

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016



**Irish Water Safety**

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

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**WEBSITES:**

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

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

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

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



**Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland**

Patron of Irish Water Safety



**Irish Water Safety**

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# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



2016 was a year of further growth and consolidation. Our membership has expanded significantly to a point where at the time of writing we have 4,738 members nationwide. Further evidence of this growth is reflected in the fact that 30 IWS Examiners and 106 IWS Instructors qualified this year. The rate at which you, our members, are coming through the ranks has gone from strength to strength as volunteers teach swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, rescue skills and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. The number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result can never be fully enumerated although one figure that brings home the importance of your work is the number of rescues actioned by lifeguards each year, a figure that reached a total of 649 this summer. These same lifeguards, trained and assessed by Irish Water Safety, administered first aid on 4,210 occasions and reunited with their loved ones, a total of 662 lost children found wandering alone by the water's edge. If those numbers seem considerable then you will find it significant to note that on 29,695 occasions, lifeguards took specific actions to prevent an aquatic-related accident. The public also took proactive steps to safeguard themselves and family by seeking advice from patrolling lifeguards on a total of 460,756 occasions. These figures speak for themselves in terms of the need for people to take even greater steps to be aware of the dangers and of the important role that IWS has in safeguarding Irish society.

As the new chairman of Irish water safety (IWS), I take particular delight in acknowledging and thanking all the members of IWS for the tremendous voluntary work that you undertake nationwide throughout the entire year. I especially wish to highlight the excellent work of our summer weeks organisers who are, even now, engaged in preparations to ensure that the summer weeks 2017 will be delivered successfully throughout the country. The popularity of these courses spans generations and although this summer's weather was not kind to our instructors, it did not affect the enthusiasm of the children who availed of the swimming and lifesaving classes at training centres in aquatic environments nationwide.

In the recent past the technical committee followed up on excellent work by the sports commission to establish the concept of Lifesaving Training Centres (LTC). An LTC is a location where one or more of the following disciplines are taught by the Volunteers of Irish water safety: swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, pool lifeguard, beach lifeguard, inland open water lifeguard or the sport of lifesaving. Our water safety area committees already have or in due course will establish, oversee and run LTCs. Where the LTC is in a swimming pool, a sign is now available from HQ stating that the pool is an IWS training centre. In terms of the sport of lifesaving, Irish water safety's national teams had their best performances ever abroad, bringing home the highest number of medals from a world lifesaving championships than ever before. Every member of each team, be they juniors, seniors, masters or coaches, played a pivotal role in achieving this success and we congratulate them and celebrate their achievements.



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Our Junior lifeguard award Programme is an exciting, progressive development. The brainchild of the lifeguard commission, it welcomes children from the age of eight to participate in a five-tiered award scheme. Alongside the water work there are information sheets, activity sheets, record sheets and certification at every level. The handbook is comprehensive as well as being attractive and colourful and is already proving a huge success with children, swim teachers and leisure centres.

Over the past two years, the swimming commission has been dedicated to the national swim teacher's award joint project with Swim Ireland. Many meetings have been held, position papers produced and two joint pilot courses prepared and delivered. Overlapping with this work they have been developing and updating all IWS swimming syllabi and resources.

Thanks to some special government funding and sponsorship, we were able to deliver a number of national marketing campaigns during the year to highlight the dangers of our waters. Our Christmas awareness campaign was seen by over 800,000 cinema goers on 350 screens nationwide. The thirty-second advert, available on our online channels, reflects the fact that 133 people drown on average each year and calls for us all to keep their memory alive by both encouraging and practicing water safety. The need for this call to action is perhaps most tragically reflected in the fact that thirty children aged fourteen and under drowned in the last ten years. Consequently, I am grateful to those members who supported the work of our Education Development Officer in promoting our "Primary Aquatics Water Safety" programme (PAWS), part of the official curriculum, to schools nationwide.

I am conscious of the number of members who have lost family members and I extend on behalf of IWS, our deepest sympathies to all families who are feeling such loss. We lost a volunteer Instructor in Cavan, Examiners in Monaghan, the Curragh and Westmeath and a Water Safety Development Officer in Kerry. We also lost Mr Bobby Molloy who having become Minister for Local Government, established Irish Water Safety as a statutory body.

2016 brings to a conclusion the five-year term of the present IWS Council. I wish to thank each member of the outgoing Council for their commitment and dedication to ensuring that the 2012 – 2017 programme was successfully completed. I look forward with confidence to the formation of a new Council that will build on the work of the former.



Martin O'Sullivan  
Chairman, Irish Water Safety



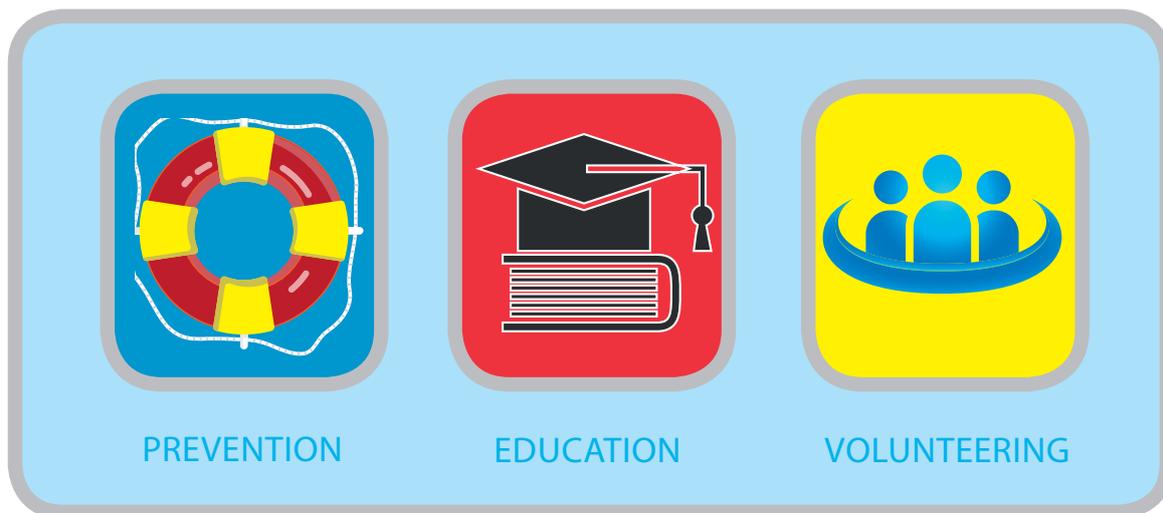
# Irish Water Safety

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# MISSION

Through education and training, promote a stronger safety culture, attitude and behaviour for people on, in or near water. We strive to reduce drowning fatalities by increasing water safety awareness so that our aquatic environments can be enjoyed with confidence and safety.

## WHAT WE DO



MOTTO: *Every Person A Swimmer, Every Person A Lifesaver*



# Irish Water Safety

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# COUNCIL

**Martin O’Sullivan**

**Vice - Chairman: January;**

**Acting Chariman: Feb - Aug; Chairman: August Onwards**

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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 European. Martin, having started the year as Vice-Chairman, assumed the position in February of Acting Chairman from the former Chair Breda Collins.



**Michael Cuddihy**

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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.

**Brendan McGrath**

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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.



## Irish Water Safety

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## COUNCIL CONTD...

### Anne Ryan

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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

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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

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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.



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## COUNCIL CONTD...

### Christy McDonagh

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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.



### Paul Murphy

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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

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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.



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## COUNCIL CONTD...

### Lola O'Sullivan

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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.



### Odran Reid

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Odran 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 Organisation.



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## COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDANCE record

Martin O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John Considine	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Paul Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Cuddihy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brendan McGrath	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Tom Doyle	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Christy McDonagh	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Odran Reid	Y	N	N	Y	N
Lola O'Sullivan	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Anne Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seamus O'Neill	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

## WATER SAFETY AREA COMMITTEES

The organisation has thirty Water Safety Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Gárda 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 four 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
- Alison Elstone, Clerical Administrator
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
- Oisín Foden, Education Development Officer
- Emer Gardiner, Clerical Administrator



# Irish Water Safety

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## Report under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 for the period: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

### 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 2016 annual report of Irish Water Safety under Section 22 of the Act. It covers the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. 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 2016.

#### 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:

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



# Irish Water Safety

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## AUDIT AND HR COMMISSION

**Breda Collins (Chair); Martin O’Sullivan; Christy McDonagh; Sean Murphy;  
Tom Keating; Odran Reid; John Leech; Joan Harte**

*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.

## EDUCATION COMMISSION

**Lola O’Sullivan (Chair); Anne Ryan; Eileen Kelly; Paul Burke; Oisín Foden**

*Duties:*

1. Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in the aquatic environment
2. Maintain and develop training and water safety awareness programmes within the Irish Educational System.
3. Develop a Transition Year water safety programme
4. Manage the Teachers Training Courses
5. Development of further FETAC awards
6. Manage all Children’s interests
7. Review and update all Children’s and educational documents
8. Arrange seminars for Designated Persons
9. Liaise with the Dept. of Education to maximize 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.



