-year Long Service Award included (clockwise) Dave Finn from Limerick Marine Rescue; Michael Turner from Derrynane Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI) in Kerry; team-members Greg Clifford, Martin O'Sullivan and Bruno Segnodat of Mallow Search & Rescue; Jackie O'Reilly from Schull CRBI in Cork.



Service Medal of Honour (SMH) 15-Year Service

Mr	Diarmuid	Moriarty	Limerick Marine	Mr	Ken	Moore	Limerick Marine
Mr	Paul	O'Sullivan	Derrynane CRBI	Ms	Maura	Burns	Search & Rescue
Ms	Natalie	O'Meara	Dublin	Mr	Liam	McCole	Louth
Mr	Paul	Foley	Mallow S&R	Ms	Sarah	Meehan	Donegal
Mr	Tony	Carmody	Mallow S&R	Ms	Philomena	Lynch	Cavan
Mr	John Paul	Merritt	Mallow S&R	Ms	Evelyn	O Reilly	Cavan
Ms	Josephine	O'Rourke	Monaghan	Ms	Sinead	Miller	Dublin
Mr	Finbarr	Woulfe	Mallow S&R	Ms	Lindsay	Stevens	Dublin
Mr	Greg	Collins	Cork				



Recipients of the 15-year Long Service Award included (clockwise) Liam McCole from Louth; Sinead Miller from Dublin; Helen Wilson from Derrynane CRBI in Kerry; Greg Collins from Cork; Diarmuid Moriarty from Limerick Marine Rescue; Sarah Meehan from Donegal

Bronze Bar to the SMH

Mr Terry	Logan	Limerick Marine
Mr Trevor	Sheehan	Limerick Marine
Mr Mal	Sherlock	Limerick Marine
Ms Helen	Wilson	Derrynane CRBI
Ms Caroline	Donnelly	Derrynane CRBI
Mr David	Hare	Derrynane CRBI
Mr John	O'Shea	Derrynane CRBI
Mr Michael	Donnelly	Derrynane CRBI
Mr David	Boland	Derrynane CRBI
Mr Desmond	O'Shea	Derrynane CRBI
Mr Jerry	Clifford	Derrynane CRBI

20-Year Service

Mr Denis	Merritt	Mallow S&R
Mr Don	McAuliffe	Mallow S&R
Mr Martin	Murphy	Mallow S&R
Mr Eammon	Fuller	Mallow S&R
Mr John	Goggin	Mallow S&R
Ms Kathleen	O'Neill	Offaly
Mr Darren	O'Neill	Offaly
Ms Leslie	Lennox	Dublin
Ms Jackie	Roche	Dublin
Ms Doreen	Brennan	Dublin
Mr Colin	Griffin	Dublin



Martin Murphy, Don McAuliffe, Eammon Fuller, Denis Merritt and John Goggin from Mallow Search & Rescue receive their 20-Year Service Awards from Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government.

Silver Bar to the SMH

30-Year Service

Mr Jimmy Connors	Limerick Marine	Mr Dara O'Malley-Daly	Donegal
Mr Martin Quinn	Limerick Marine	Mr Tom Kavanagh	Galway
Mr Bernard Glavin	Mallow S&R	Mr John Kearney	Galway
Mr Kieran Horgan	Mallow S&R	Ms Marie Tiernan	Cavan
Mr John Woulfe	Mallow S&R	Ms Maeve Brady	Dublin
Mr Tony Merrigan	Waterford	Mr Aidan Collins	Dublin
			Limerick Marine
Ms Maureen Creagh	Waterford	Mr Tony Cusack	SAR
Ms Ita Richardson	Lim City		

Recipients of the 30-year Long Service Award included (clockwise) Tony Merrigan from Waterford; Ita Richardson from Limerick City; Tom Kavanagh from Galway; Maeve Brady from Dublin; Aidan Collins from Dublin an John Kearney from Galway.



Silver Bar to the SMH

40-Year Service

Mr	Tom	Doyle	Wexford
Mr	John	Doyle	Wexford
Mr	Seamus	O'Neill	Donegal



Recipients of the 40-year Long Service Award, (top) Seamus O'Neill from Donegal and Tom Doyle from Wexford, presented by IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

Volunteer of The Year Award:

Ms Joan Morton

Wicklow native, Joan, was reared on a family tradition of sea swimming, a tradition she passed on to her children, thus getting involved with her local water safety area committee. She began her tenure assisting IWS instructor Pam Beacon during the summer water safety weeks. She encouraged a number of other mothers from the Wicklow area to enrol in lifesaving classes, and supported their progression to the role of instructor.

Joan has been instrumental in running the water safety weeks in Wicklow and at Wicklow pool, since it's opening in 2002. Joan first joined the area committee as a local organiser in 1987, holding a number of the integral positions since that date; including instructor, examiner, surf lifesaving team manager, local organiser, fundraiser, PRO and Vice Chair; and international referee and sports commission member within the wider spectrum of the organisation.

With the advent of surf lifesaving, Joan saw the opportunity to develop Wicklow's participation, due to a strong core of sea swimmers in the area. From the early 1990's, she became involved in developing and coaching teams of surf lifesavers in Wicklow. With Joan's strong leadership, Wicklow were able to host the 2nd National surf lifesaving championships, an event they have hosted on many occasions since.

In early 2000, Joan set up Wicklow Surf Lifesaving Club and through sponsorship and fundraising raised €30,000 to bring Wicklow surf lifesaving teams to the world championships in Australia. They were duly rewarded, with the team bringing home several medals for Ireland. Joan is also involved in developing the Nipper and Junior element of surf lifesaving over the years.

It is Joan's passion & endless drive for everything she does in Water Safety, from lifesaving classes in the pool and on the beach, to school visits, and surf lifesaving, that she has been selected for the volunteer of the year award.



Joan Morton from Wicklow with IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly

International Life Saving Europe Award:

Dr Matthew Sills – appointed as the Dr Ian Mackie Fellow of ILS

The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) comprises of national life saving organisations/federations aiming at improving water safety, drowning prevention, water rescue, lifesaving and lifeguarding and lifesaving sport worldwide. ILS cooperates with partner organisations, governments, non-government organisations (NGOs) and sponsors to promote lifesaving worldwide.

ILS established a Medical Fellowship in honour of Dr. Ian Mackie, MD in order to continue his contribution to the international lifesaving community.

The Fellowship provides young lifesavers and lifeguards with a link to the ILS Medical Committee continuing Dr. Mackie's belief in the importance of the link between medical issues and their practical application by lifesavers and lifeguards.

Irish Water Safety is proud to announce the appointment by ILS of IWS volunteer Dr Matthew Sills as the Dr Ian Mackie Fellow for the next four years. Matthew is a member of Waterford Water Safety, and has competed and coached with Waterford Surf Lifesaving over the past ten years.

Matthew studied medicine in University College Cork, graduating in June 2014. He went on to begin his postgraduate training, and is currently on the National Training Programme for Emergency Medicine. Matthew holds a keen interest in matters relating to drowning, resuscitation, prehospital and critical care



Dr Matthew Sills with IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly

Charles Thomson Award:

Donegal 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 2014 and 31st December 2014.

This year the winner is Donegal County Council

1. They have opened a new sports complex in Stranolar which cost €7 million
2. They have installed disabled access pontoons in Greencastle, which has opened up the usage and enjoyment of the Foyle estuary to hundreds of new users.
3. There are 16 Lifeguarded Beaches in Donegal of which 13 are Blue Flagged for the public to enjoy bathing safely. SAR Helicopter Training for them
4. A pilot Water Safety initiative for Primary Schools has been launched and been successful which will roll out to the remainder of the county
5. A promotional initiative with Sioen Ireland and Mullion, manufacturers of lifejackets in Donegal.
6. An initiative of Time expired pyro techniques.
7. Arranged safe disposal of end of life vessels
8. Dedicated page on Donegal Co Co Website to water safety
9. Improved waste recycling on the Donegal ports
10. New Lifeguard Stations erected at Shrove Beach
11. Improved water safety signage in the county
12. Improved Bye-Laws to help manage Donegal's beaches and 153 harbours and piers



Charles Thomson Award presented to Donegal County Council from (L) Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and (R) Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government. L-R: David Friel, Water Safety Development Officer for Donegal Co Co; Michael McGarvey, Director of Services, Donegal Co Co Water & Environment section; Eddie Duffy, RLSS Ireland

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.

A.

- 1. Garda John Power**
- 2. Garda John Foote**

Tipperary

On the 19th of February 2014, a call was received at Clonmel Garda station regarding a person that had fallen into the River Suir. Garda Power and Garda Foote attended the scene. Without hesitation Garda Power entered the water. With the aid of a ringbuoy both Gardai brought the person to safety where an ambulance crew were waiting. The person made a full recovery.

