

# The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland

An Overview for  
the Year 2011





# Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a statutory body responsible for protecting the environment in Ireland. We regulate and police activities that might otherwise cause pollution. We ensure there is solid information on environmental trends so that necessary actions are taken. Our priorities are protecting the Irish environment and ensuring that development is sustainable.

The EPA is an independent public body established in July 1993 under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. Its sponsor in Government is the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

## OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

### LICENSING

We license the following to ensure that their emissions do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g., landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g., pharmaceutical manufacturing, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture;
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges.

### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Conducting over 2,000 audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities every year.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities in the areas of - air, noise, waste, waste-water and water quality.
- Working with local authorities and the Gardaí to stamp out illegal waste activity by co-ordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders, conducting investigations and overseeing remediation.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment as a result of their actions.

### MONITORING, ANALYSING AND REPORTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Monitoring air quality and the quality of rivers, lakes, tidal waters and ground waters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government.

### REGULATING IRELAND'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Quantifying Ireland's emissions of greenhouse gases in the context of our Kyoto commitments.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, involving over 100 companies who are major generators of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Co-ordinating research on environmental issues (including air and water quality, climate change, biodiversity, environmental technologies).

### STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Assessing the impact of plans and programmes on the Irish environment (such as waste management and development plans).

### ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

- Providing guidance to the public and to industry on various environmental topics (including licence applications, waste prevention and environmental regulations).
- Generating greater environmental awareness (through environmental television programmes and primary and secondary schools' resource packs).

### PROACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Promoting waste prevention and minimisation projects through the co-ordination of the National Waste Prevention Programme, including input into the implementation of Producer Responsibility Initiatives.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

### MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE EPA

The organisation is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and four Directors.

The work of the EPA is carried out across four offices:

- Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet several times a year to discuss issues of concern and offer advice to the Board.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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## **The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland**

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The collation and summation of data for this report was undertaken by Brigid Flood and Annmarie Tuohy. The report was prepared by Mr. Peter Webster (Senior Scientist, Reporting & Assessment) under the direction of Dr Micheál Lehane, (Programme Manager, Environmental Monitoring & Assessment) within the Office of Environmental Assessment.

The bathing water information contained in this overview report and the EPA online bathing water system Splash ([www.bathingwater.ie](http://www.bathingwater.ie)) was provided by eighteen local authorities responsible for monitoring the quality of identified bathing waters within their functional areas. The assistance of EPA staff who contributed to the collation and validation of data used in Splash and in this assessment is acknowledged: Kirsty Nolan, Deirdre Kirwan and Una Cullen, with thanks to Aisling McElwain and Melanie Mageean for the preparation of the Bathing Water Quality Map of Ireland 2011, and to members of the cross office Bathing Water group for their input.

## Background

In 2011 a total of 135 identified bathing waters were monitored during the bathing season, of which 126 were coastal seawaters and nine were freshwater lakes.

The responsibility for sampling (or arranging the sampling) at identified bathing waters lies with the relevant local authorities. Sampling must be undertaken on a regular basis during the bathing season which extends from the 1 June until 15 September. A pre-season sample is required in late May approximately two weeks before the start of the season with a minimum of four samples to be taken during the season at the point of greatest bather density or where the greatest risk of pollution is expected in accordance with the bathing water profile.

The EPA's Office of Environmental Assessment (OEA) is responsible for compiling the bathing water quality results and submitting this information to the European Commission. The Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), within the EPA, follows up on the cause of any bathing area failing the minimum EU mandatory values and the measures being taken by the relevant local authority to bring the bathing area into compliance.

## Bathing Water Legislation

Legislation governing the quality of bathing waters was established in 1976 through Directive 76/160/EEC. In 1992 Ireland introduced the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992 (S.I. 155 of 1992) which transposed Directive 76/160/EEC. The purpose of both the Directive and subsequent Regulations was to ensure that bathing water quality is maintained and, if necessary, improved so that it complies with standards designated to protect health and the environment.

A new Directive on bathing water (2006/7/EC) came into force on 24 March 2006 and was transposed into Irish law as the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008). This will replace the existing 1976 Bathing Waters Directive with effect from 31 December 2014. It sets tight microbiological standards for two new parameters, Intestinal enterococci (I.E) and *Escherichia coli* (*E. Coli*), whereas previous assessments were based principally on results of Total and Faecal Coliforms analyses plus a range of physico-chemical parameters.

