

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

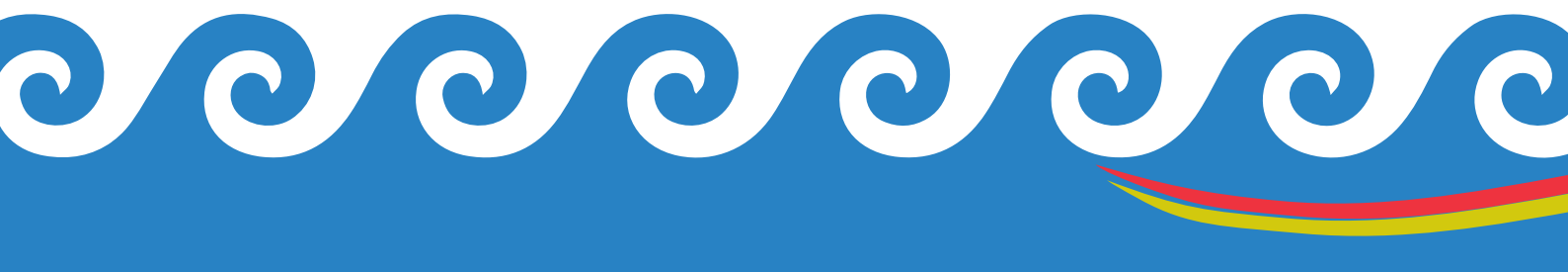
SCALING UP
EFFORTS TO
**BRING
DROWNINGS
DOWN**



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

An initiative within the Department of Rural and Community Development.





ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Irish Water Safety was renamed to Water Safety Ireland on the 15th of February 2019
WATER SAFETY IRELAND (ESTABLISHMENT) ORDER 2019 (S.I. 56 of 2019).
The Annual Report 2018, created in 2019, refers to Water Safety Ireland.



Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Patron of Water Safety Ireland

The Long Walk, Galway, Ireland
Tel: 091 564400; LoCall: 1890 420 202
Email: info@watersafety.ie Website: watersafety.ie





CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

2018 was the first full year of our National Drowning Prevention Strategy. When launching the Strategy our Minister, Michael Ring, T.D. highlighted the amazing aquatic resources that we have in Ireland, with 3171km of coastline, 12,000 loughs and our 5 longest rivers that measure 1070km. In this context he added a challenge to all members of Water Safety Ireland. We are challenged to make water safety part of the conversation so that it becomes part of our culture. The wearing of lifejackets as an aspect of our aquatic culture is one such focus of Water Safety Ireland, one that we are striving to achieve a significant shift from non-compliance to compliance as part of this strategy document.

2018 has been a good news story re the number of drownings. Once more the numbers have decreased, this time from 109 to 103. However, if we focus on the average number of drownings over the past ten years then we see that the number is still stubbornly high at 124. We should of course take heart from the reduction and in this context, I want once again to say "thank you", "go raibh míle maith agaibh" to all our volunteers nationwide for the public service you perform as Examiners, Instructors, Coaches, Trainee Instructors, Organisers and Helpers. The pillars upon which we deliver our drowning prevention strategy include our swimming and lifesaving training programmes, our education developments, our media messaging, our surf lifesaving and our water safety awareness courses. Arguably, the reduction in drownings in 2018 to 103 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.

As Chairman I wish to extend my gratitude to all members of Water Safety Ireland whether they serve on the Council of WSI, 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. 2018 saw the injection of €700,000 in 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. Lifesaving Sport is growing in strength around the country and engages thousands of young people, at nipper, junior and senior level. It has been developed to improve the standard of lifesaving and rescue skills among our lifeguards. It also introduces children to lifesaving skills at a young age.

Water Safety Ireland Lifesaving Sport had a great year in 2018. The 2018 European Junior Lifesaving Championships were held in Ireland and we can all be so proud that our teams came 2nd in Europe in the beach competitions and 5th in the overall combined pool and beach competitions, the best performance ever by an Irish team. I wish to congratulate competitors and particularly coaches and organisers for their long hours of dedication. Throughout 2018, we issued more than 50,000 swimming, lifesaving and water safety certificates including Lifeguarding and Basic Life Support. The total number of certificates issued across all our programmes was nearly 112,000, with 40,000 of those going to primary school children, a wonderful achievement that is testament to our teachers nationwide. The Awards ceremony of 2018 included presentations of the SEIKO Just in Time Awards, Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for services rendered to Water Safety Ireland and also the Volunteer of the Year Award and Sports Person of the Year award. Among the recipients were members of the Community Inshore Rescue Boat stations, members of the public, members of Water Safety Ireland and other individuals and organisations from the media and corporate sector who assisted us in the reduction of drownings, by supporting the work of Water Safety Ireland throughout the year. The SEIKO Just in Time Rescue Award is presented to those who have gone to the assistance of a fellow human being in distress in water. These awards are recognised within lifesaving circles as prestigious humanitarian awards given annually by Water Safety Ireland and sponsored by Seiko for the past eighteen years. I also gratefully acknowledge the contributions from our Local Authorities throughout Ireland. The support of these groups is of great value to us in developing programmes to reduce drownings. All this work is supported by our staff at head office. In an effort to support the staff, the Council carried out a review of the office systems, which resulted in a new work plan being put in place. I wish to thank the staff for their great co-operation during this process. I am conscious of the number of volunteers who have lost a family member during 2018 and I extend on behalf of IWS our deepest sympathies to all families, including those of Moira O'Brien, Molly Cahill, Angela Wynne and Daniel O'Connell.

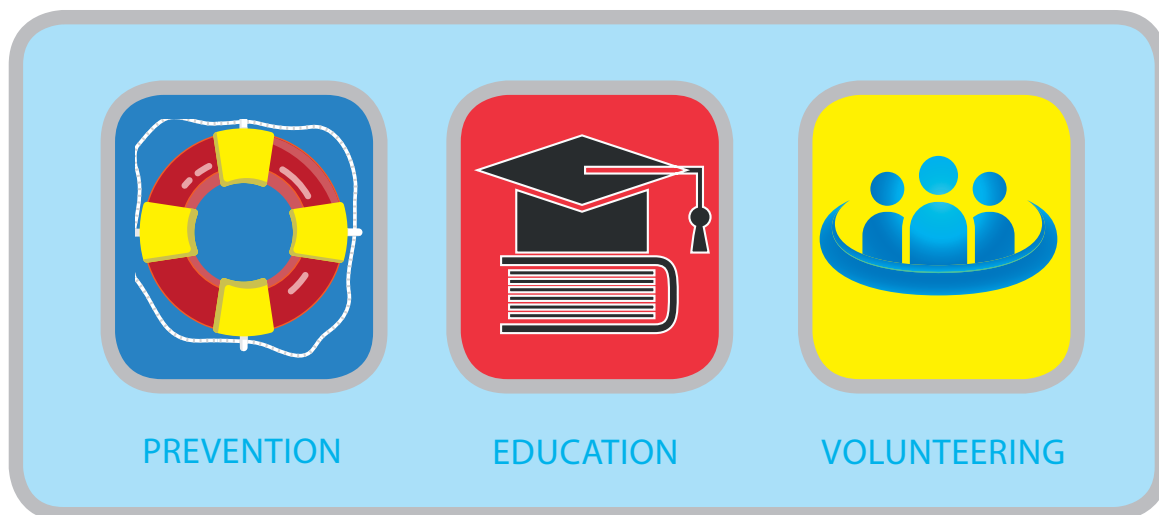
In closing, I wish to thank Mr Michael Ring, Minister for Rural & Community Development and his officials for supporting our work. Please make water safety part of the conversation that you have with friends and family and together, let's bring drownings down.

Martin O'Sullivan
Chairman, Water Safety Ireland

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



Mr Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development launches Water Safety Ireland's National Drowning Prevention Strategy with (front) Council members Karen Morton and Anastasia Ward and (rear) Council member Philip Keleghan, Roger Sweeney, Deputy CEO and Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman.



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 Chairman of Water Safety Ireland. Martin is an Examiner, Swimming Teacher Tutor and Senior Risk Assessment Tutor. He has been involved internationally since 1990, is a member of the Board of Directors of both International Life Saving Europe (ILSE) and ILS.



Seamus O'Neill, Vice Chairman

Seamus started lifesaving at the young age of 10 and became an Instructor in 1975. Seamus is an Examiner, Lifeguard Provider, International Beach Referee and Tutor. He is the current Chairman of the Technical Committee and has served on the the WSI Sports, Education and Swimming Commissions. He is also currently 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 Water Safety Ireland 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 Water Safety Ireland since 1995. Anne is a member of Council since 2006 and previously sat on both the lifeguard and education commissions. In addition to looking after services related to those with special needs and vulnerable adults, Anne helps to organise a very active outdoor water safety week in Cahore.



Paul Murphy

Paul is from Dublin and has been involved with Water Safety Ireland as a volunteer for over 40 years. He is an active Water Safety Ireland 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 WSI 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 Water Safety Ireland 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 WSI 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 Water Safety Ireland 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 Callan Thomastown Local Electoral Area for Kilkenny County Council. A former Mayor of Kilkenny, he is currently Chairman of Kilkenny County Council. He is also currently Chairperson of the Kilkenny Carlow Education Training Board (KCETB). Peter has 20 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 the Executive Director of The Kylemore Trust – the parent company of Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Gardens. This organisation is the largest employer in Connemara and home to the most visited attractions in the West of Ireland. His career has encompassed several senior commercial, strategic and leadership roles with organisations such as Eiría, Irish Water, EY and Bord na Móna.



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 Water Safety, Clare, and is an active Water Safety Ireland 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.



COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018 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

Martin O'Sullivan	8	Tom Doyle	7
Seamus O'Neill	5	Lola O'Sullivan	5
Michael Cuddihy	8	Karen Morton	6
Philip Keleghan	7	Anastasia Ward	4
Anne Ryan	8	Clare McGrath	7
Peter Cleere	7	Conor Coyne	4
Paul Murphy	7		

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018 - GENDER BALANCE

The gender composition of the Water Safety Ireland Council consists of four females (30%) and nine males (70%). It is the intention of Council to meet a target of at least 40% female through the use of Stateboards.ie, the primary portal through which appointments to vacancies on state boards are advertised and the continuous professional development of Water Safety Ireland volunteers nationwide, 55% of whom are female.

WATER SAFETY AREA COMMITTEES

The organisation has thirty Water Safety Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Síochána Water Safety Area Committees. Much recognition must be afforded to these Water Safety Area Committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. In addition to delivering water safety promotional programmes and demonstrations at schools, colleges, businesses, exhibitions and community events, each Committee delivers an extensive programme of pool water safety sessions in the winter and beach, lake and river water safety sessions in the summer. The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over two thousand five hundred members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Life Governors, Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Tutors, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is a member of Water Safety Ireland. Thanks to all their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a significant increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

STAFF

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

National Office:

Water Safety Ireland,
The Long Walk,
Galway.

Auditors:

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

Bankers:

Bank of Ireland,
Mainguard Street,
Galway.

Solicitors:

Lewis C. Doyle,
Ford & Associates,
Augustine Court,
St. Augustine Street,
Galway.

Accountants:

CAG (Chartered Accountants Galway),
Steamship House,
Dock Street,
Galway.

