



2017

ANNUAL REPORT



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



SCALING UP EFFORTS TO BRING DROWNINGS DOWN

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<https://www.youtube.com/irishwatersafety>

Affiliated Websites:

www.iws.ie

www.watersafety.ie

www.safetyzone.ie

www.ringbuoys.ie

www.aquaattack.ie

www.iwsmembership.ie

www.iwsmemberinsurance.com

www.paws.iws.ie

www.iwspaws.com

www.paws.edco.ie

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Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Patron of Irish Water Safety



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

2017 was a year in which we had some good news. While our waters are a wonderful resource, we have had some stubbornly high numbers of drownings over the years, averaging 133 per annum. 2017 was different. We had a total of 109 drownings in 2017, bringing the average number of drownings each year down to 127. In order to further influence a downward trend on this figure that is still tragically too high, we need to establish why the numbers have reduced. Clearly the answer is multi-faceted.

The pillars upon which we deliver our drowning prevention strategy include our swimming and lifesaving training programmes, our education developments, our media messaging, and our water safety awareness courses. Arguably, the reduction in drownings in 2017 to 109 is linked in some way to all of the above. We can never fully enumerate the number of lives saved and the number of aquatic accidents prevented as a result of our many activities but we can be assured that lives have been saved as a result of the activities of our dedicated volunteers throughout the country. It is time to say Thank You, to say Go Raibh Míle Maith Agaibh, to all of these volunteers. Whether they serve on the Council of IWS, whether they work on the Commissions, the Committees, the Working Groups and especially on the Water Safety Area Committees, they deserve the gratitude of the entire nation. Our range of programmes and courses expands each year which imposes ever increasing challenges on our volunteers and staff.

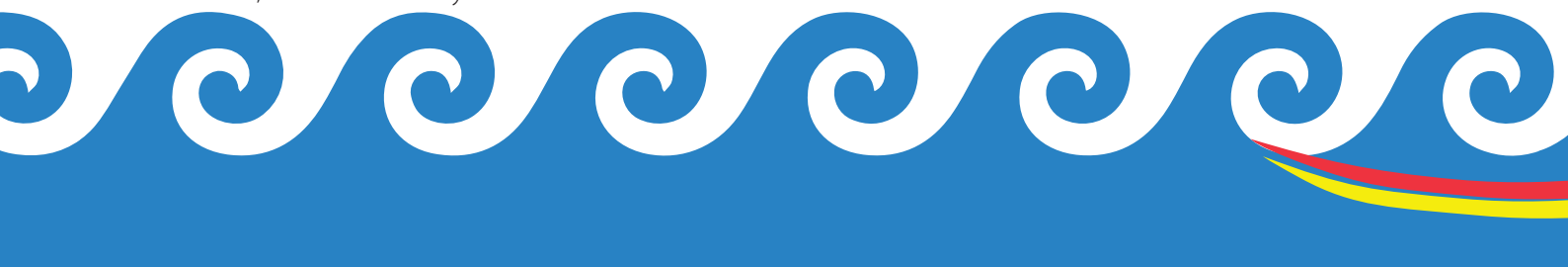
That challenge is to increase the number of people that hear our message and learn skills that enable them to stay safe in aquatic environments. 2017 saw the injection of €500,000 special funding to target at-risk groups with specific marketing campaigns that promoted water safety awareness across a variety of media. It also allowed us to further develop our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme into schools nationwide.

Our "Summer Weeks" programme also reaches this primary school age group when they are on school holidays. During June, July and August alone, thousands of children were taught swimming and lifesaving skills on our beaches, rivers and lakes. The list of venues is in this report and reflects the reach of a programme that extends to remote areas where children do not have access to pools. Our winter programme runs in pools all around the country, from September to June.

Throughout 2017, we issued 22,000 swimming certificates and about 25,000 lifesaving certificates, including Lifeguarding and Basic Life Support. The total number of certificates issued across all our programmes was 100,000, with over 50,000 of those going to primary school children, a wonderful achievement. I am conscious of the number of volunteers who have lost a family member during the year and I extend on behalf of IWS our deepest sympathies to all families, including those of Paddy Phipps, Aidan Byrne, Jack Barry, John McNally Snr., and Sé Rooney. In 2017 we also saw the appointment of a new Council. There are some familiar and some new faces. I am delighted as Chairman and on behalf of all IWS members, to welcome them and to welcome their individual skills which they bring with them. I look forward with confidence to their continued contribution and support. In closing, I wish to express our gratitude to Mr Michael Ring, Minister for Rural & Community Development and his officials for supporting our work and to our staff at head office for all their efforts throughout the year. Together, let's bring drownings down.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin O'Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" and last name "O'Sullivan" clearly distinguishable.

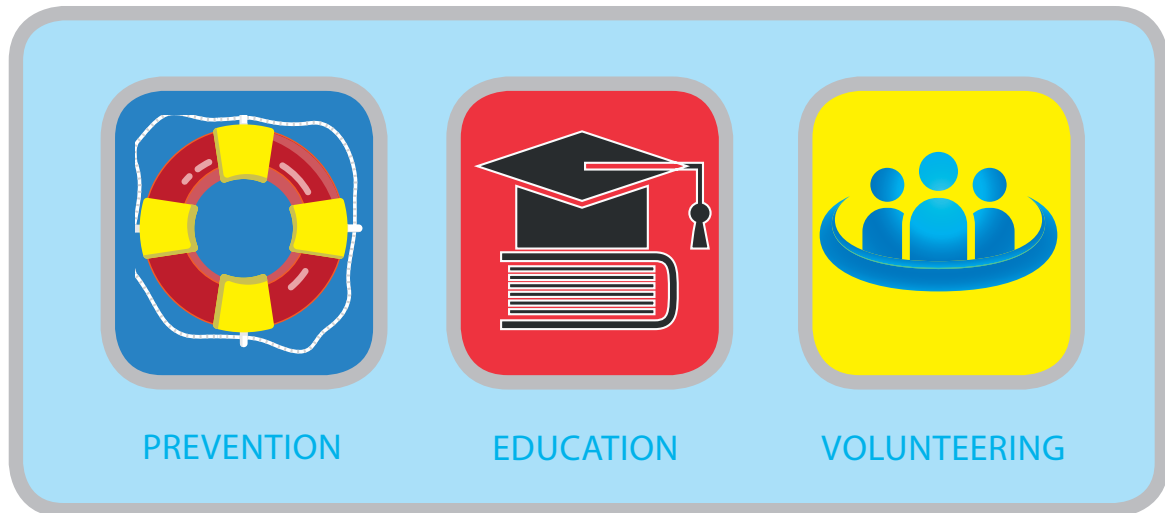
Martin O'Sullivan
Chairman, Irish Water Safety



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



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety present Anna Byrne with an IWS Life Governor Award at the annual IWS Awards Ceremony."



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

COUNCIL

Martin O'Sullivan Chairman



Martin has been involved with water safety since 1970, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of the 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.

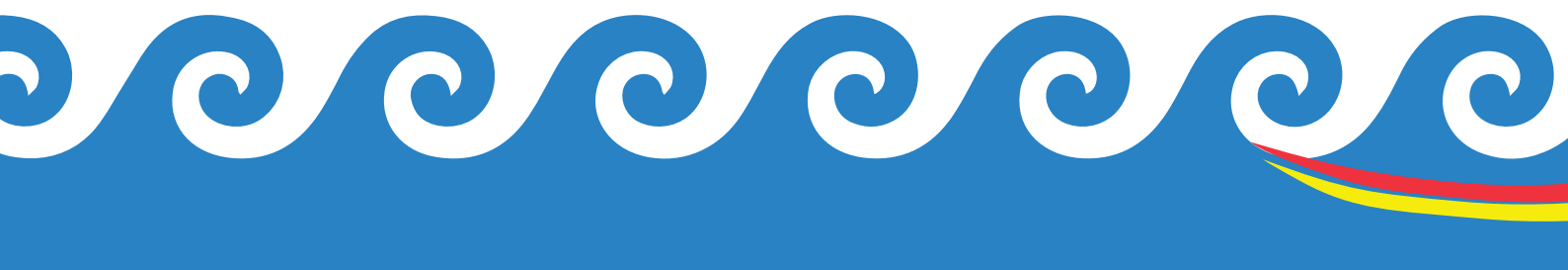


Seamus O'Neill, Vice Chairman

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

Michael Cuddihy

Michael "Buddy" Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time, he has served on many national and international committees, including the Lifeguard Commission, the European College of Referees and the Sports Commission, where he brought teams to mainland Europe, Australia, South Africa and the USA. He is currently the Chairperson of the Inshore Rescue Boats (IRB) Commission and Treasurer of the Waterford Water Safety Area Committee. He is also an active Irish Water Safety Swim Teacher, Examiner, Senior Tutor with the IRBs, Referee, and Risk Assessor.



Anne Ryan

A Wexford native, Anne has been 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 Swimming Teacher and Examiner, and the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee Secretary. 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 QQI representative. In addition to these activities, Anne finds the time to organise Cahore Outdoor Water Safety Week, with which she has played an active role since 1996.



Paul Murphy

Paul is from Dublin and has been involved with Irish Water Safety as a Volunteer for over 40 years. He is an active Irish Water Safety Lifesaving Instructor, Swimming Teacher, Examiner, Pool & Beach Lifeguard Course Tutor, and Swim Teacher Tutor. He is currently the Vice-Chairman and Certificates Secretary of the Dublin Water Safety Area Committee and he has previously served on a number of Technical Commissions over the last 20 years. He is also the current Chairman of the IWS Lifeguard Commission.

Tom Doyle

From Wexford, Tom has been involved with Water Safety since the early seventies having worked in Wexford Swimming Pool for over 30 years. He is currently the Chair of the Irish Water Safety Audit Commission and has previously served as Chairman of the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee, Water Safety Development Officer for Wexford County Council, and served on the Lifeguard Commission. He organizes the IWS summer programme for Wexford every year. Tom is also on the board of Wexford Credit Union and is Vice-Chair of Chapter 9, a grouping of credit unions in the south-east of Ireland. His leisure interests include electrical design, scuba diving, and cycling.



Lola O'Sullivan

Lola is from Tramore, County Waterford and been involved with Irish Water Safety for 30 years. She is an active Instructor, Pool and Beach Lifeguard Course Provider, and Examiner in Waterford. Lola is very involved in Surf Lifesaving in Waterford and has competed in Surf Lifesaving both nationally and internationally. She is also Chair of the Waterford Water Safety Area Committee and is a Councillor with Waterford City and County Councils. She previously held the position of Sports Officer for Waterford and served as a crew member with the RNLI in Tramore.

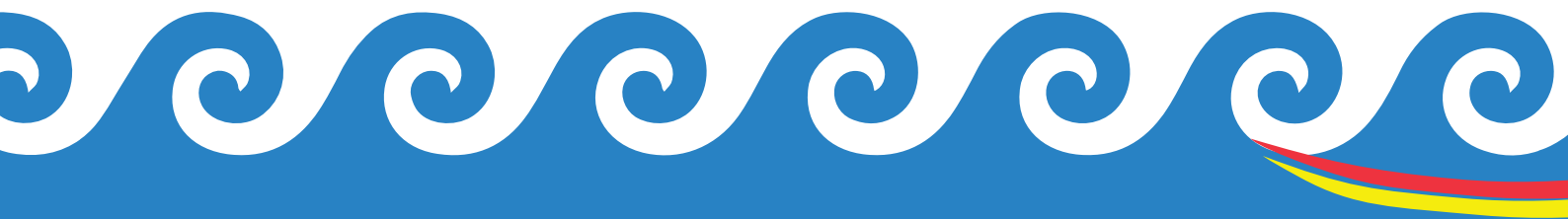


Karen Morton

Karen lives in Dublin and is a Marketing Mentor and Consultant as well as a speaker on topics such as Mentoring and Social Media. Karen's career spans a variety of multinationals (Dell, British Airways and Eircom) and fast growth start-ups (Monster.com) in a wide range of sectors. Karen spent 10 years at Dell in Marketing leadership roles including Chief Marketing Officer of Dell Financial Services. Karen's areas of expertise include Marketing, Communications, Digital/Social, and Strategy. Karen led the Dell Women's Network for 3 years and sat on the Connecting Women in IT committee in Dublin. Karen is a graduate of the University of Limerick where she received an Honours Degree in Marketing and French and is a previous Board member of the University of Limerick Alumni Association. Karen has a keen interest in water safety and was a Lifeguard at University.

Peter Cleere

Peter Cleere is a native of Skeoughvosteen, Co. Kilkenny and has been a member of Kilkenny Water Safety since 2014. He is currently a county councillor for the Kilkenny City East Municipal area for Kilkenny County Council and is also currently Chairperson of the Kilkenny Carlow Education Training Board (KCETB). Peter has 18 years experience in the financial services industry and is a Chartered Banker, fully Qualified Financial Adviser (QFA) and also holds a Professional Diploma in Financial Services. His leisure interests include GAA, where he is currently a player and an underage coach with his local club.



Conor Coyne

Conor Coyne is originally from Cashel in Connemara but now lives in Maynooth, Co. Kildare. He is an experienced Senior Manager with several leadership roles held across Commercial, Transformational and Operational areas. Conor currently works in Ervia, having previously worked with Irish Water, Ernst and Young, Bord na Móna and JP Morgan. He holds a Law degree from NUI Galway, a MBA from Trinity College Dublin and a Chartered Accountant qualification with CIMA. Conor's main interests include GAA, Connemara Pony breeding, running, and most importantly swimming, which stems from growing up in a community dominated by maritime culture.