In the interim, transitional measures are in place until the 2008 Regulations are fully implemented in 2015. From the 2011 bathing season onwards the two new microbiological parameters are to be monitored and the results assessed for compliance with the water quality standards specified in the 1976 Directive. For this report, a three tier classification system of 'good', 'sufficient' and 'poor' is used in keeping with previous assessments. From 2015 microbiological results will be used to classify bathing waters into four categories: 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' and 'poor' in accordance with the 2008 Regulations with a classification of 'sufficient' to be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters.

Under the current classification system 'good' quality relates to compliance with both EU guide and mandatory values with 'sufficient' relating to compliance with the mandatory values only and 'poor' classification reflecting non-compliance with mandatory values. Bathing waters are not classified as 'excellent' in this report as the 1976 Directive does not have bathing water standards that equate to this classification.

Local authorities are required to take the necessary measures to ensure that the standards are complied with and should a bathing water sample fail to meet the EU mandatory values that the public are notified. This is generally by means of advisory notices posted at the bathing area but other media may also be used. Local Authorities are required to report the results of sampling to the EPA during, and at the end of, each bathing season.

## Blue Flags, Green Coasts and water quality

The Blue Flag Award scheme is an internationally recognised quality mark for bathing waters and is coordinated in Ireland by An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland). It requires that bathing waters achieve, among many other elements, compliance with the EU guide values for both microbiological parameters. The Green Coast award is a similar scheme for beaches where less infrastructure is in place.

Details of the Blue Flag and Green Coast schemes are available at [www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org), [www.beachawards.ie](http://www.beachawards.ie) and [www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)

## Online Bathing Water System

Since July 2009, the EPA has put in place an online map-based website entitled “*SPLASH*” ([www.bathingwater.ie](http://www.bathingwater.ie)) to provide the public with bathing water quality information for all of the identified bathing waters around Ireland. The website provides the latest bathing water sampling results during the bathing season and their compliance status with EU bathing water quality standards.

In addition to providing information about the compliance history of these bathing waters from 2003 onwards, the website provides descriptions of each bathing area including aerial and ordinary photography, details of any blue flag status and lifeguard availability, as well as current weather and tidal information. The national bathing water report which the EPA previously published annually has now been replaced by ‘Splash’, which provides in addition to other items, an overview of bathing water quality status at various levels: national, each relevant local authority, each river basin district and each identified bathing area.

The 2008 Regulations require that the EPA holds and reports on a much broader range of information relating to bathing waters including bathing water profiles, monitoring calendars, notifications of pollution and bathing area management measures. The ‘Splash’ website is being redeveloped during 2012 to accommodate these additional requirements.

# Overview of Bathing Water Quality in 2011

## Quality of All Bathing Waters

A total of 135 identified bathing waters, comprising 126 seawater and 9 freshwaters, were monitored by local authorities during the 2011 bathing season. Five new beaches were identified for 2011

- Carrowniskey, Louisburgh, Co Mayo
- Grattan Road Beach, Galway City
- Ballyloughane Beach, Galway City
- Streedagh Beach, Co Sligo
- Dunmorán Beach, Co Sligo.

One beach, Silver Strand, Louisburgh, Co Mayo was removed from the list of identified bathing waters due to its isolation and limited numbers of bathers.

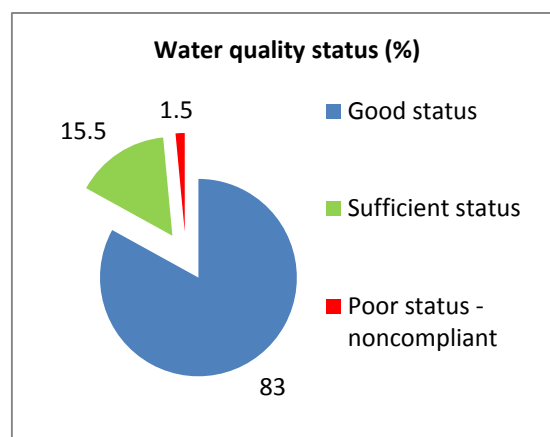
The results of samples were assessed against the standards defined in Directive 76/160/EEC:

- Compliance with stricter guide values indicating water of **good** quality status
- Compliance with minimum mandatory values indicating water of **sufficient** quality status
- Noncompliance with mandatory values equating to **poor** water quality status.