Website:

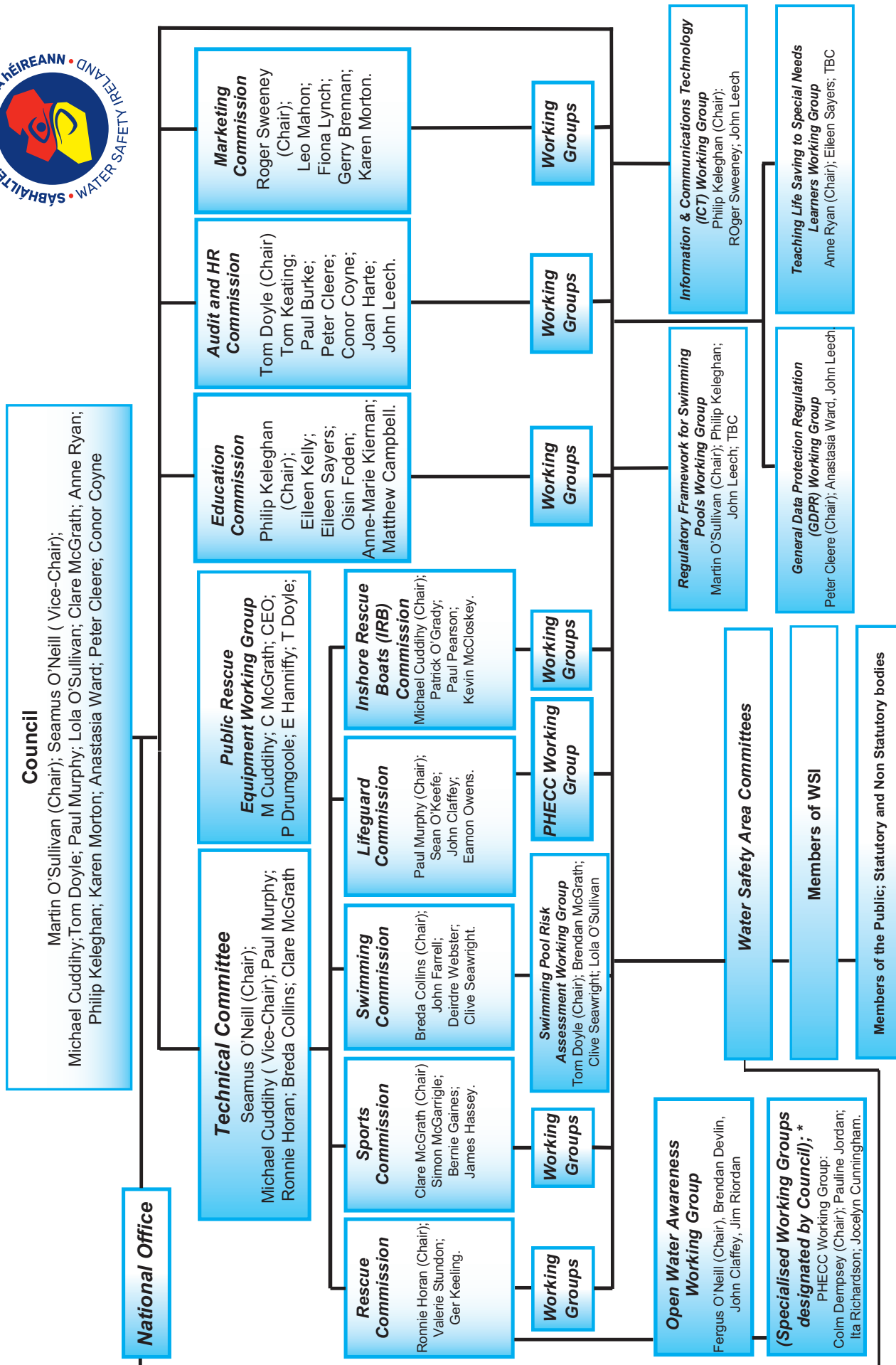
www.watersafety.ie



Local Authority Water Safety Development Officers from around the country tour the University of Limerick's sports campus facility as part of their annual conference, with John Leech, Water Safety Ireland CEO (front centre).



Organisation Structure of Water Safety Ireland 2018



THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Seamus O'Neill - Chairman; 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 WSI Examiner's Conference
5. Identify and prioritise new projects.

AUDIT & HR COMMISSION:

Tom Doyle - Chairman; 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 & Safety
7. National & International Travel
8. Develop strategies to increase membership
9. Recommend National & International Appointments
10. Improve links with Local Authorities, meet more County Managers and County Councillors.



Beach lifeguard Brieghe Devaney on duty at the Bull Wall at Dollymount Beach.
(Photo: Steve Humphreys)



MARKETING COMMISSION:

Roger Sweeney - Chairman; 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 WSI is well represented at exhibitions countrywide
5. Liaise with RoSPA & the Marine Safety Working Group
6. Promotion of the public awareness of water safety
7. Assist in organising national ceremonies, conferences & events
8. Represent WSI at LAMA
9. Market the WSI Brand
10. Monitor Press Cuttings
11. Source sponsorship Promote the wearing of lifejackets
12. Develop the commercial strand to our organisation; improve branding and public relations
13. Liaise with the Charles Thompson Award
14. Analyse drowning statistics.

RESCUE COMMISSION:

Ronnie Horan - Chairman; Valerie Stundon; Ger Keeling.

Duties:

1. Promote Blue Flag safety standards and other aquatic environmental issues
2. Manage Risk Assessments at local, national & international level
3. Manage the VAT Inspections and run the training courses for Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI)
4. Manage the SEIKO JIT Rescue Award
5. Assist in Rescue on Inland and maritime Waters
6. Liaise with Community Rescue Boats Ireland
7. Test rescue equipment
8. Liaison with Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee
9. Develop and rollout a Safety Awareness Programme for those employed near aquatic environments.

LIFEGUARD COMMISSION

Paul Murphy – Chairman; Sean 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

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Philip Keleghan – Chairman; Eileen Kelly; Eileen Sayers; Anne-Marie Kiernan; Matthew Campbell; Oisin Foden.

Duties:

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

SPORTS COMMISSION

Clare McGrath – Chairman; Simon McGarrigle; Bernie Gaines; James Hassey.

Duties:

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



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 & 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 WSI at IFSTA
8. Ensure WSI 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 WSI
12. Develop better communications with ILAM.

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS 2018

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. Seventeen press releases issued, 77 media interviews were conducted, resulting in 713 mentions in the media.

PRESS RELEASES

- National Pool Rescue Championships
- Ice Alert St Patrick's weekend
- Easter May Bank Holiday Weekend
- Hot weather June
- National Drowning Prevention Strategy launched
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- Warm weather advice for bathers
- Ten drownings in fifteen days of warm weather
- August Bank Holiday
- High tides and coastal floods warning
- Water Safety Ireland honours Jim Warny, one of the rescuers of the Thai Junior Boys Soccer Team
- European Junior Lifesaving Championships
- National Surf Lifesaving Championships
- October Bank Holiday
- Christmas and New Year.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Exhibitions

- Holiday World, Jan 26 - 28
- Ireland Angling Expo, Feb 17 - 18
- Irish Skipper Show, March 9 - 10
- Emergency Services Day Parade, Sept 1st
- National Ploughing Championships, Sept 18 - 20
- WSI National Annual Awards Ceremony, Nov 28
- HSA "Keep Safe" partnership events nationwide.



The Irish Actor Liam Neeson receives a Water Safety Ireland Lifesaving medal embedded in Connemara marble, from Deputy CEO Roger Sweeney, in appreciation for supporting a national water safety awareness media campaign.

National Water Safety Awareness Week (May 18th – May 24th)

A national media campaign was supported by the Irish actor Liam Neeson.

The SEIKO Just In Time Awards

- Thirty-six lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of rescuers who received recognition at Water Safety Ireland's National Awards Ceremony at George's Hall, Dublin Castle on Wednesday 28th of November 2018. WSI is grateful to Timemark for sponsoring the Seiko watches. Details of each rescue are listed in this report. Long-Service Volunteer Awards were also be presented to 63 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 1,315 years of service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.

IWS Water Safety Themed Calendar

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



CERTIFICATION

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Certification reflects the efforts of our voluntary members who change skills, attitudes and behaviours by instilling water confidence and deep-water swimming and survival ability.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 24,481 Swimming, Lifesaving and Water Safety certificates in 2018. In addition, a further 42,294 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed for primary schools and a further 26,952 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, and 234 PHECC Awards giving a total certification by Water Safety Ireland of 111,774.

Aquatics organiser	24	National PLG Level 2	1055
Assistant Swimming Teacher	586	National PLG Level 2 Revalidation	895
Beach Lifeguard	197	Pool Lifeguard Course Tutor	19
Beach Lifeguard Course Tutor	22	Rescue 1	1278
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	211	Rescue 2	1174
BLS 1	2748	Rescue 3	851
BLS 2	1822	Rescue 4	335
BLS 3	1119	Safety 1	1758
Challenge 1	187	Safety 2	2333
Challenge 2	241	Safety 3	2016
Disabilities Aquatics Level 1	50	Safety 4	2034
Disabilities Aquatics Level 2	18	Surf Award Instructor	3
Endurance 1	351	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	37
Endurance 2	676	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	37
In-house Pool Lifeguard Tutor	3	Surf Rescue Boat Senior Tutor	3
Instructor	96	Survival 1	219
Introduction to Coaching	20	Survival 2	464
Inland Open Water (IOW) Lifeguard	43	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	6
IOW Lifeguard Course Tutor	13	Swimming Teacher	164
IOW Lifeguard Revalidation	15	Swimming Teacher Tutor	6
WSI Code of Ethics	345	Water Safety Awareness	206
Lifesaving Sport Coach Lvl 1	34	Water Safety Awareness General & Pool	227
National Pool Lifeguard (PLG)PLG Level 1	369	Water Safety Awareness Tutor	8
National PLG Level 1 Revalidation	163	Total	24,481

Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) is Water Safety Ireland's program of certification for primary school children and a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum, A total of 42,294 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2018.

PAWS 1 in the Classroom	PAWS 1 in the Water	PAWS 2 in the Classroom	PAWS 2 in the Water	PAWS 3 in the Classroom	PAWS 3 in the Water
5398	821	6298	2075	4601	3728
PAWS 4 in the Classroom	PAWS 4 in the Water	PAWS 5 in the Water	PAWS 6 in the Water	PAWS 7 in the Water	PAWS 8 in the Water
3406	5469	4358	3018	1963	1159

SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS

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

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety
Cavan	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lough McNear, Blacklion	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Miltown	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Killykeen, Killeshandra	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Crover, Lough Sheelin	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Grownys Wood, Lough Ramor	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lavey Lake, Lavey	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Garty Lough, Arva	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	July	Water Safety
Clare	Miltown Malbay	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 4
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 3 & 4
Clare	West County Hotel	August	Safety 3
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Endurance 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 2
Clare	Kilrush	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilrush	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Flagmount	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Doonbeg	July	Swim & Safety
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 3
Clare	Labasheeda	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Labasheeda	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Clare	Kilkee	August	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	July	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Mountshannon	August	water safety
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 3 & 4
Clare	Ballyvaughan	August	Swim, Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Rescue 1
Cork	Ardgroom	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Sherkin	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Midleton	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Schull	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ardfield	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Carrignavar Pool	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballibrannigan	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Skibbereen	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Adrigole	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garrylucas	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Oysterhaven	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Bere Island	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballingeary	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cape Clear	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballymacoda	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Eyeries	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Courtmacsherry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Youghal	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Union Hall	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Kilcrohane	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Rosscarbery	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garnish Pier	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Glandore	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Urhan	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballycotton	July	Swim & Water Safety
Donegal	Malin Head	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Arranmore	July	Swim, Safety, Survival

SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Donegal	Mountcharles	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Moville	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Rathmullen	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Portsalon	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Greencastle	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kilcar	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Creevy	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Bun An Inver	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Bun An Inver	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Port Na Blaith	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Killybegs	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Downings	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Dublin	Rush	July	Swim & Water Safety
Dublin	Skerries	August	Swim & Water Safety
Galway	Portumna	July	Water Safety
Galway	Salthill	August	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Meain	July	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Oirr	July	Water Safety
Galway	Loughrea	August	Water Safety
Galway	Lettermullen	June	Water Safety
Galway	Carraroe	July	Water Safety
Galway	Salthill	June	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Mor	June	Water Safety
Galway	Clifden	July	Water Safety
Galway	Cor Na Mona	July	Water Safety
Galway	Tir An Fhia	August	Water Safety
Kerry	Brandon	June	Swim
Kerry	Minard	June	Swim
Kerry	Brandon	July	Safety
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Swim
Kerry	Waterville	July	Swim



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Kerry	Cromane	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Swim
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballyheigue	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Safety
Kerry	Templemore	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Safety
Kerry	Meenoghane	July	Safety
Kerry	An Daingean	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballybunion	July	Swim
Kerry	Rossbeigh	July	Swim
Kerry	Castlecove	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballybunion	August	Safety
Kerry	Touist	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Swim
Kerry	Valentia	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Safety
Kerry	Valentia	August	Safety
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Swim
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Safety
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh	July	Water Safety
Laois	Ballinakill	July	Swim & Water Safety
Laois	Castletown Bridge	August	Swim & Water Safety
Leitrim	Keeldra	July	Swim
Leitrim	Gulladoo	July	Swim
Leitrim	Drumshambo	June	Swim
Leitrim	Fahy	August	Swim
Leitrim	Rossinver	August	Swim
Limerick	Copsewood	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Copsewood	August	Water Safety

SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

Limerick	Askeaton	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Askeaton	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Glin Pier	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Glin Pier	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Pallaskenry	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Pallaskenry	August	Water Safety
Longford	Annagh	July	Swim & Water Safety
Longford	Annagh	August	Swim & Water Safety
Louth	Clogherhead	July	Water Safety
Louth	Gyles Quay	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballina	July	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	Ballina	August	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	Claremorris	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballyhaunis	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballycastle	June	Water Safety
Mayo	Lacken	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Clare Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Kilmovee	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Charlestown	July	Water Safety
Offaly	Birr	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Banagher	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Clara	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Edenderry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Roscommon	Castlerea pool	July	Swim
Roscommon	Castlerea pool	July	Safety & Rescue
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	June	Swim
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	July	Swim



SUMMER SAFETY WEEKS...CONTD

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

WSI REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

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

WSI REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- Martin O’Sullivan - International Life Saving (ILS) board member
- Seamus O’Neill - ILSE (Europe) Sports Commission
- John Leech - ILSE (Europe) Management & Administration Commission
- John Farrell - International Federation of Swimming Teachers Association
- Tom Doyle - Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)
- Clare McGrath - College of Referees Panel ILS Europe
- John Leech - International Maritime Rescue Federation.