B.

- 3. Garda Kevin Gaynor**
- 4. Garda Cormac McGill**

Dublin

On the 7th March 2014, at approximately 5am, Garda Gaynor and McGill received a call that a man had fallen into the sea at Clontarf Road. When they arrived at the scene, the person was conscious and calling out for help. It became evident that this person's life was in danger so, without hesitation, and with the aid of a ringbuoy, both Gardai entered the water. They secured the man onto the ringbuoy and brought him safely to shore. The man made a full recovery.

C.

- 5. Mr Nick Facer**
- 6. Mr Kevin Carter**

Sligo

On Sunday 26th October 2014, at Lackanarra, Co. Sligo, Torrance California Fire-fighters Nick Facer and Kevin Carter noticed two people in the water having difficulties in the weather conditions. It became apparent that, without assistance, the two individuals would not make it back to shore. Without hesitation, both men entered the water after instructing others to call for help. Kevin Carter took the first surfer to shore as he seemed to be exhausted and Nick Facer continued to search for the other surfer in extremely rough sea conditions. Upon reaching the man he gave one end of his leash to him and began the long swim towards the shore with the surfer in tow. They were assisted by many other surfers upon reaching the shore. Both surfers were treated at the scene and taken to hospital where they made a full recovery.

D.

- 7. Mr Diarmuid McInerney**

Donegal

On the 16th May 2015, Diarmuid was working on a golf course in Bundoran when he heard a cry for help. Upon sighting two people having difficulty in the water he advised the Coastguard and went to the aid of the swimmers. Diarmuid was passed a ringbuoy by a member of the public and without hesitation he entered the water. He instructed the two swimmers to thread water. Conditions were rough but Diarmuid managed to pull the nearest person to him to safety onto nearby rocks. The Bundoran



lifeboat arrived but was unable to approach the swimmers due to the heavy swell surging onto the rocks. After four attempts of throwing the ringbuoy, the casualty finally grabbed hold of the buoyancy aid and was brought to safety. The rescuer used his IWS lifesaving skills to carry out an effective and safe rescue. Both swimmers made a full recovery.

E.

8. Garda Shaun Durkan

9. Garda Gerard Carroll

Galway

On the evening of the 24th June 2015, D/Garda Durkan received a call regarding a woman in difficulty in the river at the Claddagh basin. Garda Durkan immediately went to the scene and observed that the female was being carried out to sea by the strong current. Without hesitation he entered the water with a ringbuoy and swam towards the casualty. She took hold of the ringbuoy. D/Garda Gerry Carroll arrived at the scene and also entered the water to assist D/Garda Durkan in bringing the female to safety. The person made a full recovery.

F.

10. Mr Stephen Andrews

11. Mr Brendan Connolly

12. Mr Thomas O'Brien

Mr Martin Mullen – Rescue Appreciation Award

Dublin

On the 31st July 2011, Martin Mullen entered the water in an attempt to rescue a man in distress in the river Liffey. He then got into difficulty. Stephen Andrews entered the water and with the help of Brendan Connolly & Thomas O'Brien brought Martin Mullen to safety.

G.

13. Garda Thomas Hennessey

14. Garda Donal Lawlor

Carlow

On the night of the 14th January 2015, Gardai Tom Hennessey and Donal Lawlor bravely entered the water alongside Carlow Rowing Club to assist a man in distress in the water. They both swam in the icy waters and brought the man to safety. He made a full recovery.

H.

15. Garda Emlyn Mulligan

Longford

On the 2nd August 2013, Garda Mulligan received a report regarding a female in difficulty in the water at the river Camlin in Longford town. Upon arrival to the scene, Garda Mulligan assessed the situation and without hesitation entered the water and swam out to the woman. He brought her to safety and she made a full recovery.

I.

16. Mr Danny Gillespie

17. Mr Eamonn Gillespie

18. Mr Connie Gillespie

19. Mr Tadhg Diver

Donegal

On the 13th of September 2014 at approximately 8pm at Bunbeg pier, Donegal, Danny, Eamonn, Connie Gillespie along with Tadhg Diver heard a loud noise and immediately went to investigate. Eamonn immediately went for help and called emergency services. Without

hesitation Mr Gillespie steered his



Tadhg Diver, Danny Gillespie, Connie Gillespie and Eamonn Gillespie receive a Seiko Just In Time Award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly.

boat to where the van was located and with the assistance of Connie and Tadhg managed to attach a rope to the rear of the van and towed it to the harbour slipway. Eamonn, who was waiting at the pier, secured the rope and assisted by the fact that they were in shallow water, Danny managed to get the door open to get the person to safety. The person was subsequently taken to hospital and made a full recovery.

J.

20. Detective Garda Jo-Ann Holahan

21. Garda Frank Howlin

Dublin

On the 23rd April 2015 at approximately 6.45pm D/Garda Jo Ann Holahan & her colleague Garda Frank Howlin received a call regarding two people in distress in the sea at Salthill. Upon arrival to the scene they assessed the situation and without hesitation D/Garda Holahan grabbed a ringbuoy and swam out to sea towards the unconscious woman and her

distressed cousin. Garda Howlin having established the situation - requested further Garda assistance and the services of the

RNLI and Coastguard. Using a ringbuoy, both Gardai brought the women to safety to nearby rocks at the bottom of the cliff. They successfully administered CPR on the unconscious woman. Both women were treated for Hypothermia and made a fully recovery.



Garda Frank Howlin and Detective Garda Jo Ann Holahan receive Seiko Just In Time awards from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly

K.

22. Garda Joe O'Connor

Garda Barry Moran – Rescue Appreciation Award

Dublin

On the 19th of July, at Aston Quay, Gardai Joseph O Connor and Barry Moran (RES Appreciation) were on a uniform beat patrol when they came upon a female in distress in the water, Garda Moran lowered a life buoy to the lady but she was unable to reach it and was slowly going under water. Without hesitation Garda O Connor entered the water and upon reaching the woman, managed to keep her afloat. Meanwhile a person in a RIB motor boat manoeuvred her boat over the Garda O Connor, and they both managed to lift the distressed woman onto the boat. Both Garda O Connor and the casualty were taken to safety. The woman made a fully recovery. . The quick response and actions for both Gardai in this instance undoubtedly prevented the loss of a life.

L.

23. Garda Aidan Monahan

24. Garda Niall Kenny

Kilkenny & Dublin

First rescue: On the 23rd of July 2010, at the River Nore, Kilkenny - Garda Monahan (Off Duty) came to the rescue of a woman in distress in the water and with the aid of two life buoys that were thrown to him during the rescue he managed to bring the casualty and himself to safety.

Second Rescue - On the 4th of May of 2012 at approximately 4am, Garda Monahan was on patrol and received a call regarding a man in distress at the River Liffey. Upon reaching the scene, Garda Monaghan requested the assistance of the Dublin Fire Brigade; he then retrieved a ringbuoy and without hesitation entered the water. He brought the casualty to the side of the river, where Garda Niall Kenny helped to bring the casualty to safety.

M.

25. Garda Carroll Walsh

26. Garda Carrie O'Connor

Dublin

On the 18th August 2012, at approximately 2.30am, Garda Walsh responded to a call for assistance on Aaron Quay. Upon arrival he saw a woman in distress in the water. Without hesitation Garda Walsh entered the water and with the assistance of Garda Carrie O'Connor pulled her to safety, where he began to perform CPR by administering back slaps. The casualty made a full recovery.

N.

27. Garda Brendan Flannery

28. Garda John Teehan

29. Garda Cathal Mulvihill

30. Mr David Turner

Westmeath

On the 29th of March, Gardai Teehan, Flannery, Mulvihill and Mr Turner rushed to the scene of a young man in distress, attempting to jump into the Shannon. The Gardai spoke to the person at great length in an effort to talk him down off the bridge. Garda Teehan climbed over the bridge and was suspended by his colleagues from the top of the bridge in an attempt to reach the person. He managed to grab hold of the person and pull him over the ledge to safety.

O.

31. Mr Fergal Swaine

Dublin

On the 7th May 2014, Fergal was cycling to work when he came upon a person in distress in the water at the Canal at Cross Guns Bridge, Phibsboro. Without hesitation he grabbed a ringbuoy and entered the water. Upon reaching the man, he grabbed hold of his jacket and managed to swim to the bank where a number of people helped to pull him to safety. Fergal administered CPR and the casualty was taken to hospital.

P.

