



Bathing Water Quality in Ireland

A report for the year 2018



Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: *We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

Knowledge: *We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

Advocacy: *We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

Our Responsibilities

Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they 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, cement manufacturing, power plants*);
- intensive agriculture (*e.g. pigs, poultry*);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (*GMOs*);
- sources of ionising radiation (*e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources*);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by co-ordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (*e.g. periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports*).

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (*e.g. major development plans*).

Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (*e.g. My Local Environment, Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Management and structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



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Cover photo: Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane) Beach, County Kerry. Photo: Paddy Morris

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Key findings for 2018

Bathing Water Quality in 2018

- 94% of Bathing Waters (137 of 145) met the minimum required standard of Sufficient.
- 71% (103) of Bathing Waters were classified as Excellent and 15% (22) were classified as Good.
- Five were classified as Poor; Merrion Strand, Sandymount Strand, Portrane (the Brook) Beach, Clifden Beach and Lilliput, Lough Ennell.
- Merrion Strand was classified as Poor for the last four years, 2015 to 2018. A Poor quality rating again in 2019 will mean that it can no longer be identified as a Bathing Water, until the water quality improves.

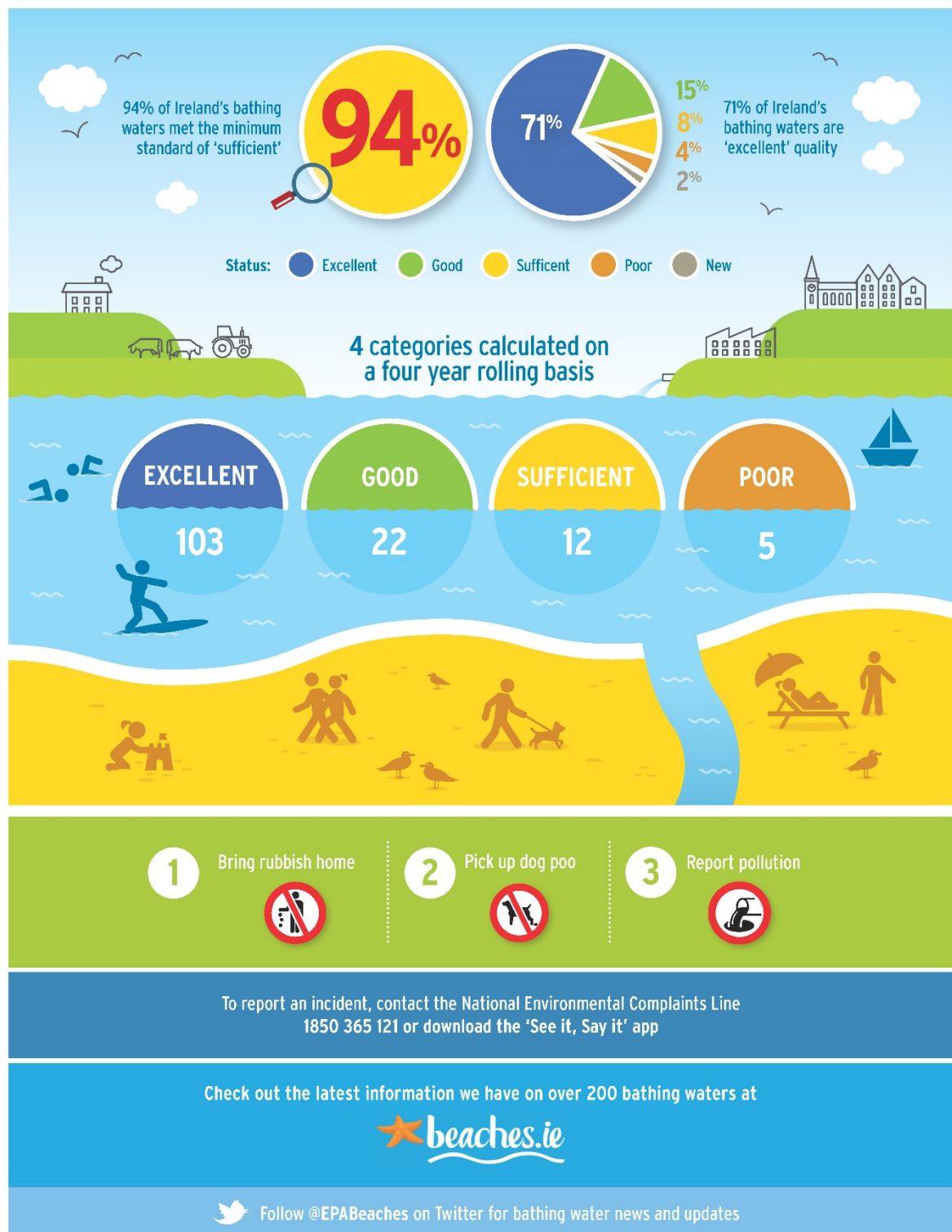
Changes since 2017

- 103 Bathing Waters were classified as Excellent in 2018, up from 102 in 2017.
- 22 Bathing Waters were classified as Good in 2018, up from 18 in 2017.
- Five Bathing Waters were classified as Poor in 2018, an improvement from seven in 2017.
- 145 Bathing Waters were identified in 2018, an increase of three since 2017.

Actions Required

- Measures should be progressed to improve the five Poor Bathing Waters to at least Sufficient.