CONFERENCES

- Water Safety Development Officer’s Conference 19th – 20th April, Limerick
- Water Safety Area Committee Seminar 29th April, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
- Risk Assessor Training Seminar 27th – 28th April & 12th – 13th May, Co. Clare
- Beach Lifeguard Tutor Conference 19th – 20th May
- Water Safety Development Officer’s post-summer seminar 25th September, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
- Examiner’s Conference 28th October, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
- Swim Tutor Seminar 18th November, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
- Community Rescue Boats Ireland conference 17th November, Limerick
- National Awards Ceremony 28th November
- Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) Conference 29th September, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.



RISK ASSESSMENTS

Water Safety Ireland volunteers carried out 65 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.

County		County	
Clare	Mountshannon - BF	Galway	Kilmurvey, Inis Mór (BF)
Clare	Ballycuggeran, Killaloe - BF	Galway	Inis Oírr
Clare	Spanish Point	Galway	Salmon Weir Bridge
Clare	Seafield, Quilty - GC	Kerry	Kells Beach (N. Iveragh Peninsula)
Cork	Youghal Front strand	Kerry	Ballyheigue
Cork	Sherkin Island, Silverstrand	Kerry	Banna (BF)
Cork	Ballybrannagan	Kerry	Inch Beach
Cork	Youghal Claycastle	Kildare	Barretstown Castle (private enterprise)
Cork	Youghal Redbarn	Leitrim	Castlefore Lake
Cork	Inchydoney West	Mayo	Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool
Cork	Inchydoney East	Mayo	Bertra
Cork	Tragumna - Skibbereen	Mayo	Carrowmore
Cork	Ballinspittle - Coolmaine	Meath	Greenway (Royal Canal)
Cork	Cadogens	Sligo	Garavogue River
Cork	Ballyrisode	Sligo	Dunmorán
Cork	Galleycove	Waterford	Annestown GC
Cork	Clonakilty - Redstrand	Wexford	Courtown North Beach BF
Cork	Kinsale - Oysterhaven	Wexford	Morriscastle
Cork	Kinsale - Rocky Bay	Wexford	Curraclloe White Gap
Cork	Ballymacoda - Greenlands Ring	Wexford	Rosslare BF
Cork	Ballincollig	Wexford	Grange
Donegal	Ballyhiernan	Wexford	St Helens
Donegal	Dooley	Wexford	Cullenstown
Donegal	Drumatinney	Wexford	Kilmore Quay Small Beach
Donegal	Magheroarty	Wexford	Rosslare (BF)
Donegal	Tullan Strand, Bundoran	Wicklow	Bray - BF
Donegal	The Pond, Dungloe	Wicklow	Greystones - BF
Donegal	Port Arthur	Wicklow	Brittas Bay, North BF
Fingal	Springers Beach, South Skerries	Wicklow	Brittas Bay, North BF
Galway	Silverstrand	Wicklow	Arklow
		Wicklow	Wicklow Harbour

LIFEGUARD RESCUES AND PREVENTIVE ACTIONS

Our Local Authorities employ Water Safety Ireland 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	RESCUE WITH CRAFT	FIRST AID	LOST CHILD	ADVICE GIVEN	ACCIDENT PREVENTED	OTHER INCIDENT
Carlow	4	0	21	0	132	3	0
Cork	21	12	670	22	16775	7604	140
Clare	61	58	766	33	5277	1927	30
Donegal	8	13	213	10	20329	4129	7
Dublin	3	5	57	7	1986	36	15
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	8	4	244	1	91	56	0
Fingal	9	11	245	68	5045	742	116
Galway	15	6	544	17	6664	1956	1174
Kerry	17	23	487	42	4949	971	3756
Kilkenny	2	0	115	0	1650	815	0
Limerick	3	0	42	0	245	184	0
Louth	0	4	202	7	782	224	15
Mayo	1	1	188	8	10721	117	14
Meath	1	0	8	3	0	0	11
Roscommon	0	0	114	0	353	3	0
Sligo	0	4	7	16	1995	1113	908
Tipperary	4	0	17	0	8084	0	2
Waterford	18	16	342	29	10640	6252	3254
Wexford	2	3	390	56	1314	126	123
Wicklow	0	0	222	69	3534	1640	0
Total	177	160	4,894	388	100,566	27,898	9,565



LIFESAVING SPORT - STILL & SURF COMPETITIONS 2018

National Nipper Champions	Clare Junior Nippers
National Junior Champions	Clare Junior Girls
National Senior Champions (Presidents Trophy)	Clare Ladies
National Masters Champions	Cork Masters

All team scores & individual event results for all of the following are available online.

NATIONAL SENIOR SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 140

Team Results:

Ladies:

Clare A
Wicklow A
Clare B

Men:

Clare A
Cork A
Waterford A

NATIONAL SENIOR STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 125

Team Results:

Ladies:

Clare A
Wicklow A
Wexford

Men:

Clare A
Sligo A
Cork A

NATIONAL MASTERS SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 116

Team Results:

- Waterford
- Cork
- Clare

NATIONAL MASTERS STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 86

Team Results:

- Cork
- Waterford
- Wexford

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional Qualification Competitions – Individual results available online

- Ulster/Connaught: 69 Competitors
- Munster: 134 Competitors
- Leinster: 101 Competitors

NATIONAL JUNIOR SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 189

Team Results:

Ladies:

- Clare
- Wicklow
- Cork

Men:

- Clare
- Cork
- Wexford

NATIONAL JUNIOR STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 156

Team Results:

Ladies:

- Clare A
- Wicklow A
- Cork A

Men:

- Clare A
- Donegal A
- Wexford A



NATIONAL MASTERS SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 116

Team Results:

- Waterford
- Cork
- Clare

NATIONAL MASTERS STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 86

Team Results:

- Cork
- Waterford
- Wexford

PROVINCIAL JUNIOR SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional Qualification Competitions – Individual results available online

- Ulster/Connaught: 69 Competitors
- Munster: 134 Competitors
- Leinster: 101 Competitors

NATIONAL JUNIOR SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 189

Team Results:

Ladies:

- Clare
- Wicklow
- Cork

Men:

- Clare
- Cork
- Wexford

NATIONAL JUNIOR STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 156

Team Results:

Ladies:

- Clare A
- Wicklow A
- Cork A

Men:

- Clare A
- Donegal A
- Wexford A

PROVINCIAL NIPPER SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional Qualification Competitions

- Ulster/Connaught: 172 Competitors
- Munster: 358 Competitors
- Leinster: 203 Competitors

NATIONAL NIPPER SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 459

Team Results:

Junior Nipper:

- Clare
- Cork
- Wicklow

Senior Nipper:

- Cork
- Wicklow
- Donegal

PROVINCIAL NIPPER STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional Qualification Competitions

- Ulster/Connaught: 128 Competitors
- Munster: 262 Competitors
- Leinster: 177 Competitors

NATIONAL NIPPER STILLWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Number of Competitors: 302

Team Results:

Junior Nipper:

- Clare
- Cork
- Wicklow

Senior Nipper:

- Donegal
- Cork
- Clare

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, AUSTRALIA

7 Irish Athletes selected.

Overall Team Result: 17th

Medal Winners: Bernard Cahill – 3rd Surf Race



EUROPEAN JUNIOR LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS, LIMERICK & KILKEE

The event was attended by 13 European countries, 154 athletes, 50 Coaches and Managers and many friends and families who came to support their teams.

Overall Team Result: 5th (2nd on Beach)

Medal Winners:

Gold:

- Aisling Barry, Tara McEvoy, Sean Slattery and Noel Shannon won Gold in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC).
- Aisling Barry and Tara McEvoy won Gold in the Line Throw.
- Amy O'Brien and Emma Kristiansen won Gold in the Board Rescue Relay.
- Aisling Barry, Aoife Madigan, Emma Kristiansen and Sarah Morrisson won Gold in the Beach Relay.
- Callum Holding, Ryan Cotter, Sean Slattery and Turlough Barrett also won Gold in the Beach Relay.
- Ryan Cotter, Sarah Morrison, Tara McEvoy and Turlough Barrett won Gold in the Lifesaver Relay.

Silver:

- Dylan O'Brien, Noel Shannon, Ryan Cotter and Sean Slattery won Silver in the Rescue Tube Relay. Dylan O'Brien and Turlough Barrett won Silver in the Board Rescue Relay.
- Sarah Morrisson won Silver in the Beach Sprints.
- Amy O'Brien won Silver in the Ocean Woman.
- Amy O'Brien, Aoife Madigan, Emma Kristiansen and Sarah Morrisson won Silver in the Ocean Woman Relay.
- Callum Holding, Dylan O'Brien, Ryan Cotter and Turlough Barret won Silver in the Ocean Man Relay.

Bronze:

- Callum Holding, Dylan O'Brien, Noel Shannon and Ryan Cotter won Bronze in the 200m Medley Relay.
- Ryan Cotter won Bronze in the Ski Race. Dylan O'Brien won Bronze in the Surf Race.
- Amy O'Brien won Bronze in the Board Race. Turlough Barrett won Bronze in the Board Race.



Sand and surf action at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships 2018



Pool and beach action at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships 2018



- Clockwise: Team Ireland forms friendships in advance of competing at the World Lifesaving Championships 2018;
- Girls learn how to throw a buoy at one of six "HSA - Keep Safe" primary school road show partnerships nationwide;
- Water Safety Ireland Chairman Martin O'Sullivan presents Jim Warny, one of the rescuers of the Thai Junior Boys Soccer Team with a SEIKO Just In Time Award;
- Minister Ring receives a water safety briefing from Water Safety Ireland's Éadaoin Foden, Gerry Brennan and Oisín Foden;
- Mayor of Galway Neil McNelis launches the "Galway Safe App" designed to keep people safe near Galway city's waterways late at night;
- Water Safety Ireland swim caps keep participants in RTE 1 television's "Operation Transformation" dry as Lifeguards keep them safe.

NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Print Works Conference Centre, Dublin Castle, Wednesday, 28th of November

Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development and the Chairman of Water Safety Ireland, Martin O'Sullivan, presented a range of Awards including the SEIKO Just in Time Awards, Life Governor Certificates and Medals, Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for services rendered to Water Safety Ireland and also the "Charles Thomson Local Authority Award" and Volunteer of the Year Award. Among the recipients are members of the public, members of Water Safety Ireland and other individuals and organisations who assist in the reduction of drownings by supporting the work of Water Safety Ireland throughout the year. Long-Service Volunteer Awards were presented to 63 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 1,315 years of service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.



Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman WSI with Martin Cuillinane, recipient of the SEIKO Just In Time Award and Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development. Mr Cullinane's video about the rescue incident received nearly 300,000 views online.



Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman WSI, Gardas Clancy, Doherty and Cosgrove recipients with Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development.



Sports Persons of the Year Award

Amy O'Brien - Wicklow

Amy has had a super year competing both nationally and internationally. Amy took home many medals at the National Stillwater Lifesaving Championships in February and also won several medals at the National Junior and Senior Openwater Lifesaving Championships in Kilkee, Co. Clare, and Curracloe, Co. Wexford, earlier this year.

Amy represented Ireland at the 2018 European Junior Lifesaving Championships, which were held in Ireland this year, and won a total of 5 medals as well as several other A and B final placings:

- 2 Gold – 1st in the Board Rescue and 1st in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (both team events)
 - 2 Silver – 2nd in the Ocean Woman event, a gruelling individual event comprising of all surf lifesaving disciplines, and 2nd in the Ocean Woman relay event (team event)
 - 1 Bronze – 3rd in the Board Race
- Amy's high results combined with her team mates saw Ireland place 2nd in the overall beach team rankings at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships.



Amy O'Brien, Sports Person of the Year, with WSI Chairman Martin O'Sullivan and Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development

Bernard Cahill, Clare

Bernard excelled in his events at the National Stillwater Lifesaving Championships at the UL Sport Arena in February and attended the Surf Lifesaving Great Britain National Pool Lifesaving Championships in Cardiff in April with the Irish team. In Cardiff, Bernard broke 2 Irish records and 2 UK records, winning 4 gold medals in individual events.

At the Irish Senior Openwater Lifesaving Championships in Curracloe, Co. Wexford, in September, Bernard comfortably won all 4 water events in the senior men category. Bernard is a strong competitor, a diligent worker, and a great role model for our younger competitors. Bernard was unable to attend due to lifesaving competition commitments.