32. Mr Seamus McCarthy

33. Ms Fionnuala Quigley

**Garda Brian O'Donnell –
Community & Social
Responsibility Award**

Inish Mor, Aran islands

On the 8th of April, Apu Gupta, an Indian tourist was swept off a rocky ledge by a wave on Inis Mór, Galway. The accident was witnessed by tourist and advanced paramedic Seamus McCarthy and his girlfriend Fionnuala Quigley. Seamus phoned 999 but there was no reception, so Fionnuala ran to the nearest house to call for help. Meanwhile, Seamus put

together a makeshift rescue rope using a jacket and backpack and lowered it to the casualty. She tightened the backpack around her waist and Seamus and another person began to pull her slowly up the cliff face. They successfully pulled her to safety and Seamus managed to stabilise her until the rescue helicopter arrived then took her to the hospital. The person made a full recovery.



Breda Collins, Chairman of Irish Water Safety and Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government present Garda Brian O'Donnell with a Community & Social Responsibility Award and Seamus McCarthy with Fionnuala Quigley who received Seiko Just In Times Awards

Garda Brian O'Donnell helped to raise public awareness about the dangers of being too close to the edges of the Atlantic ocean coastline by sending the video of the incident to Irish Water Safety which became a feature on the RTE news and quickly went viral online with hits to date in excess of 1.2

million. Brian also ensured that the rescued girl and her family were accommodated by the relevant authorities while the 21 year old visitor made a full recovery in hospital. Irish Water Safety's public awareness campaigns rely on the input of people like Brian to bring stories to the public and for this we are deeply grateful.

Q.

34. Ms Alexis-Elizabeth Vaganova

Kildare

On the 18th June 2014, Alexis was swimming with her friends at Salmon Leap. They had jumped into the water, when she noticed that one of her friends had not surfaced. Without hesitation Alexis swam underwater towards her friend, grabbed her and brought her up to the surface. She reassured her friend and instructed her to kick her legs. She managed to take her safely to shore.



Alexis-Elizabeth Vaganova from Kildare receives a Seiko Just In Time award from IWS Chairman Breda Collins and Minister Alan Kelly

R.

35. Mr Niall Clarke

Carlow

On the 12th February of this year, Niall Clarke came upon a car parked haphazardly at a barrier on the river bank at the River Barrow at Leighlinbridge Village. He then noticed a person face down in the water. Without hesitation he entered the water and swam towards the casualty. He brought the person to safety and successfully performed CPR on them. He placed the casualty into the recovery position and went to a nearby shop and told them to call emergency services.

S.

**36. Mr Martin Gavaghan
Garda John O'Brien – Rescue Appreciation
Garda Kevin Fitzpatrick – Rescue Appreciation**

Arklow

On the 23rd of December 2014, at a Swimming pool in Arklow, Deirbhile aged 8, alerted her father Martin Gavaghan that a boy wasn't moving and was lying on the pool floor. Without hesitation Martin swam down to the boy and lifted his lifeless body to the pool side. Two Leisure assistants began CPR on the child and called emergency services. Garda John O'Brien & Garda Kevin Fitzpatrick (Rescue Appreciations) arrived at the scene and took over the CPR. They continued to work on him for over ten minutes and eventually got a pulse. The Ambulance crew took over and the boy is currently recovering very well.

T.

**37. Mr David McCarthy
38. Mr Martin Dennehy**

Cork

On the 12th of September 2015, Fisheries officers Martin Dennehy & David McCarthy were on patrol at Lough Bofinne when they heard cries for help. Being experienced officers, they did a risk assessment and confidently instructed the casualty and managed to get him to turn on his back and start kicking to propel him back to shore. Both officers waded out to the lake and threw a rope towards the casualty, who managed to grab hold of it. They proceeded to pull the casualty towards the shore. They took him to hospital where he made a full recovery.

U.

39. Mr John Clancy

Galway

On the evening of the 27th October 2015, John was walking along the Claddagh quay when he noticed a person in the water. He called out but there was no response. John called out to two people nearby to call emergency services and without hesitation entered the water and swam towards the casualty. At this stage the casualty had begun to submerge and John had lost sight of this person. He successfully retrieved the casualty and pulled the person to safety.

V.

40. Ms Erika McCarthy

Cork

On Tuesday the 25th August 2015, Erika was training at Inchydoney beach, and swimming back to shore with her team members when she heard a faint cry for help in the distance. She turned back and came upon a male and female in difficulty. Erika managed to calm the male and encourage him to swim towards the shore, while, at the same time she carried the woman. As Erika was swimming closer to shore, she came upon a fellow colleague and directed him to take the female back on his board while she continued to encourage the male swimmer. Both swimmers were brought safely to shore.

W.

41. Mr Eric Nolan

42. Mr John Dimond

Wexford

On the 5th of August 2013, both Erik Nolan and John Dimond noticed a person enter the river from O Hanrahan Bridge at New Ross and without hesitation they readied and launched a RIB. They approached the person in water and persuaded him to be helped aboard the RIB. They calmed the person and returned to the boat house and waited with him until emergency services arrived.



Dublin Gardaí Carroll Walsh, Barry Moran, Niall Kenny, Aidan Monahan and Joe O'Connor with their Seiko Just In Time Awards at the Irish Water Safety Awards 2015.



Analysis of Drownings 2015

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

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2015 was 122, 8 more than in 2014 when 114 drowned. The average number of annual drownings over the last ten years is 133.

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.

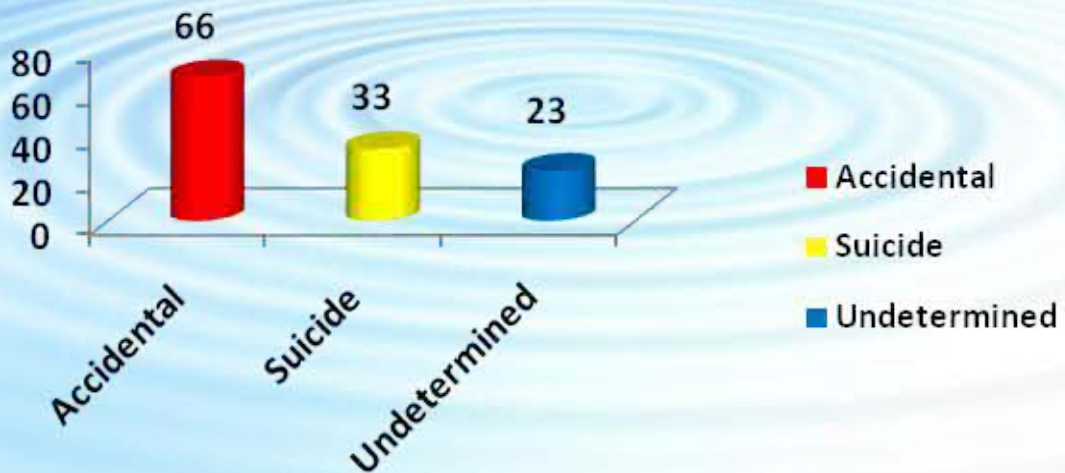
A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

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 the following figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.*