- Local authorities should implement appropriate measures to increase the number of Bathing Waters classified as Good or Excellent.
- Urban wastewater is the most common pressure impacting Bathing Water. Improvements in urban wastewater systems should continue to be progressed to limit their impact on Bathing Waters.

IRELAND'S BATHING WATERS IN 2018



1 Introduction

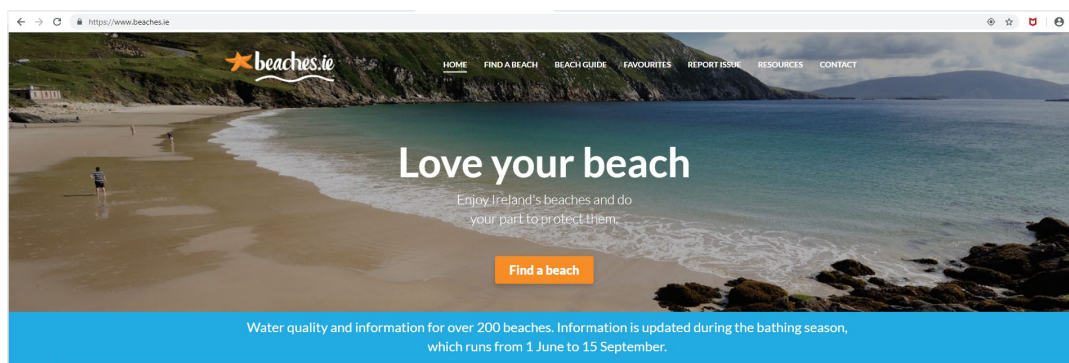
This is a report about Bathing Water quality in Ireland during 2018. It is based on the EPA's assessment of information provided by local authorities about the beaches that they manage. A glossary of terms about bathing waters is located at the end of this report.

1.1 Who does what?

- Local authorities are responsible for managing and monitoring Bathing Waters.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the environmental regulator and ensures that local authorities carry out their functions under the Bathing Water Regulations.
- The Health Service Executive (HSE) provide advice to local authorities on public and environmental health issues related to Bathing Water.
- The public can make representations to their local authorities to identify new Bathing Waters and can help by keeping their local beaches clean.

1.2 Where can I check bathing water quality?

Our national bathing water website, www.beaches.ie, shares the latest information on over 200 bathing waters sampled during the bathing water season. You can discover beaches near you, find out which beaches have safe water quality, check out the weather and tides and learn about beach amenities.



2 Bathing Water Quality

2.1 How is Bathing Water Quality Assessed

Water quality samples are taken by local authorities at Bathing Waters just before, and during the bathing water season, which in Ireland runs from the 1st June to 15th September each year. Samples must be taken at least once a month. However, many local authorities sample once a fortnight, and even once a week in some areas. The annual water quality classification (rating) of a beach or lake is based on water quality results covering a rolling 4-year period, rather than just the past season's data. Swimming in Ireland can be a year-round activity in some locations, however, for the purposes of assessing bathing water quality, only the results from the bathing season are used. Water quality at our beaches and lakes is classified as Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor. Additional information on Bathing Water classification is covered in *Appendix A*.