Long Service Awards

First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Ciara	Brady	Cavan	10
Olivia	Quinn	Cavan	10
Paul	Pearson	Dublin	10
Keith	Scanlon	Dublin	10
Emer	Durkan	Galway	10
Rory	Divilly	Galway	10
Thomas	Ward	Kerry	10
Martin	Woulfe	Kerry	10
Joan	McLoughlin	Kilkenny	10
Gary	Knox	Kilkenny	10
John	Claffey	Kilkenny	10
Valerie	Stundon	Limerick City	10
Grainne	Phelan	Limerick City	10
Majella	Donnelly	Louth	10
Catherine	Lynch	Louth	10
Siobhan	Douglas	Monaghan	10
Charlene	Sherry	Monaghan	10
Rebekah	Power	Waterford	10
Rob	McGuinness	Cork	15
Máire	Jones	Dublin	15
Karl	Toomey	Dublin	15
Antonia	Darbey	Dublin	15
Assumpta	Hession	Galway	15
Martin	Ennis	Kerry	15
John	Riordan	Kerry	15
Peadar	O Lamhna	Monaghan	15
Noreen	Ormsby	Tipperary North	15
Seamus	Willmott	Waterford	15
Tom	Fenton	Waterford	15
Celine	Mooney	Cavan	20
Ronan	Kelly	Dublin	20
Daniel	Wrafter	Dublin	20
Darina	Byrne	Dublin	20
Natalie	O Meara	Dublin	20
Paul	O Connor	Kerry	20
Christopher	Reilly	Kerry	20
May	Stapleton	Limerick City	20
Liam	McCole	Louth	20
Niall	Neeson	Monaghan	20



Long Service Awards...contd

First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Paddy	Collins	Tipperary North	20
Matt	Murphy	Cork	30
Oliver	Goggin	Cork	30
Diarmuid	Hurley	Cork	30
Anne	Cassidy	Dublin	30
Bernie	Gaines	Dublin	30
Clare	Kelly	Dublin	30
Cormac	Wickham	Dublin	30
Rita	Healy	Dublin	30
Michael	Costello	Kerry	30
Michael	Ryan	Kerry	30
James	Enright	Kerry	30
Mary	O Sullivan	Kilkenny	30
Tom	Keating	Kilkenny	30
Sylvestor	Knox	Kilkenny	30
Jim	Riordan	Limerick City	30
Peggy	Taylor	Monaghan	30
Lola	O Sullivan	Waterford	30
Margaret	McKay	Kildare	40
Philip	McKay	Kildare	40
Michael	O Sullivan	Limerick	40
Margaret	Bell	Limerick City	40
Michael	Hodgins	Louth	40
Winnie	Foran	Waterford	40

Volunteer of The Year Award

Kathleen O'Hanlon



Kathleen O'Hanlon, Volunteer of the Year, with WSI Chairman Martin O'Sullivan and Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development.

Kathleen O'Hanlon has given in excess of 55 years' voluntary service to Water Safety Ireland. Her involvement with Monaghan Water Safety stems back to the early 1960s when she undertook water safety classes at Lamb's Lake outside Monaghan Town with the Red Cross.

Kathleen was instrumental in the formation of a strong Water Safety Area Committee in Monaghan and assisted in teaching classes in St. Davnet's Hospital pool. Kathleen progressed from Instructor to Examiner, and for many years, was the only Examiner in Co. Monaghan. In addition to teaching classes and examining in Monaghan, she examines classes in Co. Cavan each summer and she has also examined in Counties Donegal, Leitrim and Louth.

At a local level, Kathleen served as Secretary of Monaghan WSAC for in excess of 25 years. She is currently the Treasurer of Monaghan WSAC. Kathleen has also served as Certificate Secretary for the WSAC since the position was established in 2000.

When Monaghan pool closed in early 2001 she immediately started running classes in The Four Seasons Hotel Leisure Centre. She was central in getting a new pool built on the old pool site, which opened in 2006.

Kathleen continues to teach water safety classes weekly in Monaghan Leisure Complex and in addition to her weekly classes, she organises Pool Lifeguard Courses, Assistant Swim Teacher Courses and Swim Teacher Courses. Kathleen has also taught on Primary School In-service Courses.

Kathleen has a wealth of knowledge of water safety issues that has not only been utilised at local level, but also nationwide. Kathleen's reliability is second to none, whether it is asking her to examine a class, register students, or arrange for collection and arrange fundraising permits with An Garda Síochána. Kathleen's dependability and reliability as treasurer is both an asset to her local Water Safety Area Committee and at national level in ensuring that our financial obligations and responsibilities are completed to an extremely high standard. Her common-sense approach to water safety and examinations puts both instructors and students at ease.

Away from the pool deck and during Water Safety Awareness Week, Kathleen visits schools giving talks and presentations. She is an avid advocate of the PAWS programme and passionate about ensuring both students and teachers are aware of the dangers of water.

In 2011, Kathleen was awarded a County Monaghan Person of the Year Award for her services in swimming and lifesaving. As the master of ceremonies noted on the evening of the ceremony, "There are very few people in Co. Monaghan who have learned to swim that have not been influenced by Kathleen O Hanlon."

For many in Co. Monaghan, Kathleen is both the face of water safety (or known by many as Mrs. Water Safety) and a second Mammy to the WSI Instructors. Kathleen's priority is, not only, the welfare and learning of her students, but also encompasses the welfare, development, and training of Instructors in the county. Kathleen's tireless work is fundamental to Monaghan WSAC's steadfast position and ongoing progress in all matters water safety.



Life Governor Awards

John Considine

John was the Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO) for Limerick County for over 27 years, he is a current member of Limerick County Water Safety Area Committee (WSAC) since 1982 and he also established a lifeguard service in County Limerick on the Shannon Estuary. John is a long serving competitive sailing member of Foynes Yacht Club and is an active sailor and qualified power boat driver. He currently provides safety boat cover at swimming and sailing events in conjunction with Limerick County WSAC. John was previously Treasurer of Limerick County WSAC and is currently the Designated Liaison Person (DLP). He served on the Water Safety Ireland council for over ten years and he was the Chairman of the WSI Legal Commission from 2010 – 2012 and the Chairman of the Education Commission from 2012 – 2014. He was also a member of the Lifeguard Commission. John developed improved presentation of lifebelts and signage to reduce vandalism during his time as WSDO.



Michael Power

Michael has been a champion in following the ethos of Water Safety Ireland (WSI) in drowning prevention over many years on a voluntary basis. He began volunteering with the Red Cross in 1959. He taught many children of all ages to swim at Graiguenamanagh on the River Barrow. He currently teaches lifesaving to teenagers in many locations. Since 1973, he has qualified as an Instructor, Swimming teacher and an Examiner. He served as Water Safety Area Committee Chairman, he was a member of the WSI Technical Committee from 1977 – 1982 and he has been a member of the Kilkenny Water Safety Area Committee since 1973.

The Des Kenny Award

Galway bookseller Des Kenny and his wife Maureen were regular sea swimmers in Salthill, starting each day with a dip at Blackrock and Ladies Beach. One day, Des was swimming with his eight-year-old son, Tom, off Blackrock when the young boy disappeared underwater. His head surfaced, and vanished again, but his father eventually managed to get him ashore and out of harm's way. "When we got home, the first thing my father did was get on the phone to find out where he could learn about water safety", Tom Kenny remembers. At the time, the Irish Red Cross in Dublin was the responsible body, and so Des Kenny signed up for training, completed all his lessons and became an instructor. He approached his new skill with enthusiasm and devotion, teaching his own children and members of Our Lady's Boy's Club in Galway City, setting up training courses throughout the county and beyond, and speaking to local authorities about safety on beaches and riverbanks.

Being a fluent Irish speaker, he both set up and ran the first water safety courses on the Aran Islands. Like many west coast fishermen, Aran islanders had long lived, and died, by the “pisreog” that it was better not to know how to swim, and let the sea take one quickly if one’s boat got into trouble. Des Kenny managed to break that spell, working with school students who in turn influenced their parents to get involved.

Des Kenny was Chairman of Water Safety Ireland from 1971 to 1987.

The Des Kenny Award Recipients:

Michael Gaule Jnr.



On the 2nd of July 2016, Michael Gaule was visiting his Aunt. At some point his Aunt felt unwell and was on her way outside for fresh air when she collapsed. Michael immediately went to his Aunt and discovered that she was not breathing. He advised others to call for an ambulance and commenced Basic Life Support. His aunt began to breathe again and he placed her into the recovery position while they waited for the emergency services to arrive. Once she started to breathe normally he made sure that she was warm and reassured her until emergency services arrived. She made a full recovery thanks to Michael's quick action and calm control of the situation which undoubtedly saved his Aunt's life.

Ruby Hurst and Odhrán O'Neill

On the 26th of October 2017 at Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon, a student collapsed after a P.E. class. Initially, it was thought that the student had fainted but it soon became clear that the student was in more serious danger, as he was unresponsive and not breathing. Two students within the group, Ruby and Odhrán, both trained by Water Safety Ireland to perform lifesaving, immediately sprang into action.

Ruby commenced Basic Life Support and CPR while Odhrán rushed to get an AED. Meanwhile, emergency services were called. Upon Odhrán's return the pair worked together with the assistance of the AED to preserve the young girl's life by delivering shocks and continuing CPR. Ruby and Odhrán's early intervention saved this young woman's life. It was noted by the emergency services that the CPR technique used by these two young Water Safety Ireland members was "exemplary".



Scott Bevan

On the evening of July 3rd of this year, sixteen-year-old Co. Limerick native, Scott Bevan, was cycling with a friend in the Ballyhoura Mountains. When Scott and his friend separated from each other by taking two different trails, Scott came across a wounded cyclist who was unable to stand or walk after a serious bicycle crash. Scott rushed to this man's aid, advising him to stay still on his side while Scott quickly cycled for help. He found his friend, whose father came on the scene to help while Scott guided an ambulance to their location and went to get blankets to keep the man warm while waiting for the Paramedics. Scott's quick response most likely saved this man, who spent four weeks in Cork University Hospital for treatment for head trauma. The man recently sought Scott out through social media to express gratitude for Scott's help and update Scott on his recovery. Scott has gone on to complete a Lifesaving course in UL Sport Arena, which we are delighted to report he passed with flying colours.



Rescue Appreciation Awards

James Flannery and Paul Keane



On Monday the 13th of January at the River Fergus in Ennis, both James and Paul noticed a woman in difficulty in the water. They got a lifebuoy and threw it out towards the woman. She caught the ring buoy and they held on to the rope. They eventually managed to bring her safely to shore. She made a full recovery.

Laura Mc Donnell and Odhrán Savage

On the 15th of April 2018 at Cardiff International pool at a Lifesaving competition, Laura was swimming when she noticed a man was underwater. She immediately dived down to pull him to safety. Odhrán noticed what was happening and immediately alerted the lifeguards. He then proceeded to help Laura to pull the casualty out of the water. The man made a full recovery.

David Hartley and Conor Mahony



On the 1st September at Curracloe Beach, Wexford, during the National Surf Lifesaving Championships, both David and Conor noticed a young man in difficulty in the water. They immediately went to his aid. They supported the casualty while at the same time calling out for additional help. The casualty made a full recovery.

Ruairi de Barra

On the 2nd of June 2006 at Kennedy Pier, Cobh, Ruairi noticed a group of teenagers shouting and looking down into the water. He crossed the road and observed a man in the water. Ruairi immediately ran up the quay wall to where some small rowing boards were on the slipway. He located a length of rope and went back to the scene. He fashioned a sling from the rope, tied the free end to the rails and then lowered it down to the casualty. After a period of time he managed to instruct the man to get both of his arms into the sling. Ruairi then lifted the man up onto the quay to safety. The man made a full recovery.

Vincent Egan – Posthumous Award

Vincent Egan was a gentleman to work with. He devoted more than 40 years of his life to water safety and worked every summer in Mosney Holiday Centre, where he engaged with so many young lifeguards who were given the huge task of lifesaving in Ireland's busiest summer camp at that time. There were many difficult challenges for these young people who had the responsibility of looking after swimmers in both Funtropica water world and the six-foot outdoor pool. Vincent always protected his staff and spoke up for them. He cared deeply for his lifeguards and was extremely kind and respectful towards them all. He was always keen to remind everyone, whether they were great swimmers or not, of the dangers of the water. He made life working in a very busy pool easier because of his respect for the young lifeguards.



The SEIKO Just In Time Award

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

Kelvin Kearns – Waterford

On the 27th of September 2017 in Butlerstown, Co. Waterford, a man was driving along the N25 in treacherous conditions when he suddenly lost control of his car and veered off the road, crashing down a ravine and landing upside down in a deep stream. Kelvin happened to be on route to Kileaden when he saw an unusual site at the side of the road. He pulled into a lay-by and quickly ran to the scene where someone had already called emergency services. He ran back to his car to grab a nail bar in case the door of the car was jammed shut. He jumped in the water and got the car door open. From the passenger's side he reached in but could not feel anyone in the car. He resurfaced and then went back down into the water and searched the back of the car. Initially he could not see anybody, and then he noticed a man's hand floating in the water – he had managed to remove his seatbelt. Kelvin reached over and grabbed hold of the man and pulled him out of the car but he was unable to pull him fully to safety due to the position of the car. He was forced instead to hold him up for as long as it took the emergency services to arrive. The man made a full recovery.



Finn Bell Ryan – Portugal

On Sunday the 12th August while on holiday in Portugal, 8-year-old Finn noticed a 3-year-old boy in difficulty in the pool. He immediately entered the water and pulled the boy up from the bottom of the pool. Finn kept reassuring the boy even though he did not speak English. Young Finn displayed alertness, initiative and quick thinking.

Garda Daryl Gilmore and Garda Gerry McDonagh – Roscommon

On the 12th of February 2009, at the harbour at Lake O'Flynn, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon, Garda Gilmore was informed that a car had plunged into the water. He immediately entered the freezing cold water and swam approximately 40 ft. to the car. He then forced open the driver's door. The water was very dark so he had to feel around to locate the driver. He located the unconscious driver and removed her from the car. Using his lifesaving knowledge and skills, he brought her up to the surface and swam to the water's edge – keeping her head above water throughout. At this point, Garda McDonagh was on hand to help him take the woman out of the water to safety. The woman made a full recovery.