Anastasia Ward

Anastasia, originally from Ballinasloe, County Galway, is a Barrister who qualified in 1994. She has worked as a consultant to the Office of the Attorney General and has lectured across a vast selection of subject areas in a wide variety of third-level institutions including the Law Society of Ireland and Griffith College Dublin. She also runs a small pharmacy chain in partnership with her husband. Anastasia swam competitively for a number of years in the 1980s at a provincial level, and during this time, she also undertook lifesaving training. These experiences lead her to an appreciation of the importance of water safety generally, and of swimming as a life skill. Her leisure interests, apart from swimming, include cinema and classical music.

Philip Keleghan

Philip Keleghan is from County Wicklow and has been involved in Water Safety and other aquatic activities for over forty years. He is an active Water Safety Instructor, Examiner, and Swimming Tutor and is currently Vice-Chair of Kildare Water Safety. He has a special interest in the development of strong local area committees and is currently working to develop an Inland Water Safety and Lifesaving Training Centre in Blessington.



Clare McGrath

Clare is a member of Irish Water Safety, Clare, and is an active Irish Water Safety Instructor, Examiner, Tutor, and International Referee and she has worked as a referee at the highest level at European and World competitions. She is the current Chair of the Sports Commission, having been a member of the sport commission for 12 years, and has been involved in the organisation of the Regional and National lifesaving competitions, both pool and beach, for 15 years. She works with Clare County Council, as the Water Safety Development Officer within the Environment Section, and is currently the Chair of the Board of Swim Ireland.



COUNCIL MEETINGS 2017 ATTENDANCE RECORD

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

Record of Council Meetings	1	2	3	4	5
2017	29 March	10 May	26 July	04 October	06 December
Peter Cleere	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Conor Coyne	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Michael Cuddihy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom Doyle	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Philip Keleghan	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Clare McGrath	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Karen Morton	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Paul Murphy	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Seamus O'Neill	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lola O'Sullivan	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Martin O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anne Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anastasia Ward	Y	Y	Y	N	N

WATER SAFETY AREA COMMITTEES

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



Irish Water Safety Volunteer Charlie Kennedy delivers a course in water safety awareness at work to the ESB's Harry Doherty

STAFF

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

National Office:

Irish Water Safety,
The Long Walk,
Galway.

Auditors:

Comptroller & Auditor General,
3A Mayor Street Upper,
Dublin 1.

Bankers:

Bank of Ireland,
Mainguard St.,
Galway.

Solicitors:

Lewis C Doyle & Co.,
Augustine Court,
Augustine Street,
Galway.

Accountants:

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



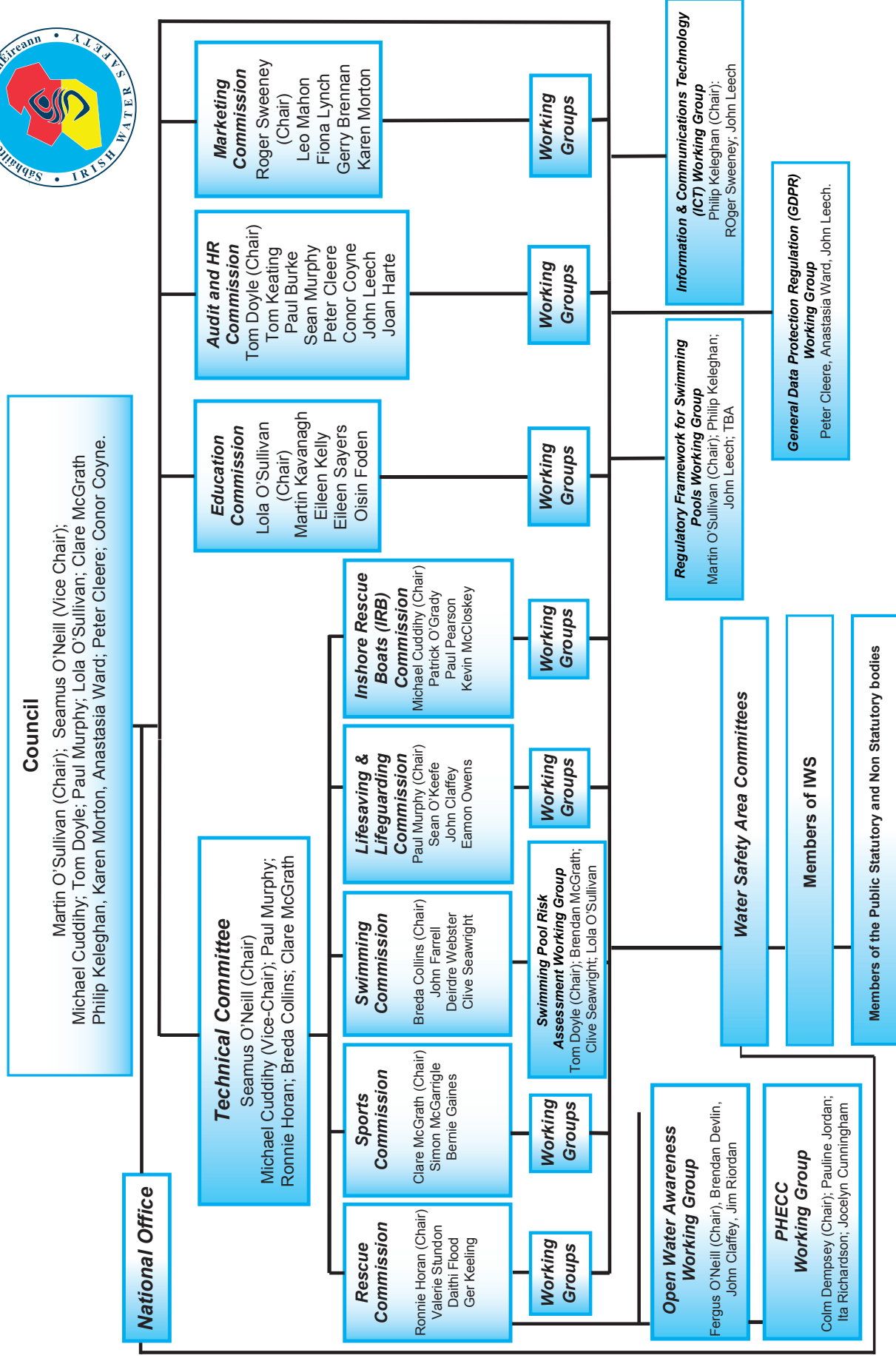
Minister Michael Ring and IWS Vice-Chair Seamus O'Neill present Simon McGarrigle from Donegal with his 15-Year Service medal at the annual IWS Awards Ceremony.



Minister Michael Ring, IWS Vice-Chair Seamus O'Neill and IWS Rescue Commission Chair Ronnie Horan present IWS Kildare's Brenda Wynne with an IWS Long Service Award.



Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety 2017



(Specialised Working Groups designated by Council)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Seamus O'Neill (Chair); Michael Cuddihy; Paul Murphy; Ronnie Horan; Breda Collins; Clare McGrath

Duties:

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

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Lola O'Sullivan (Chair); Martin Kavanagh; Eileen Kelly; Eileen Sayers; 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 and Manage the Teachers Training Courses
4. Development of further FETAC awards
5. Manage all Children's interests
6. Review and update all Children's and educational documents
7. Arrange seminars for Designated Persons
8. Liaise with the Department of Education to maximise water safety awareness training and public awareness programmes
9. Manage, monitor, and enforce best practices in accordance with Children First and our own Code of Ethics for children



Minister Michael Ring and Roger Sweeney, Deputy CEO & Marketing Manager of Irish Water Safety present a Community & Social Responsibility Award to National University of Ireland Galway's Skills For Work Life team Sean Flaherty, Martin O'Regan and Sean O'Brien at the annual IWS Awards Ceremony.



AUDIT & HR COMMISSION:

Tom Doyle (Chair); Tom Keating; Paul Burke; Peter Cleere; Conor Coyne; Joan Harte; John Leech

Duties:

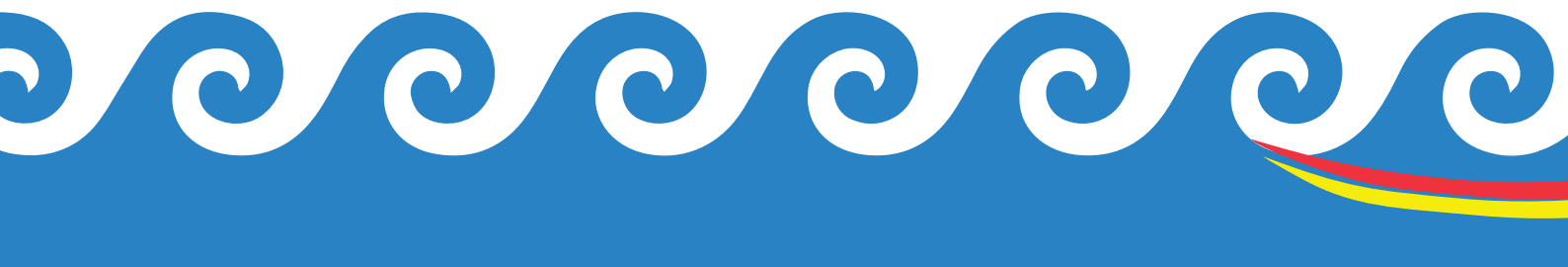
1. Monitoring Expenditure and Income
2. Internal Financial Controls & Risk Management
3. Internal Audits
4. HR Matters
5. Define an approach for the continuation of management development for both existing and new staff
6. Health and Safety
7. National and International Travel Develop strategies to increase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

MARKETING COMMISSION:

Roger Sweeney (Chair); Leo Mahon; Fiona Lynch; Gerry Brennan; Karen Morton

Duties:

1. Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within the S.I. and Strategic Development Plan
2. Standardisation of merchandise such as certificates, books, manuals, leaflets, posters, and online
3. Manage the strategy for press releases
4. Ensure that IWS is well represented at exhibitions countrywide
5. Liaise with RoSPA & the Marine Safety Working Group
6. Promotion of the public awareness of water safety
7. Assist in organising national ceremonies, conferences, and 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 organisation; improve branding and public relations
14. Liaise with the Charles Thompson Award
15. Analyse drowning statistics



RESCUE COMMISSION

Ronnie Horan (Chair); Valerie Stundon; Daithí Flood; Ger Keeling

Duties:

1. Promote Blue Flag safety standards and other aquatic environmental issues
2. Manage Risk Assessments at local, national, and international level
3. Manage the VAT Inspections and run the training courses for Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI)
4. Manage the SEIKO Just In Time 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 and Rescue Committee
9. Develop and rollout a Safety Awareness Programme for those employed near aquatic environments.

SPORTS COMMISSION

Clare McGrath (Chair); Simon McGarrigle; Bernie Gaines

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, Train and appoint Coaches, Referees, and Officials
4. Ensure all WADA regulations are enforced for our athletes
5. Recommend Sports Equipment
6. Manage International Life Saving Sport and Competitions
7. Promote and develop lifesaving sport in Ireland
8. Liaison with the Olympic Council of Ireland
9. Draw up procedures for all sports activities and competitions

LIFEGUARD COMMISSION

Paul Murphy (Chair); Seán O'Keefe; John Claffey; Eamon Owens

Duties:

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



SWIMMING COMMISSION

Breda Collins (Chair); John Farrell; Deirdre Webster; Clive Seawright

Duties:

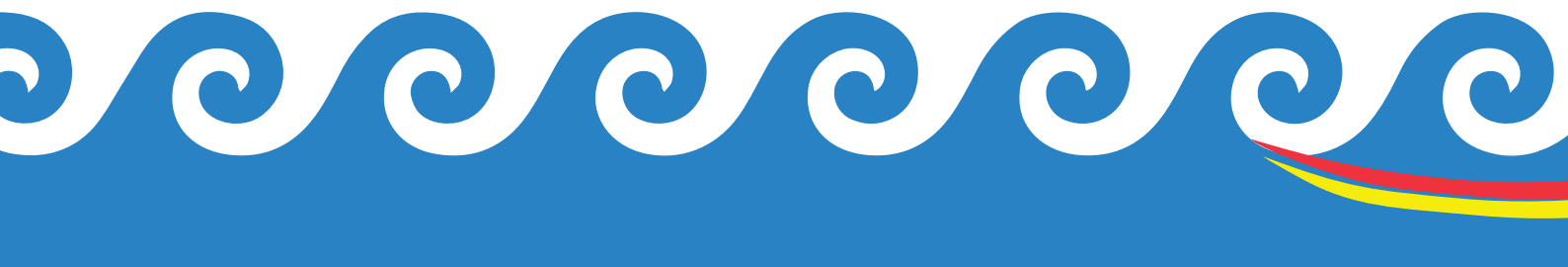
1. The provision of instruction in swimming in order to teach lifesaving
2. Liaise with Swim Ireland in relation to swimming standards
3. Train and examine Swimming Instructors and Tutors
4. Manage the Annual Water Safety Area Committee Officers Conference
5. Improve membership and communication with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

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS 2017

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. Irish Water Safety press releases resulted in 638 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals, 394 broadcast mentions, and 71 media interviews conducted

PRESS RELEASES 2017

1. Christmas & New Year Water Safety Advice
2. Awards Ceremony 2017
3. Award Recipients 2017
4. October Bank Holiday Weekend
5. National Surf Lifesaving Championships 22nd September 2017
6. Irish Lifesavers win 29 medals at European Lifesaving Championships in Belgium
7. Lifeguard Statistics June and July 2017
8. August Bank Holiday
9. National Water Safety Awareness Week 2017
10. Warm weather weekend in June
11. June Bank Holiday - 80% drown near home
12. May Bank Holiday Weekend - five drown per fortnight - know the dangers
13. Easter: Thirty children drowned in ten years - curriculum support will curb child drownings
14. Ronan's legacy should lead to a regulatory framework for the Aquatic Leisure Industry
15. National Pool Lifesaving Championships
16. National Open Water Lifesaving Championships
17. St Patrick's Day



PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Exhibitions

- Emergency Services Day Parade, 9th September
- Holiday World Show, 27th – 30th January, RDS
- Ireland Angling Expo, 18th – 20th February, National Show Centre, Swords
- National Ploughing Championships, 19th – 22nd September, Scraggan, Tullamore, Offaly
- Emergency Services Day March, 17th September
- National Water Safety Awareness Week June 19 -25

The SEIKO Just In Time Awards 2017

- Thirty-one rescuers received recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at Dublin Castle on the 29th of November 2017. Thirty-one lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of these rescuers. IWS is grateful to Timemark for sponsoring the Seiko watches. Details of each rescue are listed later in this report.