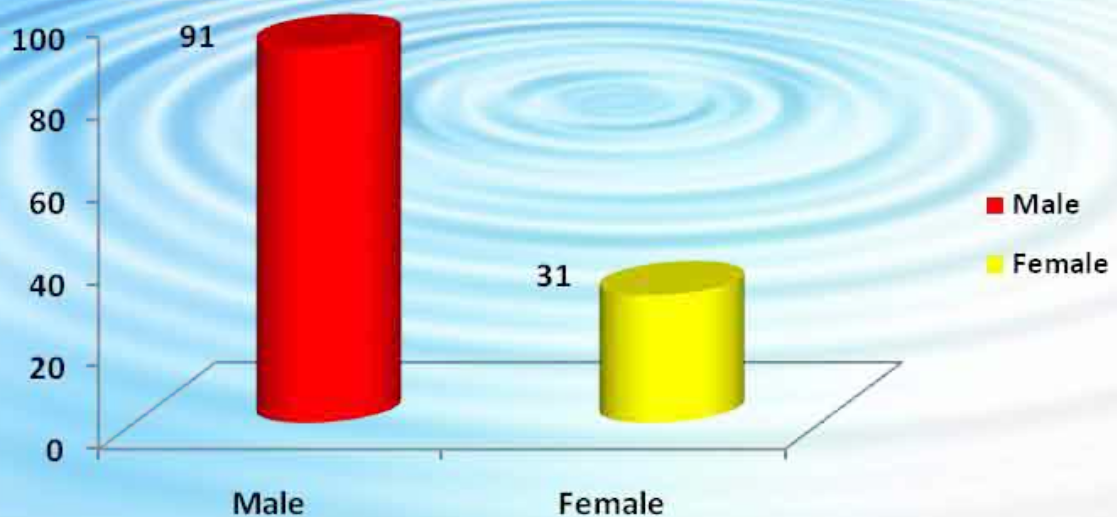
2015 Drownings by Cause

Total: 122



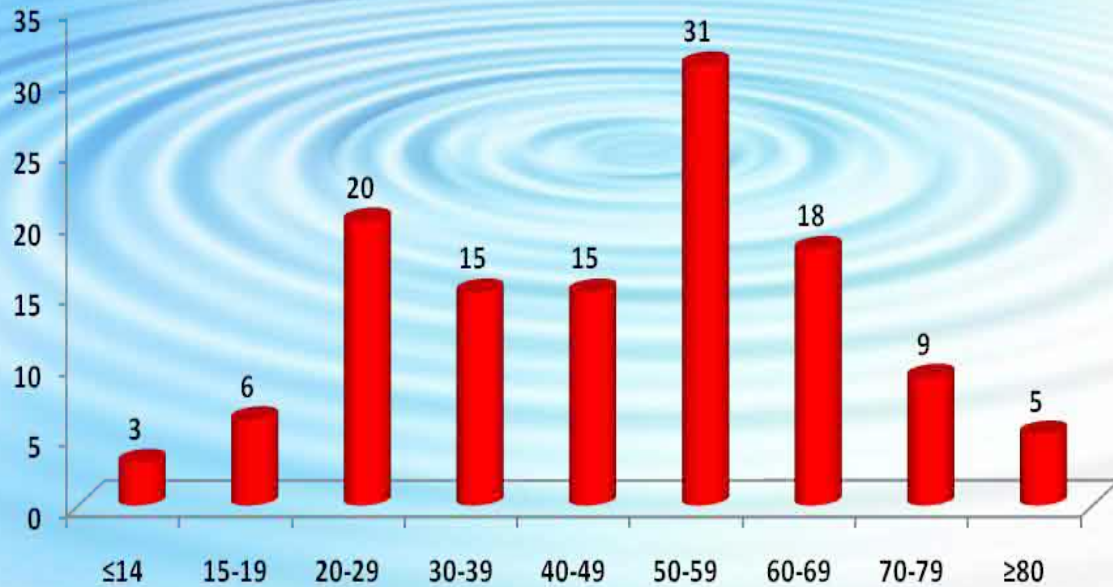
2015 All Drownings by Gender

Total: 122



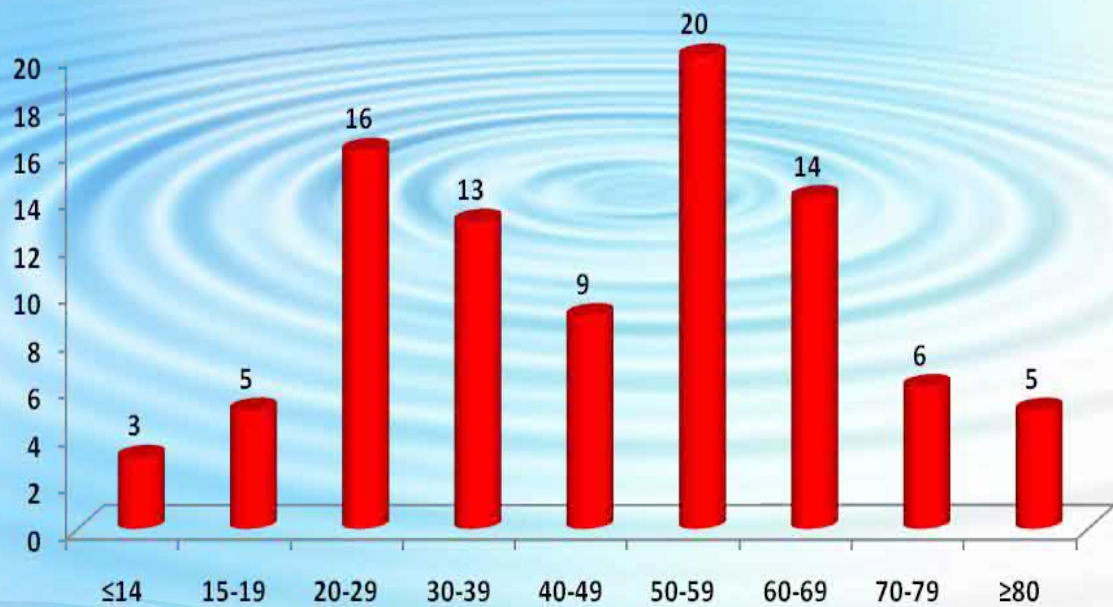
2015 All Drownings by Age

Total: 122



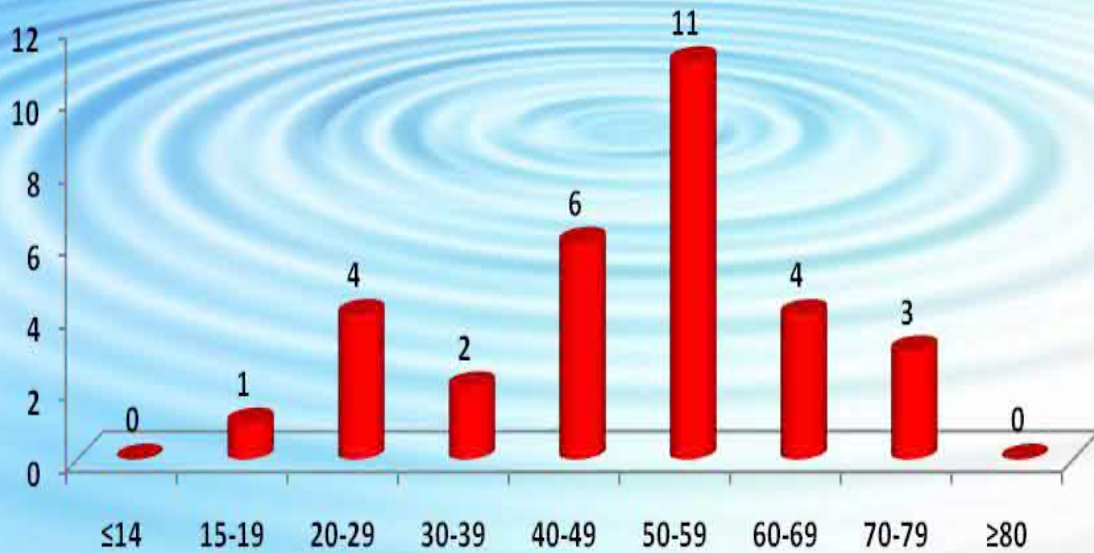
2015 Male Drownings by Age

Total: 91 of 122



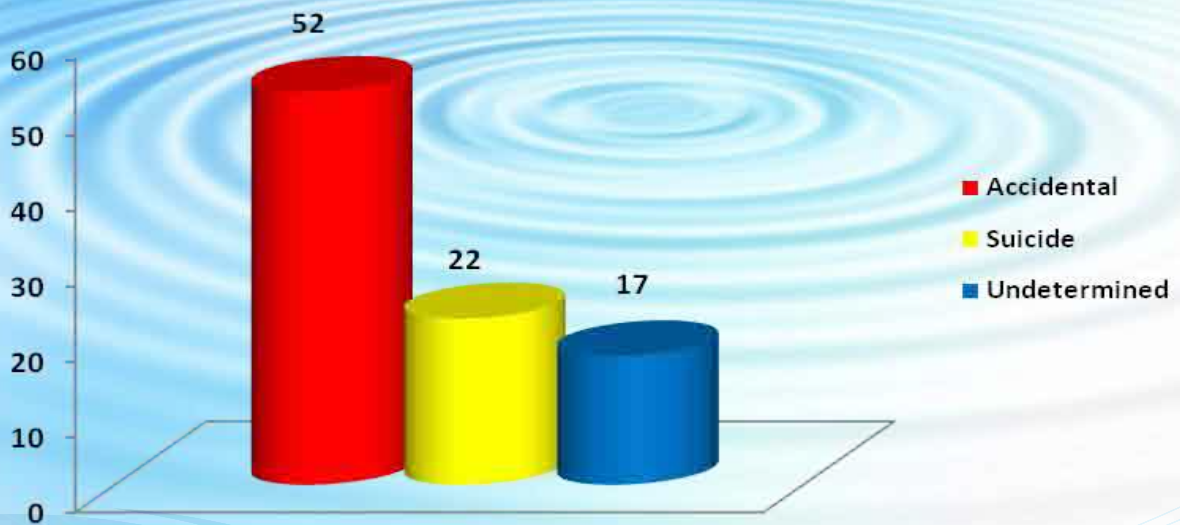
2015 Female Drownings by Age