Overall the quality of Ireland's bathing water quality remains very high, although the European Environment Agency (2011) noted that some urban coastal beaches and inland lakes in Ireland can be vulnerable to pollution sources. In 2011, 98.5 per cent of bathing waters (133 of 135) complied with the EU mandatory values and achieved at least 'sufficient' water quality status. From 2009 to 2011, the proportion of bathing waters meeting the mandatory values has increased by over five per cent (Table 1). The proportion of bathing waters meeting the stricter 'good' water quality was 83% (112 of 135).

In 2011, five local authorities achieved 'good' status for all of their identified bathing waters: Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Louth County Council, Mayo County Council, Meath County Council and Wicklow County Council.

**Figure 1 2011 Water Quality status (%)**



The two bathing waters failing to achieve sufficient water quality status were Clifden and White Strand (Miltown Malbay).

In the case of Clifden the impact is primarily from the nearby sewage works discharge. This plant has now been licensed by the EPA (Discharge Licence No. D0198-01). Upgrading, including disinfection of the effluent, is due for completion in 2013 and is expected to yield improvements in water quality for the 2014 bathing season.

In the case of Miltown Malbay, one sample taken in early June failed to meet the criteria for compliance with the mandatory standard resulting in 'poor' status being applied to the beach for the 2011 season. No definitive cause was identified for this event.

Overall, while the vast majority of Ireland's identified bathing waters meet the current minimum standards, the stricter criteria set out in Directive 2006/7/EC will require local authorities to make even greater efforts to improve the water quality and to tackle potential sources of pollution.

Some of the variations in water quality could, at least partly, have been influenced by weather conditions. Met Éireann summarised the summer of 2011 as *"Cooler than average everywhere with below average rainfall in parts"* but it is interesting to note that the largest number of

samples failing to meet the standards occurred in the first week of September which Met Éireann records show was a period associated with very strong winds and heavy rain.

A comparison of water quality for the period 2009-2011 is presented below (Table 1).

**Table 1 Comparison of Bathing Water Quality Status in the years 2009 to 2011**

	Seawater			Freshwater			Overall		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Number of identified bathing waters	122	122	126	9	9	9	131	131	135
No. achieving 'sufficient' water quality	114	120	124	8	7	9	122	127	133
% of waters of 'sufficient' water quality	93.4	98.4	98.4	88.9	77.8	100	93.1	96.9	98.5
No. achieving 'good' water quality	102	113	106	6	5	6	108	118	112
% of waters of 'good' water quality	83.6	92.6	84.1	66.7	55.6	66.7	82.4	90.0	83.0

More information can be found on the Splash website ([www.bathingwater.ie](http://www.bathingwater.ie))

## Further information

EEA Water Information System for Europe (WISE)  
<http://www.water.europa.eu/>

European Environment Agency  
<http://www.eea.europa.eu>

Water Quality in Ireland 2007 -2009 (EPA)  
<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/waterquality/WaterQuality0709.pdf>

## Useful links

An Taisce (National Trust for Ireland)  
[www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)