IWS Water Safety Themed Calendar

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



Mairead Hill (left) Dublin receives a Long Service Award from Minister Michael Ring. Pictured with Irish Water Safety's Vice-Chair Seamus O'Neill (right) and Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission Ronnie Horan (centre right).



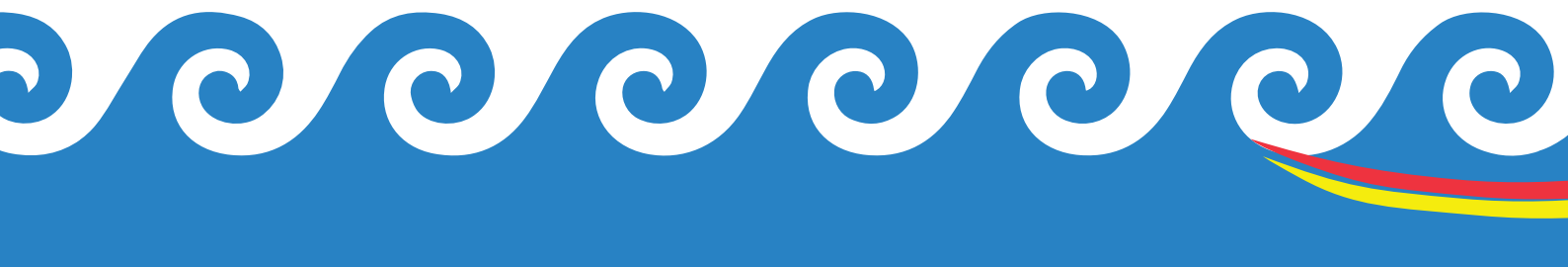
CERTIFICATION

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 24,662 Swimming, Lifesaving, and Water Safety certificates in 2017 (see below). In addition, a further 53,069 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 22,576 of the Seal, Marlin, and Orca certificates were issued, and also 480 PHECC Awards resulting in a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 100,787.

Aquatics organiser	27	Rescue 3	842
Aquatics Pool Assistant	28	Rescue 4	281
Assistant Swimming Teacher	29	Safety 1	1696
Beach Lifeguard	30	Safety 2	2187
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	31	Safety 3	2062
BLS 1	32	Safety 4	2026
BLS 2	33	Surf 1	18
BLS 3	34	Surf 2	16
Challenge 1	35	Surf 3	21
Challenge 2	36	Surf 4	2
Disabilities Aquatics Level 1	37	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	62
Disabilities Aquatics Level 3	38	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	101
Endurance 1	39	Surf Award Instructor	1
Endurance 2	40	Survival 1	322
Lifesaving Sport Coach Lvl 1	41	Survival 2	586
Instructor	42	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	17
Inland Open Water (IOW) Lifeguard	43	Swimming Teacher	184
		Swimming Teacher Tutor	5
IOW Lifeguard Revalidation	44	Water Safety Awareness	173
IWS Code of Ethics	45	Water Safety Awareness Tutor	19
National Pool Lifeguard (PLG) Level 1	46	Water Safety Awareness -	47
National PLG Level 1 Revalidation	267	General & Pool	
National PLG Level 2	141	Swim, Safety and Lifesaving	24,662
National PLG Level 2	1194	Primary School Aquatics Water	53,069
Revalidation	869	Safety (PAWS)	
Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	2	Seal, Marlin, Orca	22,576
Rescue 1	1482	Pre-Hospital Emergency Care	488
Rescue 2	1111	(PHECC)	
		Total	100,787

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 53,069 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2017.

Land PAWS 1	Land PAWS 2	Land PAWS 3	PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3
19,842	6,400	3,443	922	1,705	3,969
PAWS 4	PAWS 5	PAWS 6	PAWS 7	PAWS 8	PAWS Total
5,718	4,439	3,281	2,042	1,380	53,069



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS

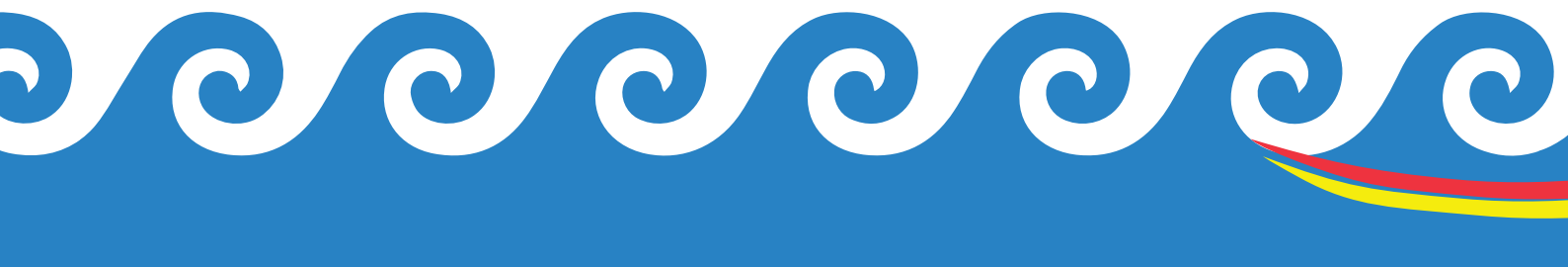
IWS Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in pools, rivers, lakes and beachfronts. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have pools and leisure centres. Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks, and develop skills in rescue, water survival, and basic life support. Details of these programmes are regularly updated on www.iws.ie.

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	<i>Safety, Rescue, Survival</i>
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	<i>Safety, Rescue, Survival</i>
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Miltown	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Crover, Lough Sheelin	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Conaty's Point, Munterconnaught	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Garty Lough, Arva	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Killykeen, Killeshandra	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Lough McNean, Blacklion	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Cavan	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Clare	Ballyvaughan	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue</i>
Clare	Doonbeg	August	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Clare	Ennis pool	July	<i>Safety</i>
Clare	Ennis pool	August	<i>Rescue</i>
Clare	Flagmount	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Clare	Kilkee	August	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Clare	Kilrush	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Clare	Miltown Malbay	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue</i>
Clare	Mountshannon	July	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Clare	Shannon Pool	August	<i>Safety & Rescue</i>
Cork	Adrigole	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Ardfield	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Ardgroom	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Ballibrannigan	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Ballingeary	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Ballycotten	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Ballymacoda	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Bere Island	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Cape Clear	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Carrignavar Pool	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Courtmacsherry	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Cuil Aodha	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Cuil Aodha	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Eyeries	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Garnish Pier	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Garrylucas	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Glandore	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Kilcrohane	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Midleton	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Oysterhaven	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Rosscarbery	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Schull	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Sherkin	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Skibbereen	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Union Hall	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Urhan	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Cork	Youghal	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Donegal	Arranmore	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Bundoran	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Bun An Inver	June	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>



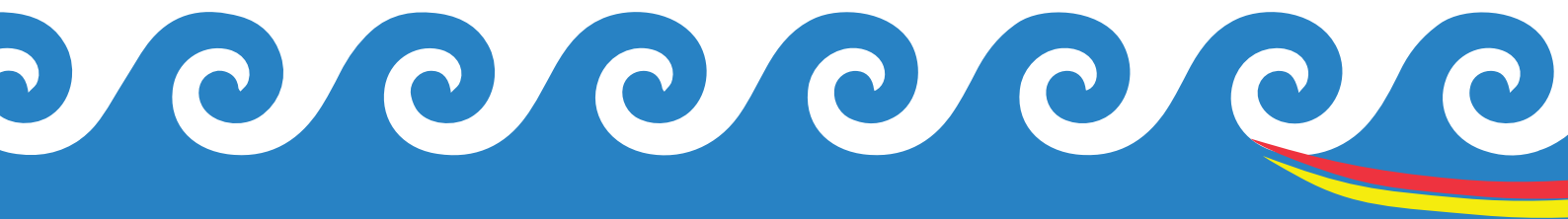
SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Donegal	Creevy	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Downings	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Greencastle	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Kilcar	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Kincasslagh	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Killybegs	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Malin Head	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Mountcharles	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Moville	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Rathmullen	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Port Na Blaith	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Donegal	Portsalon	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Dublin	Skerries	August	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Galway	An Cheathrú Rua	July/August	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue & Survival</i>
Galway	An Clochán	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Galway	Corr na Móna	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Challenge</i>
Galway	Cill Chiaráin	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Galway	Portumna	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue & Survival</i>
Galway	Inis Meáin	July	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Galway	Inis Mór	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue & Survival</i>
Galway	Inis Óírr	July	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Galway	Leitir Mealláin	June	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Galway	Loughrea	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue & Survival</i>
Galway	Tír An Fhia	June	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Galway	Tír An Fhia	August	<i>Safety, Rescue Survival</i>
Kerry	Ballybunion	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Ballyheigue	July	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	July	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Brandon	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Castlecove	July	<i>Swim</i>



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Kerry	Castlegregory	July	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Ceann Trá	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Cromane	July	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Derrynane	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Fenit	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Fenit	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Kells	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Meenoghane	July	<i>Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Minard	June	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Portmagee	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Rossbeigh	July	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Tarbert	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Templenoe	July	<i>Swim</i>
Kerry	Valentia	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Survival & Rescue</i>
Kerry	Waterville	July	<i>Swim & Safety</i>
Kildare	Blessington Lakes	June	<i>Safety</i>
Kildare	Blessington Lakes	July	<i>Safety</i>
Kildare	Blessington Lakes	August	<i>Safety</i>
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Kilkenny	Thomastown	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Leitrim	Drumshambo	June	<i>Swim, Safety</i>
Leitrim	Fahy	August	<i>Swim, Safety</i>
Leitrim	Gulladoo	July	<i>Swim, Safety</i>
Leitrim	Keeldra	July	<i>Swim, Safety</i>
Leitrim	Rossinver	August	<i>Swim, Safety</i>
Limerick	Askeaton	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Limerick	Askeaton	August	<i>Water Safety</i>
Limerick	Copsewood	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Limerick	Copsewood	August	<i>Water Safety</i>
Limerick	Glin Pier	July	<i>Safety</i>
Limerick	Glin Pier	August	<i>Safety</i>
Limerick	Pallaskenry	July	<i>Safety</i>
Limerick	Pallaskenry	August	<i>Water Safety</i>
Longford	Annagh	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Longford	Annagh	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Louth	Clogherhead	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Louth	Gyles Quay	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Kilmovee	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

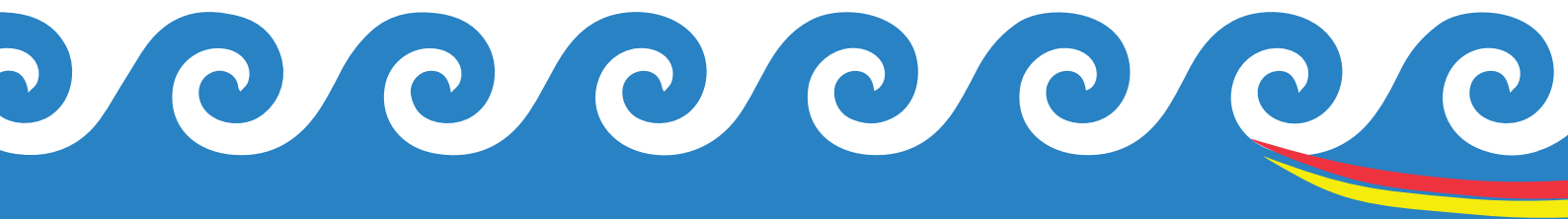
Mayo	Ballina	July	<i>Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Ballina	August	<i>Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Belmullet	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Castlebar	July	<i>Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Charlestown	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Claremorris	August	<i>Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Clare Island	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Inishturk Island	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Mayo	Lacken Pier	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Offaly	Banagher	July	<i>Safety & Rescue</i>
Offaly	Birr	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Rescue & Endurance</i>
Roscommon	Castlerea Open Air Pool	July	<i>Swim</i>
Roscommon	Castlerea Open Air Pool	July	<i>Safety</i>
Roscommon	Castlerea Open Air Pool	June	<i>Rescue</i>
Roscommon	Roscommon Leisure Centre	July	<i>Swim</i>
Sligo	Aughris pier	July	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Sligo	Enniscrone	August	<i>Swim, Safety & Rescue</i>
Tipperary North	Ballina	July	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Tipperary North	Nenagh	August	<i>Swim, Safety, Endurance & Rescue</i>
Tipperary South	Clonmel	July	<i>Safety, Rescue & Endurance</i>
Waterford	Ardmore	July	<i>Swim, Water Safety</i>
Waterford	Ardmore	August	<i>Swim, Water Safety</i>
Waterford	Boatstrand	July	<i>Swim, Water Safety</i>
Waterford	Lismore	July	<i>Swim, Water Safety</i>
Waterford	Tramore	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Westmeath	Athlone	August	<i>Safety, Rescue</i>
Westmeath	Athlone	July	<i>Safety, Rescue</i>
Westmeath	Mullingar	August	<i>Safety, Rescue</i>
Wexford	Bunclody	August	<i>Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Cahore Pier	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Carne	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>



Wexford	Courtown	July	<i>Swim and Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Curraclloe	August	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Ferrybank	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Fethard	August	<i>Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Kilmore	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Wexford	New Ross	July	<i>Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Rosslare	July	<i>Swim & Water Safety</i>
Wexford	Tinabearna	July	<i>Swim</i>
Wicklow	Bray	July	<i>Safety</i>
Wicklow	Greystones	July	<i>Safety</i>
Wicklow	Wicklow Town Harbour	July	<i>Swim & Safety</i>



Carmel Fleming, Galway receives a Long Service Award from Minister Michael Ring, with Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Vice-Chair and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission.