Total: 31 of 122

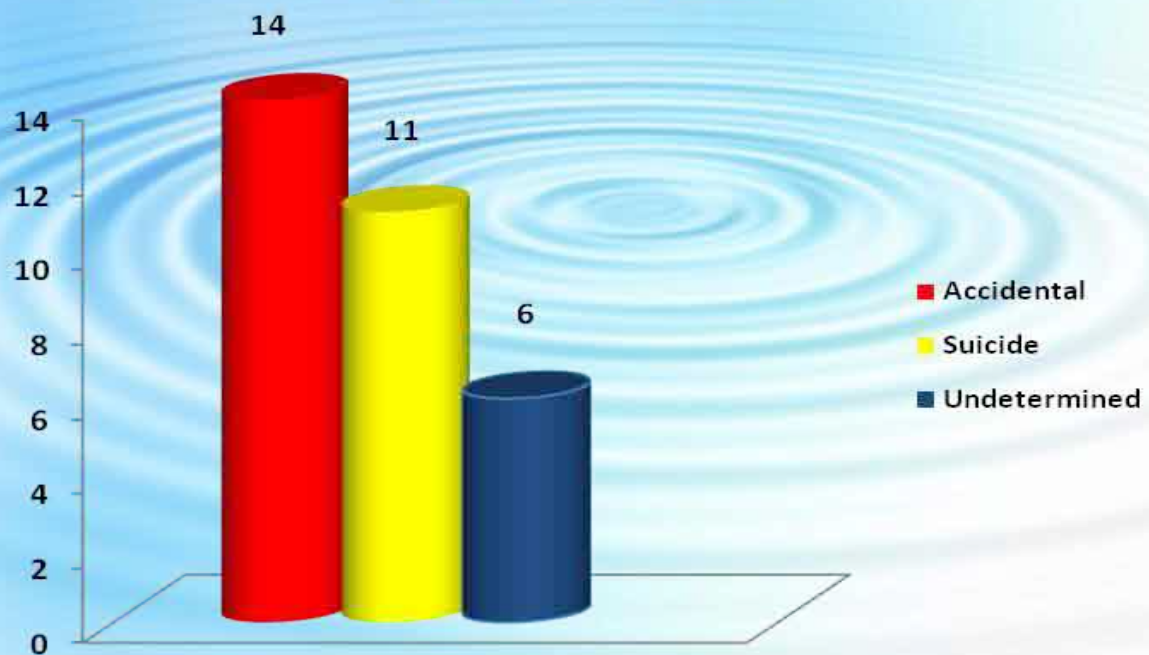


2015 Male Drownings by Cause

Total: 91 of 122



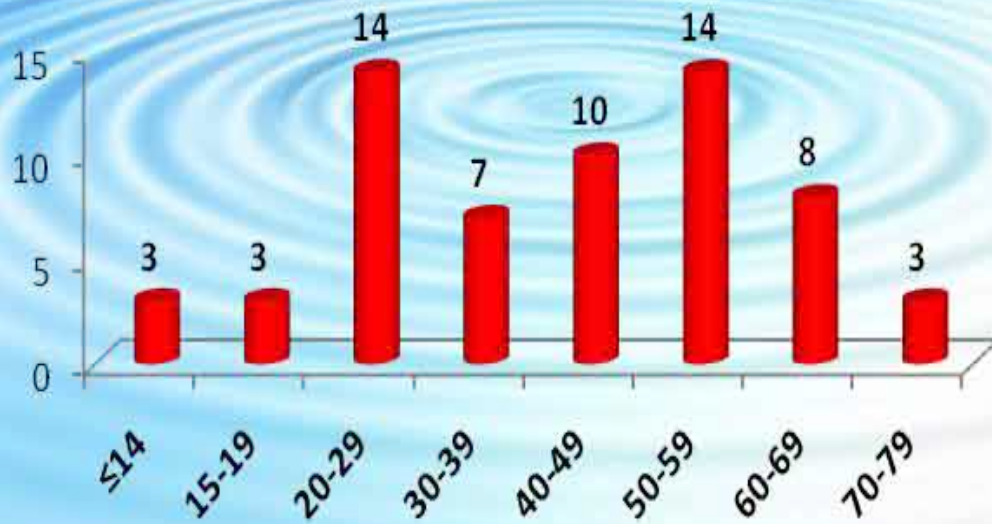
2015 Female Drownings by Cause Total: 31 of 122



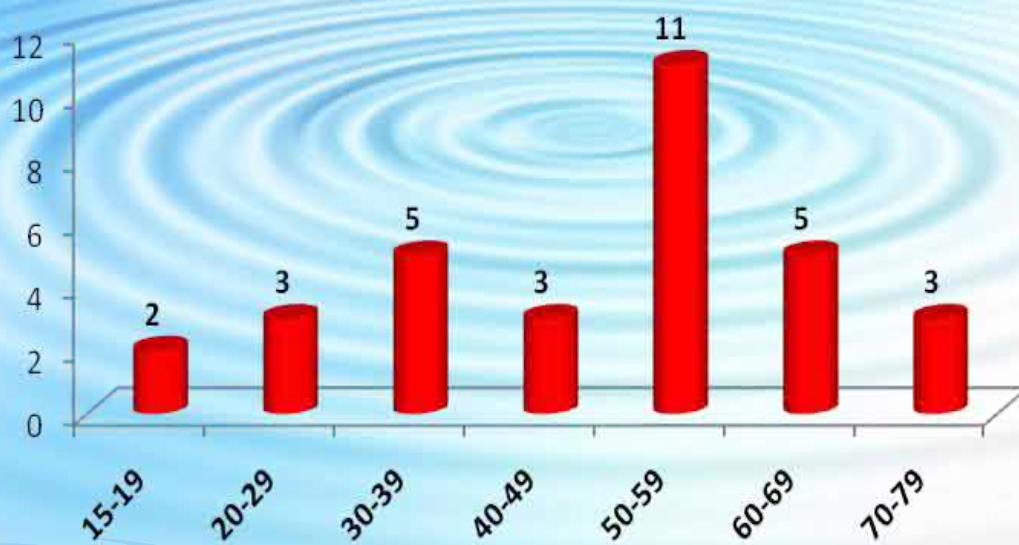
2015 Drownings by Gender and Cause Male / Female (Total: 122)



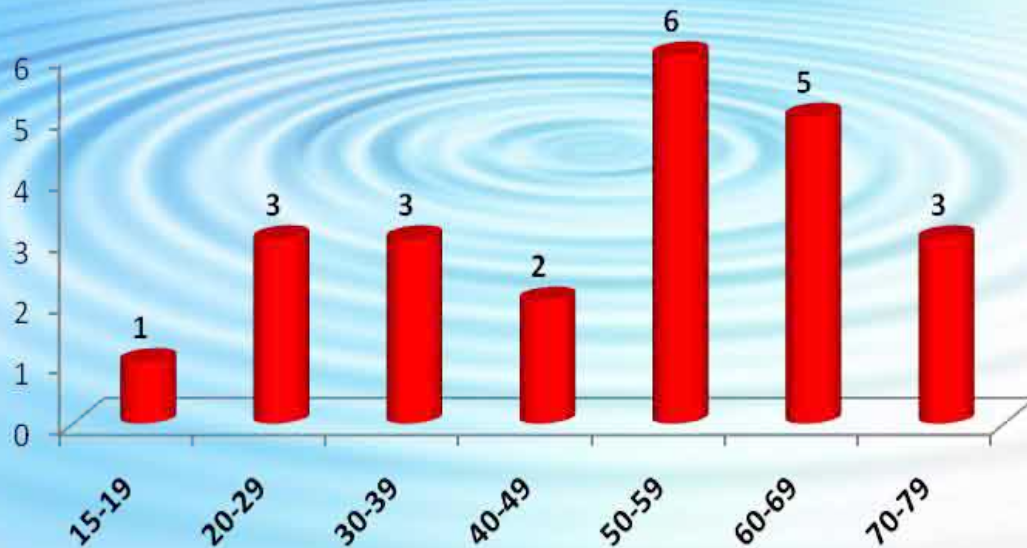
2015 Drownings by Age: Accidental (Total: 66)