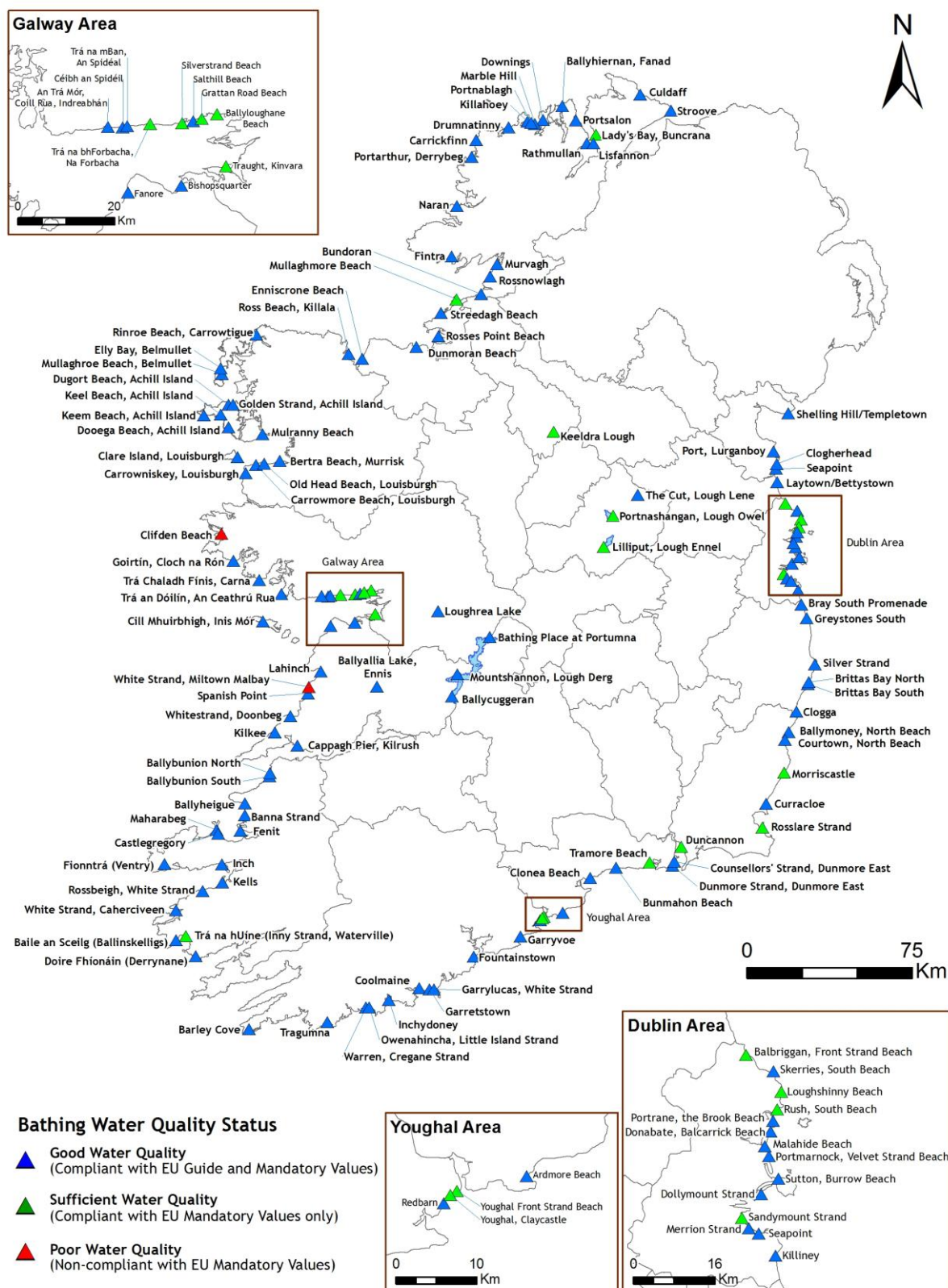
Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)  
[www.fee-international.org](http://www.fee-international.org)

Clean Coasts Ireland  
[www.cleancoastsireland.org](http://www.cleancoastsireland.org)



## Appendix 1 Bathing Water Quality Map of Ireland 2011

### Bathing Water Quality Map of Ireland 2011



## Appendix 2 2011 Compliance & Water Quality Status of Identified Bathing Waters

Responsible Local Authority	Bathing Area	Water Quality Status	Compliance with mandatory / guide values		
			E.Coli		I.E.
		2011	Mandatory	Guide	Guide
Clare County Council	Ballyallia Lake, Ennis	Good	√	√	√
	Ballycuggeran	Good	√	√	√
	Bishopsquarter	Good	√	√	√
	Cappagh Pier, Kilrush	Good	√	√	√
	Fanore	Good	√	√	√
	Kilkee	Good	√	√	√
	Lahinch	Good	√	√	√
	Mountshannon, Lough Derg	Good	√	√	√
	Spanish Point	Good	√	√	√
	White Strand, Doonbeg	Good	√	√	√
	White Strand, Miltown Malbay	Poor	X	X	√
	White Strand, Miltown Malbay	Poor	X	X	√
Cork County Council	Barley Cove	Good	√	√	√
	Youghal, Claycastle	Sufficient	√	X	√
	Coolmaine	Good	√	√	√
	Fountainstown	Good	√	√	√
	Garretstown	Good	√	√	√
	Garrylucas, White Strand	Good	√	√	√
	Garryvoe	Good	√	√	√
	Inchydoney	Good	√	√	√
	Owenahincha, Little Island Strand	Good	√	√	√
	Redbarn	Good	√	√	√
	Tragumna	Good	√	√	√
	Warren, Cregane Strand	Good	√	√	√
	Youghal, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	√	X	√
	Youghal, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	√	X	√
Donegal County Council	Ballyhiernan, Fanad	Good	√	√	√
	Bundoran	Good	√	√	√
	Carrickfinn	Good	√	√	√
	Culdaff	Good	√	√	√
	Downings	Good	√	√	√
	Drumnatinny	Good	√	√	√
	Fintra	Good	√	√	√
	Killahoey	Good	√	√	√
	Lady's Bay, Buncrana	Sufficient	√	√	X
	Lisfannon	Good	√	√	√
	Marble Hill	Good	√	√	√
	Murvagh	Good	√	√	√
	Naran	Good	√	√	√
	Portarthur, Derrybeg	Good	√	√	√
	Portnablagh	Good	√	√	√
	Portsalon	Good	√	√	√
	Rathmullan	Good	√	√	√
	Rossnowlagh	Good	√	√	√
	Stroove	Good	√	√	√
	Stroove	Good	√	√	√