IWS REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee – John Leech
- (Users Group) Commissioner's Irish Lights – John Leech
- Marine Safety Working Group – Roger Sweeney
- Community Rescue Boats Ireland – Ronnie Horan & Ger Keeling
- PHECC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council) – Paul Murphy
- Forum of Chairpersons of State Sponsored Bodies – Martin O'Sullivan
- ACESA (Assoc Chief Executives of • State Agencies) – John Leech
- ILAM White Flag Jury – John Farrell
- An Taisce Blue Flag Jury – Martin O'Sullivan
- Green Coast Award - Gerard Keeling
- Federation of Irish Sports – Sports Commission Member
- Swim Ireland – NGB for Lifesaving Sport – Clare McGrath
- Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury – Roger Sweeney
- Charles Thomson Award Jury – Breda Collins and John Leech
- IWS Internal Auditor - Tom Keating and Paul Burke
- National Designated Liaison Person – Paul Burke
- CISM Network Ireland – Debbie Harvey

IWS REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- International Lifesaving (Europe)
- ILS(E) Rescue Commission – Breda Collins
- ILSE Education Commission – Paul Burke
- ILS European (E) Board – Martin O'Sullivan
- ILS World Rescue Commission – Breda Collins
- ILS(E) Sports Commission – Seamus O'Neill
- ILS(E) Management and Administration Commission – John Leech
- International Federation of Swimming Teachers Association – Breda Collins
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) – Roger Sweeney
- College of referees Panel ILS Europe – Daniel Wrafter
- International Maritime Rescue Federation – John Leech



Patrick Ryan, Ballybunion CRBI receives a Long Service Award from Minister Michael Ring, with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission.

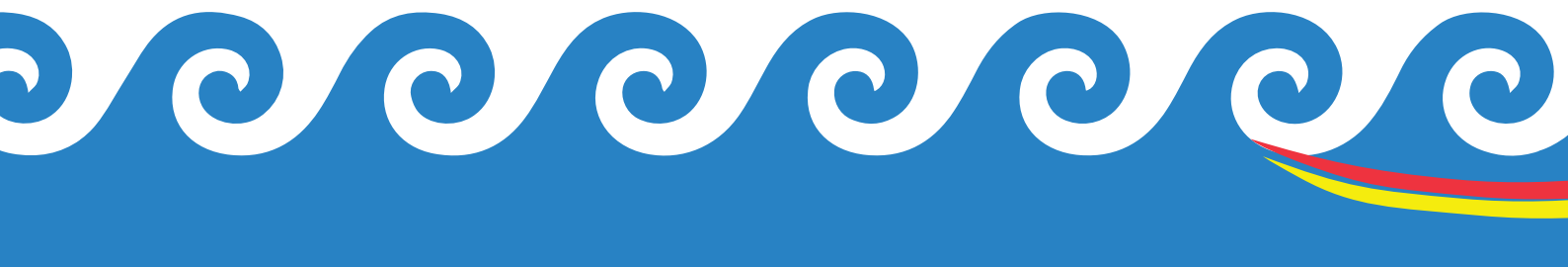


CONFERENCES

- **Water Safety Development Officer's Conference**
20th – 21st April, Tramore, Waterford
- **Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar**
29th September, Mullingar, Westmeath
- **Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) Conference**
11th November, Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone
- **National Awards Ceremony**
29th November, Dublin Castle

OTHER COURSE / EVENTS

- **In-house Pool Lifeguard Provider's Course**
11th – 13th March
- **Swim Tutor's Course**
29th – 30th January
- **Swim Tutor's Course Part 2**
22nd – 24th April
- **National Pool Lifeguard Provider Course**
11th – 13th March
- **ILS(Europe) Commission Meetings**
12th 15th of January, Copenhagen, Sweden
- **INTO Conference**
17th – 19th April, Belfast Waterfront
- **WSAC Officers Seminar**
8th – 9th April, Sligo
- **WSDO Seminar**
26th – 27th September, Mullingar, Westmeath
- **WSDO Conference**
20th – 22nd April, Tramore, Waterford
- **Emergency Services Day Parade**
9th September
- **Holiday World Show**
27th – 30th January, RDS
- **Ireland Angling Expo**
18th – 20th February, National Show Centre, Swords
- **National Ploughing Championships**
19th – 22nd September, Scraggan, Tullamore, Offaly
- **Emergency Services Day**
March 17th September
- **National Water Safety Awareness Week**



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 2017, a total of 37 IWS Risk Assessments were completed:

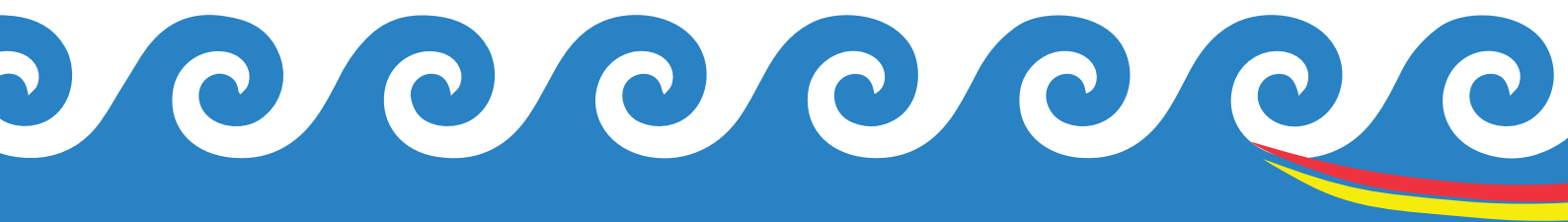
County	Location
Cork	Ballincollig
Cork	Ballinspittle Coolmaine
Cork	Ballymacoda Greenlands Ring
Cork	Ballyrisode
Cork	Cadogens
Cork	Clonakilty - Redstrand
Cork	Galleycove
Cork	Inchydoney East
Cork	Inchydoney West
Cork	Kinsale - Oysterhaven
Cork	Kinsale Rocky Bay
Cork	Owenahincha
Cork	Tragumna Skibbereen
Cork	Youghal Claycastle
Cork	Youghal Front Strand
Cork	Youghal Redbarn
Clare	Mountshannon – BF
Donegal	The Pond, Dungloe
Dublin	North Bull Wall
Kerry	Kells Beach N. Iveragh Peninsula)
Mayo	Ballyhaunis
Mayo	Bertra
Meath	Bettystown
Waterford	Annestown GC
Waterford	Kilfarrassey GC
Waterford	Newtown Cove GC
Wexford	Courtown North Beach BF
Wexford	Cullenstown
Wexford	Curracloe White Gap
Wexford	Grange
Wexford	Kilmore Quay Small Beach
Wexford	Morriscastle
Wexford	St Helens
Wicklow	Arklow
Wicklow	Bray
Wicklow	Greystones
Wicklow	Wicklow Harbour



LIFEGUARD RESCUES AND PREVENTIVE ACTIONS

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

Lifeguard Rescues and Preventive Actions							
County	Rescue	Rescued using Craft	First Aid	Lost Child	Advice Given	Accident prevented	Other Incident
Carlow	2	0	122	0	397	53	0
Cork	9	6	371	6	16,168	7,072	307
Clare	19	73	665	39	19,952	10,728	77
Donegal	10	21	179	11	14,985	1,109	16
Dublin	7	6	42	3	1,459	180	7
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	6	7	35	1	131	51	0
Fingal	18	8	195	32	4,064	414	78
Galway	9	18	450	15	3,278	797	1,108
Kerry	21	28	556	97	4,529	1,546	3,147
Kilkenny	2	0	59	0	695	193	4
Limerick Co.	2	5	65	0	95	52	24
Louth	0	0	177	5	415	192	2
Mayo	1	5	88	4	9,727	433	40
Meath	1	0	25	1	12	12	0
Roscommon	0	0	100	0	363	7	0
Sligo	0	2	33	5	3,774	2,358	1,463
Tipperary	1	0	15	0	4,397	0	0
Waterford	5	6	206	12	5,421	1,676	704
Wexford	0	3	302	33	1,158	83	80
Wicklow	1	0	92	34	2,647	828	0
Total	114	188	3777	298	93,667	27,784	7,057



THE SPORT OF LIFESAVING

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

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

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 lifeguarding in Ireland and to assist lifesavers with saving lives.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

It was a busy year in lifesaving sport. The European Senior team brought home eighteen medals, placing them fifth overall in the beach competition and ninth overall in Europe. The European Juniors and Masters brought home thirty-one medals, placing the girls' team first in the beach competition and sixth in Europe. It was also a busy year for Head Coaches Triona McMenamin and Oisín McGrath, with Brendan McGrath and David Butler working alongside them, and Squad Administrator Alison Deane working in support. Four squad camps and four coaching courses took place as did an Intervarsity competition and a total of eight Nipper competitions - four pool based and four in open water. There were also five Junior competitions - one pool based and four in open water, and two Senior competitions, pool and open water. Additionally, there were two Master's competitions - pool and open water. A much-needed Sport Van was purchased to accommodate the logistics of this busy schedule.

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. There they contend with challenging still water and open water conditions in simulated emergency rescue scenarios which are designed to test their swimming and rescue board skills.

OVERALL TEAM CHAMPIONS:

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



NATIONAL SURF RESCUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

NATIONAL SENIOR & MASTERS SURF RESCUE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Where: Rosstown Beach, Co. Donegal

When: Saturday 23rd of September, 2017

OVERALL TEAM CHAMPIONS:

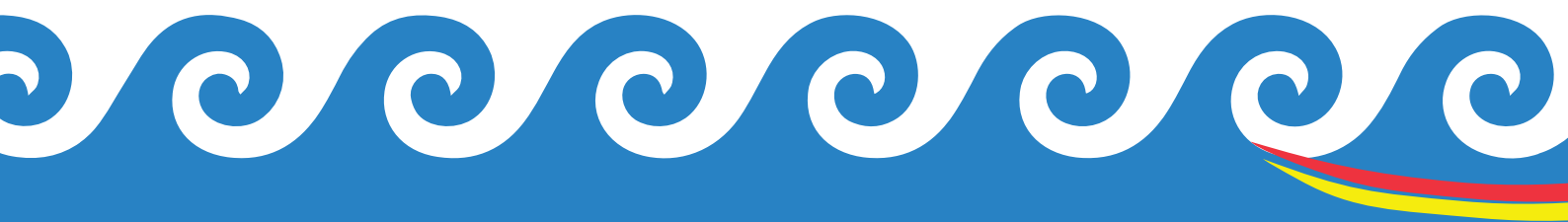
Ladies Surf Rescue: 1st: Clare; 2nd: Wexford; 3rd: Donegal

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

Master's Surf Rescue: Donegal

Ladies:	Place	Team	Points
	1	Clare Ladies A	319
	2	Wexford Ladies A	202
	3	Donegal Ladies A	164
	4	Wicklow Ladies A	95
	5	Wicklow Ladies B	85
	6	Waterford Ladies A	80
	7	Dublin Ladies A	68
		Clare Ladies B	68
	8	Cork Ladies A	55
	9	Sligo Ladies A	26
	10	Kilkenny Ladies A	19
	11	Donegal Ladies C	18
	12	Donegal Ladies B	16

Men:	Place	Team	Points
	1	Clare Men A	223
	2	Cork Men A	185
	3	Waterford Men A	166
	4	Sligo Men A	155
	5	Clare Men B	126
	6	Wexford Men A	63
	7	Donegal Men A	61
	8	Galway Men A	58
	9	Wexford Men B	49
	10	Cork Men B	41
	11	Louth Men A	30
	12	Wicklow Men A	22
	13	Waterford Men C	21
	14	Waterford Men B	19
	15	Louth Men B	16
	16	Wicklow Men B	15
	17	Dublin Men A	13
	18	Sligo Men B	7
	19	Kilkenny Men A	6



NATIONAL JUNIOR SURF RESCUE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Where: Rosstown Beach, Co. Donegal When: Sunday 27th of August, 2017

Girls Team Scores

Place	Team	Points
1	Clare	354
2	Wicklow	299
3	Cork	182
4	Wexford	131.29
5	Waterford	94.29
6	Donegal	86.57
7	Dublin	54
8	Kilkenny	40.29
9	Galway	24
10	Mayo	11.29
11	Sligo	10.29

Boys Team Scores

Place	Team	Points
1	Waterford	297
2	Clare	278
3	Cork	243
4	Wexford	138.5
5	Wicklow	101.5
6	Louth	85
7	Galway	61
8	Kildare	31
9	Sligo	17.5
10	Mayo	12
11	Kilkenny	10
12	Donegal	8.5



In full stretch at the National Pool Lifesaving Championships, UL Sports Arena, Limerick.