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# LIFESAVING & LIFEGUARDING COMMISSION

Michael Cuddihy (Chair); Paul Murphy; Tom Doyle; Sean O'Keefe

## Duties:

1. The promotion of efficiency and standardization 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.

# RESCUE COMMISSION

Martin O'Sullivan; Ronnie Horan; Ger Keeling; Valerie Stundon

## 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.

Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Donal McNamara with a Certificate of Service.



## Irish Water Safety

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## SPORTS COMMISSION

**Seamus O'Neill; Clare McGrath; Linda O'Neill; Triona McMenamin; Simon McGarrigle**  
*Squad administrator: Alison Deane; Head coaches : Triona Mc Menamin , Oisin Mc Grath with Brendan Mc Grath and David Butler working alongside them.*

### *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.

Highlights included eight Nipper competitions (4 in still water, 4 in open water); five Junior competitions (1 in still water, 4 in open water); two senior competitions (1 in still water, 1 in open water); two Master's competitions (1 in still water, 1 in open water); Intra-university competition in Shannon swimming pool; a World Championships in Holland; Two Coaching courses; Four squad camps.

## SWIMMING COMMISSION

**Brendan Mc Grath; Tom Mackey; John Farrell; Deirdre Webster; Philip Keleghan**  
*Specialist sub group to develop the IWS "Swimming Teaching Awards for Those with Disabilities": John Fox, Eileen Sayers, Paula Roddy and Sean Connor.*

### *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.

Highlights included the updating of the IWS swimming syllabus, log books swimming teacher tutor qualification and the Swimming Teachers Life Saving Award.



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## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Martin O’Sullivan; 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 prioritize new project.

## MARKETING COMMISSION

**Roger Sweeney; Leo Mahon; Fiona Lynch; Gerry Brennan**

*Duties:*

1. Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within the S.I. and Strategic Development Plan
2. Standardization 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 organizing national ceremonies, conferences & events
8. Represent IWS at LAMA
9. Market the IWS Brand
10. Monitor Press Cuttings
11. Source sponsorship
12. Promote the wearing of lifejackets.
13. Develop the commercial strand to our organization; improve branding and public relations.
14. Liaise with the Charles Thompson Award
15. Analyze drowning statistics.

Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present John Claffey with a Certificate of Service.



# Irish Water Safety

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## 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 24,794 Swimming, Lifesaving and Water Safety certificates in 2016. In addition, a further 28,549 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 19,450 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 72,793. 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 28,549 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2016.

Aquatics organiser	69	Rescue 1	1443
Aquatics Pool Assistant	3	Rescue 2	1146
Assistant Swimming Teacher	630	Rescue 3	884
National Beach Lifeguard (BLG)	194	Rescue 4	351
National BLG Course Tutor	6	Safety 1	1416
National BLG Revalidation	190	Safety 2	2356
Basic Life Support (BLS) 1	2712	Safety 3	1972
BLS 2	1856	Safety 4	2023
BLS 3	1162	Surf 2	54
Challenge 1	129	Surf 3	19
Challenge 2	152	Surf 4	10
Disabilities Aquatics Level 1	1	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	29
Disabilities Aquatics Level 2	40	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	43
Endurance 1	435	Survival 1	253
Endurance 2	697	Survival 2	599
In-house Pool Lifeguard Tutor	21	Survival 3	1
Instructor	132	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	27
Inland Open Water (IOW) Lifeguard	18		
IOW Lifeguard Revalidation	8	Swimming Teacher	200
IWS Code of Ethics	414		
		Swimming Teacher Tutor	3
Lifesaving Sport Coach Level 1	1		
		Water Safety Awareness	467
National Pool Lifeguard (PLG) Level 1	442		
		Water Safety Awareness General & Pool	147
National PLG Level 1 Revalidation	156	Water Safety Awareness IOW	15
		Aware	
National PLG Level 2	1032		
		Seal, Marlin, Orca certificates	19,450
National PLG Level 2 Revalidation	807		
		PAWS Total	28,549
Pool Lifeguard Course Tutor	29		
		<b>TOTAL CERTS</b>	<b>72,793</b>



# Irish Water Safety

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## SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS

Our Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in rivers, lakes, beachfronts and outdoor pools. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have indoor 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 updated by the committees onto [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie).

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety
Cavan	Greaglone Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lough McNear, 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

## SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

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

## SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

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

## SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Kerry	Derrynane	August	Safety
Kilkenny	Graigenamanagh	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

## SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Roscommon	Roscommon pool	June	Swim
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	July	Swim
Sligo	Aughris pier	July	Water Safety
Sligo	Enniscrone	August	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Ballina	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Roscrea	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Nenagh	August	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Cahir	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Clonmel	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Ardfinnan	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Tramore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Boatstrand	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Ardmore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Ardmore	August	Water Safety
Westmeath	Mullingar	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	July	Safety, Rescue
Wexford	Rosslare	July	Swim
Wexford	Bunclody	July	Swim
Wexford	Tinabearna	July	Swim
Wexford	Courtown	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Bunclody	August	Water Safety
Wexford	Curracloe	August	Swim
Wexford	Cahore Pier	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Kilmore	July	Swim
Wexford	Ferrybank	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Carne	July	Swim
Wexford	New Ross	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Cullenstown	July	Swim
Wexford	Fethard	August	Water Safety
Wicklow	Wicklow Harbour	July	Swim



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# 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 2016, a total of 36 IWS Risk Assessments were carried out:

County	Location
Cork	Inch (Green Coast)
Cork	Garretstown (LG)
Cork	Garrylucas (LG)
Cork	Sheeps Head (Green Coast)
Cork	Garinish
Cork	Redstrand
Cork	Blue Pool Glengarriffe
Cork	Dunworley
Cork	Ballinglanna
Cork	Shanagarry/Ardnahinch(Green Coast)
Cork	Fountainstown
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	Killiney Beach
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	Sandycove
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	Seapoint
Donegal	Bundoran
Fingal	Balbriggan
Fingal	Malahide
Fingal	Portmarnock
Fingal	Burrow, Sutton
Kerry	Cuas Crom, Cahirciveen
Kerry	Carrolls Cove, Caherdaniel
Kerry	Beal Ban
Kerry	Waterville
Kerry	Rinn Roan
Kerry	Cromane
Kerry	Littor Beach
Mayo	Clare Island
Mayo	Dooega
Mayo	Doogort
Mayo	Elly Bay
Sligo	Strandhill
Wexford	Carne
Westmeath	The Cut
Westmeath	Portnashangan
Westmeath	Lilliput
ESB	Hydro Audit Cork

## 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
Martin O'Sullivan.....	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 RLSS
Séan Murphy.....	IWS Internal Auditor
Michael Murphy.....	National Designated Liaison Person & Codes of Ethics Inspector

## IWS REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Breda Collins.....	International Lifesaving (Europe) ILS(E) Rescue Commission
Martin O'Sullivan.....	ILSE European Board
Martin O'Sullivan.....	ILS World Rescue Commission
Michael Cuddihy.....	ILSE Sports Commission
John Leech.....	ILSE 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

Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Denise Sayers with a Certificate of Service.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## LIFEGUARD RESCUES AND PREVENTIVE ACTIONS

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

County	Rescue without using craft	Rescued using Craft	First Aid	Lost Child	Advice Given	Accident prevented	Other Incident
	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Carlow	1	0	272	0	378	28	0
Cork	18	11	207	37	10965	6169	19
Clare	35	55	653	97	19529	8172	93
Donegal	0	24	297	17	7299	95	0
Dublin	6	18	54	12	1819	583	7
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	6	4	36	0	152	58	0
Fingal	13	13	455	92	10,819	1058	261
Galway	14	14	369	13	2880	502	705
Kerry	114	210	936	224	4091	998	972
Kilkenny	12	0	80	0	380	75	8
Limerick Co.	1	36	12	1	1844	1387	2
Louth	0	0	69	2	186	12	0
Mayo	2	8	72	4	14,096	4950	3
Meath	0	0	21	9	28	12	0
Roscommon	0	0	218	0	760	24	0
Sligo	0	2	20	15	4152	2587	1771
Tipperary	0	0	5	0	4344	0	0
Waterford	10	6	188	93	5251	2972	1149
Wexford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wicklow	13	3	246	47	371,783	0	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>4,210</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>460,698</b>	<b>29,682</b>	<b>5,074</b>

## CONFERENCES

- Water Safety Development Officer's Conference  
13th – 15th April, Kilkenny
- Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar  
27th September, Westmeath
- Examiner's Conference  
15th October
- Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) Conference  
22nd October, Dublin.
- National Awards Ceremony  
8th November, Dublin Castle

## OTHER COURSES / EVENTS

- In-house Pool Lifeguard Provider's Course  
16,17 January
- National Pool Lifeguard Tutor's Course, Dublin  
17 – 18 September
- ILS(Europe) Commission Meetings, Sweden  
21-24 January
- ILS(Europe) General Assembly, Spain  
30 June – 3 July
- ILS General Assembly, Germany  
2 – 7 September
- HSA / IWS "Keep Safe" events nationwide
- INTO Conference, Wexford  
28 - 30 March
- IW Examiners Training Course Part 2  
1 – 2 October