Excellent	the highest, cleanest class
Good	generally good water quality
Sufficient	the water quality meets the minimum standard
Poor	the water quality has not met the minimum standard

2.2 Bathing Water Quality in 2018

For the 2018 bathing season, there were 145 identified Bathing Waters assessed. Of these, 137 (94%) met the minimum required standard of Sufficient. Figure 1 summaries the Bathing Water quality for 2018, and Figure 2 shows the locations of all identified Bathing Waters and their individual classifications.

- 103 (71%) of Bathing Waters were classified as Excellent, three of which were newly classified in 2018.
- 22 (15%) were classified as Good
- 12 (8%) were classified as Sufficient
- 5 (4%) were classified as Poor
- 3 Bathing Waters – Forty Foot Bathing Place, Sandycove Beach and White Rock Beach were new in 2018 and will be classified following the 2019 bathing season.

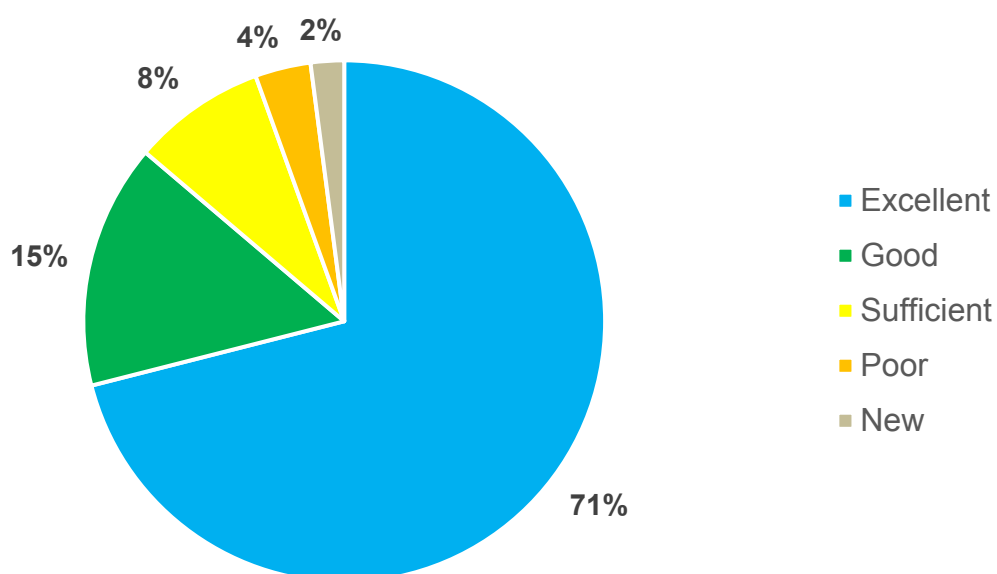


Figure 1: Bathing Water Quality in Ireland in 2018

Three Bathing Waters at Dooey and Magheraroarty in Donegal and at Seafeld Quilty in Clare, were classified for the first time in 2018 and all three were classified as Excellent.