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

NATIONAL NIPPER SURF RESCUE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Where: Rossnowlagh Beach, Co. Donegal

When: Saturday 26th of August, 2017

Aged 12-14 Combined Team Results

Place	Team	Points
1	Cork	1,191.85
2	Wicklow	1,129.71
3	Clare	651.93
4	Wexford	648.5
5	Donegal	416.10
6	Waterford	394.5
7	Sligo	315.86
8	Mayo	175.84
9	Kildare	41.11
10	Galway	38.5
11	Louth	33

Aged 8-11 Combined Team Results

Place	Team	Points
1	Clare	1,059
2	Cork	1,018.18
3	Wicklow	869.61
4	Waterford	608.79
5	Donegal	553.37
6	Wexford	551.47
7	Sligo	522.3
8	Louth	85.63
9	Kildare	29
10	Mayo	24.3
11	Dublin	2.63

NATIONAL JUNIOR, SENIOR & MASTERS STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Where: UL Sports Arena, University of Limerick

When: Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of February, 2017

TEAM RESULTS:

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

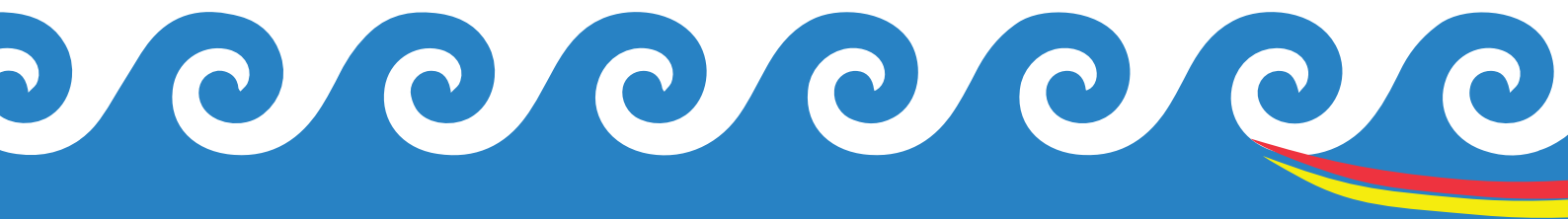
NATIONAL NIPPER STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Where: UL Sports Arena, University of Limerick

When: Saturday 22nd of April, 2017

TEAM RESULTS:

Junior Nippers Combined:	1st Clare;	2nd Cork;	3rd Wicklow
Senior Nippers Combined:	1st Wicklow;	2nd Cork;	3rd Clare





Action from Irish Water Safety's National Surf Lifesaving Championships at Rossnowlagh, Co. Donegal



NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Wednesday, 29th November 2017, Hibernia Conference Room, Dublin Castle

Long Service Awards Certificate of Service – 10 years of service

Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Mr	Willie Joe	Fitzmaurice	Ballyunion CRBI	10
Ms	Josephine	Gallery	Cavan	10
Ms	Breege	Scott	Cavan	10
Mr	David	Gannon	Dublin	10
Ms	Mairead	Hill	Dublin	10
Ms	Kathleen	Fitzhenry	Galway	10
Ms	Carmel	Fleming	Galway	10
Mr	Bryan	Corcoran	Kildare	10
Ms	Susan	Corcoran	Kildare	10
Mr	Patrick	Maye	Kildare	10
Mr	Kevin	Pyke	Kildare	10
Ms	Brenda	Wynne	Kildare	10
Mr	Brendan	Devlin	Louth	10
Ms	Jennifer	Lennon	Louth	10
Mr	Morgan	Fagg	Westmeath	10



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) presents Susan Corcoran, Kildare with a Long Service Award. Pictured with IWS Vice-Chairman Seamus O'Neill and Ronnie Horan (right), Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission.



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) presents Diarmuid Murphy, Bantry CRBI, an IWS Long Service Award, pictured with Ronnie Horan (right), Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission.

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

Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Mr	Omar	Fitzell	Ballybunion CRBI	15
Mr	Diarmuid	Murphy	BANTRY CRBI	15
Mr	Martin	O Mahony	BANTRY CRBI	15
Ms	Helen	O Hara	Cavan	15
Mr	Simon	McGarrigle	Donegal	15
Ms	Jean	Moran	Kildare	15
Mr	Joseph	Bergin	Laois	15
Ms	Ann Marie	Maher	Laois	15
Ms	Ann	Carroll	Wexford	15



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) present Joseph Bergin, Laois with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and IWS Council Member Seamus O'Neill (right) present Simon McGarrigle from Donegal with his 15-Year Service Medal



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) present Ann Marie Maher, Laois with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) present Ann Carroll, Wexford with an IWS Long Service Award



Bronze Bar to the SMH – 20 years of service

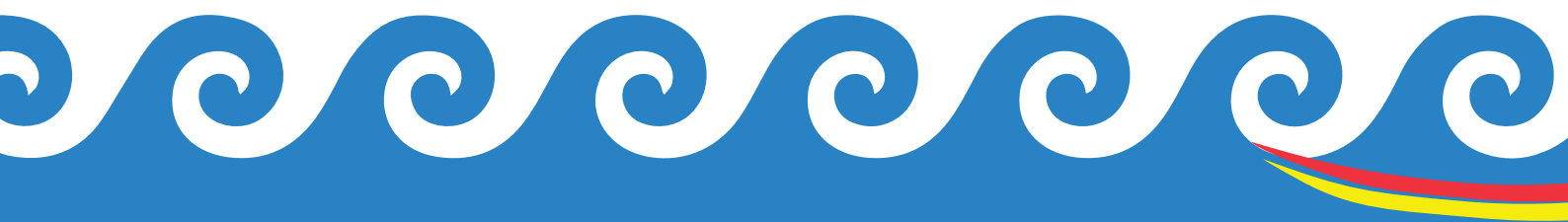
Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Ms	Michelle	Gaynor	Carlow	20
Ms	Alma	Clancy	Dublin	20
Mr	David	O'Brien	Tipp South	20

Silver Bar to the SMH – 30 years of service

Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Mr	Liam	Mulvihill	Ballybunion CRBI	30
Mr	Patrick	Ryan	Ballybunion CRBI	30
Mr	John	Walsh	Ballybunion CRBI	30
Mr	John	Doyle	Bonmahon CRBI	30
Ms	Anna	O'Shea	Bonmahon CRBI	30
Mr	PJ	O'Shea	Bonmahon CRBI	30
Ms	Mary	Wall	Bonmahon CRBI	30
Ms	Alice	Doorly	Dublin	30
Mr	Des	Leeson	Dublin	30

Gold Bar to the SMH – 40 years of service

Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Ms	Mary	Foster	Carlow	40
Ms	Julie	Thornberry	Dublin	40
Mr	Philip	Keleghan	Kildare	40
Mr	Dan	O'Connell	Kildare	40
Ms	Anne	Boyle	Louth	40
Mr	John	Cullen	Roscommon	40
Mr	Brian	Fagg	Westmeath	40



IWS Award winners at Dublin Castle



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) present Michelle Gaynor, Carlow with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) present Alma Clancy, Dublin with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Liam Mulvihill, Ballybunion CRBI, Kerry with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) present David O'Brien, Tipperary South with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present John Walsh, Ballybunion CRBI, Kerry with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present PJ O'Shea, Bonmahon CRBI, Waterford with an IWS Long Service Award



IWS Award winners at Dublin Castle



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission present Des Leeson, Dublin with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety present Mary Foster, Carlow with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Diarmuid Murphy, Bantry CRBI, Cork with an IWS Long Service Award



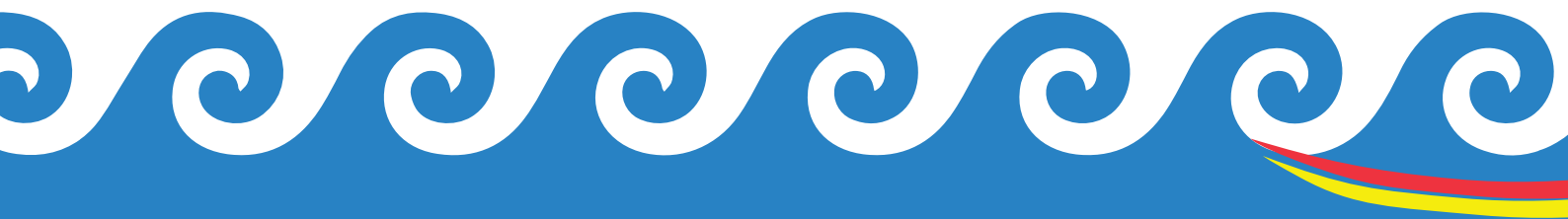
Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety (right) present Anne Boyle, Louth with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety (right) present Julie Thornberry, Dublin with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety (right) present John Cullen, Roscommon with an IWS Long Service Award



IWS Award winners at Dublin Castle



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (centre), Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (far left) and Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (far right) present Willie Joe Fitzmaurice of Ballybunion CRBI, Kerry with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (centre left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present David Gannon, Dublin with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (centre left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Mairead Hill, Dublin with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Kathleen Fitzhenry, Galway with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Carmel Fleming, Galway with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Bryan Corcoran, Kildare with an IWS Long Service Award



Volunteer of The Year Award

Mr. Philip Keleghan



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety (right) present Kildare's Philip Keleghan with the IWS Volunteer of the Year Award

IWS Kildare would highly recommend Philip Keleghan for "IWS Volunteer of the Year" award. Philip has over 40 years of voluntary service to IWS. During this time Philip has been an exemplary role model. Philip firstly is an active Water Safety Instructor, instructing classes several times a week from Safety 1 through to the National Pool Lifeguard Award to training the next generation of IWS Water Safety Instructors. He has a great rapport with children, teenagers, and their parents who attend Irish Water Safety classes. He is passionate about teaching and passing knowledge on to others. Many thousands have achieved IWS awards with Philip's teaching, coaching, and encouragement. Philip is not only a Water Safety Instructor but is also an IWS Examiner, Swimming Tutor, IWS CFR Instructor, Fundraiser, Organiser, Pool Lifeguard Provider, and previously Risk Assessor and Sports Referee. Philip is an accomplished sports athlete competing in both the pool and on the beach over the past 40 years, and he has taken home some All Ireland medals in that time. More recently Philip has been inspiring others in Kildare to take up the sport of Surf Lifesaving. He is a founding member of the IWS Kildare Surf Lifesaving and Water Safety training facility at Blessington Lakes. At committee level, Philip is currently working to develop an Inland Water Safety and Lifesaving Training Centre at Blessington Lakes. Philip has been a valued member of IWS Kildare area committee for too many years to mention and he is currently the Vice Chairperson and Designated Liaison Person. Previously Philip has held many roles including that of chairperson. In 2017 he was appointed to the Council of Irish Water Safety, where no doubt he will bring his drive and passion for water safety and lifesaving to the table. Philip is a member of the Information and Communication Technology Working Group for 2017 and previously for a number of years was a member of the IWS Swimming commission. Philip is generous with his time and gives it freely to progress, educate and train the members of the public in knowledge and awareness of the dangers of the aquatic environment. Philip is a strong supporter of the Primary Aquatic Water Safety Programme, and his encouragement and support of local volunteers in Kildare has ensured that thousands of local primary school children have received "Water Safety Awareness" talks in the months leading up to summer holidays. Philip is loved and respected by the entire volunteer IWS team in Kildare and this is reciprocated nationally for his commitment, knowledge, passion and integrity in his approach to water safety. Philip would be a wonderful "IWS Volunteer of the Year" recipient and has IWS Kildare's highest recommendation.

Charles Thomson Award

Cork County Council



This Award is presented by IWS, the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) Ulster Branch, and the Republic of Ireland branch in memory of Lt. Cdr. Thomson dedicated his retired life teaching swimming and lifesaving, and generally promoting water safety in the UK and on the island of Ireland. The Award being presented being presented to the Local Authority that has done most to promote Water Safety on the island of Ireland between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016. Their initiatives during this time included:

- A Beach Lifeguard Facebook Page to educate the public on beach safety, provide beach reports, and share water safety alerts e.g. jellyfish landings.
- Safety Days for Schools, with six held during 2016, catering for to children.
- A Water Safety Awareness Flag for Primary Schools. To date there are 123 flags at County Cork Schools. This initiative ran alongside the Irish Water Safety primary schools' programme.
- The establishment of a Junior Water Safety Officer in each school, each of whom followed a handbook developed by the Water Safety Development Officer. This ensured that that activities around water safety awareness took place in each of the schools throughout the school year in preparation for the summer holiday season, when children are most at risk of drowning.
- Water Safety Workshops for schools at County Libraries and Swimming Pools.
- Water Safety Education Talks delivered at Beachguard Stations during the bathing season. Some 900 people participated in 2016.
- Ringbuoy inspections were conducted and uploaded to Irish Water Safety's ringbuoy tracking website www.ringbuoys.ie.
- Irish Water Safety Risk Assessments were conducted at bathing areas, Blue Flag beaches, and Green Coast beaches.
- Lifeguarding initiatives included: Beach Lifeguard Induction Day and a Senior Beachguard Workshop;
- Online multiple choice Continuous Professional Development for Lifeguards; an Inter Beach competition; and the provision of AEDs and radios for Beachguard Stations.