Garda Elaine Murphy – Monaghan

On the 28th of January at Derrycreevey, Co. Monaghan, Garda Murphy was on patrol in the area when she was stopped by a person who alerted her to a car that had crashed over a wall into a flooded area. Garda Murphy reacted quickly and grabbed some golf clubs from the crashed car to judge the depth of the water. She then proceeded to wade out to the person in the water. Upon reaching the woman she discovered that she was motionless. Garda Murphy managed to pull her back to shore where she successfully performed CPR on her. She made a full recovery.



Garda Colum Barron and Robert Browne – Roscommon

On the 27th of August on Wooden Bridge Road, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, both Robert Browne and Garda Barron managed to pull two occupants out of a car that had entered the river and landed on its roof. Upon reaching the car, they broke the back window and successfully pulled the occupants out of the car and brought them to safety.

Helen O'Connor, Niall McArdle, Mike Fennell and Simon McFetridge – Dublin

On the 1st of January at Low Rock, Malahide, Co. Dublin, Helen was swimming with a friend. When she got to shore, she turned around to find her friend in difficulty. She immediately ran back into the water and called for help. Simon observed what was happening and quickly entered the water to help. Meanwhile, Helen had reached her friend and realised she was unconscious and found it difficult to turn her over. Upon reaching Helen and her friend, Simon managed to turn the casualty over onto his back. Both Helen and Simon managed to bring the casualty to safety where CPR was performed by Niall. The casualty made a full recovery.



Garda Cormac McClafferty, Garda Dermot Kenny and Garda Michael McHugh – Donegal



On the 8th of May 2016 at the pier in Buncrana, Co. Donegal, Gardaí McClafferty, Kenny and McHugh arrived at the scene where a man was in distress in the water. They immediately made a human chain and swam out to the casualty. The casualty was going under the water due to cold shock. They eventually reached him and pulled him back to the pier to safety. The casualty made a full recovery.



John Byrne, Hugh Burke, Brendan Butler and Eamon Doyle – Wexford

On the 2nd of July at Duncannon Beach, Co. Wexford, on a family day out, Tomek's twin daughters were playing on an inflated floatable device at the edge of the shore when the wind caught the device and swept them further out. Tomek immediately swam after it and one of his daughters jumped towards him. Hugh Burke, who received a call about this incident, immediately got his boat and went to the scene, as did Brendan Butler and Eamon Doyle. Hugh Burke took the remaining girl from the inflated floatable device. Meanwhile, another person entered the water to take the first daughter from the father and brought her to shore. He then returned to the water to go back for Tomek but got into difficulty himself. Meanwhile, John Byrne, who has lifesaving skills and training, entered the water with two ringbuoy's. He swam to the man in difficulty and gave him a ringbuoy and then proceeded to swim towards Tomek to bring him safely to shore. John re-entered the water and managed to bring the man with the other ring buoy to shore.



Sean Oliver, Niall O'Neill, Samuel Healy, Dara McDonagh and Brendan Chasseriaud – Galway



On Sunday the 28th of October on the River Corrib, Co. Galway, teenagers Sean, Niall, Samuel, Dara and Brendan were alerted to a person in distress in the water by onlookers on the shore while they were on route to tie up the Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) they were in. Sean Oliver and his four friends in fast flowing conditions in the river immediately went to find the person in danger. Once they located the person they made their approach and managed to pull the man on board the boat to safety. The man made a full recovery.

Martin Cullinane – Cork

Martin Cullinane saved two young brothers from drowning and became the face of an Water Safety Ireland campaign this summer to create awareness about the dangers of drowning. Martin did not hesitate when he saw the boys, aged five and six, struggling in the dangerous tidal waters at Mariner's Quay in Passage West, Co. Cork. The younger of the two boys was floating lifelessly a good distance away from his brother. There is considerable ship traffic passing through Cork Harbour which creates swells that can be extremely dangerous if people are swimming there. It was getting dark. The drop to the water was about 12 ft. Martin dived in and saved the first boy who clung to Martin's leg terrified. The second boy was lifeless and had foam coming from his mouth. Martin turned him over to extract what he described as "an unbelievable amount of water". The campaign which was viewed over 350,000 times online sees Martin appeal to parents to ensure that their children learn swimming and lifesaving skills at the earliest opportunity.



Béibhinn Keane – Carlow

On the 25th of July at the River Barrow, Co. Carlow, Béibhinn was alerted that her Aunt had gotten into difficulty in the water. Béibhinn entered the water and swam quickly towards her Aunt. Upon reaching her Aunt, Béibhinn called out to another person to call emergency services. She held onto her Aunt which gripping the river bank for some time. Béibhinn continued to reassure her Aunt as she drifted in and out of consciousness. Meanwhile, she called to her cousin to carefully enter the water and place an inflated lifejacket on her Aunt. She then placed her Aunt onto her back and proceeded to bring her to the top of the river where the ambulance crew were waiting. Her Aunt managed to reach up and grab the hands of ambulance crew and they pulled her out of the water to safety with the help of a lifeguard. She made a full recovery.



Gerard Lally – Donegal



On Sunday the 27th of May at Bundoran beach, Co. Donegal, Gerard was on his lunch break when he sighted three people in difficulty in the water (an adult, a teenager and an 11-year-old boy). He immediately ran down onto the rocks and, after quickly assessing the situation, swam out towards them. By instructing both the teenager and the young boy to grab hold of a ring buoy he was able to bring them both to shore, where he stayed with them until the ambulance services arrived and subsequently took over. Meanwhile, the RNLI had arrived and assisted the adult and successfully brought him to safety. All three made a full recovery.

Ger Henehan and Alan Duggan – Galway

On the 28th of June at Lough Corrib, Co. Galway, Ger was after completing a training swim with his friends when a man approached them and alerted them to a woman in difficulty in the water. They entered the water immediately and reached the woman, bringing her swiftly to safety. She made a full recovery.



Sergeant Conlaith Mulhall, Garda Gavin Fleet and Garda Omar Murtagh – Dublin

On the 8th November 2015 at Coal Quay Pier, Dun Laoghaire Harbour, Co. Dublin, Garda Murtagh received a call regarding a person in distress. He alerted Sgt Mulhall and Garda Fleet and they both went to the scene. Both Gardaí waded into the water holding onto a mooring rope and pulled the casualty out of the water to safety. The casualty made a full recovery.



Tony O'Connor – Dublin

On the 7th of September 2017, Tony was walking along Dun Laoghaire East Pier in Dublin when he noticed a man in distress in the water. He immediately ran to fetch a lifebuoy and upon his return to the area, the man was desperately holding onto rocks. Tony entered the water and managed to bring the man to shore. Emergency services arrived to the scene and took the casualty to hospital, where he made a full recovery.



Garda David O'Sullivan and Dianna Stewart – Cork



On the evening of the 10th of May at St Patricks Quay, Co. Cork, Dianna observed a man unconscious in the water. She immediately entered the water and swam to the casualty. Garda O'Sullivan arrived to the scene and entered the water by climbing down a rusty ladder. He assisted Dianna and they both held onto the casualty for twenty minutes until emergency services arrived. The man was brought to safety and after a number of weeks made a full recovery.

Aidan Tattan – Waterford

On the 11th of July at the River Suir, near Rice bridge, Co. Waterford, a woman was in distress in the water. Aiden came upon the scene and immediately went in search of a ring buoy. Upon retrieving a ring buoy, he entered the water and swam to the woman. He managed to grab hold of her hand and spoke to her in an effort to keep her calm. After approximately 15 minutes, the Waterford river rescue boat arrived and took both Aiden and the woman on board. The woman made a full recovery.



Garda Diarmuid Leane, Garda John Butler, Garda Stephen Kenny and Sergeant Niall Leech – Monaghan

On the 6th of May 2016, Gardaí in Monaghan received a call regarding a woman in distress. Upon reaching Peter's lake, Garda Leane spotted the woman and immediately entered the water. Gardaí Butler, Garda Kenny and Sgt Leech also entered the water to help with the rescue. The woman made a full recovery.

Michael Gaule Snr – Costa Del Sol

On Saturday the 13th of August 2016, Michael and his family were at the beach when a woman approached to ask if he could swim. She explained that a boy was having difficulty in the water and his mother was attempting to rescue him. When Michael reached them he noticed another man with the boy in distress also. Michael managed to bring all three to safety. They all made a full recovery.



Garda Daniel Hayden and Garda David Ryan – Wexford

On the 8th of July at Blackhall Strand, Bannow, Co. Wexford, Gardaí Hayden and Ryan became alerted to the fact that a female was in distress in the water. Both Gardaí immediately entered the water and brought the woman to safety.



Garda Ke Sheng – Dublin

On the 9th of April in Clontarf, Co. Dublin, Garda Sheng and colleagues arrived at the seafront in Clontarf where a woman was in distress in the water. Garda Sheng immediately entered the water and reached the woman. He successfully brought the woman safely back to shore. She made a full recovery.

Garda Donal Fay – Monaghan On the 12th of September, Garda Fey (a non-swimmer) arrived at Lough Muckno in Monaghan to observe a man's body face down in the water. He immediately waded out into the water. Using a rope, he brought the man to safety.

Garda Billy Lonergan, Niall Geoghegan and Ronan Dinan – Tipperary

On the 13th of May at the Marina in Carrick on Suir, Co. Waterford, Ronan Dinan noticed a person in distress in the water in the River Suir. He got a ring buoy and threw it to the person in distress, who he could not see. He immediately proceeded to climb over high fencing and jumped 8 ft. onto the platform. He reached the man and caught him by his two hands and held onto him for quite a while until emergency services arrived. Niall Geoghegan arrived from the roadside and offered assistance and then both Garda Billy Lonergan and Niall entered the water. Niall reached Ronan and assisted him in pulling the man to safety. Niall started CPR immediately. Both Garda Billy Lonergan and Niall continued CPR until emergency services arrived.



Paul Pearson and Brian Corneilia – Dublin

On the 23rd of December 2017 at Dun Laoghaire Harbour, Co. Dublin, both Brian and Paul responded to calls for help from the public regarding two people in distress in the water. They immediately entered the water and stabilised both casualties. They were brought to safety and made a full recovery.



Garda Fearghal Bolger and Garda Graham Morrissey – Tipperary



On the 6th of August, Gardaí Bolger and Morrissey arrived to Gashouse Bridge on the River Suir in South Tipperary where a man was in distress in the water. They both tried to remove the male from the water by using a ring buoy but were unsuccessful. Garda Bolger immediately entered the water and held onto the casualty until the arrival of the fire brigade unit. He provided first aid to the person while in the water and, assisted by Garda Morrissey and the fire brigade unit, brought the person to safety. The person made a full recovery.

Garda Aidan Kelly – Carlow

On the 10th of June at Lannigan Lough, Co. Carlow, Garda Kelly observed a female in distress in the water. He immediately obtained a ring buoy and entered the river. He proceeded to swim to the other side of the river to reach the female. He managed to support the woman in the water until the rescue boat arrived. The woman made a full recovery.

Garda Brian Whitney and Garda Sheila Fitzgerald – Dublin



On the 6th of May at the forty-foot bathing area in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Gardaí Whitney and Fitzgerald observed a female in distress in the water. Garda Fitzgerald threw a ring buoy to the woman in an attempt to rescue her. This was unsuccessful so he contacted the fire services and coastguard by radio. Garda Whitney entered the water with another ring buoy and proceeded to swim towards the female. He placed the ring buoy on her and swam with her to the nearby rocks while being towed in by the rope from the ring buoy by Garda Fitzgerald. The female was removed from the water. She made a full recovery.

Garda Harry Clancy, Garda Cathal Doherty and Garda Brian Cosgrove – Monaghan

On the 3rd of June 2017 at Knockaturley Lake, Co. Monaghan, a man was in distress in the water. Garda Cosgrove entered the water and made his way over to him. He proceeded to bring him towards the bank of the lake. Both Gardaí Doherty and Clancy entered the lake to assist and brought the man to safety.



Media Appreciation Awards

Presented in appreciation for raising awareness about water safety issues.

Provincial Radio Station Award: Midlands 103

Midlands 103 is an independent local radio station serving counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath. Thanks to their coverage of water safety issues, listeners are more aware of the dangers at aquatic environments, and for this we are very grateful. L-R: Roger Sweeney Deputy CEO WSI, Sinead Hubble Midlands 103, Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development



Community Radio Station Award: Athlone Community Radio



Athlone Community Radio was set up in 2007 to provide Athlone and surrounding areas with a community-owned and community-led radio project. They are committed to providing a unique service that aims to educate, inform and entertain. They have enjoyed strong commitment by volunteers for over eleven years and we wish them every success as they continue to help us to promote water safety to their listeners. L-R: Roger Sweeney Deputy CEO WSI, Catherine Ivers and Antonio Riba ACR, Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development

National Radio Broadcaster: RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta

We are grateful to RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta for liaising with Water Safety Ireland on specific water safety issues to deliver important messages to the public and for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water safety. L-R: Roger Sweeney Deputy CEO WSI, Fionnuala Ui Neachtain, Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development.