Responsible Local Authority	Bathing Area	Water Quality Status	Compliance with mandatory / guide values		
			2011	E.Coli	
				Mandatory	I.E. Guide
Dublin City Council	Dollymount Strand	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Merrion Strand	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Sandymount Strand	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
Dun Laoghaire /	Killiney	Good	✓	✓	✓
Rathdown County Council	Seapoint	Good	✓	✓	✓
Fingal County Council	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Loughshinny Beach	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Malahide Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Portmarnock, Velvet Strand Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Portrane, the Brook Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Rush, South Beach	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Skerries, South Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Sutton, Burrow Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Galway County Council	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Loughrea Lake	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Bathing Place at Portumna	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Céibh an Spidéil	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Clifden Beach	Poor	X	X	X
	Goirtín, Cloch Na Rón	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Trá na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
	Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Trá Chaladh Fínis, Carna	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Traught, Kinvara	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
Galway City Council	Ballyloughane Beach	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Grattan Road Beach	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Salthill Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Silverstrand Beach	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
Kerry County Council	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Ballybunion North	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Ballybunion South	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Ballyheigue	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Banna Strand	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Castlegregory	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Fenit	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Inch	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Trá na hUíne (Inny Strand, Waterville)	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Kells	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Maharabeg	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Rossbeigh, White Strand	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Fionntrá (Ventry)	Good	✓	✓	✓
	White Strand, Caherciveen	Good	✓	✓	✓
Leitrim County Council	Keeldra Lough	Sufficient	✓	✓	X

Responsible Local Authority	Bathing Area	Water Quality Status	Compliance with mandatory / guide values		
			E.Coli		I.E.
			2011	Mandatory	Guide
Louth County Council	Clogherhead	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Port, Lurganboy	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Seapoint	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Shelling Hill / Templetown	Good	✓	✓	✓
Mayo County Council	Bertra Beach, Murrisk	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Dugort Beach, Achill Island	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Dooega Beach, Achill Island	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Elly Bay, Belmullet	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Golden Strand, Achill Island	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Keel Beach, Achill Island	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Keem Beach, Achill Island	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Ross Beach, Killala	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Old Head Beach, Louisburgh	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Mulranny Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Rinroe Beach, Carrowtigue	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Clare Island, Louisburgh	Good	✓	✓	✓
Meath County Council	Laytown / Bettystown	Good	✓	✓	✓
Sligo County Council	Dunmorran Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Enniscrone Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Mullaghmore Beach	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Rosses Point Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Streedagh Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Waterford County Council	Ardmore Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Bunmahon Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Clonea Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Tramore Beach	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
Westmeath County Council	Lilliput, Lough Ennel	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	Portnashangan, Lough Owel	Sufficient	✓	X	✓
	The Cut, Lough Lene	Good	✓	✓	✓
Wexford County Council	Ballymoney, North Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Courtown, North Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Curraclloe	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Duncannon	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
	Morriscastle	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
	Rosslare Strand	Sufficient	✓	✓	X
Wicklow County Council	Bray South Promenade	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Brittas Bay North	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Brittas Bay South	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Clogga	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Greystones South	Good	✓	✓	✓
	Silver Strand	Good	✓	✓	✓



# An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Is í an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) comhlachta reachtúil a chosnaíonn an comhshaol do mhuintir na tíre go léir. Rialaímid agus déanaimid maoirsiú ar ghníomhaíochtaí a d'fhéadfadh truailliú a chruthú murach sin. Cinntímid go bhfuil eolas cruinn ann ar threochtaí comhshaoil ionas go nglactar aon chéim is gá. Is iad na príomhnithe a bhfuilimid gníomhach leo ná comhshaol na hÉireann a chosaint agus cinntiú go bhfuil forbairt inbhuanaithe.

Is comhlacht poiblí neamhspleách í an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) a bunaíodh i mí Iúil 1993 faoin Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil 1992. Ó thaobh an Rialtais, is í an Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtais Áitiúil.