Sports Persons of the Year Award

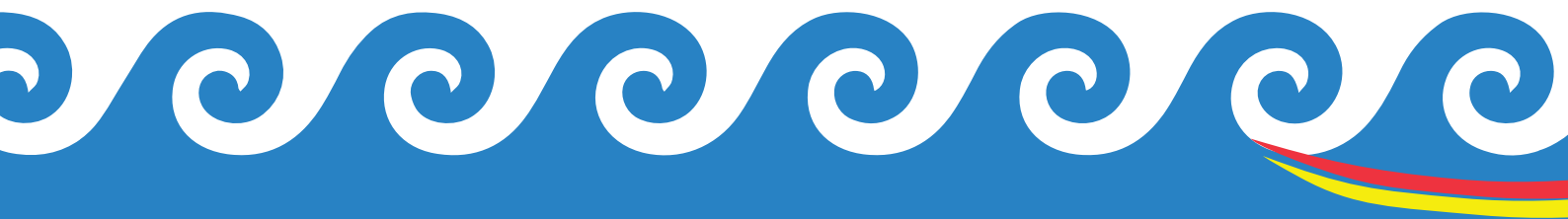
Lily Barrett

Member of Irish Water Safety, Co. Clare, a Student in UL, and a Clare County Council Beach Lifeguard, Member of the Co. Clare ladies team to win both this year's National Senior Surf Championship, and the National Senior Stillwater Championship titles and the overall "Presidents Trophy". Member of the Irish team at the European Lifesaving Championships in Belgium at which Lily won the following medals for Ireland: Gold- Board Race, Silver- Ladies Ocean Relay, Bronze- ladies Oceanwoman, and Bronze- Board Rescue.



Odhran Savage

Member of Irish Water Safety - Waterford, a leaving certificate student and a Waterford County Council Beach Lifeguard. Member of Waterford Junior Boys team that won the National Junior Surf Championships. Member of the Irish team that competed at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships in Belgium, where Odhran won the following medals for Ireland: Gold – Surf Swim, Silver – Board Rescue, Bronze – 90m Beach Sprint.



SEIKO Just in Time Awards

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

1. Kerry

Incident occurred in Kerry – Edward Moore (Kerry) & Cathal Moore (Kerry)

On the 4th of July 2017, at Smerwick Harbour, both Cathal and Edward were returning to shore after a day's fishing when Cathal noticed a kayak with nobody on board. They went to investigate further and spotted a man floating unconscious in the water beside the kayak. They hauled him on board their own boat and immediately began CPR. They alerted emergency services and continued CPR until the ambulance service arrived and took over. The man made a full recovery.



2. Clare

Incident occurred in Clare – Bernard Cahill (Clare) and Roisin Cahill (Clare)

On the 18th of June 2017, Bernard and Roisin Cahill were driving home from work when they noticed two people swimming towards what they recognised to be a dangerous rip current. They stopped their car and rushed to the beach where they persuaded a member of the public to give them a kayak. Bernard used the kayak to approach one of the people now in difficulty. Roisin encouraged the other swimmer to safety before swimming to assist Bernard to bring the struggling swimmer safely to shore.



3. Cork

Incident occurred in Cork – David Slattery (Cork) and Sean Slattery (Cork)

On the 18th of June 2017, Sean and David Slattery were having lunch near the Quays in Youghal when they were alerted that a fourteen year old boy was in danger of drowning. Both Sean and David rushed to the scene and entered the water to search for the boy. Visibility was very poor and it took a few minutes to locate him. They managed to find him and bring him up to the surface and out of the water. The boy was unresponsive. They performed CPR successfully and Emergency services took the young boy to hospital where he made a full recovery.



4. Cavan

Incident occurred in Cavan – Dean Byrne (Cavan)

On the 17th of July 2017, at Killykeen Lake, Dean became alerted to a family in difficulty in the water. He immediately entered the water, swam to two children and brought them back safely to shore. He then swam back out to a woman who was now weak and in danger of drowning. He reached her and managed to bring her to the surface. It was only after successfully bringing her back to shore that he realised that there was another child clinging onto its mother. Thanks to the quick thinking of Dean, a major tragedy was averted.



5. Kilkenny

Incident occurred in Kilkenny – Eoin Bolger (Kilkenny)

On the 16th of November 2016, at the River Barrow, Eoin heard a man shouting and ran to the waterside where he observed a car in the water. Eoin swam out to the car which was in fast flowing water and drifting downstream. Upon reaching the car, Eoin grabbed the driver by the hand. He placed his two feet on the driver's door and managed to pull the driver out of the car through the open window at which point the car sank. Eoin then helped the person to the safety of a boat. The casualty made a full recovery.



6. Limerick

Incident occurred in Limerick City – Des Fitzgerald (Limerick)

On the 18th of September 2017, Des had just parked his car when he heard screams coming from a park at Arthur's Quay. He immediately ran towards the calls for help and noticed two people in the water. One of the casualties was unresponsive and the other was holding on to a ringbuoy. Des asked people nearby to alert emergency services. He entered the water and brought the first casualty to the riverbank where he instructed people to keep the casualty afloat while they awaited emergency services. In the meantime, Des got back into the water to rescue the second person by supporting her head and keeping her afloat. With the assistance of a rowing boat Des helped the fire bridge unit and rowers to haul the casualty into the boat where Des immediately began CPR. In due course the fire brigade rescue boat arrived at the scene at which point the casualty was transferred over and brought to awaiting paramedics. The woman was taken to hospital where she made a full recovery.



7. Kerry

Incident occurred in Kerry – Alan O'Donnell (Limerick)

On the 24th of July 2017, two young girls were caught in a rip current at Ballybunion Beach in Kerry. The father of one of the girls entered the water to try to bring them to safety but he became exhausted and also got into difficulty. Alan O'Donnell, an off-duty Garda, entered the water where he first saved the children's father before quickly swimming a further fifteen yards to bring the first young girl to safety. After this Alan swam back out to save the second girl. All three made a full recovery.



8. Westmeath

Incident occurred in Westmeath – Gardai Sheila Heaphy, Kathleen Glynn, and Robert Ryland (all Mullingar)

On the night of the 30th of November 2016, Gardai received a call that a man had entered the canal. The three Gardai immediately went to the scene and observed the person face down in the water. The Gardai proceeded to stand at the edge of the canal and form a link so as to reach down to the person and drag him from the water onto the canal bank where they rendered medical assistance until the ambulance arrived.



9. Cork

Incident occurred in Cork – Gardai Brendan Ryan (Cork) and Brian Batt (Cork)

On the 8th of August 2016, Gardai received a call that a person was in difficulty in the water at New Quay. Gardai Brian Batt and Brendan Ryan rushed to the scene where they observed a person floating face down in the water. Both Gardai entered the river, waded out fifteen feet, pulled the man out of the water and brought him to their Garda patrol car. Garda Batt began chest compressions while Garda Ryan drove towards the hospital. They were met by an ambulance crew en route. The man made a full recovery.



10. Wicklow

Incident occurred in Wicklow – Gardai Stephen Bolger (Wicklow) and Joseph Waldron (Wicklow)

On the evening of Sunday the 18th of February 2007, Gardai Stephen Bolger and Joseph Waldron received a call regarding a person in danger of drowning at the beach in Bray, Co. Wicklow. Upon reaching the beach they spotted the person and entered the water where they battled extreme cold and strong undercurrents to pull the person to safety.



11. Dublin

Incident occurred in Dublin – Corporal Mark Buckley (Dublin)

On the 24th of October 2015, Corporal Mark Buckley was walking towards O'Connell Bridge in Dublin when he noticed a man in the water. Mark grabbed a nearby ringbuoy and climbed onto the bridge ledge where he lowered the lifebuoy down to the person in difficulty. Mark instructed the casualty to take hold of the ringbuoy and kept him calm until emergency services arrived to the scene.



12. Waterford

Incident occurred in Waterford - Garda Michelle Power (Waterford)

On the 22nd of July 2017, Garda Michelle Power was driving along by the River Suir when she noticed a man in difficulty in the water. She immediately left her car and ran to the quay side where she grabbed a ringbuoy and used it to successfully bring the man to safety.



13. Carlow

Incident occurred in Carlow – Michael Lyons (age 6),
Michael Lyons (uncle) and Michael Lyons (grandfather)

On the 22nd of January 2017, a trip to feed the ducks almost ended in tragedy for toddler Max. While feeding ducks Max fell through the railings and into very cold water. His uncle heard the splash and immediately entered the water as the current took young Max away. He grabbed the toddler by the jacket while keeping them both afloat which gave the toddler's grandfather enough time to pull the young boy to safety. Meanwhile, the rescuer's son Michael, aged 5 at the time, started shouting out for help. A man heard the shouts from his nearby apartment and ran to the scene with warm clothing before bringing everyone to his apartment to await a doctor. Max made a full recovery.



14. Carlow

Incident occurred in Carlow – Garry Maddock (Carlow) and
Joseph Middleton (Carlow)

On the 23rd of May 2017, Joseph Middleton heard a boy, by the name of Garry Maddock, call out to him for help. Joseph observed that Garry was in a dingy and in the process of trying to haul a man out of the water at Carlow town park. Joseph rushed to join Garry in the dinghy and both of them managed to drag the drowning man from the water. They sat the man up and pushed on his chest. The man started gasping and coming around, much to their relief. Emergency services arrived on the scene and the man was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.



15. Donegal

Incident occurred in Donegal – Owen Murphy (Donegal),
Fergal Muller (Donegal), Friederike Rost (Donegal) and Sean
Young (Donegal)

On the 15th of July 2017, a group of nine teenagers entered the water to cool down unaware of dangerous rip currents. Within minutes they all got into difficulty. The alarm was raised by members of the public who contacted the coast guard. In the meantime, four local surf instructors who happened to be giving lessons at Tullan Strand quickly intervened. All four paddled to the group in difficulty, and prompted each of the teenagers to grab onto surfboards one by one. They used their knowledge of the currents to assist them in paddling over to a safer area where they could walk ashore. Each instructor returned a number of times until all nine of the teenagers were brought to safety. Thanks to the quick thinking of Owen, Fergal, Friederike and Sean, a major tragedy was averted.



16. Sligo

Incident occurred in Sligo – Adam McGoldrick, Gardai Stephen Fahy and James Conneely

On the 6th of August 2017, Garda Stephen Fahy received a call that a man had entered the water at the Garavogue River. He went to the river and noticed that a large crowd had gathered on the bridge. Both Garda Fahy and Adam McGoldrick entered the water and swam out approximately 30 meters to the man. Adam brought a ringbuoy with him. Garda James Conneely got into a small boat that was along the riverbank and with one ore made his way up the river towards Garda Fahy and Adam to assist in the rescue. They brought the casualty to shallower water and then up onto a nearby embankment. The man was then taken to the hospital and treated for hypothermia.



Community & Social Responsibility Awards

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

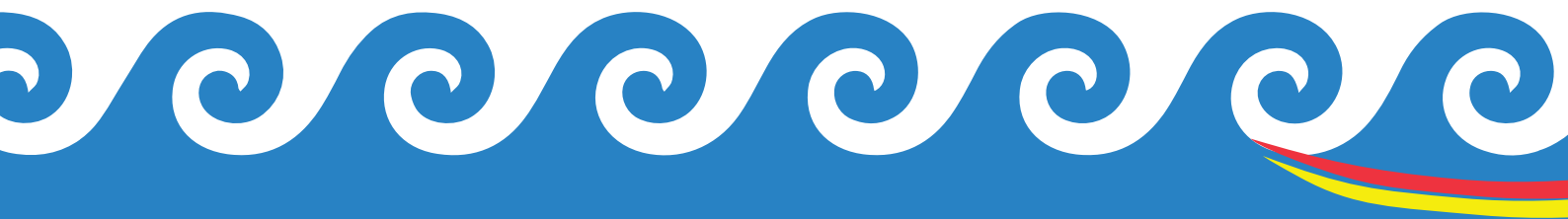
Timemark

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



Paraic Breatahnach

Irish Actor Paraic Breathnach has helped Irish Water Safety to raise awareness about water safety in Gaeltacht areas by recording a number of TV and radio adverts that give helpful advice on how to stay safe from drowning. Thanks to Paraic, the courses run by Irish Water Safety in Gaeltacht areas are more popular than ever and his public service announcements are a core reason for this. For this reason, we are very grateful to Paraic for his continued support over many years.



Community & Social Responsibility Awards...contd

Tom MacSweeney (This Island Nation) Tom MacSweeney is a marine correspondent, journalist and broadcaster whose radio show "This Island Nation" is a reflective, informative and entertaining programme about maritime matters. Tom has supported Irish Water Safety since his days as an RTE broadcaster. He regularly reports on Irish Water Safety initiatives on his current radio show so that people are aware of the water safety best practices that can help them to enjoy aquatic activities safely. As this is a community award it reflects the value of the community network around the country in that ten stations broadcast the programme which is also supported by three publications - two newspapers (Marine Times and Evening Echo Cork) and a maritime magazine (Afloat). Tom's support is a good example of what he has worked to achieve after leaving RTE - encouraging local people in their own communities to broadcast for themselves and in doing so getting the water safety message out to where it can be of greatest benefit - local communities.



Seán Ó Dómhnaill, Editor, The Athlone Topic

As editor of the Athlone Topic, Seán Ó Dómhnaill has given great support to Irish Water Safety's Westmeath Committee and has featured many stories about local water safety initiatives over many years, for which we are extremely grateful.