Bathing Water Quality Map of Ireland 2018

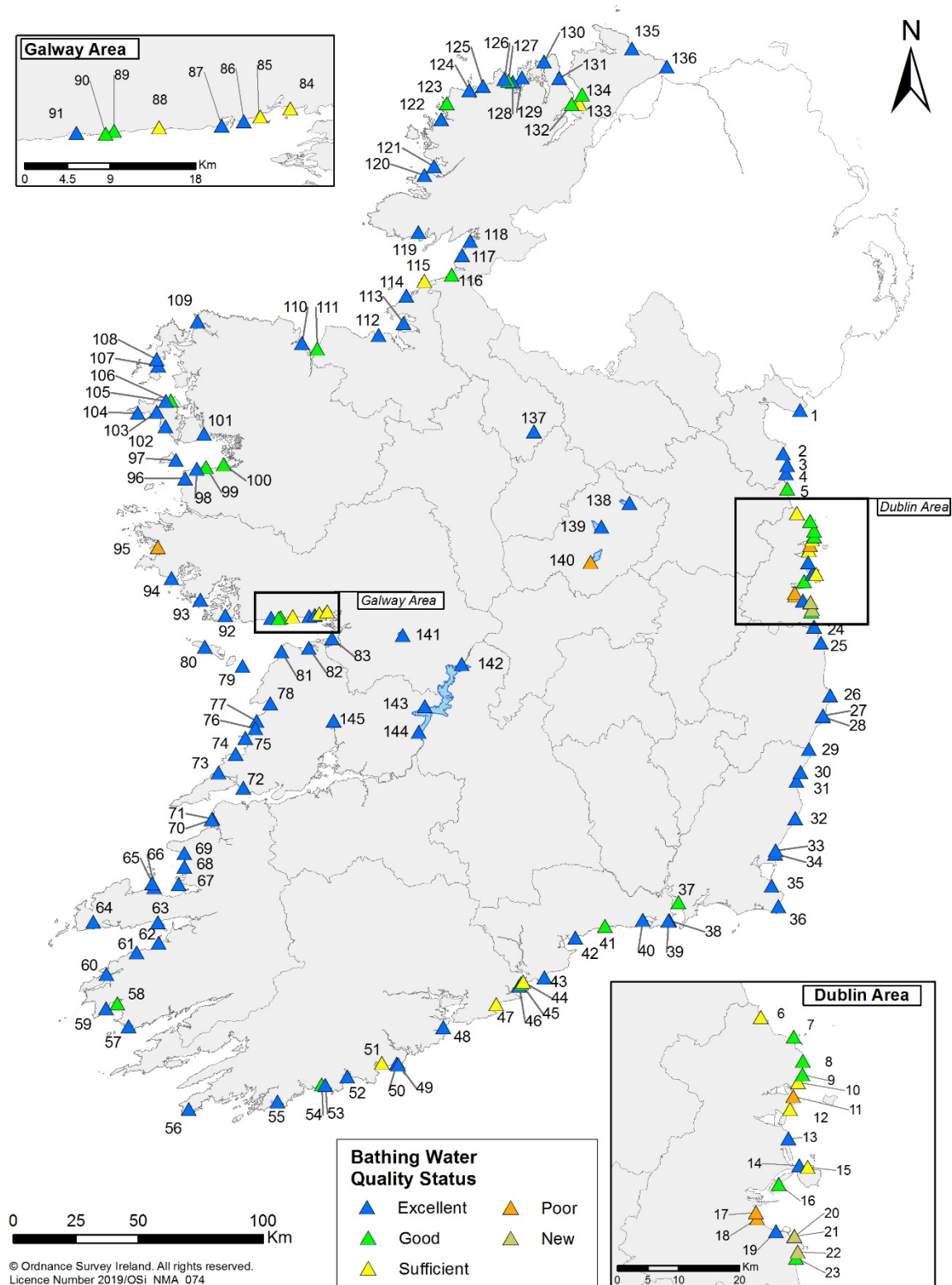


Figure 2: Bathing Water Quality Map of Ireland 2018

Bathing Water Names

1	Shelling Hill/Templetown	50	Garretstown	98	Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh
2	Port, Lurganboy	51	Coolmaine	99	Old Head Beach, Louisburgh
3	Clogherhead	52	Inchydoney	100	Bertra Beach, Murrisk
4	Seapoint	53	Owenahincha, Little Island	101	Mulranny Beach
5	Laytown/Bettystown	54	Warren, Cregane Strand	102	Dooega Beach, Achill Island
6	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	55	Tragumna	103	Keel Beach, Achill Island
7	Skerries, South Beach	56	Barley Cove	104	Keem Beach, Achill Island
8	Loughshinny Beach	57	Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)	105	Dugort Beach, Achill Island
9	Rush, North Beach	58	Trá na hUíne (Inny Strand,	106	Golden Strand, Achill Island
10	Rush, South Beach	59	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	107	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet
11	Portrane, the Brook Beach	60	White Strand, Caherciveen	108	Elly Bay, Belmullet
12	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	61	Kells	109	Rinroe Beach, Carrowtigue
13	Portmarnock, Velvet Strand	62	Rossbeigh, White Strand	110	Ross Beach, Killala
14	Sutton, Burrow Beach	63	Inch	111	Enniscrone Beach
15	Claremont Beach	64	Fionntrá (Ventry)	112	Dunmorán Beach
16	Dollymount Strand	65	Maharabeg	113	Rosses Point Beach
17	Sandymount Strand	66	Castlegregory	114	Streedagh Beach
18	Merrion Strand	67	Fenit	115	Mullaghmore Beach
19	Seapoint	68	Banna Strand	116	Bundoran
20	Sandycove Beach	69	Ballyheigue	117	Rossnowlagh
21	Forty Foot Bathing Place	70	Ballybunnion South	118	Murvagh
22	White Rock Beach	71	Ballybunnion North	119	Fintra
23	Killiney	72	Cappagh Pier, Kilrush	120	Naran
24	Bray South Promenade	73	Kilkee	121	Dooey
25	Greystones South	74	White Strand, Doonbeg	122	Carrickfinn
26	Silver Strand	75	Seafield, Quilty	123	Portarthur, Derrybeg
27	Brittas Bay North	76	Spanish Point	124	Magheraroarty
28	Brittas Bay South	77	White Strand, Miltown Malbay	125	Drumnatinny
29	Clogga	78	Lahinch	126	Killahoey