**Irish Water Safety**

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## OTHER COURSES / EVENTS...contd

- Risk Assessors' Upskilling, Clare, - 19 November
- Pre Hospital Emergency Care (PHECC) upskilling, Westmeath - 20 November
- Swim Teacher's Tutor's Course, - Feb & Mar, Athlone
- Inshore Rescue Boat Course - 22 - 23 May & 17 - 18 April, Maritime College, Cork
- Emergency Services Day Parade; - 17th September
- Fly Shannon Holiday Show, - 20 - 21 February, UL, Limerick
- Irish Skipper show, - 4 - 5 March, Galway
- National Ploughing Championships, Tullamore, Co Offaly
- National Water Safety Awareness Week, 20 - 26 June
- Emergency Services Day March, 17 Sept, Dublin

## MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- National Pool Lifesaving Championships 2016
- Easter 2016
- May Bank Holiday week-end
- June Bank Holiday week-end
- Water Babies & IWS
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- Announcement of new Chairman for IWS
- Jellyfish & Weever Fish warnings
- Hot weather warning
- IWS and Inland Fisheries Ireland
- October Bank Holiday week-end
- Awards Ceremony 2016
- Christmas 2016 & New Year



The Junior Lifeguard Programme, developed by the Lifeguard Commission, began rolling out nationwide, beginning with Tuam Coral Leisure, Galway. Pictured L and R: Coral's Gerry Brennan, Roger Sweeney (IWS), David Moore and Lisa Heffernan.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# LIFESAVING SPORT

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.

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.

## INTERNATIONAL RESULTS:

### World Lifesaving Championships

**Eindhoven and Noordwijk, Holland; 1 – 18 September 2016**

Irish Water Safety's Team Ireland secured Gold in the Youth Worlds for the 4 x 90-metre beach sprint relay won by Emer Kelly and Emma O'Brien from Wicklow and Georgina Steel and Denise Bolger from Wexford. Cousins Bernard Cahill and Oisín McGrath won Bronze in the Board Rescue Race, a first for an Irish Senior team while Rory McEvoy won Silver in the Youth Pool event for the 50-metre manikin carry. Also in Holland, a new world record was set by Denise Bolger from Wexford with Rosin Cahill from Clare in the Pool line-throw event with a new time of 11.06 seconds.

## NATIONAL RESULTS:

Competitions throughout the year see Lifeguards qualify as the top competitors in their respective counties before going head to head for the overall national titles where they contend with challenging still water and open water conditions in simulated emergency rescue scenarios designed to test their swimming and rescue board skills.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## Overall Team Champions:

National Nipper Champions:	Cork
National Junior Champions:	Clare
National Senior Champions:	Clare
National Masters Champions:	Cork

## National Surf Rescue Championships Clonea Beach, Co. Waterford; Sat 24th September 2016

In a weather-battered finale, Ireland's top life-saving athletes competed for the final event in the Irish Water Safety Sport calendar that saw Clare retain their dominant position as National champions, capping their best season ever. Over 300 competitors from 14 counties competed in Senior and Masters events based around key life-saving skills that attracts more than 5,000 participants annually in Ireland. Dramatic conditions driven by gale force winds at Tramore Life-Saving Centre saw Safety Officer Buddy Cuddihy switch the venue to Clonea Strand near Dungarvan while some events were also curtailed.

Events are based around core life-saving skills including speed, strength, endurance and equipment handling. In an exceptional performance, Clare's Bernard Cahill won all five of his events - Surf swim, Rescue Board Race, Rescue Ski Race, Ocean Man Race and Board Rescue. Clare retained their overall titles in both Men and Womens' events while Waterford and Wexford teams were closest runners-up.

In addition to the overall prizes for both Men and Women's competitions, Clare Ladies also won the prestigious President's Trophy awarded for the best performance over 23 competitions throughout 2016 including the Pool Rescue Championships held in February. The team included mother and daughter dual world record-holders Norma and Roisin Cahill. "Clare's strength in heavy surf clearly stands to their credit while the team continues their strong tradition as Ireland's 'spiritual home' of life-saving sport in this country," commented Claire McGrath, Water Safety Development Officer for County Clare and member of Irish Water Safety's National Sports Commission. "This record is now feeding through to our international performance as this year's world championships proves." Host county Waterford took over from Cork as winners of the Masters competition.

### Women:

Place	Team		Points
1	Clare Ladies A	Clare Ladies A	256
2	Wicklow Ladies A	Wicklow Ladies A	135
3	Waterford Ladies A	Waterford Ladies A	112
4	Donegal Ladies A	Donegal Ladies A	75
5	Cork Ladies A	Cork Ladies A	61
6	Dublin Ladies A	Dublin Ladies A	52
7	Wexford Ladies A	Wexford Ladies A	42
8	Waterford Ladies B	Waterford Ladies B	37
9	Cork Ladies B	Cork Ladies B	30
10	Clare Ladies B	Clare Ladies B	15
11	Galway Ladies A	Galway Ladies A	11



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*



Action from Irish Water Safety's National Surf Lifesaving Championships at Clonea Beach, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

**Men:**

Place	Team		Points
1	Clare Men A	Clare Men A	222
2	Waterford Men A	Waterford Men A	176
3	Wexford Men A	Wexford Men A	118
4	Sligo Men A	Sligo Men A	98
5	Galway Men A	Galway Men A	75
6	Cork Men A	Cork Men A	64
7	Clare Men B	Clare Men B	61
8	Waterford Men B	Waterford Men B	60
9	Cork Men B	Cork Men B	36
10	Mayo Men A	Mayo Men A	33
11	Wicklow Men A	Wicklow Men A	21
12	Wexford Men B	Wexford Men B	11
13	Dublin Men A	Dublin Men A	10

**National Junior Surf Rescue Championships****Rossnowlagh Beach, Co. Donegal; Sun 28th August 2016**

1st Clare	2nd Wexford	3rd Waterford	
4th Wicklow	5th Cork	6th Donegal	
7th Louth	8th Sligo	9th Mayo	
10th Dublin	11th Galway	12th Kildare	13th Kilkenny

**National Nipper Surf Rescue Championships****Rossnowlagh Beach, Co. Donegal; Sun 28th August 2016****• Aged 8 – 11 Team Results:**

1st Cork	2nd Wicklow	3rd Clare	4th Donegal
5th Sligo	6th Waterford	7th Wexford	8th Louth
9th Kildare	10th Mayo	11th Dublin	

**• Aged 12-14 Team Results:**

1st Clare	2nd Wicklow	3rd Cork	4th Donegal
5th Waterford	6th Wexford	7th Sligo	8th Mayo
9th Louth	10th Kildare	11th Dublin	12th Galway



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# National Awards Ceremony

**The Print Works Conference Centre, Dublin Castle, Nov 8th 2016**

Media Appreciation Awards:

## • Provincial Radio Station Award

Galway Bay FM The provincial radio station award is presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year. Galway Bay FM, an independent local radio station established in 1989, serving Galway city and county, has highlighted many water safety issues and for this we are very grateful, particularly to Chief Executive and Current Affairs Presenter Keith Finnegan.

## • Community Radio Station Award

Community Radio Castlebar provides a radio service to Castlebar and the surrounding environs since 1995. Their mission statement to “reflect the needs of the local community as well as educate and inform its listeners” is reflected in their coverage of water safety issues. We congratulate them and wish them every success into the future and particularly thank Angela Faull for raising awareness to prevent aquatic injuries.

## • National Broadcaster

Radio & TV: RTE News We are grateful to RTE News 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 behaviors around our water.

Our particular gratitude is extended to RTE reporter Teresa Mannion for prompting people to take the necessary precautions on journeys to our wonderful aquatic environments.

## • Provincial Press Award

The Clare Champion, established in 1903 is a weekly newspaper serving Clare and Gort South Galway. It is one of the few families owned and operated newspapers in the country. Many of its articles covered water safety topics of concern to the general public over the last year. They regularly provide extensive coverage on such stories and for this we are very grateful, particularly to John Galvin, Managing Director and Editor Austin Hobbs.



Cork County Mayor John Paul O'Shea, Caroline Casey, Cork Co Co's Water Safety Development Officer and John Leech, IWS CEO launch Cork Co Co's Water Safety Awareness Award for local schools



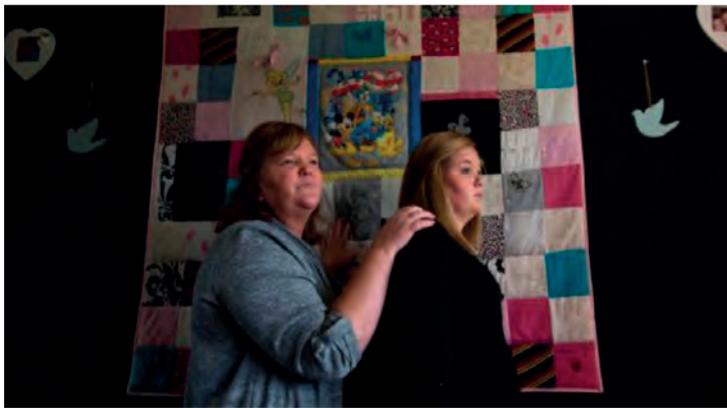
## Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

### • National Press Award

The Irish Times has served Ireland in broadsheet newspaper format since 1859. It regularly covers topical water safety issues that are important to readers in terms of raising awareness of the dangers of Ireland's aquatic environments. For reaching those at risk with relevant water safety content, we are very thankful, particularly to journalists Rosita Boland and Tim O'Brien.