National TV Broadcaster: Virgin Media - Ireland AM

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 knowledge of the dangers of open water. We are grateful to the Ireland AM show on Virgin Media for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water. L-R: Roger Sweeney Deputy CEO WSI, Sinead Ryan Virgin Media, Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development.



National TV and Radio Broadcaster combined: BBC Gaeilge

BBC Gaeilge partnered with Water Safety Ireland to create a documentary that celebrated Foyle Search and Rescue's tenth anniversary of saving lives in Derry. In addition to televising Water Safety Ireland's key messages, BBC Gaeilge also broadcast key messages from the programme on a tailor-made radio show, thereby ensuring that their catchment area received the key messages needed to stay safe in, on and near water. L-R: Roger Sweeney Deputy CEO WSI, Roisin Ni Cheileachair BBC Gaeilge, Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development.



Provincial Press Award: The Kilkenny People



The Kilkenny People was first published in 1892, and has continued to serve the people of Kilkenny city, county and surrounding areas for over 120 years. A strong voice for the local community, the newspaper has featured in James Joyce's Ulysses and its printing press has delivered many of Water Safety Ireland's messages to readers. We congratulate the Kilkenny People and thank them sincerely for helping to highlight water safety awareness. L-R: Roger Sweeney Deputy CEO WSI, Catherine Millea and Joan McLoughlin Kilkenny County Council and Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State for Community Development.

National Press Award: The Irish Times - Arlene Harris

The Irish Times is an Irish daily broadsheet newspaper launched in 1859. Their printed and digital editions have covered many topical water safety issues throughout the year, including a particularly noteworthy piece by Arlene Harris describing the importance of "Lifesaving Sport". We are truly grateful for this support as it helps to encourage parents to get their children involved in the sport that trains people in essential water rescue and survival skills and helps to ensure the supply of Lifeguards at pools and open water areas nationwide.

Community and Social Responsibility Awards

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

Timemark - Arlene Foy



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

The Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force - Neil Wilson

Supported by the NUI Galway Skills for Business Team (Staff: Michael Campion, Fiona Durnin; Students: Andrew Guckian, Conor Malone, Sean McGuinness, Stephen McDermott)



- There are a large number of students in Galway, and socialising often takes place near a waterway which can be fast-flowing in winter, and where there have been a number of fatalities. The "Galway Safe App" has been devised by the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force and uses GPS technology to offer support to students detected lingering in particular waterside areas of Galway city late at night or early in the morning. Water Safety Ireland was delighted to support elements of the project and it is our hope that the app will help to reduce the number of fatalities by drowning.
- The Skills for Business 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 to enrich the student's learning experience and strengthen community links. The students raised awareness of App among the student population in Galway. We are delighted to have worked with the students the Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force 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.

Finol Oils – Sean Holland



Finol Oils sponsor marine grade oil for Water Safety Ireland's fleet of surf rescue Rigid Inflatable Boats. These are specially designed for use in rescue situations on our beaches and coastlines and are used for Lifeguard training and patrols. Because these crafts are used in real life rescue scenarios, it is terribly important that the engines are kept in reliable conditions and to this end we are very grateful to Finol Oils in supporting our lifesaving craft.



Fáilte Ireland - Edel Mitchell

We are grateful to Fáilte Ireland for sponsorship that helped fund the European Junior Lifesaving Championships, an annual event open to Lifesavers aged 18 and under. The sport is truly multi-disciplined and takes place in the pool, on the beach and in the ocean. It has close ties to swimming, athletics, kayaking, rowing, surfing and power boating and is based on the equipment and skills that lifeguards use to perform lifesaving rescues.



Clare County Council - Marie O'Neill



We are grateful to Clare County Council for funding that enabled Ireland to host the European Junior Lifesaving Championships this year and for accommodating the open water events at Kilkee beach where Team Ireland placed 2nd in Europe. Junior lifesaving competitors typically become top Lifeguards, patrolling beaches and pools in Ireland and abroad. It is a special sport that gives so much back to the community.

Limerick City and County Council - Caroline Curley

We are grateful to Limerick City and County Council for funding that enabled Ireland to host the swimming pool events of the European Junior Lifesaving Championships at the University of Limerick's 50-metre pool this year. Ireland's top Junior Lifesavers won 20 gold medals, 16 silver medals and 8 bronze medals at the Championships, the best performance ever by an Irish team at an international competition.



Office of Emergency Planning, Department of Defence - Jame Ryan



Water Safety Ireland acknowledges the positive support that we have received from the Office of Emergency Planning, Department of Defence in promoting water safety and assisting in drowning prevention. They have been supportive of our work for a number of years, particularly this summer when Ireland managed to keep accidental drownings down, compared to some European and Nordic countries where they increased.

Water Angels – Lynn Quinlan

When young Leon Quinlan drowned, his mother Lynn contacted Water Safety Ireland about running an event to raise awareness about water safety. Funding from that event enabled WSI to recruit an Education Development Officer to visit primary schools and teach water safety awareness to pupils. Lynn's support has enabled thousands of children to learn how to stay safe near water and today we recognise Lynn and particularly her young son Leon, whose name will now be at the heart of an annual award to a primary school that makes a particularly strong effort to teach water safety to the children in their care. Lynn's son Jordan (L) presents the award to this year's winning school, St Mary's National School, Monaghan. With Principal Andrea Malone, Teacher Louise Treanor and students Katlyn Mc Quillan, Ryan Kieran and Rachel Rice.



Health Research Board – Michael O'Sullivan

This award acknowledges the extensive work undertaken by Michael to reveal a link between alcohol and drugs and drownings. Michael is currently a Trinity College Dublin research fellow working at the Health Research Board on a series of projects. Most recently he has been analysing data from the HRB's National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI), looking specifically at the role of alcohol and drugs in drowning deaths. This is the first time

this type of analysis has been done. It will provide essential evidence to inform public health and prevention measures in the area of drowning' and for this we are very grateful.

Patrick McDonnell

A little water safety history was made this year when Athlone man Paddy McDonnell swam the full length of the Shannon, complete with his WSI swim cap to promote water safety awareness along his route. He earned himself a place in the record books when he became the first man to do so. He swam an average of eight hours a day, a journey of 245 km over 14 days. Paddy raised awareness of water safety issues along the way and for this we are very grateful.



Inland Fisheries Ireland

Inland Fisheries Ireland is the agency responsible for the conservation, management, and improvement of our inland fisheries and sea angling resources for the benefit of the community and the environment. They have partnered on many occasions with initiatives to raise awareness about water safety and their network has run events such as the "Fish & Film Competition" to engage the public and encourage them to use our wonderful aquatic resources. We are grateful that they include information from Water Safety Ireland that encourages people how to use these areas safely.



Met Éireann



Walker pictured with Minister Seán Canney (left) and Martin O’Sullivan WSI Chairman (2nd from left).

Met Éireann is the national meteorological service in Ireland. The service began supplying forecasts to Radio Éireann from 1948, to daily newspapers from 1952, to television from shortly after the first Raidió Teilifís Éireann television broadcasts in 1962, and recorded telephone forecasts in the 1960s. We are grateful to Met Éireann for providing water safety information during their broadcasted forecasts and for including links to drowning prevention advice, particularly during this summer’s hot spell. Met Éireann’s Evelyn Cusack, Andrew Doran-Sherlock and Joanne

Bord Iascaigh Mhara - Jim O’Toole

Water safety within the commercial fishing sector has increased significantly in recent years thanks to interventions by BIM, the agency responsible for developing the Irish seafood industry. BIM’s vision is to support the industry so that Ireland becomes the international leader in satisfying the growing demand for healthy, safe, and sustainably produced seafood. Hand in hand with their mission is to prioritise safety for those men and women venturing offshore for our benefit in all sorts of weather and for this we are very grateful.



The Irish Coast Guard - Shane Dillon



The overall objective of the Coast Guard is to reduce the loss of life on Ireland’s seas, lakes, waterways and rivers, coastal and remote areas; to provide assistance to persons in danger and to coordinate searches for missing persons and intervene as necessary in marine casualties. To deliver this the Coast Guard has in place rescue, security, casualty and pollution response regimes to ensure that where incidents do occur that there is an appropriate level of emergency preparedness and response to save life and to protect the quality of the marine environment. The Irish Coast Guard continues to partner with Water Safety Ireland as part of Ireland’s “Marine Safety Working Group”, for which we are deeply grateful.

The RNLI - Kevin Rahill

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charity in the UK and in Ireland that saves lives at sea around the coasts of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, as well as on some inland waterways. It was granted a Royal Charter in 1860, having been founded in the UK in 1824. Water Safety Ireland partners with the RNLI on a number of projects, most recently an analysis of drownings around the Irish coast and as part of the Marine Safety Working Group. We are grateful for their efforts in rescuing people from dangers and helping to reduce drownings.



Commissioners of Irish Lights - Brian Kelly

The Commissioners of Irish Lights is the body that serves as the General Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland plus its adjacent seas and islands. In recent years they have transformed how they deliver services, putting the emphasis on efficiency, cost-effectiveness and sustainability, while exploiting new technology and new opportunities wherever possible. Many will have seen their very successful documentary series on RTÉ television recently and we are grateful for their efforts to keep mariners safe from harm around our coast.



Inland Waterways Association of Ireland - John Dolan and Kay Baxter

The IWAI, formed in 1954 to promote the development, use and maintenance of Ireland's navigable rivers and canals, has a long history of promoting water safety awareness to users of Ireland's waterways and for this we are very grateful.

Foyle Search and Rescue - John Ferguson and Conor Hargan

Foyle Search and Rescue is a registered voluntary based charity operating in Derry in Northern Ireland but cover search and rescue operations in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland when required. It was set up by local people in response to the alarmingly high number of drownings in the River Foyle and has adopted the role of preventing suicide and supporting affected families in the city. Their aim is to reduce the number of people who die through drowning in the River Foyle, one of the coldest and fastest flowing rivers in Europe. They patrol the river at identified peak times every week, maintaining ring buoys, engaging with people in distress and saving lives. They also have an Emergency Response Team made up of 15 dedicated volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for incidents and emergencies outside of patrol times. This team is paged by the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) to respond to potential incidents and suicide attempts in and around the river. This team also acts as a body recovering team who search for and recover any missing person suspected to be in the river. They also promote and provide education on water safety and suicide awareness to local schools, workplaces and community groups.



Members of SafetyZone.ie

- Angling Council of Ireland
- Canoeing Ireland
- Inland Waterways Association of Ireland
- Irish Coastal Rowing Federation
- Irish Federation of Sea Anglers
- Irish Kitesurfing Association
- Irish Sailing Association
- Irish Sea Kayaking Association
- Irish Surfing Association
- Irish Underwater Council
- Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federation
- Irish Windsurfing Association
- National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland
- Rowing Ireland
- Salmon and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers of Ireland
- Swim Ireland
- Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland
- Waterways Ireland



SafetyZone.ie is a website hub of national organisations that provide classes in a range of aquatic activities so that those taking part do so in a safe structured environment. Taking classes with qualified, registered training providers is the best way to safely enjoy Ireland's waterways and thanks to this partnership, the public can quickly find classes for safe and varied aquatic activities.

Leon Quinlan Memorial Award

St. Mary's National School, Three Mile House, Co. Monaghan

We wish to thank St. Mary's National School for delivering Water Safety Ireland's Primary School Aquatics Programme – Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS). The PAWS programme was developed in partnership with the Educational Company of Ireland to provide a free educational resource for primary schools which outlines lifesaving guidelines for children of every age and is available digitally for every school in the country. The strong emphasis that the school places on water safety is reflected in the fact that in the last three years, 272 pupils from St. Mary's National School were awarded with PAWS certificates. St. Mary's National School organises swimming classes for their pupils and the school is dedicated to complementing this with Water Safety Ireland's PAWS programme which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviours necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. It is a tremendous achievement by all involved and we extend our congratulations to all of the pupils who passed their water safety exams and our appreciation to all the teachers involved in the success of the programme.

Analysis of Drownings 2018

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

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2018 was 103, 5 fewer than in 2017 when 109 drowned, the lowest for eighty years and 21 fewer than the average number of annual drownings over the last ten years (124).

Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Water Safety Ireland 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;
3. Alcohol consumption;
4. Falling unexpectedly into water;
5. Improper use of boats and equipment;
6. Overestimation of skills; underestimation of ability;
7. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
8. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
9. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
10. Cold water shock and hypothermia;
11. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
12. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
13. Pre-existing diseases;
14. Underwater entanglement;
15. Bottom surface gradient and stability;
16. Waves (coastal, boat);
17. Water transparency;
18. Impeded visibility (including coastal configuration, structures and overcrowding);
19. Lack of parental supervision (infants and children);
20. Change in weather conditions;
21. Excessive "horseplay" or over exuberant behaviour;
22. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

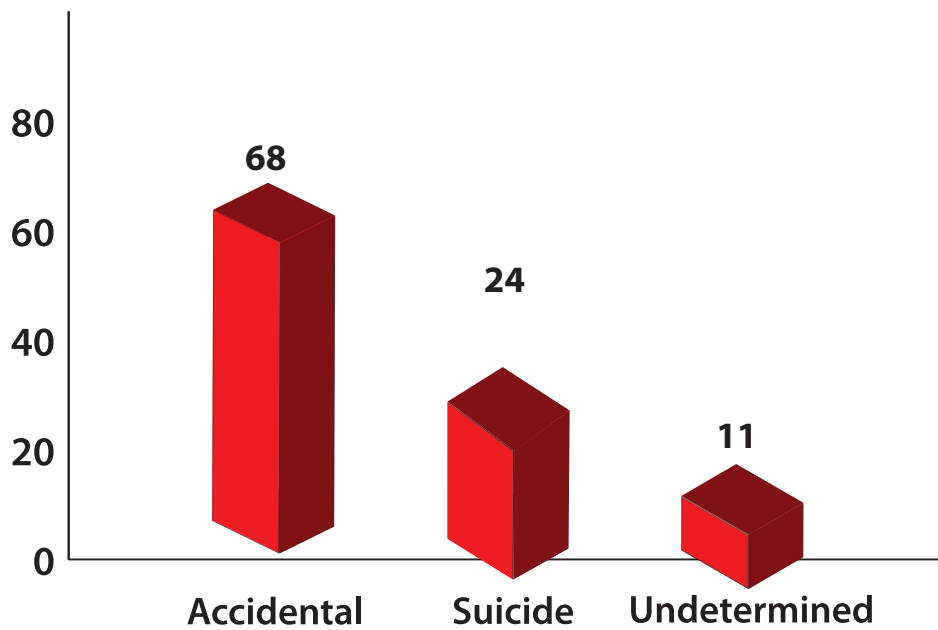
1. Public education by Water Safety Ireland regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the WSI PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. WSI media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in WSI press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Water Safety Ireland of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Water Safety Ireland 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 Water Safety Ireland of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;
10. Coordination by Water Safety Ireland 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.



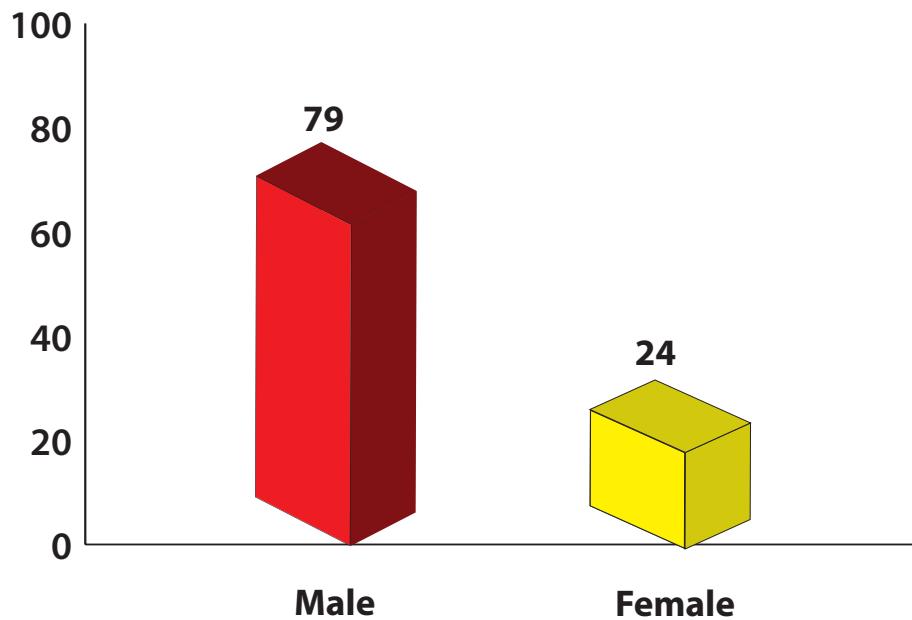
2018 Drownings by Cause

Total 103



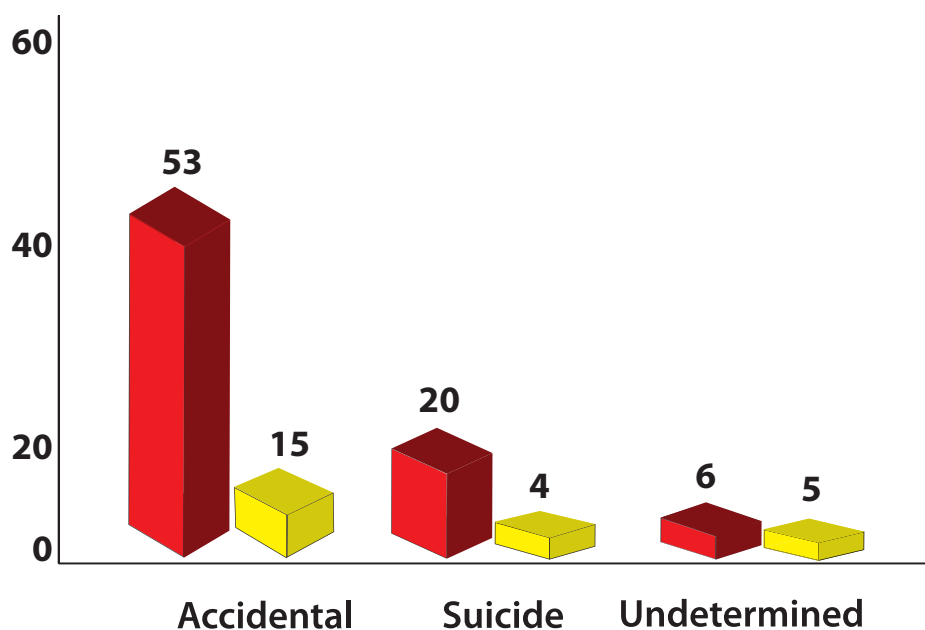
2018 Drownings by Gender

Total 103



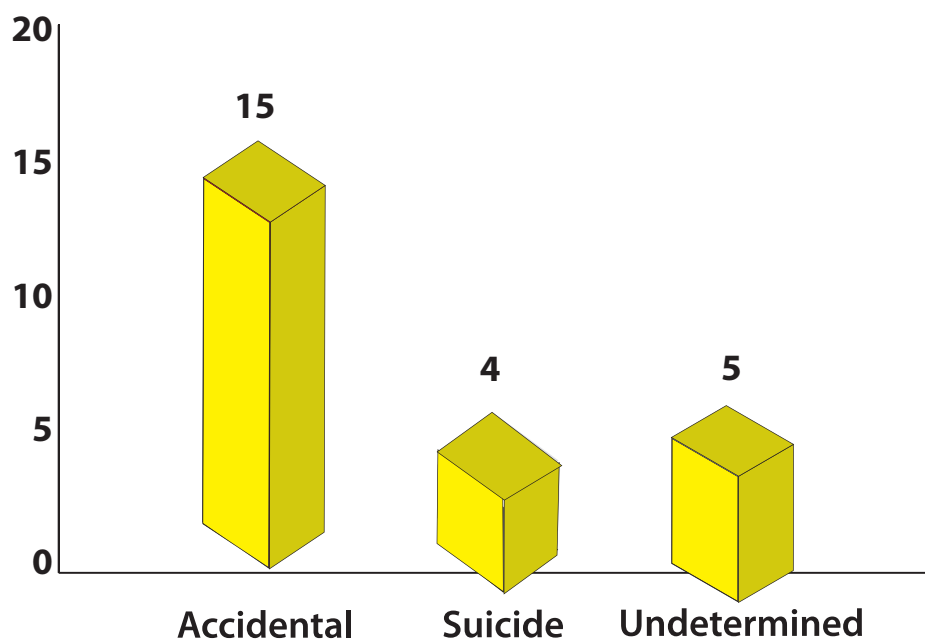
2018 Drownings by Gender and Cause

Male / Female (Total:103)



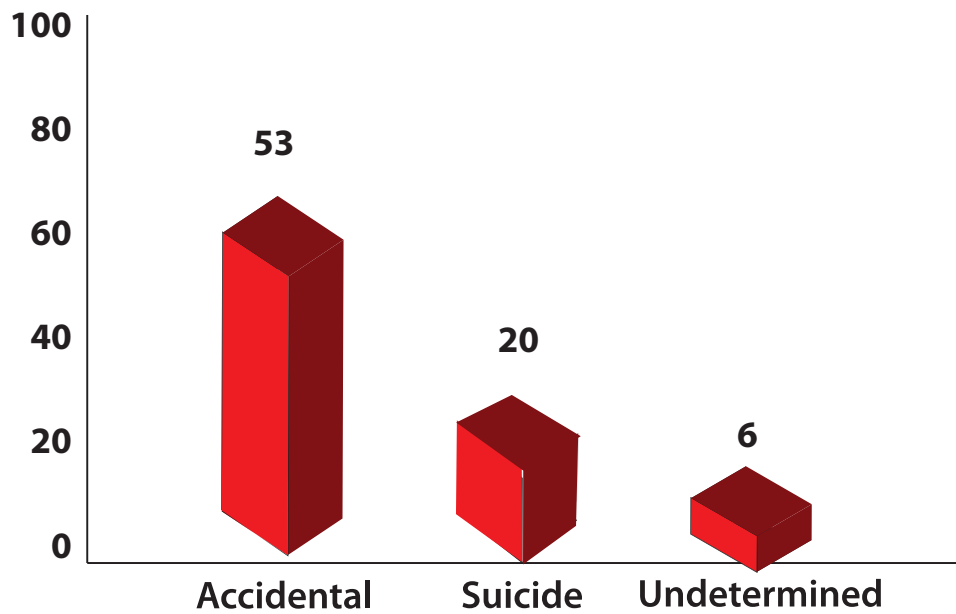
2018 Female Drownings by Cause

Total 24 of 103



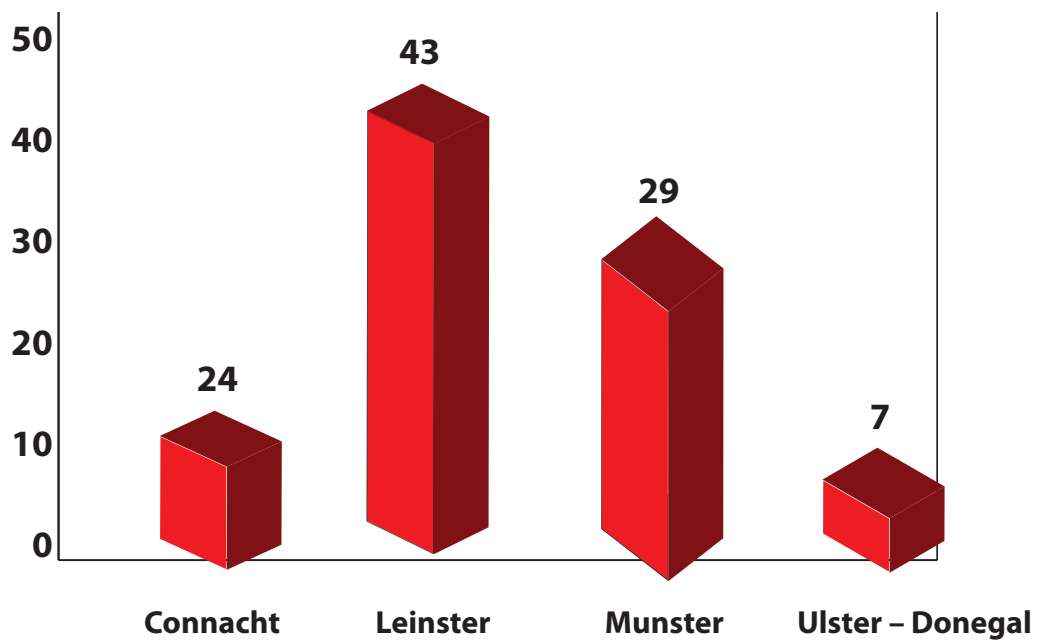
2018 Male Drownings by Cause

Total 79 of 103



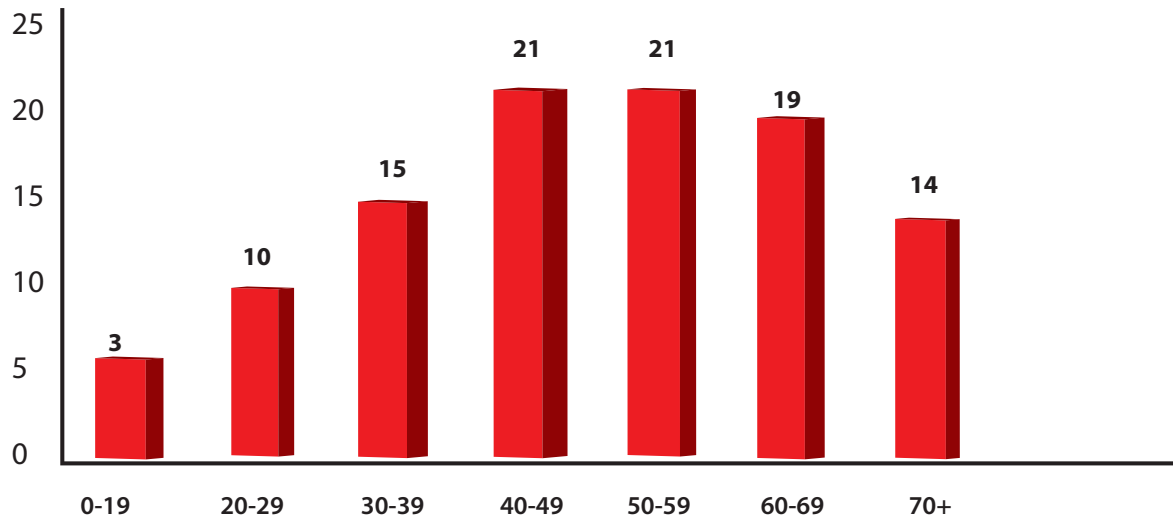
2018 Drownings by Province

(Total: 103)