30	Ballymoney, North Beach	79	Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach)	127	Portnablagh
31	Courtown, North Beach	80	Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór	128	Marble Hill
32	Morriscastle	81	Fanore	129	Downings
33	Ballinesker	82	Bishopsquarter	130	Ballyhiernan, Fanad
34	Curraclloe	83	Traught, Kinvara	131	Portsalon
35	Rosslare Strand	84	Ballyloughane Beach	132	Rathmullan
36	Carne Beach	85	Grattan Road Beach	133	Lisfannon
37	Duncannon	86	Salthill Beach	134	Lady's Bay, Buncrana
38	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore	87	Silverstrand Beach	135	Culdaff
39	Dunmore Strand, Dunmore	88	Trá na bhForbacha, Na	136	Stroove
40	Tramore Beach	89	Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	137	Keeldra Lough
41	Bunmahon Beach	90	Céibh an Spidéil	138	The Cut, Lough Lene
42	Clonea Beach	91	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua,	139	Portnashangan, Lough Owel
43	Ardmore Beach	92	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	140	Lilliput, Lough Ennel
44	Youghal Front Strand Beach	93	Trá Chaladh Fínis, Carna	141	Loughrea Lake
45	Youghal, Claycastle	94	Goirtín, Cloch na Rón	142	Bathing Place at Portumna
46	Redbarn	95	Clifden Beach	143	Mountshannon, Lough Derg
47	Garryvoe	96	Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	144	Ballycuggeran
48	Fountainstown	97	Clare Island, Louisburgh	145	Ballyallia Lake, Ennis
49	Garrylucas, White Strand				

2.3 Changes in Bathing Water Quality between 2017 and 2018

137 Bathing Waters met at least the minimum required standard of Sufficient in 2018, up from 132 in 2017. See *Appendix B* for classifications for all 145 identified Bathing Waters. Table 1 shows the changes in Bathing Water Quality between 2017 and 2018.

- 103 Bathing Waters were classified as Excellent in 2018, up from 102 in 2017.
- 1 Bathing Water improved from Good in 2017 to Excellent in 2018, while 3 Bathing Waters dropped from Excellent in 2017 to Good in 2018.
- 22 Bathing Waters were classified as Good in 2018, up from 18 in 2017.
- 12 Bathing Waters were classified as Sufficient in both 2017 and 2018.
- 5 Bathing Waters were classified as Poor in 2018, an improvement from 7 in 2017.