Rosita wrote a poignant piece "The day our daughter drowned", in which a family tells their story and appeals for awareness of water safety following the tragic drowning of Kayleigh Flynn aged 16. As it transpires, this is Rosita's second award in recent days, having just won the News Brands Ireland Journalism Award for best news analysis of the year. Tim wrote a heartfelt piece in which a family expressed their hope that the drowning death of their fifteen-year-old son Caolán Seoige-Webster would lead to greater awareness.



### • Online Media Coverage Award

The Journal.ie is an Irish news website that invites its 340,000 followers to shape the news agenda. Journalists like Gráinne Ní hÁodha are helping Irish Water Safety to deliver key water safety messages of topical interest to readers and we are very grateful to her and her colleagues for placing water safety so high on their agenda.

### • 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. **Pat Divilly** is an Irish fitness expert and author who regularly appears as an expert in health and nutrition in his field in magazines, newspapers and television including RTE's popular "Late Late Show" and has served as a youth mental health suicide prevention ambassador. Pat partnered with Irish Water Safety to create not one but five videos about various water safety themes. In total, Pat's five videos were watched more than 230,000 times, bringing our water safety messages to a wide audience and for this we are truly grateful.



# Irish Water Safety

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**Timemark Limited** is a distributor of leading Watch and Jewelry 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.

**Miriam O'Callaghan** as a broadcaster with RTE, Miriam has a hectic schedule yet this did not stop her from taking time out to record a number of TV and radio campaigns to help raise awareness of water safety. In addition to a child safety message (30 children drowned in the last ten years), Miriam also kindly offered to raise awareness of a new initiative by IWS that brought 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](http://www.safetyzone.ie) was promoted by Miriam in a nationwide radio and online campaign but we are particularly grateful to Miriam for emphasizing the importance of constant uninterrupted responsible child supervision at our waterways. Miriam's messages were viewed 74,000 times online.

**i-Radio** is a regional radio station in the Republic of Ireland that broadcasts to the north-east, midlands, north-west and west. The station is one of four regional youth oriented stations that broadcasts to 15 counties as well as offering an online stream at [LiveRadio.ie](http://LiveRadio.ie). i-Radio proactively helped us to raise awareness about the dangers of water by creating a video that features Seán Webster, the father of drowned child Caolán Seoige-Webster. The video was produced with all necessary sensitivity and respect to a family devastated by their loss while at the same time helping to change the attitudes and behaviors of others throughout the bathing season. We are very grateful to CEO Leigh Doyle and his team for their support, particularly for creating this poignant video to raise awareness.

**SPIN South West** is a radio station broadcasting from Raheen in Limerick city to the South West of Ireland. It launched in July 2007, and holds an Independent Regional Radio contract from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland to broadcast to County Kerry, County Limerick, County Clare, County Tipperary and south-west County Laois. The stations cater to a mainly young provincial audience with a potential listenership of 150 thousand. It is aimed at 15- to 34-year-olds and plays mainly popular music. This makes Spin South West an ideal vehicle through which to deliver a message to a demographic at risk of drowning and for this reason we are very grateful to them for promoting our water safety messages which had 32,000 views.

When local student artist **Joan Finnegan** popped in to our office with some of her paintings of ring buoys, each one obviously offered a perspective that differed from what we recognize as the traditional ring buoy shape that we designed yet when seen collectively on our new postcard they show a clear connection to this piece of public rescue equipment that has saved dozens of lives. Joan's work was covered extensively in local press and we are very grateful to Joan for donating the images for use in such a way as to make people aware that A Stolen Ring buoy could mean A Stolen Life and to open up the water safety conversation to others in a way that is less traditional but by no means less colorful than the ring buoys she loves to paint.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

**Coral Leisure** shares a mutual understanding of the importance of providing water safety skills to the public and by supporting the rollout of our Junior Lifeguard Programme they are playing a significant role in influencing this necessary change in skills that may help to save lives from drowning. Our mutual aim is to keep people involved and active in aquatic activities with instruction that is graded and certified. Having set the standards for the teaching of lifesaving skills in Ireland, it is a natural progression for us to partner with an Irish owned company that encourages safe healthy lifestyles and we extend our appreciation to them for promoting our Lifeguard classes at their nine leisure centres nationwide.

**Mara Media** is a publishing and event management company based in Annagry, West Donegal. Founded in 2005, they have grown to include events such as the Skipper Expo International in Galway and the Ireland Angling Expo in Dublin with publishing titles that includes The Skipper magazine. The Mara Media team has built a strong relationship with IWS and are committed to contributing to our work to help reduce aquatic incidents in the fishing sector by providing our volunteers with space at their annual exhibitions aimed at the fishing and angling sector.

**The Irish National Teachers Organization** is Ireland's largest teachers' union. Irish Water Safety partners with INTO as part of our remit to deliver water safety information to primary school children within the primary school syllabus created by IWS. INTO President Rosena Jordan and her team support the programme by providing opportunities for IWS volunteers and staff to inform INTO teachers on the need for the PAWS programme. They have helped IWS to reach hundreds of primary school children at risk from drowning and we are hugely grateful as thirty children aged fourteen and under have drowned in Ireland in the last ten years.

We thank **Inland Fisheries Ireland** for partnering on an appeal to anglers to always wear a lifejacket when angling. The campaign "LIFE-jacket: the name says it all" ran online in an effort to reach some of the 273,000 domestic anglers and 163,000 visitors who enjoyed fishing during a trip to Ireland last year and thank IFI for partnering on this campaign. We are blessed with 74,000 kilometers of rivers and streams, 128,000 hectares of lakes and over 5,500 kilometers of coastline – all available for anglers to enjoy. Yet with this popular pastime comes a risk that is forever present around water - a risk that has taken eighteen lives since 2014.

The **NUIG** 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. In recent weeks' students developed a short online video campaign called "Don't Be That Guy" to highlight the fact that ring buoys continue to be stolen and vandalized. Their video shows the potentially tragic consequences of vandalizing ring buoys, often by late-night revelers under the influence of alcohol. We are delighted to have worked with the students and thank them sincerely for helping us to deliver a message that will hopefully lead to a reduction in incidents of malicious damage, prompting people to only take a ring buoy from the box if they need it to save a life.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

### Primary School of the Year Award:

Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School, Lucan, Co Dublin

We wish to thank Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School for delivering Irish Water Safety's Primary School Aquatics Programme, a national water safety programme that is now a voluntary component of the primary school curriculum.

The emphasis that the school places on water safety is reflected in the fact that in the last year, 792 certifications were presented to pupils. They organize swimming classes for 1st through to 6th class pupils and the school is now dedicated to complimenting this strong tradition with Irish Water Safety's structured classroom and pool based programme which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. It is a tremendous achievement by all involved and we extend our congratulations to those pupils who passed their water safety exams and also extend our grateful appreciation to all teachers involved.

### Sports Persons of the Year Award

#### Bernard Cahill

Age 22, from Co. Clare Bernard is a student in University of Limerick & worked as Co Clare lifeguard for 5 years. Bernard has been on Irish Teams for World Championships, European Championships, & World & European Junior Championships since the age of 15. This year, in Holland, at the World Senior Championships Bernard had wonderful success.

In the pool: - Bernard finished 10th in the world in the Super lifesaver event, smashing the Irish Record. He was finalist in the Manikin Realy, Obstacle relay and Medley relay.

On the beach: - Bernard won Bronze medal in the Board rescue event (with teammate Oisin McGrath), 6th in the Ocean man event – 1st of the Europeans, 10th in the Surf race, 13th in the Ski race and 15th in the Board race. At world senior level these amazing results.



#### Denise Bolger

Age 19, from Co Wexford. Denise is a student in DCU and worked as a lifeguard for Wexford Co. Denise has been on Irish Senior & Junior teams for World & European Championships, since age 15. This year in Holland at the World Senior Championship Denise had wonderful success.

In the pool: - Denise won Gold, in a World Junior Record, the Line throw event (with teammate Roisin Cahill).

On the beach: - Denise was 5th in the 90m Beach sprint, 10th in the Beach Flags, 1st – Gold in the Beach Relay 4x90m – Denise was the anchor on the relay bringing the team to the fantastic 1st place.



# Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

# Long Service Awards

## Certificate of Service – 10 years of service

Ms	Gayle	Hickey	Cork	Mr	Ciaran	Devins	Dublin
Mr	Emmet	Lynch	Ballybunion CRBI	Mr	Chris	Corrigan	Dublin
Mr	Scott	Morton	Wicklow	Mr	Martin	O Mahony	Bantry CRBI
Mr	Gary	Knox	Kilkenny	Mr	Mick	O Brien	Bantry CRBI
Mr	John	Claffey	Kilkenny	Mr	Diarmuid	Murphy	Bantry CRBI
Ms	Lorraine	Brennan	Leitrim	Mr	Rob	McGuinness	Bantry CRBI
Dr	Matthew	Sills	Waterford	Mr	Gerard	Minehane	Bantry CRBI
Ms	Josephine	Rockett	Waterford	Mr	Richard	Frewin	Derrynane CRBI
Mr	Jim	Dwyer	Dublin	Ms	Charlotte	Byrne	Wexford
Mr	Mathew	Campbell	Dublin	Ms	Carmel	Creane Kavanagh	Wexford
Ms	Maire	Daly	Dublin	Ms	Denise	Sayers	Wexford
Mr	Ciaran	Riordan	Dublin	Ms	Martina	Tiernan	Cavan



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Peadar O'Lamhna with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Gayle Hickey with a Certificate of Service.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# Service Medal of Honour (SMH) – 15 years of service

Ms	Moira	O'Brien	Louth	Ms	Olive	Brennan	Leitrim
Mr	Sean	O'Keeffe	Cork	Ms	Mauyra	Schuermann	Leitrim
Ms	Anne	Curtin	Cork	Mr	Bernard	Schuermann	Leitrim
Ms	Doreen	McCarthy	Cork	Mr	Liam	Corcoran	Tipp North
Ms	Marian	Kelly	Kerry	Mr	William	Murphy	Waterford
Ms	Marian	O'Shea	Kerry	Mr	Darrell	Evans	Waterford
Mr	Christopher	O'Sullivan	Ballybunion CRBI	Mr	Toby	Campbell	Bantry CRBI
Mr	Paddy	Drumgoole	Louth	Mr	Shane	Begley	Bantry CRBI
Ms	Maureen	Murray	Leitrim	Mr	Noel	Donnelly	DERRYNANE
Ms	Dympna	Creegan	Leitrim	Ms	Sarah	White	Cavan



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Paul Murphy with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Séan O'Keeffe with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Gearoid O'Connor with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Sarah White with a Certificate of Service.



**Irish Water Safety**  
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

## Bronze Bar to the SMH – 20 years of service

Ms	Nora	Murphy	Cavan	Ms	Ciara	McSweeney	Waterford
Mr	Johnny	Guidera	Tipp South	Mr	Ben	Kennedy	Dublin
Ms	Kathleen	Casey O'Connell	Kerry	Mr	Matt	Murphy	Bantry CRBI
Ms	Denise	Collins	Kerry	Mr	Alec	O'Donovan	
Ms	Janet	Murphy	Kerry	Mr	Oliver	Goggin	Bantry CRBI
Ms	Colette	Casey	Kerry	Mr	Dermot	Hurley	Bantry CRBI
Ms	Kitty	Meehan	Kerry	Mr	Kevin	Barry	Bantry CRBI
Mr	Kevin	McMahon	Ballybunion CRBI	Mr	Nigel	Ducker	Bantry CRBI
Mr	Gearoid	O Connor	Ballybunion CRBI	Ms	Susan	Vaughan	Wexford
Ms	Tara	Coady	Waterford				



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Janet Murphy with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Colette Casey with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Tara Coady with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Ben Kennedy with a Certificate of Service.



**Irish Water Safety**  
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

## Silver Bar to the SMH – 30 years of service

Ms	Lesley	Harrison Brady	Cavan	Ms	Anna	Corcoran	Tipp North
Mr	Peadar	Mohan	Cavan	Mr	Sean	Hennessey	Tipp North
Ms	Geraldine	Lehane	Cork	Mr	Tom	Mackey	Tipp North
Mr	William	Lonergan	Tipp South	Ms	Gretta	O'Neill	Leitrim
Mr	Thomas J	McCarron	Ballybunion CRBI	Ms	Catherine	Fleming	Dublin
Mr	Michael	Flahive	Ballybunion CRBI	Mr	Dan	McDonnell	Carlow
Mr	Frank	O'Connor	Ballybunion CRBI	Ms	Anne	Ryan	Wexford
Ms	Teresa	Dalton	Monaghan	Mr	Kevin	McCloskey	Donegal
Ms	Sheila	Mollahan	Leitrim				

## Gold Bar to the SMH – 40 years of service

Mr	Donal	McNamara	Tipp South
Mr	Paul	Murphy	Dublin



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present William Lonergan with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Teresa Dalton with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Kevin McCloskey with a Certificate of Service.



Minister Simon Coveney and IWS Council member Buddy Cuddihy present Gretta O'Neill with a Certificate of Service.



**Irish Water Safety**  
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

# LIFE GOVERNORS

## Kathleen Richey



Kathleen is a founder member of Cavan Water Safety since 1971. Her commitment and dedication as a volunteer to the annual training of pupils at Lough MacNea Lake, Blacklion has resulted in many hundreds of successful students.

Kathleen has continuously promoted the ethos and aims of Irish Water Safety, through the high numbers of students who have reached their full potential in swimming and lifesaving. Because of her, hundreds of qualified instructors work throughout the county ensuring a continued high level of instruction in all our water safety areas.

In 2009 Kathleen's hard work was recognised by Irish Water Safety, when she was chosen as Volunteer of the Year. This high achievement was well deserved and promoted further the objectives of Irish Water Safety within our county.

Kathleen works tirelessly as a volunteer to ensure that records for all her students are recorded correctly, as well as being the main organiser for both summer and winter classes in the Blacklion area.

The completion of Life Saving classes involves traveling to Ballyshannon Swimming Pool in County Donegal, a task that is an extra burden for Kathleen – Buses, sufficient supervision and the safety of the students, all has to be considered. Kathleen also fosters good cross border relations as the annual winter course is held at the Lakeland forum Enniskillen County Fermanagh. Never once have any committee members heard Kathleen complain. She is a woman who gets on with the job. No task is too great for our Kathleen.

Kathleen is an organiser, a negotiator and a brilliant promoter of Irish Water safety. She is a worthy ambassador always upholding and promoting the aims and ethos of Irish Water Safety.

## Breda Collins



Breda is a committee member of Irish Water Safety since 1985. Kilkenny City and County owe a lot to Breda. She has taught swimming and Life Saving Skills to children, teenagers and adults from all walks of life in Kilkenny City and beyond. Breda was also an active participant in the primary schools programme and in our summer weeks during that time. She has worked tirelessly over the years to instil water safety and awareness techniques to our young people which has inevitably helped to reduce drownings and increase the knowledge regarding the dangers associated with our rivers, lakes and beaches. Breda is an Examiner, Snr Risk Assessor, International Surf Referee, Commission Chair, Swim Tutor, Lifeguard and AED Tutor. She has served on

the local area committee as Vice Chairman from 2001 to 2006 and is still a very prominent and active member locally. Breda served on the National Council from 2008 and became Chairman of Irish Water Safety in 2012, however, due to personal reasons resigned from that Chair in Spring of 2016. During her time as Chair, she has opened up the organisation thus allowing it to grow and develop during those four years and leaving Irish Water Safety a much larger and stronger organisation today.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## Sean Murphy



Seán has been involved in Water Safety for over 40 years both in Dublin and in Clare. He has taught numerous people Water Safety in this period which has helped in their awareness of the aquatic environment and in doing so has helped in the prevention of drowning in these coastal counties. In the 40 years that Seán has been involved with Water Safety he has been active in teaching Swimming, Water Safety and Life Saving sport. He has been a tireless advocate for the reaching of swimming and Water Safety in the Dublin area. As well as his activities in teaching and promoting Water Safety, Seán is also involved in conducting ring buoy inspections for Dublin City Council and ensure that all publically accessible areas are safe and always have a ring buoy available if needed. Seán was the secretary of the Dublin WSAC from 1990 to 2000 and the treasurer from 2001 until

2005. He continues to be an active member of the Dublin WSAC. Seán was also an IWS honorary auditor from 2003 until 2016, an honorary auditor of International lifesaving from 2005 to 2011 and an honorary auditor of International lifesaving Europe from 2006 to 2011. Seán has been an advocate of water safety for the past 40 years. He has been active on both a local, national and international level for this extended period. Seán is a most suitable candidate for the award of Life Governor as he has been an active campaigner for water safety over the last 40 years which is evidenced by his achievements both nationally and internationally.



# Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Dublin Castle was the venue for Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony where many volunteers were recipients of awards :

A: Kitty Mehan

B: Maire Daly

C: Gary Knox

D: Lorraine Brennan

E: Jim Dwyer

F: Mathew Campbell

G: Ciaran Riordan

H: Ciaran Devins

I: Chris Corrigan

J: Moira O'Brien

K: Anne Curtin

L: Doreen Mc Carthy

M: Paddy Dromgoole

N: Susan Vaughan



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# Volunteer of The Year Award

## Mr. Jack Barry

Jack is a Life Governor with Irish Water Safety. He is an Instructor, Examiner, Beach Life Guard Provider, Pool Lifeguard Provider, River Life Guard Provider, CFR Tutor for Wexford since the beginning of this particular Award, a Risk Assessor and Swim teacher. He started the water safety and swim weeks in his hometown of Bunclody in the 70s and they are still running in the pool he looks after with the local committee.