Sean McCaffrey, Northern Sound FM, Co. Monaghan

Seán has been a great friend of the Monaghan Water Safety Area Committee for the last number of years and has helped with the promotion of Water Safety Awareness Week throughout counties Cavan and Monaghan. Sean's weekday breakfast show 'The Breakfast Roll' is very popular and has extremely high listenership figures within both counties (surpassing some of the national stations in the region). Over the past number of years Seán has thrown open the doors of the Breakfast Roll Studio to allow primary school children from Monaghan to share their Water Safety tips of the day for National Water Safety Awareness Week. Seán has given children the opportunity to visit the studio and meet with the staff to see how the radio station works, while at the same time ensuring that Water Safety is given huge promotion during Water Safety Week each year. Seán has consistently given water safety tips free primetime slots in his morning show. Seán has also organised that Water Safety Committee members can be interviewed for news items at various times throughout the year (Christmas swims, bank holidays, good weather) to ensure that listeners are water safety aware.



Rian Heaney, student at Galway Technical Institute

As part of his studies, Rian had a particular interest in helping Irish Water Safety to conduct research that would help to raise awareness about water safety. Rian chose to conduct this research in the farming community and to this end created a questionnaire that he brought to the National Ploughing Championships where he spends two days walking around and interviewing farmers about their attitudes to water safety and their behaviours around dangerous aquatic environments on farms. His sixteen pages of research and recommendations will now be used to inform practical marketing interventions to reach this at-risk group and for this we are very grateful.



Nicholas Bendon, CH Marine

CH Marine holds a Lifejacket Awareness Week each summer with additional initiatives that make people aware of the importance of children's lifejackets and of angling safety guidelines. They service hundreds of lifejackets every month and in doing so identified the need to make recreational users more aware of the importance of water safety.



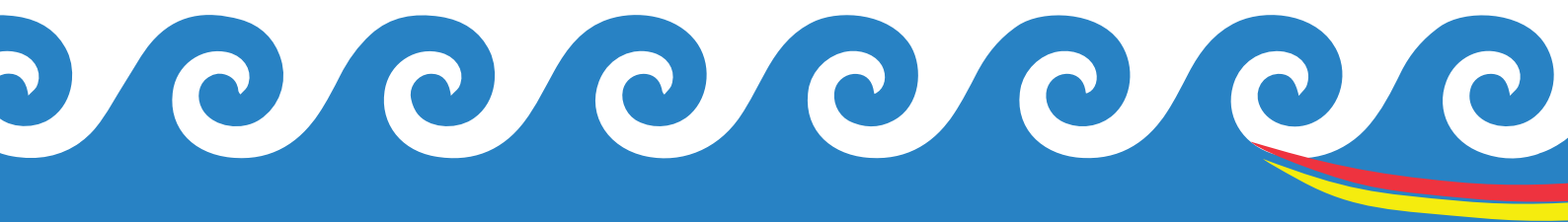
N.U.I.G. Skills for Work Life team

Students: Gareth Lynch, Cathal O'Connor, Martin O'Regan, Michael O'Donovan, Sean Flaherty and Sean O'Brien; Staff: Michael Campion. The Skills for Work Life Community Partner programme is a module taken by students of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics at NUI, Galway. The programme integrates meaningful community engagement with instruction and reflection to enrich the students' learning experiences, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen community links. In recent weeks' students conducted a survey to establish the water safety knowledge of students attending NUIG. Their findings and recommendations will be used to develop marketing programmes that target this at-risk group. 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 aquatic incidents among the student population.



AgriLand.ie

AgriLand.ie is an online farming news portal that has featured water safety advice for the farming community so that farmers know how to safe in the range of aquatic environments that can be found on farms. Children can be particularly at risk on farms and thanks to support from AgriLand, parents are more aware of how to ensure that children in their care stay safe from tragic drowning accidents.



Irish Skipper

The Irish Skipper hosts an international expo every year where hundreds of people involved in the fishing industry gather. By allowing IWS Volunteers to present information to fishers at the Skippers Expo, the Irish Skipper is helping to change people's attitudes to safety and the importance of adhering to best practice in dangerous aquatic environments.



Primary School of the Year Award

Dunboyne Senior Primary School

Today we recognise Dunboyne Senior Primary 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, 300 course certificates were presented to pupils which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviours necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. Thirty children aged fourteen and under have drowned within 10 years nationwide, and therefore we are very grateful to all teachers and staff involved in this programme.



Secondary School Young Educators Award

Belvedere College

We wish to thank Belvedere College for delivering Irish Water Safety's Junior Aquatics Water Programme (JAWS), a national water safety programme that is now a voluntary component of the secondary school curriculum. 158 course participants were certified in water safety lifesaving skills and we are hopeful that many more secondary schools around the country will follow Belvedere College's example so that students leave school with skills that will keep them safe from drowning.



Media Appreciation Awards

Presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention and water safety issues throughout the year

Provincial Press Award: The Evening Echo

The Evening Echo is an Irish newspaper based in Cork and distributed throughout the province of Munster. It has a focus on local news that extends back to 1842 and is affiliated with many sporting and cultural circles in Cork. We congratulate the Evening Echo and thank them sincerely for helping to highlight water safety awareness to its readers.



National Press Award: The Herald

The Herald is a nationwide newspaper published in Dublin and has covered many water safety issues in its daily editions, for which we are very grateful.



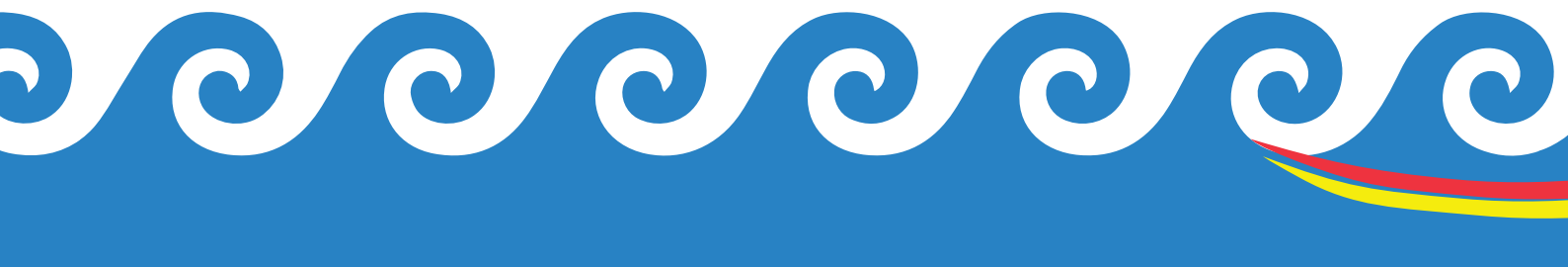
Provincial Radio Station Award: Limerick 95FM

Limerick's 95FM broadcasts to Limerick City and County. It became Limerick's most listened to radio station with nearly 60% of Limerick people tuning into the station every weekday. Its success continues and thanks to their coverage of water safety issues, Limerick listeners are more aware of the dangers of aquatic environments, and for this we are very grateful.



Community Radio Station Award: Connemara Community Radio

Connemara Community Radio is a community-based radio station broadcasting throughout the north-west Connemara region of Ireland. It's one of the smallest radio stations operating in Ireland but listenership doubles during the summer period when people take to a range of aquatic activities on Connemara's many waterways. They have enjoyed strong commitment by 90 volunteers for over 20 years and we wish them every success on this level of voluntary activity into the future.



National Radio Broadcaster: Newstalk

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

National TV Broadcaster: TV3

Every summer, hundreds of thousands of people are attracted to Ireland's waterways nationwide. Many of those taking to our wonderful aquatic environments have very little experience of the dangers of open water. We are grateful to TV3 for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

Online Media Broadcaster Award: Inshore Ireland

Inshore Ireland Publishing Limited was founded in 2005 by marine journalist Gillian Mills. They specialise in articles and research that focuses on the maritime and freshwater sectors, which are published online broadcast online and in their quarterly magazine "Inshore Ireland". They have assisted IWS in delivering messages about water safety best practise to their readers and as such have helped us to reach a community that is particularly at high risk at aquatic environments.



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Roger Sweeney, Deputy CEO/Marketing Manager of Irish Water Safety present a Media Appreciation Award to Gillian Mills of Inshore Ireland at the annual IWS Awards Ceremony.



John Leech, CEO of Irish Water Safety (left) and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman of Irish Water Safety present Breege Scott, Cavan with an IWS Long Service Award at the annual IWS Awards Ceremony.



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Patrick Maye, Kildare with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Brenda Wynne, Kildare with an IWS Long Service Award



Statistical analysis of drownings in 2017

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2017 was 109*, 14 fewer than in 2016 when 123 people drowned and the lowest since 1952. 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.

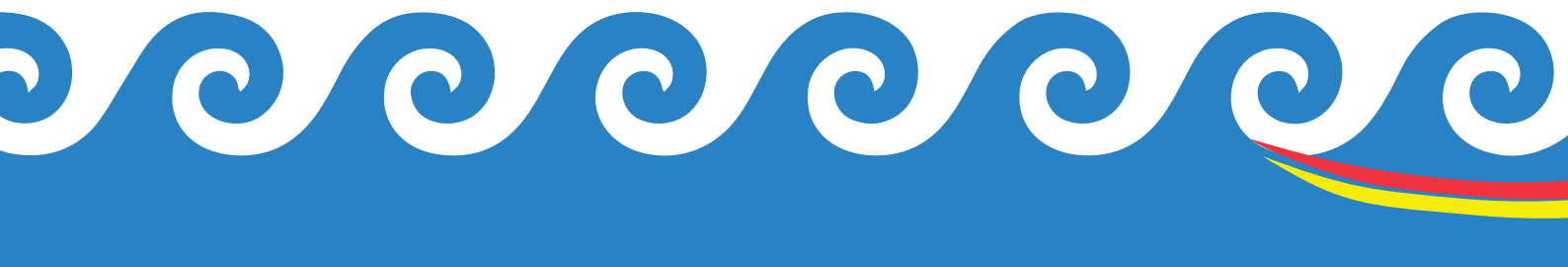
A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

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 (especially when using 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:

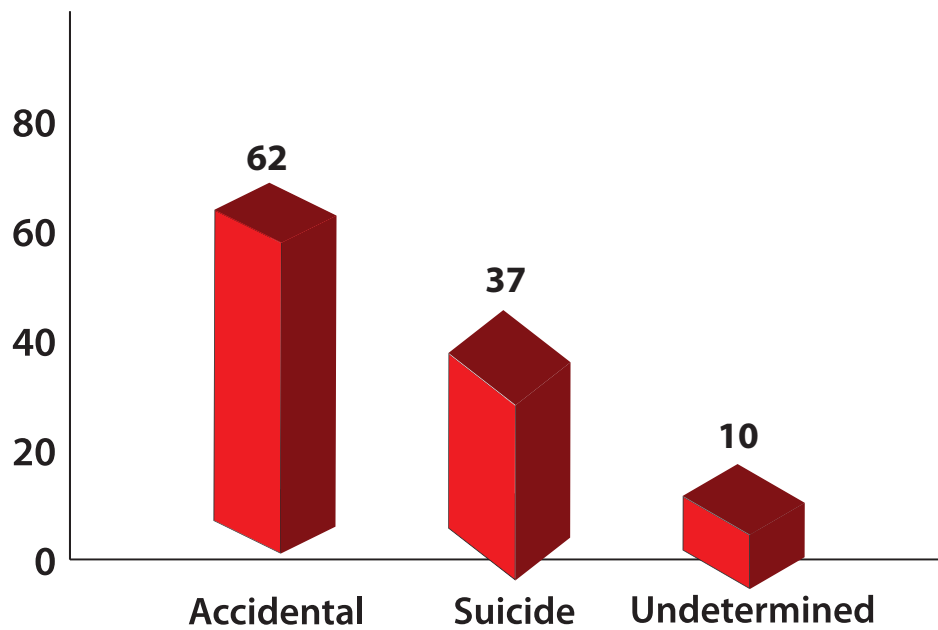
1. Public education by Irish Water Safety regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children, through the IWS PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme, to stay away from water when unsupervised;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. IWS media campaigns which emphasize that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in IWS press announcements the restriction of alcohol consumption 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.