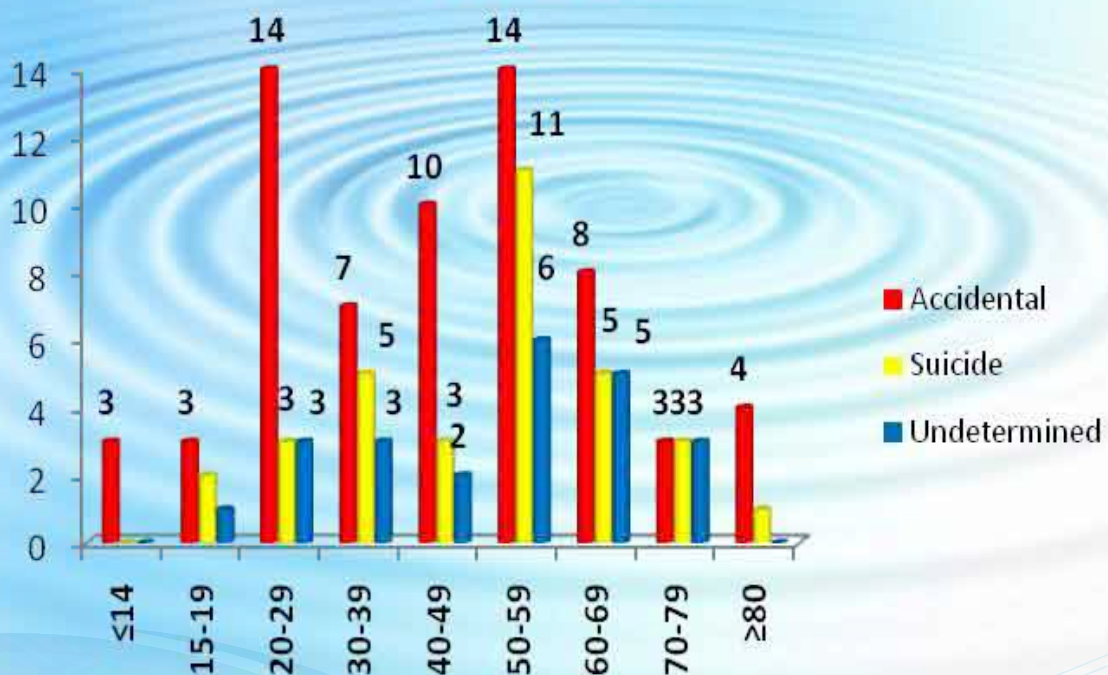
2015 Drownings by Age: Suicide (Total: 33)

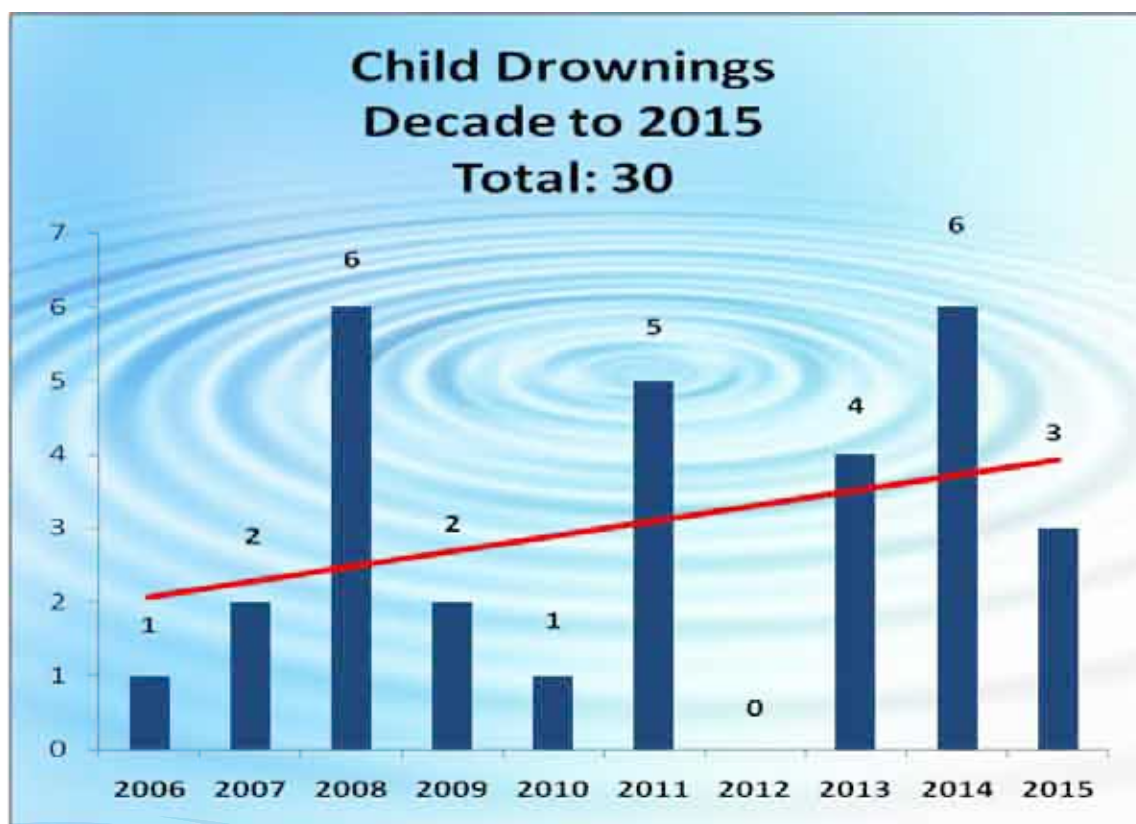
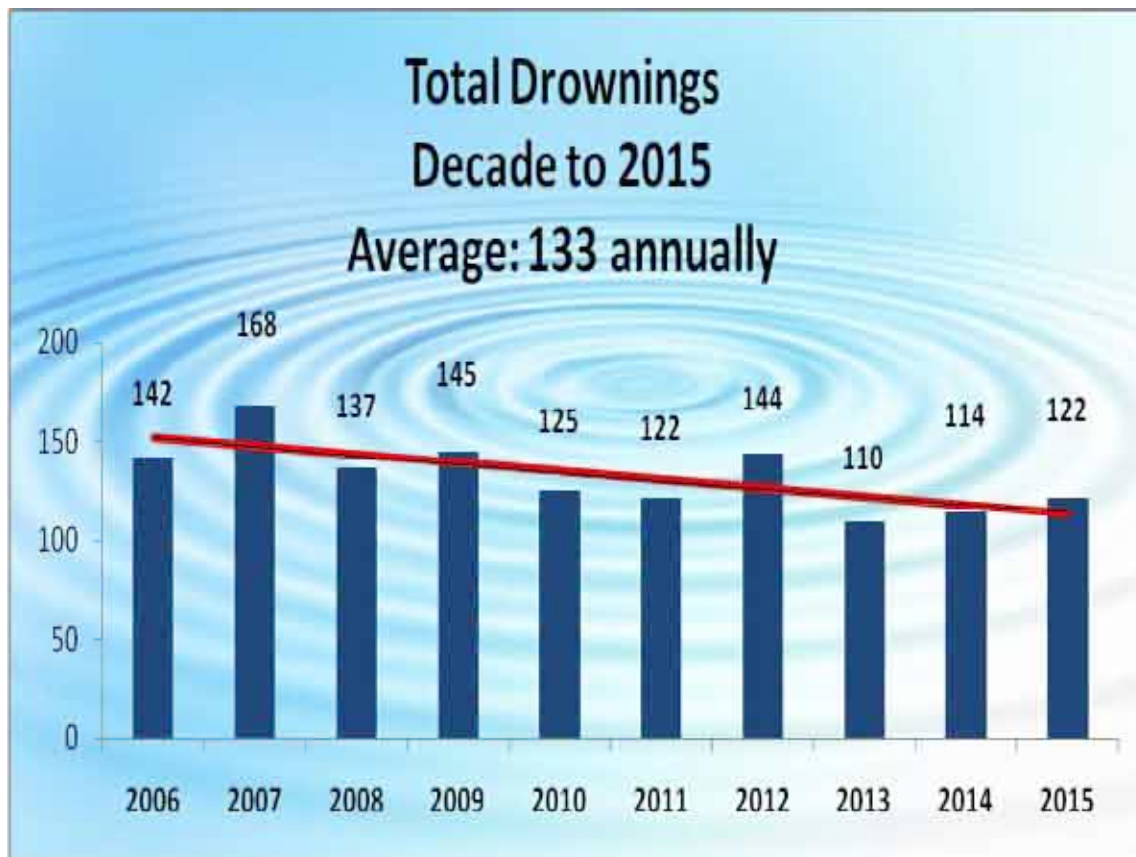