Jack has been Chair of Wexford Water for many years, and most recently has been the Equipment Officer. Jack was the manager of Ferrybank Swimming Pool and in this role he was instrumental in setting up the programmes of Irish Water Safety which are running today. He is the organiser of the Beach Guard Testing with Wexford Co Council and is the examiner in our Beach Guard Courses –Wexford water Safety usually run two courses during each year.



In Bunclody Jack is the trainer and Tutor for his community training and enabling the locals in the CPR and AED skills necessary to maintain the Rota for defibrillation in the town of Bunclody, as it is a 40-minute ambulance response time in this area. Jack served on various commissions in the 70s and 80s as recorded in the history of Irish Water Safety. Jack currently is a busy volunteer with Wexford Water Safety, present at lifeguarding courses encouraging instructors, and examining when required.

He examines the Assistant swim teachers at Assistant Swim Teacher's course each year. Wexford Water Safety are proud to put Jack forward as volunteer of the year as he epitomizes our voluntary ethos. He gives freely of his time to discuss issues that arise, he is a constant presence of knowledge, and is available to us both locally and nationally

Jack examines the River lifeguards in Co Carlow and helps out neighbouring counties with information on equipment. He was instrumental in the design of the ring buoy with Ciaran Dargen, and his engineering background has been a bonus with every activity he gives his attention to. All the Instructors he has trained over the years have the utmost respect for his knowledge, commitment and passion for his approach to water safety and his integrity in everything he does. He celebrates his 80th birthday this month and we wish him very many more volunteering years with us.



**Irish Water Safety**  
*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# International Life Saving Award

## Irish Navy

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

The International Lifesaving Federation and Irish Water Safety commend the Naval Service for saving thousands of lives in the eastern Mediterranean Sea during their ships humanitarian aid operations.



# Charles Thomson Award

## Clare 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 2015 and 31st December 2015.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# SEIKO Just in Time Awards & Rescue Appreciation

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

## 1. Galway

**Alan Herdman (Kildare) & Neil Gibson (Dublin)**

On the 15th of July 2015, at Rusheen Bay, Galway, Alan & Neil were alerted to a group of children in distress in the water. Alan assessed the situation and went to the aid of a young girl and pulled her onto his board. He then continued to rescue another nearby child, pulling them both onto the same board. He instructed the two children to remain on the board while he swam towards a group of four children and helped them to remain buoyant. Neill then arrived on a stand up paddle board to these four children and gave Alan the board to keep them afloat. Neil swam to the remaining two children still in the water and brought them toward the paddle board, joining the children Alan had rescued previously. They then took all eight back to safety.



## 2. Scout holidaying in Turkey –

**Sean Thompson (Wexford) & Mollie Tamara Power (Dublin)**

In July, Mollie, a member of the 38th Dublin Rush Scouts, and Sean, from the 6th Wexford Sea Scouts, were on holiday with their families. The brave teenagers swam to a local boy's aide and pulled him from the water – even clearing his airways and preparing to do CPR before a nurse took over.



## 3. Sligo

**Ruth Conlon Oats (Sligo)**

On the 15th August 2016, 14-year-old Ruth was sunbathing by Ballisodare river when she was made aware of a boy in difficulty in the water. She immediately entered the water and brought the person to safety. Her experience in lifesaving comes from her 'Rookie Lifeguard Training'.



**Irish Water Safety**  
*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

#### 4. Laois

##### *Emily Duggan (Laois)*

In May 2011, then 8-year-old Emily Duggan noticed her little brother Justin then 5 was sinking rapidly in a septic tank. She immediately grabbed a hurley and went to the aid of her younger brother and pulled him to safety. Emily had completed Irish Water Safety's primary school curriculum, PAWS.



#### 5. Dublin

##### *Donal Ward & Niamh Wrenn*

On the 23rd of January 2016, two swimmers got into difficulty in the water at Vico swimming place, Dalkey. A swimmer alerted a group of people about the situation. Both Niamh and Donal took a lifebuoy and went to the scene. One swimmer managed to get out of the water but the second swimmer remained in the water. He appeared very weak and was being overpowered by the waves. It was very windy. On the third attempt with the use of a ring buoy, Donal and Niamh managed to bring the swimmer to safety.



#### 6. Cork

##### *John McCarthy (Cork)*

On the 20th of April 2016, John was walking with his family when he came upon a woman in distress in the water. He entered the water and upon reaching the woman grabbed her by the arm and pulled her to safety.



#### 7. Donegal

##### *John Flannery, Martin Treanor & Roisin Treanor (Monaghan)*

On the 17th of September 2016 at 6pm, four teenage girls were rescued by a group of body boarders John Flannery, Martin Treanor and Roisin Treanor, after they had got into difficulty while swimming in Bundoran, Co. Donegal.



**Irish Water Safety**  
*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## 8. Longford

***Nicole Bohan, Dylan Murray, Kielan McDonagh & Jack Carey (Longford)***

On the 3rd of July 2016, Nicole, Dylan, Kieran and Jack were walking along the Camlin River, Longford when they noticed a woman in distress. The woman was unable to reach her child in difficulty in the water but through the brave actions of the four friends working together, the child was saved and brought safely to the riverbank.



## 9. Wexford

***Laurence Duggan, William Duggan (Wexford)***

In August of 2016, brothers William & Laurence Duggan came to the rescue of an 11 year old girl who was stuck in mudflats near the Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford. They heard the cries for help and immediately went to the rescue, deploying a life buoy on the riverbank and calmly giving the girl instructions so as not to alarm her further as they brought her to safety. Fifteen minutes later, the area where the child was embedded, was covered by an incoming tide.



## 10. Clare

***John McDonnell, Sergeant John Casey, Sergeant Marie Crowley (Clare)***

On Sunday evening of the 14th of August 2016, Sergeants John Casey & Marie Crowley responded to a call at the Pier Road, Ballyvaughan. A man in a car had entered the water. Both Sergeant Casey and John McDonnell entered the water and brought the man to safety.



## 11. Kildare

***Gardaí John O'Sullivan, Michael Murphy & Kevin Williamson***

On the 17th September 2015 Gardaí John O Sullivan, Michael Murphy & Kevin Williamson entered the Lake at Ballymore Eustace Road to rescue a female who had entered the water. The female was unconscious and unresponsive. They performed CPR until the arrival of the paramedics at which stage the casualty was transferred to hospital for treatment.

## 12. Kildare

### *Gardaí David Salmon & Nathan Conroy (Kildare)*

On the 21st of March 2016, Gardaí Dave Salmon & Nathan Conroy received a call regarding a woman in distress in the water at Rye Bridge, Kildare. Both Gardaí went to the location. Upon observing the woman in distress, they both entered the water and brought the woman to safety.

## 13. Wexford

### *Garda Jarlath Duffy (Wexford)*

On the 17th February 2016, Garda Jarlath Duffy observed a man in distress in the water at the River Slaney. The full uniformed Garda entered the water and brought the man to safety.

## 14. Dublin

### *Garda Aidan Kelly (Dublin)*

On Tuesday 19th of January 2016, Garda Aidan Kelly of Blackrock Garda Station observed a man fall into the water at Victoria Quay. Garda Kelly responded immediately and went to the aid of the man. After many attempts to reach the casualty with the aid of a lifebuoy, Garda Kelly ran along the river bank, grabbed another ring buoy and lowered himself down a ladder. With the assistance of members of the public, Garda Kelly managed to pull the man onto the ladder and up onto the bank to safety. The man was transferred to hospital for treatment. \*Garda Kelly has Irish Water Safety's Rescue 1 & 2 Lifesaving training from Templemore Garda College.



## 15. Tipperary

### *Gardaí Mark Holden, Kieran Hayes, Claire Murphy & Sergeant Kieran O Regan (Tipperary)*

On the 17th of August 2015, Gardaí, Mark Holden, Kieran Hayes, Claire Murphy & Kieran O Regan, received a call regarding a man who had fallen into the water at New Quay, Clonmel. The Gardaí immediately went to the scene. Garda Mark Holden & Sgt. Kieran O'Regan entered the water. The four Gardaí managed to bring the man to safety and waited with him until emergency services arrived to the scene.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## 16. Sligo

### ***Gary Robertson JIT, Rescue Appreciation - Ciaran Ferguson, Sean Redahan & Michael Treacy***

On the evening of the 9th of August 2016, MRSC Malin Head coast guard received an emergency 999 call regarding an upturned boat off Inishshinny island. A lifeboat went to the scene but they were unable to attempt the rescue due to the crashing waves and many loose fishing ropes floating near the casualty. The unconscious casualty was wearing a lifejacket and was clinging onto a ring buoy. The Rescue 118 helicopter assessed the situation and positioned itself 50 meters away from the scene. The winchman, Gary Robertson, was lowered into the sea. He swam 50 meters to reach the casualty who was unresponsive and his left arm was wrapped around the buoy. Gary proceeded to work on the rescue by attaching double lifting straps around the casualty. Waves continued to crash over them. The winchman signaled to the operator to slowly start winching them out of the water. The fishing ropes attached to both the winch man & casualty were visible and the winch operator stopped the process to allow the ropes to be cut one by one. Both Gary and the casualty were winched into the aircraft.