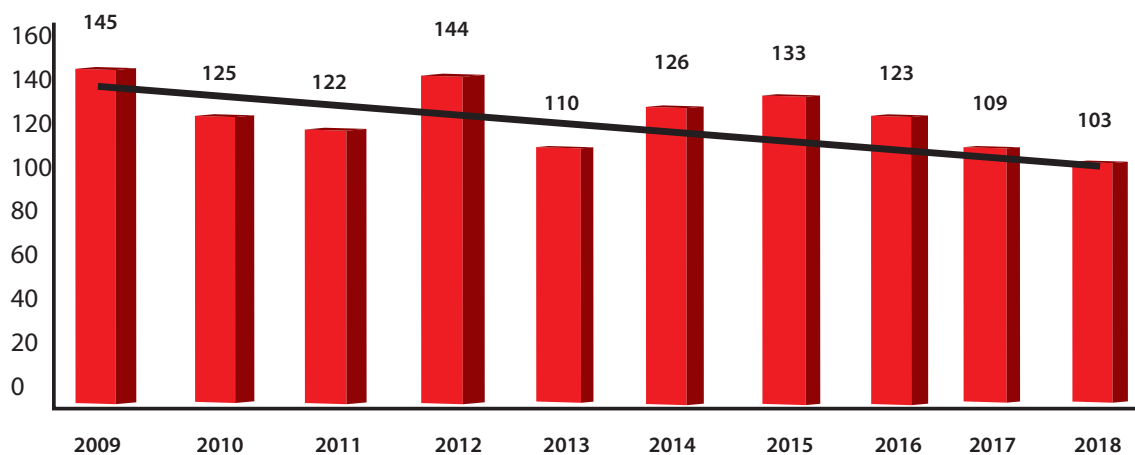
2018 Drownings by Age

Total: 103



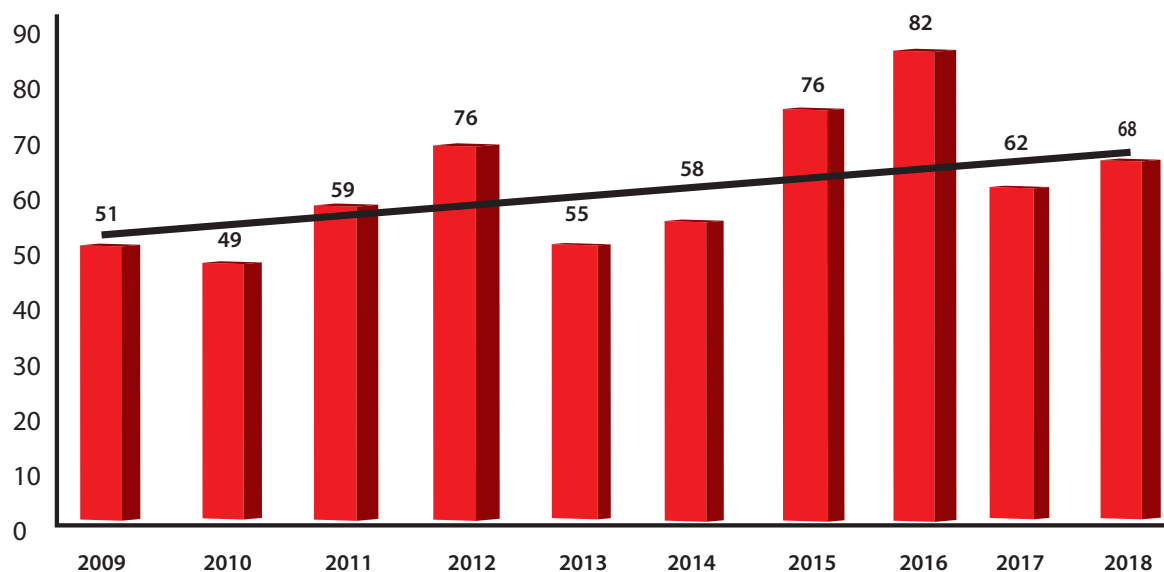
Total Drownings per Annum Decade to 2018

Average: 124



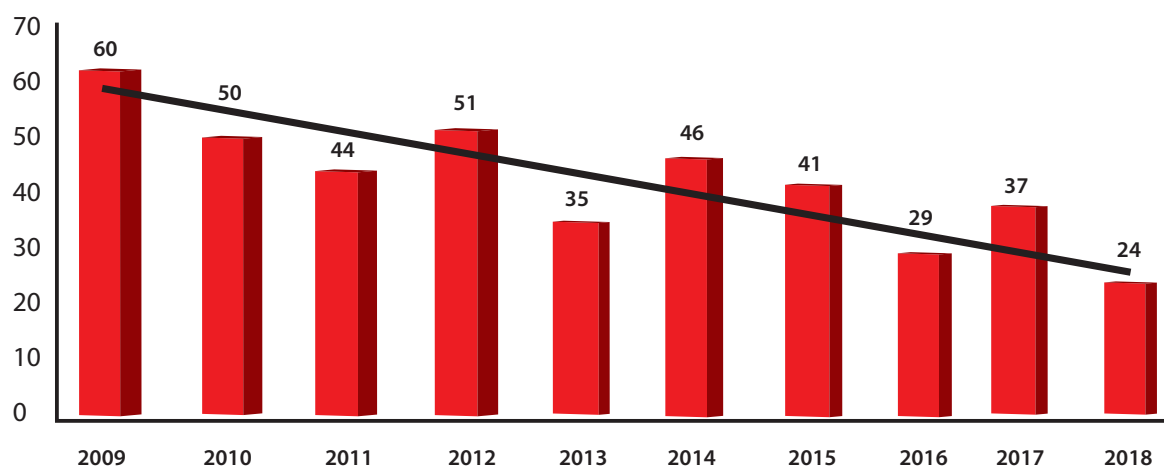
Accidental Drownings per Annum Decade to 2018

Average: 64

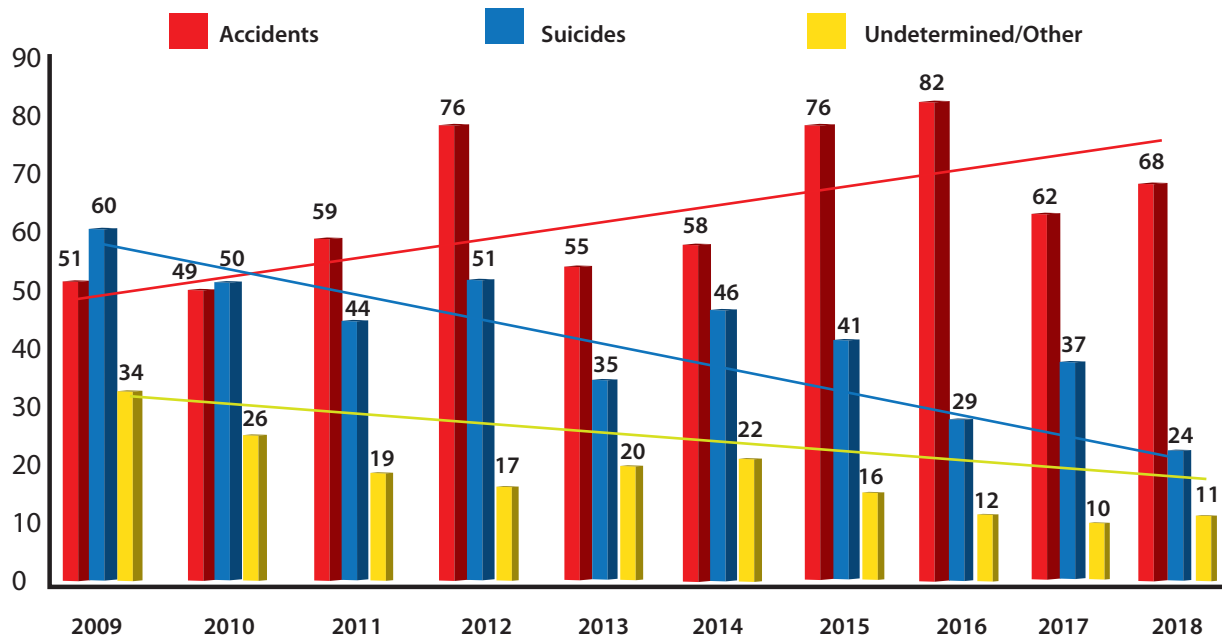


Drownings by Suicide per Annum Decade to 2018

Average: 42

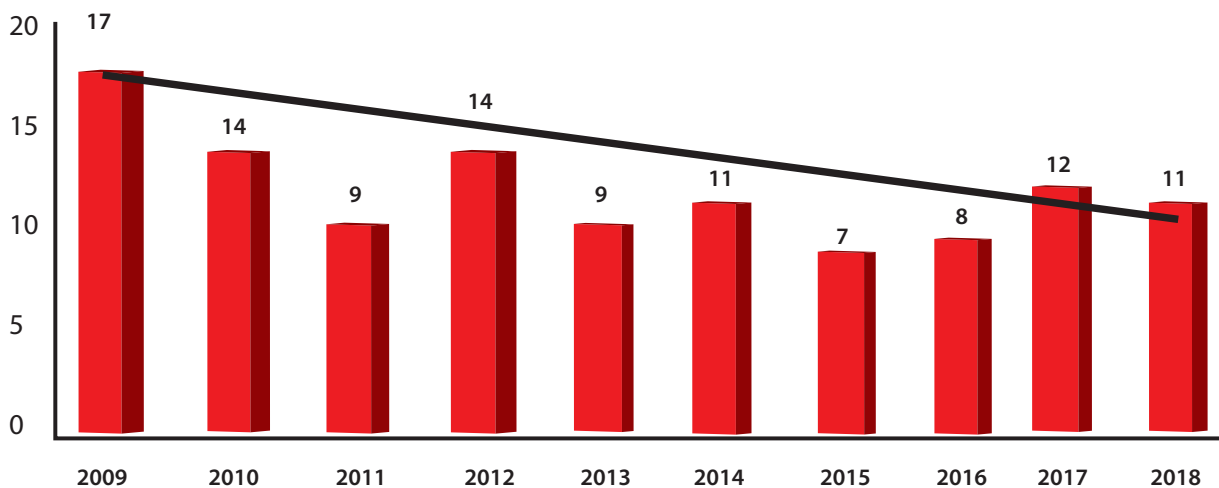


Decade of Drownings to 2018



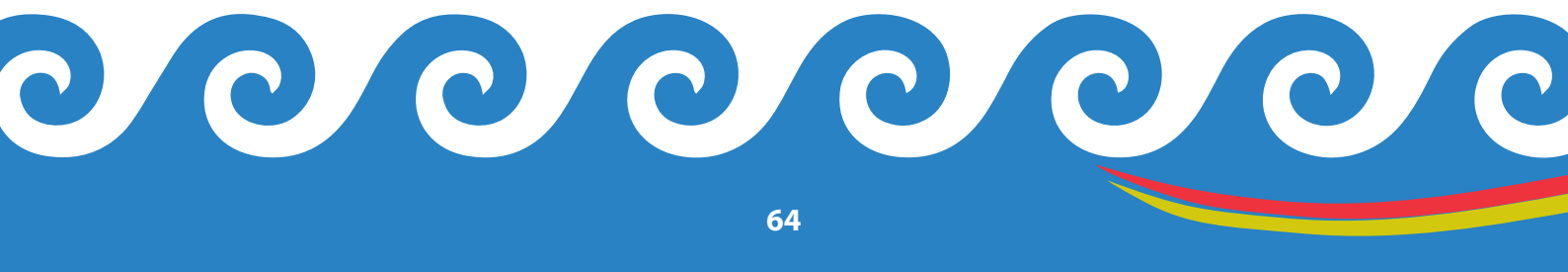
Drownings Abroad Irish Citizens

Average: 11



Data from 2009 to 2014 derives from reports within the Consular Assistance section of the Department of Foreign Affairs to whom we are very grateful and where limited resources prevent the extraction of data for 2015 - 2018. In this instance WSI has relied on information extracted from media reports.







WATER SAFETY IRELAND
SÁBHÁILTEACHT UISCE NA hÉIREANN



Is é Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann an comhlacht deonach reachtúil a bhfuil oideachas an phobail faoi uisce sábháilteacht mar príomhaidhm aige.

Water Safety Ireland is the statutory voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.
REGISTERED CHARITY CHY16289

AN BÓTHAR FADA, GAILLIMH, ÉIRE.

THE LONG WALK, GALWAY , H91 F602.
INFO@WATER SAFETY.IE | WWW.WATERSAFETY.IE
091-564 400 | LOCAL: 1890 420 202