## ÁR bhFREAGRACHTAÍ

### CEADÚNÚ

Bíonn ceadúnais á n-eisiúint againn i gcomhair na nithe seo a leanas chun a chinntiú nach mbíonn astuithe uathu ag cur sláinte an phobail ná an comhshaol i mbaol:

- áiseanna dramhaíola (m.sh., líonadh talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (m.sh., déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta);
- diantalmhaíocht;
- úsáid faoi shrian agus scaoileadh smachtaithe Orgánach Géinathraithe (GMO);
- mór-áiseanna stórais peitreal;
- scardadh dramhuisce.

### FEIDHMIÚ COMHSHAOIL NÁISIÚNTA

- Stiúradh os cionn 2,000 iniúchadh agus cigireacht de áiseanna a fuair ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht gach bliain.
- Maoirsiú freagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil údarás áitiúla thar sé earnáil - aer, fuaim, dramhaíl, dramhuisce agus caighdeán uisce.
- Obair le húdaráis áitiúla agus leis na Gardaí chun stop a chur le gníomhaíocht mhídhleathach dramhaíola trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmithe náisiúnta, díriú isteach ar chiontóirí, stiúradh fiosrúcháin agus maoirsiú leigheas na bhfadhbanna.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí comhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaol mar thoradh ar a ngníomhaíochtaí.

### MONATÓIREACHT, ANAILÍS AGUS TUAIRISCIÚ AR AN GCOMHSHAOL

- Monatóireacht ar chaighdeán aer agus caighdeáin aibhneacha, locha, uiscí taoide agus uiscí talaimh; leibhéil agus sruth aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách chun cabhrú le rialtais náisiúnta agus áitiúla cinnti a dhéanamh.

### RIALÚ ASTUITHE GÁIS CEAPTHA TEASA NA HÉIREANN

- Cainníochtú astuithe gáis ceaptha teasa na hÉireann i gcomhthéacs ár dtiomantas Kyoto.
- Cur i bhfeidhm na Treorach um Thrádáil Astuithe, a bhfuil baint aige le hos cionn 100 cuideachta atá ina mór-ghineadóirí dé-ocsaíd charbóin in Éirinn.

### TAIGHDE AGUS FORBAIRT COMHSHAOIL

- Taighde ar shaincheisteanna comhshaoil a chomhordú (cosúil le caighdeán aer agus uisce, athrú aeráide, bithéagsúlacht, teicneolaíochtaí comhshaoil).

### MEASÚNÚ STRAITÉISEACH COMHSHAOIL

- Ag déanamh measúnú ar thionchar phleananna agus chláracha ar chomhshaol na hÉireann (cosúil le pleananna bainistíochta dramhaíola agus forbartha).

### PLEANÁIL, OIDEACHAS AGUS TREOIR CHOMHSHAOIL

- Treoir a thabhairt don phobal agus do thionscal ar cheisteanna comhshaoil éagsúla (m.sh., iarratais ar cheadúnais, seachaint dramhaíola agus rialacháin chomhshaoil).
- Eolas níos fearr ar an gcomhshaol a scaipeadh (trí cláracha teilifíse comhshaoil agus pacáistí acmhainne do bhunscoileanna agus do mheánscoileanna).

### BAINISTÍOCHT DRAMHAÍOLA FHORGHNÍOMHACH

- Cur chun cinn seachaint agus laghdú dramhaíola trí chomhordú An Chláir Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola, lena n-áirítear cur i bhfeidhm na dTionscnamh Freagrachta Táirgeoirí.
- Cur i bhfeidhm Rialachán ar nós na treoracha maidir le Trealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach Caite agus le Srianadh Substaintí Ghuaiseacha agus substaintí a dhéanann ídiú ar an gcrios ózóin.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta um Dramhaíl Ghuaiseach a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a sheachaint agus a bhainistiú.

### STRUCHTÚR NA GNÍOMHAIREACHTA

Bunaíodh an Ghníomhaireacht i 1993 chun comhshaol na hÉireann a chosaint. Tá an eagraíocht á bhainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Príomhstíúrthóir agus ceithre Stíúrthóir.

Tá obair na Ghníomhaireachta ar siúl trí ceithre Oifig:

- An Oifig Aeráide, Ceadúnaithe agus Úsáide Acmhainní
- An Oifig um Fhorfheidhmiúchán Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Measúnacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáide

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag ball air agus tagann siad le chéile cúpla uair in aghaidh na bliana le plé a dhéanamh ar cheisteanna ar ábhar imní iad agus le comhairle a thabhairt don Bhord.

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