## 17. Donegal

### ***Davitt Walsh JIT, Rescue Appreciation – Stephanie Knox***

On the 20th of March 2016, Davitt Walsh and Stephanie Knox were driving from the Buncrana pier when Stephanie noticed a car in the water. The pair immediately ran down to the slip-way where they met a local man who pleaded with them to swim out to the Jeep. Davitt entered the water and swam 40 meters out to sea to reach a jeep that had slipped off the pier at Buncrana. Upon reaching the Jeep, Davitt pulled the baby from the car. He managed to swim and make it back to dry land. Stephanie took the baby and wrapped it up in her coat until emergency services arrived.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

# Rescue Appreciation Awards

## Mr. Norman Griffin (Monaghan)

In April of 1984, Norman was preparing for his lessons at St Davnett's Hospital swimming pool when he noticed a 7-year old boy face down in the water. Norman immediately entered the water and managed to take the boy to safety where he commenced CPR and alerted one of the parents to call for an ambulance. Norman continued CPR until a doctor arrived. The boy was taken to hospital by ambulance and he made a full recovery.



## Ms Ciara Murray

In June 2016, Ciara Murray came upon a teacher who had collapsed in the corridor of the school she attends. Ciara immediately summoned help and an AED and successfully managed to keep her teacher alive until the emergency services arrived and took over. The teacher has since made a full recovery.

## Glennon, Nicholas Glennon (Westmeath)

On the 22nd of September 2015, Gardaí received a call regarding a woman in distress in the River Shannon in Athlone. Sergeant Dermot Monaghan, Garda Kieran Dempsey, Garda Mary Murphy, Garda Karl Moore, Garda Johanna Connolly & Garda John Glennon and Nicholas Keogh - all of Athlone Garda Station - rushed to the location and commenced searching for the distressed female. With the use of a lifebuoy and a fishing boat the Gardaí brought the female to safety. The woman was taken to hospital by ambulance where she made a full recovery.

## Mr. Hugh Long (Dublin)

In Jan of 1983, Hugh Long was driving his Texaco tanker back from a routine trip. While stopped at traffic lights on the Liffey, a woman banged on his window screaming "help, she's drowning, save her". Hugh, a non-swimmer, immediately jumped from his lorry and climbed down a ladder to the river. He attached a rope to the ladder and threw it out to reach the woman. He managed to bring her to safety and he stayed with her until emergency services arrived on the scene.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## Irish Navy LÉ Eithne

The International Lifesaving Federation and Irish Water Safety commend the Naval Service for saving thousands of lives in the eastern Mediterranean Sea during their ships humanitarian aid operations. The first ship deployed to the Mediterranean on these humanitarian missions was L.E. EITHNE 16 May 2015. She was followed by L.E. NIAMH, L.E. SAMUEL BECKETT, L.E. ROISIN, L.E. JAMES JOYCE and then SAMUEL BECKETT again. There have been 93 SAR ops in total (57 in 2015 and 36 to date in 2016)

The total number of rescued/ persons to date by the NS (including the current deployment of L.E. SAMUEL BECKETT) is 14,576. 72 BODIES have been recovered. A baby named Destiny was born onboard the L.E. NIAMH in 2015, which is a first time that a baby was born on an Irish State ship. Another women went into labour shortly after being rescued by the JAMES JOYCE and was transferred to an MSF ship where she gave birth to a baby whom she named 'Joy' in honour of the rescuers this summer.



Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government presents Rescue Appreciation Awards to (L/R, Back/Front) the Irish Naval Service represented by LE Roisin - PO Mech Dwayne Philbin, LE Eithne - CPO ERA Ruairi de Barra, LE James Joyce - A/Supply Catherine Doran, LE Samuel Beckett - Lt Niall McCarthy, LE Niamh - S/Lt Dave McKenna with Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*



A



B



C



D



E



F

Dublin Castle was the venue for Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony where recipients of the Media Awards and Community & Social Responsibility Awards included (clockwise), presented by The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD and Irish Water Safety's Roger Sweeney:

- A : Gráinne Ní hÁodha of TheJournal.ie
- B : Orla Shiels, Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- C : Jonathan Duane and Amy Deegan of i-Radio

- D : Rosita Boland and Tim O'Brien of The Irish Times
- E : Rosena Jordan, INTO President
- F : Siobhan Tighe and Camillus Muldowney of Coral Leisure



**Irish Water Safety**  
 Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

The Hodson Bay Hotel, Co. Roscommon was the venue for the National Examiner's Conference where local TD Kevin "Boxer" Moran and IWS Chairman Martin O'Sullivan presented newly qualified Examiners with their official certification.

A: Tara Coady

D: Annette Hennigan Curran

G: Olivia Quinn

B: Josephine Rocket

E: Clodna Mitchell

H: Sonny Condon

C: Ian Smith

F: Sinead Mortell

I: Linda Browne



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



**Irish Water Safety**

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

- A. Action from Irish Water Safety's National Pool Lifesaving Championships at UL pool
- B. Louth Water Safety Area Committee teaches pupils Basic Life Support skills at the summer week in Clogher Head.
- C. Stephen O'Toole (IWS Laois) and Kate O'Neill (IWS Offaly) demonstrate Basic Life Support skills to Minister Simon Coveney at the National Ploughing Championships.
- D. Irish Water Safety trained Lifesaver Oisín McGrath is crowned Military World Champion at the World Military Lifesaving Games.
- E. Incoming Chairman Martin O'Sullivan acknowledges the work of outgoing Chair Breda Collins.
- F. All set for the St Patrick's Day Parade, Louth
- G. The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD appoints Martin O'Sullivan, on right, as Chairman of IWS



A



A



B



C



D



E



F



F



G



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

## **Statistical Analysis of 2016 Drownings**

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2016 was 123\*, 1 greater than in 2015 when 122 drowned. 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.

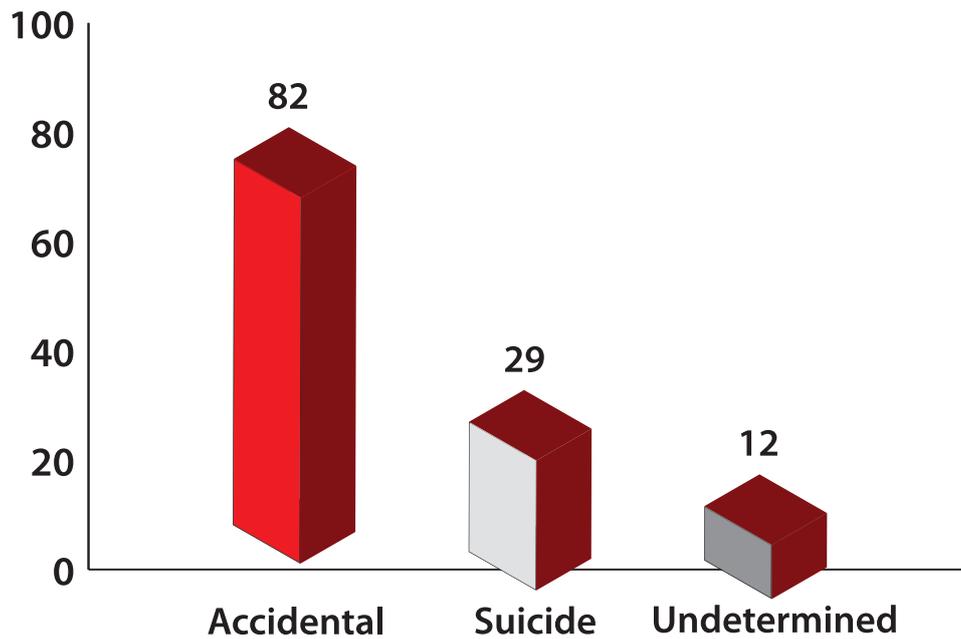
### **A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:**

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.