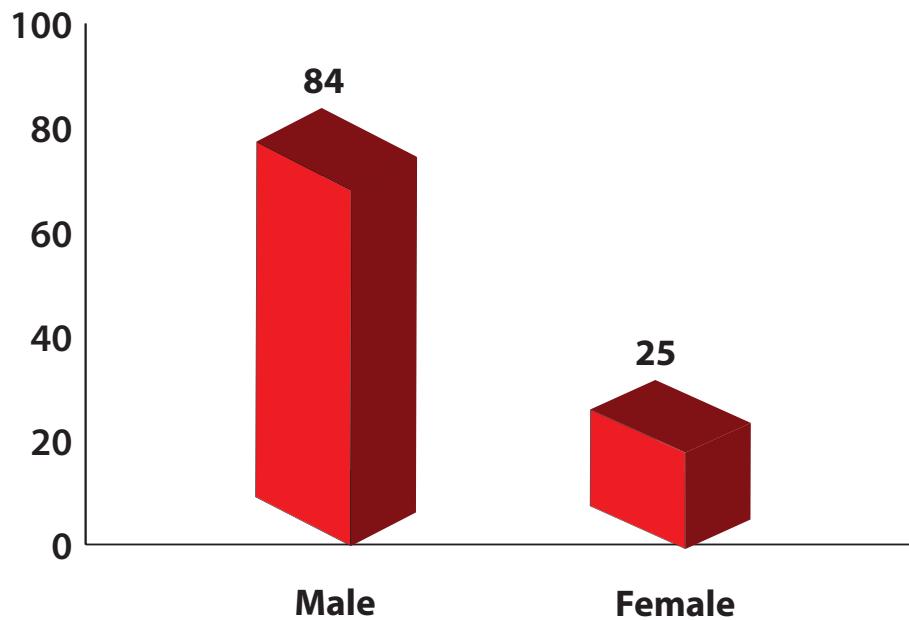
2017 Drownings by Cause

Total 109



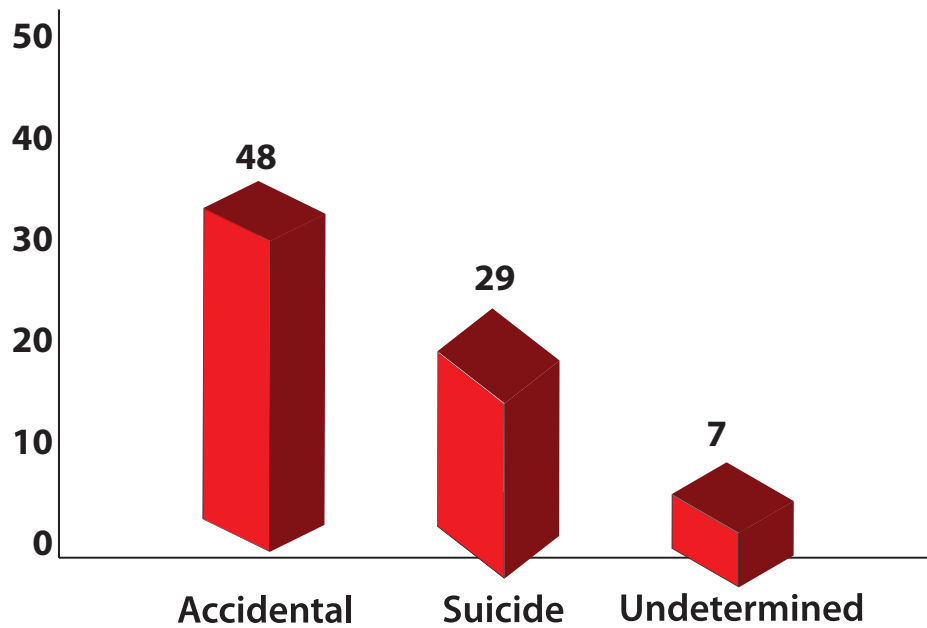
2017 Drownings by Gender

Total 109



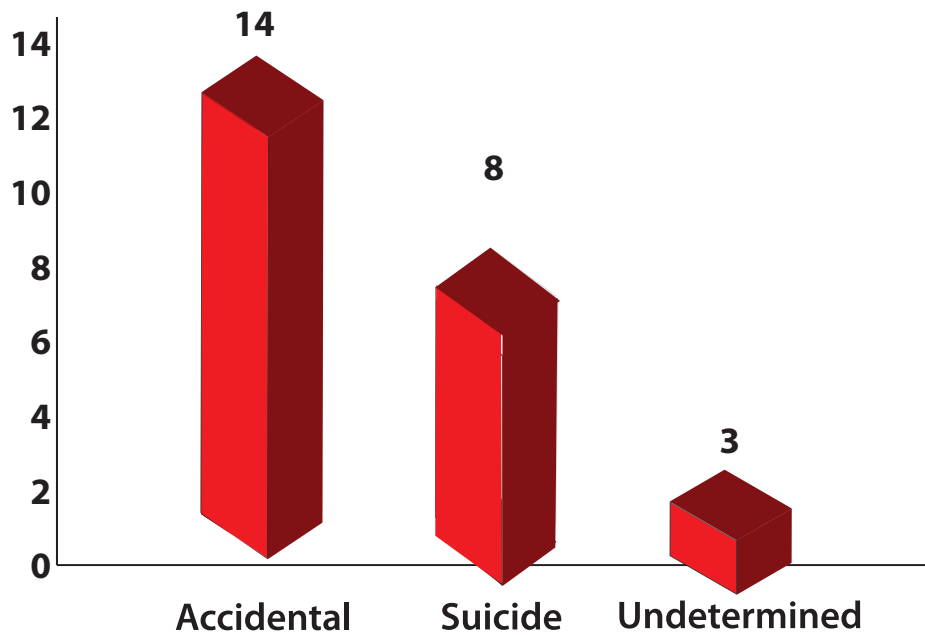
2017 Male Drownings by Cause

Total 84



2017 Female Drownings by Cause

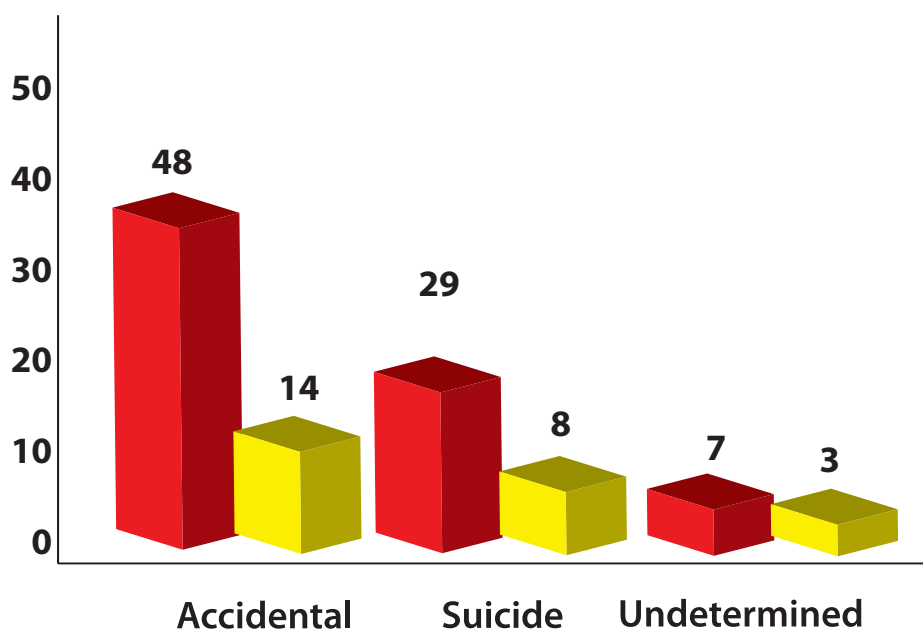
Total 25



2017 Male Drownings by Cause

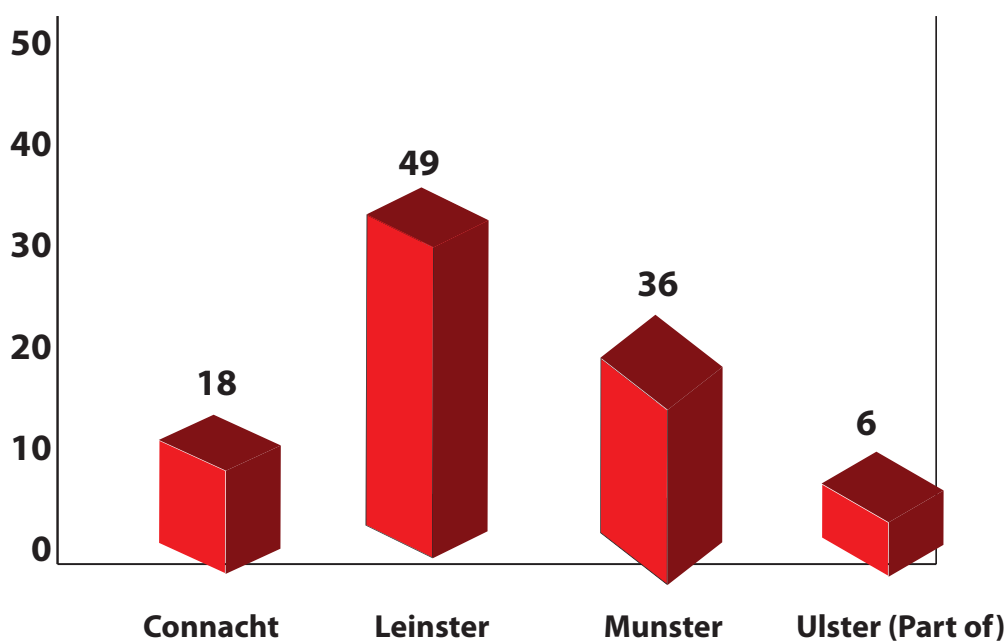
Total 109

Red = Male ; Yellow = Female



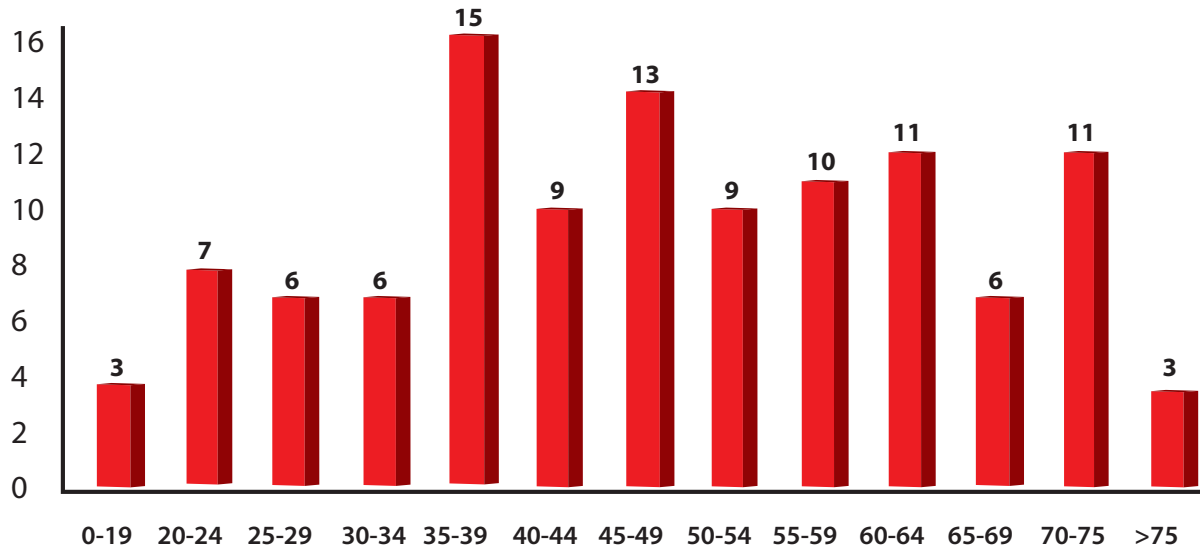
Drownings by Province

Total 109



2017 Drownings by Age

Total 109



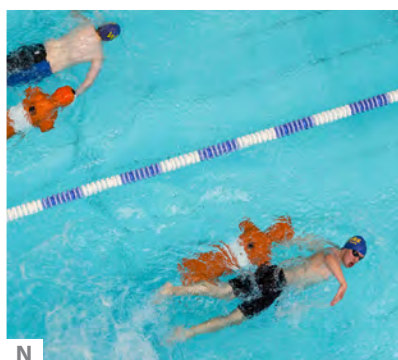
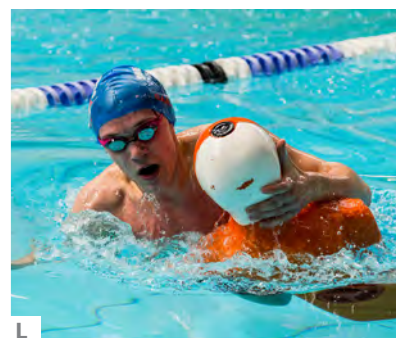
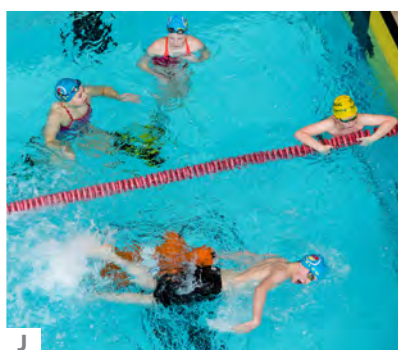
Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Brendan Devlin, Louth with an IWS Long Service Award



Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development (left) and Seamus O'Neill, Irish Water Safety Council-member (centre right) with Ronnie Horan, Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission (right) present Jennifer Lennon, Louth with an IWS Long Service Award

National Pool Lifesaving Championships 2017. UL Limerick

J. Conor McNerney from Wicklow
K. Liam Crowley from Cork
L. Michael McAndrew from Galway
M. Scott Widger from Tramore
N. John Milne from Wexford
O. Ross O'Loughlin from Wexford
P. John Wilmott from Tramore
Q. Tim Collins and Cailim Hoden





A



B



C



D



E



F

Out and about with IWS

- A. European Lifesaving Championships, Belgium
- B. Roger Sweeney IWS, Graham Ford ILS and Martin O Sullivan IWS
- C. Scoil Sheamais Naofa in Bearna winners Irish Water Safety's primary school competition for local schools.

- D. Charlie Kennedy IWS teaches water safety to Harry Doherty ESB
- E. Scoil Sheamais Naofa in Bearna
- F. European and Olympic rowing champions Paul and Gary O'Donovan launch National Water Safety Awareness Week 2017



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

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SCALING UP EFFORTS TO BRING DROWNINGS DOWN