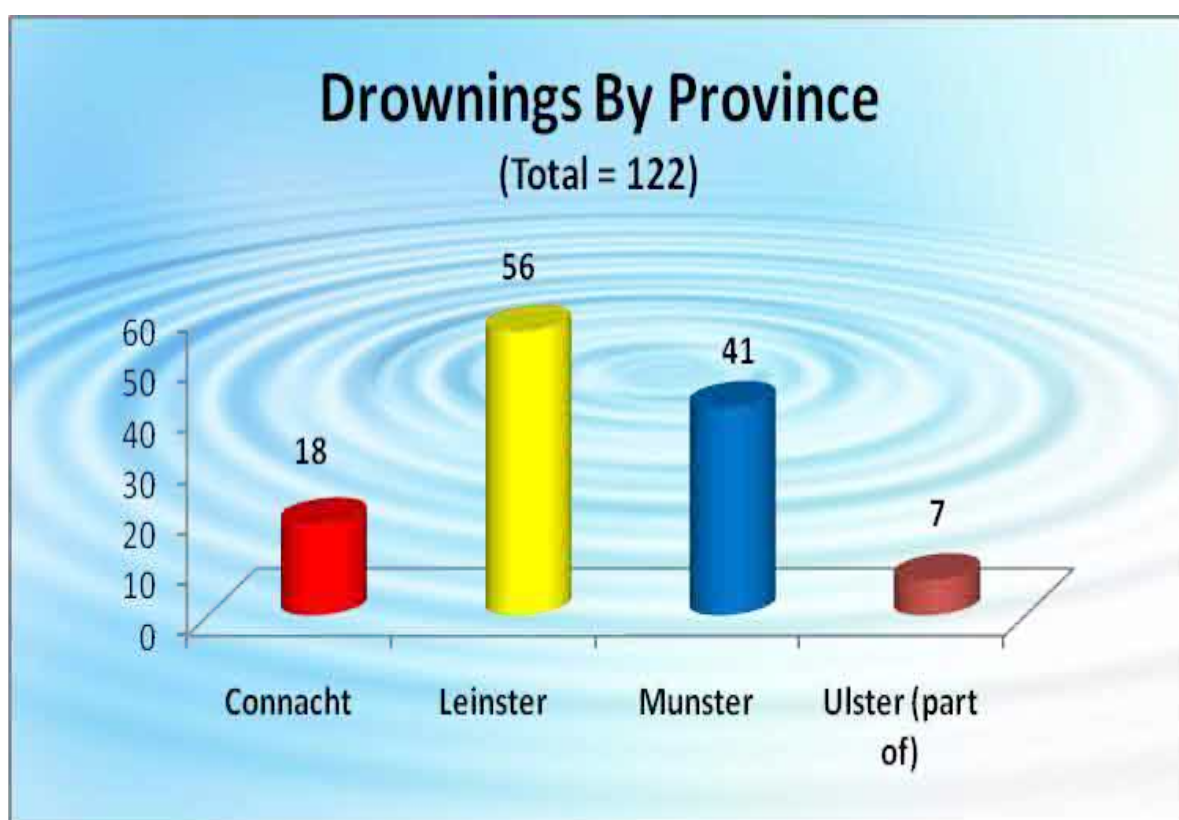
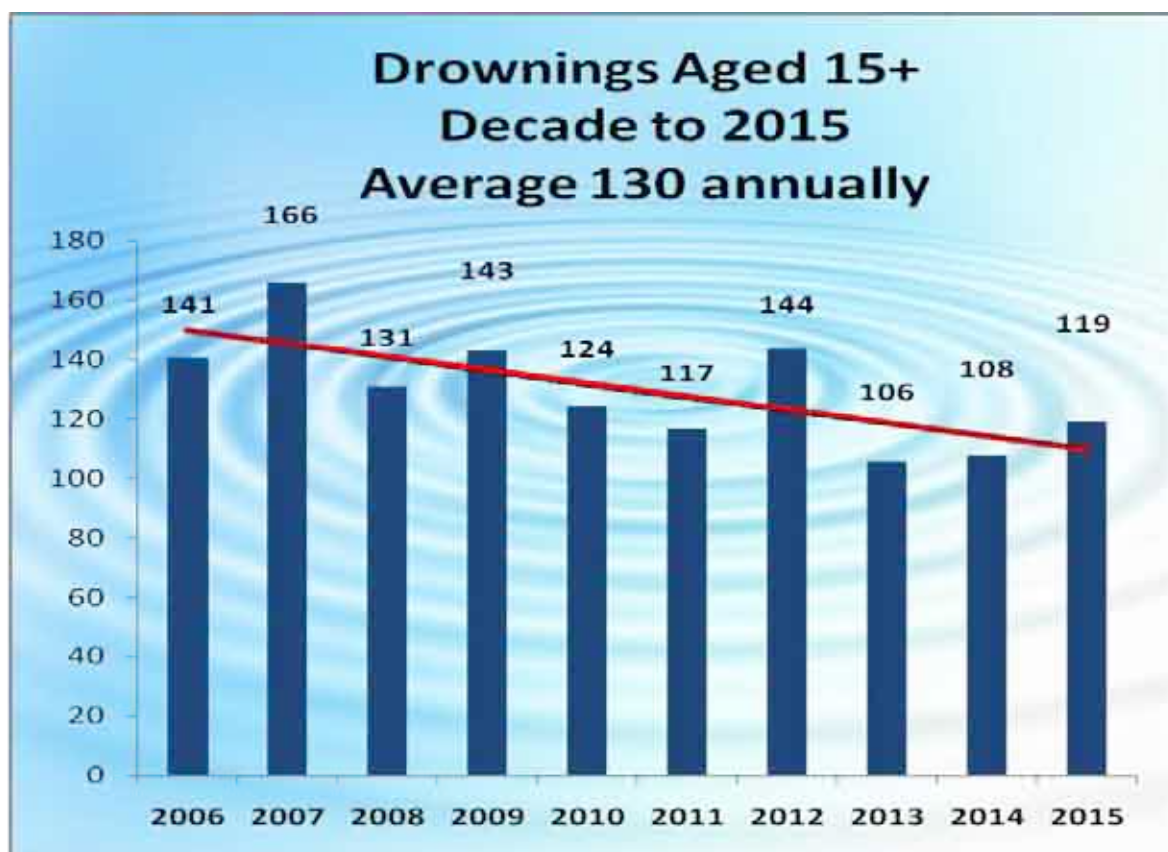
2015 Drownings by Age: Undetermined Cause (Total: 23)