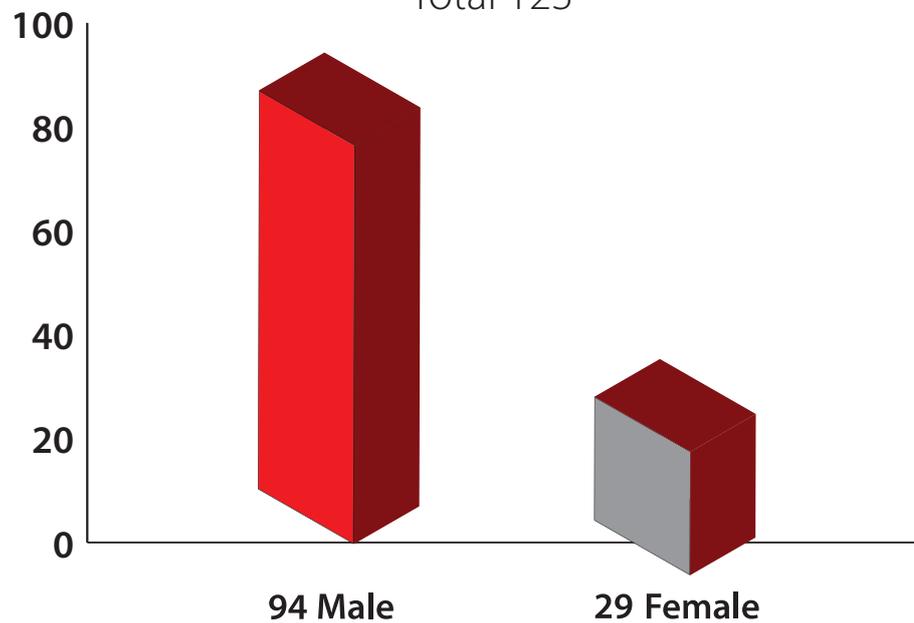
## 2016 Drownings by Cause

Total 123



## 2016 Drownings by Gender

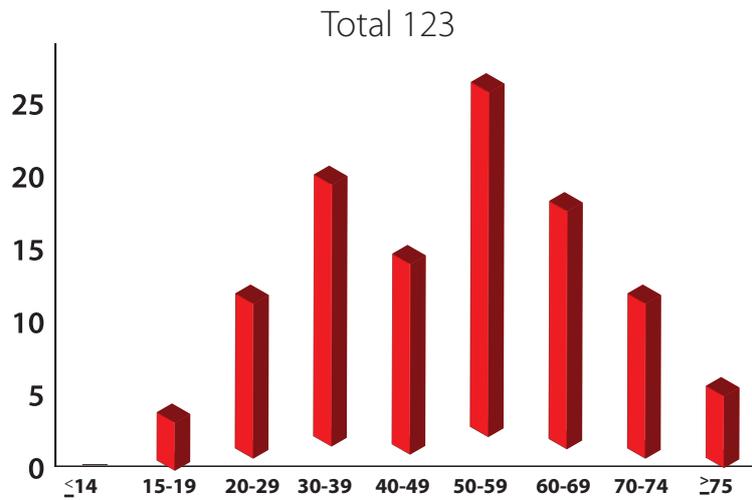
Total 123



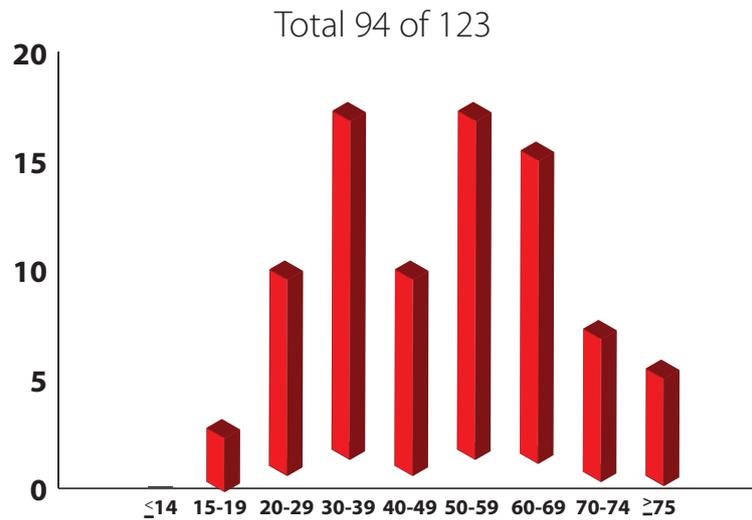
# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*

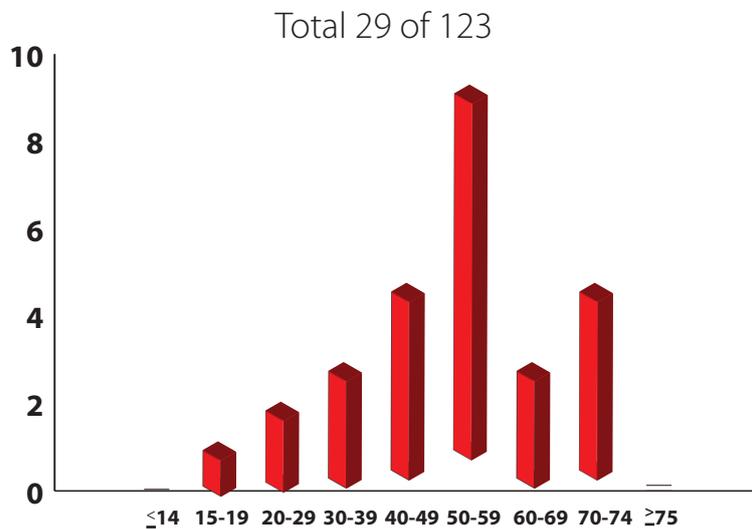
## 2016 Drownings by Age



## 2016 Male Drownings by Age

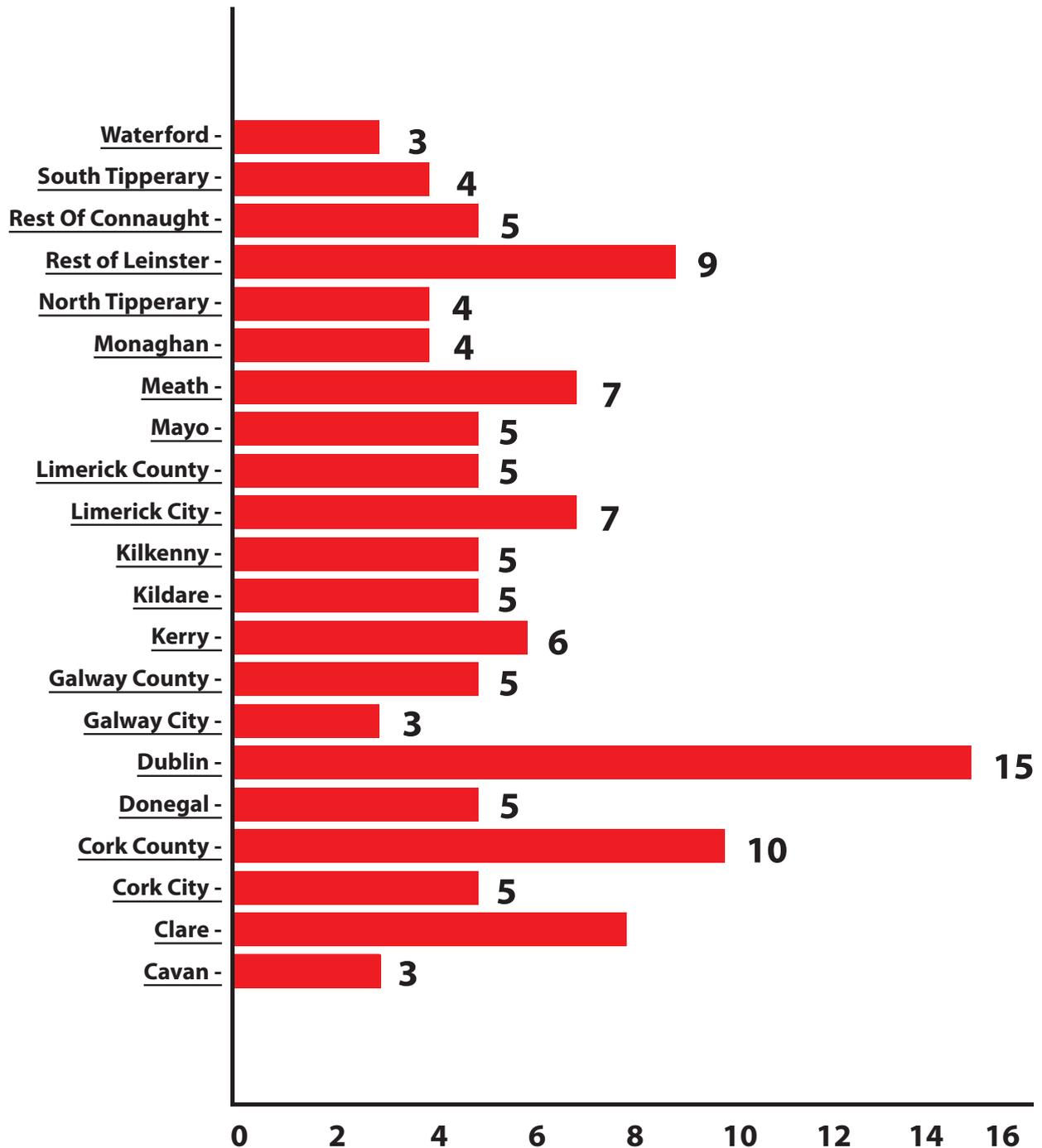


## 2016 Female Drownings by Age



# 2016 Drownings by County

Total 123



## Drownings Abroad:

In 2016, a total of eight Irish citizens drowned abroad.



# Irish Water Safety

*Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann*



Know what you're getting into with Irish Water Safety





## Irish Water Safety

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