2015 Drownings by Age and Cause Total: 122

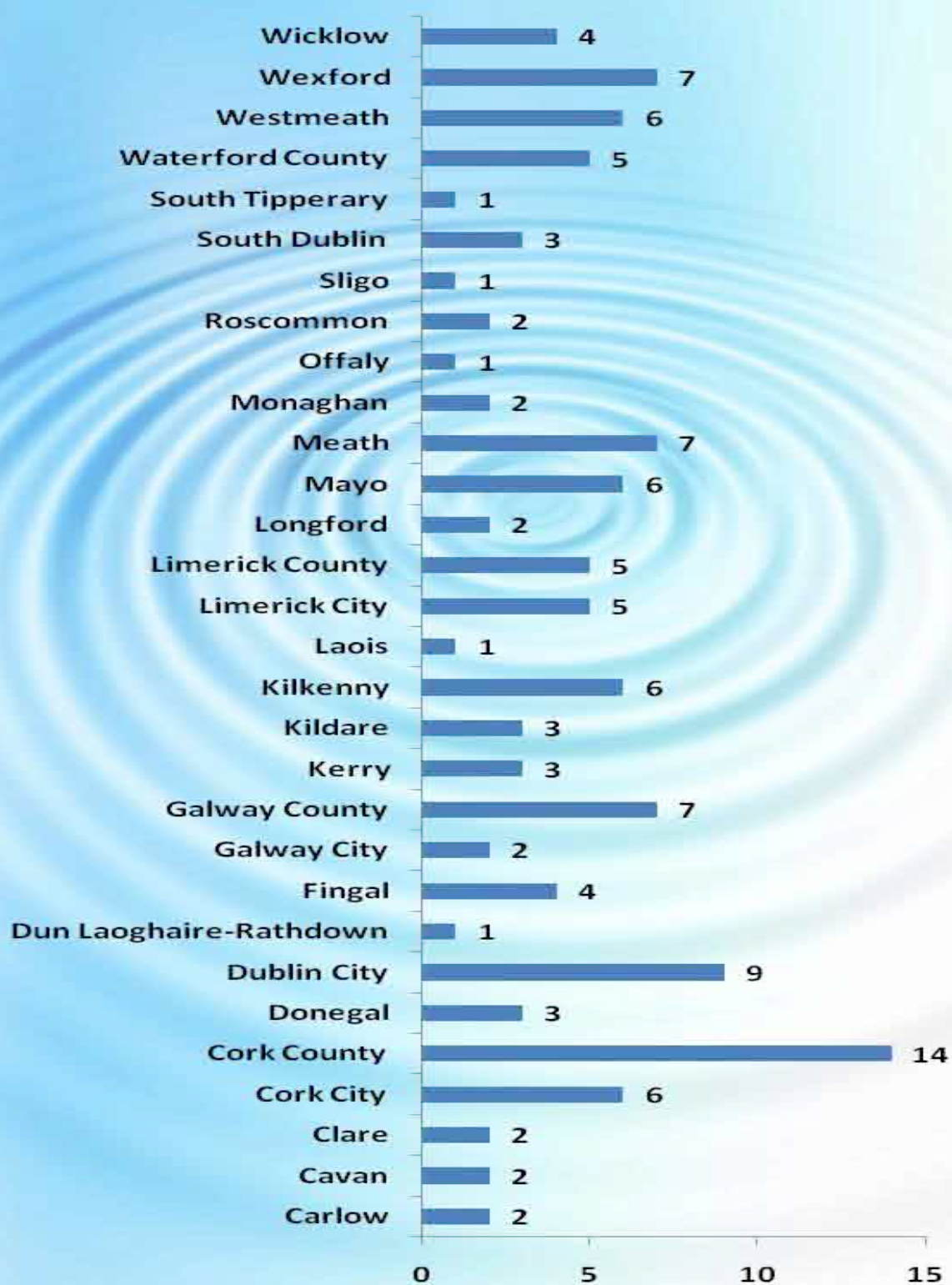




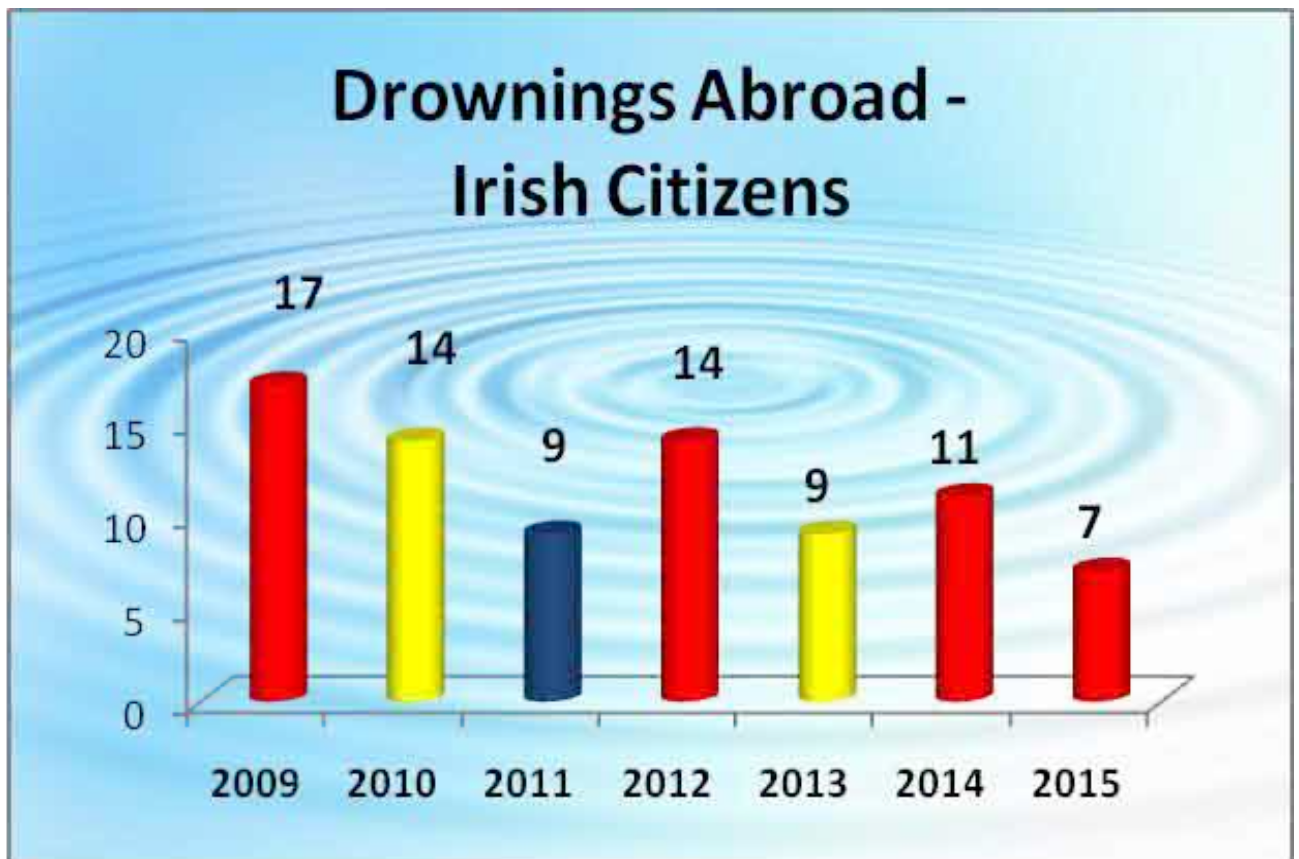


2015 Drownings by County

Total: 122



Drowning Statistics – Irish Citizens abroad in 2015



Data from 2009 to 2014 derives from reports within the Consular Assistance section of the Department of Foreign Affairs to whom we are very grateful and where limited resources prevent the extraction of data for 2015. In this instance IWS has relied on information extracted from media reports.

IRISH WATER SAFETY
the
statutory voluntary body and
registered charity established to
promote water safety in Ireland.



Our focus is on Public Awareness and education. Tragically, an average of 133 people drown each year in Ireland, that's eleven every month. We feel that this is simply unacceptable considering that most fatalities are avoidable. We strive to reduce these fatalities by increasing water safety awareness and by changing attitudes and behaviors so that our aquatic environments can be enjoyed with confidence and safety.

WHAT WE DO:

Teach swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and basic life support. Courses are provided nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum. Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally.

Arrange conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.

Publish literature to promote water safety and target at-risk groups. We provide publications for all aquatic activities to assist the public adhere to best practices.

Our volunteers carry out Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public, in order to make them safer by the erection of Public Rescue Equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also advise and assist Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety and we complete Public Rescue Equipment checks.

Our staff support the work of approximately 4,000 volunteer members and we also administer approximately 250 people who are commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and CPR training.

Beach Lifeguards are trained and tested by our examiners for the Local Authorities, prior to the annual summer season each year.

Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Inshore Rescue Services.

Promote marine safety along with other members of the Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee.

National and local media help build public awareness by actively communicating our safety messages to the public.

Press releases target the seasonal hazards at sea, on our inland waterways and other aquatic environments.

Analysis and provision of drowning statistics that enables effective targeting of "at risk" groups in Ireland.

Work with a range of organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide annually.

Organise the Annual National Lifesaving Championships; some of our members then go on to compete in international events each year.

Organise the National Water Safety Awards Ceremony. The "JUST IN TIME" Rescue Award and other awards recognize people's work, providing training and promoting Water Safety in Ireland.

Partners from the private sector sponsor the delivery of messages to key "at risk" groups.

Provide information on the locations of Lifeguarded waterways in Ireland.

Public and private bodies call on us to make submissions on water safety related matters.

Maintain a comprehensive websites of water safety advice, publications and courses.

IWS is registered charity CHY 16289

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk, Galway
Tel: 091-564400; LoCall 1890420202
Fax: 091 564700; info@iws.ie
www.iws.ie; www.ringbuoys.ie
www.aquaattack.ie; www.iwsmembershipe.ie
www.iwsmemberinsurance.com

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

1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

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 2015 Annual Report of Irish Water Safety under Section 22 of the Act. It covers the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. 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 2015.



IRISH WATER SAFETY IS THE STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY BODY ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE WATER SAFETY IN IRELAND.
TÁ SÁBHÁILTEACHT UISCE NA HÉIREANN INA BHORD DEONACH REACTÚIL A BUNAÍODH LE SÁBHÁILTEACHT UISCE A CHOThÚ IN ÉIREANN.



IRISH WATER SAFETY

THE LONG WALK
GALWAY

TEL: 091 564400

LOCALL: 1890 420 202

FAX: 091 564700

INFO@IWS.IE

WWW.IWS.IE

WWW.AQUAATTACK.IE

WWW.RINGBUOYS.IE

WWW.IWSMEMBERSHIP.IE

WWW.IWSMEMBERINSURANCE.COM

WWW.SAFETYZONE.IE

PAWS.IWS.IE



MEMBER



MEMBER