Table 1: Changes in Bathing Water Quality between 2017 and 2018

Classification	No of Bathing Waters in 2017	No of Bathing Waters in 2018	Difference
Excellent	102	103	+1
Good	18	22	+4
Sufficient	12	12	0
Poor	7	5	-2
New	3	3	0
Total	142	145	+3

3 Pollution Incidents

During the bathing water season, if a pollution incident occurs, or if sampling indicates there could be a risk to human health, bathing water restrictions may be put in place at the beach. When restrictions are in place, signs are put up at the beach notice boards and the restrictions may be advertised in the media and on local authority websites.

The EPA Twitter account, @EPABeaches, sends out alerts, and the details are put up on www.beaches.ie. Restrictions remain in place until sampling shows that the water quality has returned to normal.



3.1 Bathing Water Pollution Incidents in 2018

In 2018, 55 bathing water pollution incidents were reported to the EPA, compared to 50 in 2017 (See Table 2). Local authorities investigate and report the likely causes of these pollution incidents to the EPA. Urban wastewater (55%) is the most common problem, followed by contamination from animals and birds (20%), run-off from urban areas and misconnections, where waste pipes from households have been incorrectly connected to surface drains, (11%), diffuse pollution from agriculture (7%), Cyanobacteria (a harmful algae) (5%) and sewage from boats (2%) (See Figure 3).

Table 2: Pollution Incidents in 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018	Difference
Incidents	50	55	+5

Fifteen of the incidents reported to the EPA in 2018 were related to problems at a wastewater treatment plant and do not appear to have impacted on Bathing Water quality.

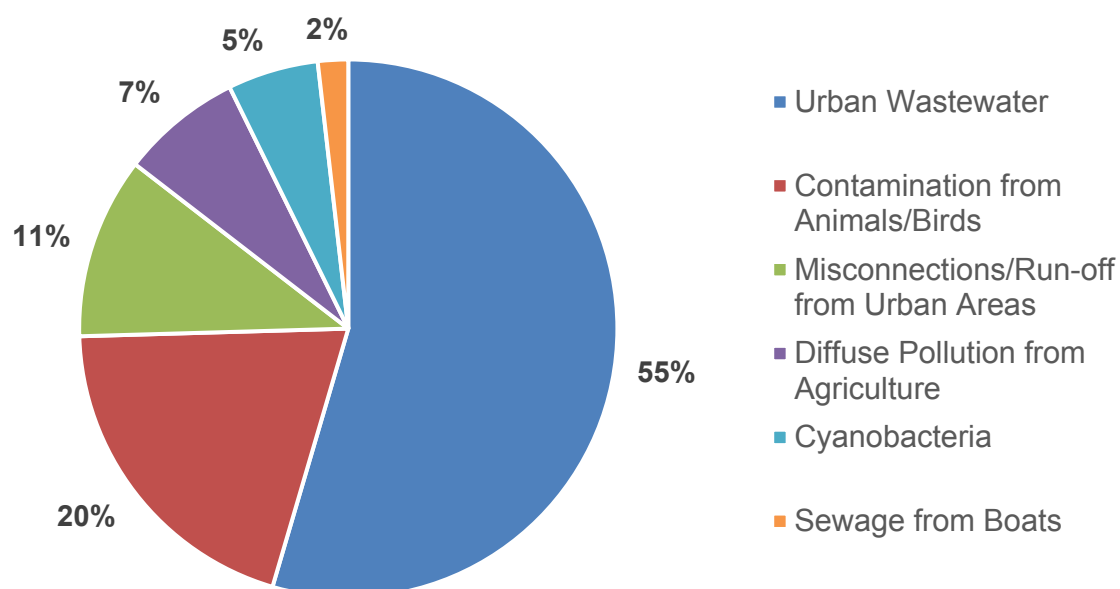


Figure 3: Likely Causes of Reported Incidents in 2018

Weather During the 2018 Bathing Season

Rainfall and sunshine can impact on bathing water quality. Heavy rainfall can increase the number of bacteria and other harmful organisms washed from our countryside and towns, through rivers and sewer systems, to our beaches. Sunshine can improve bathing water quality by killing bacteria and other harmful organisms.

The summer of 2018 was particularly dry and hot. There were heat wave and drought conditions in many parts of the country¹. Overall, the dry and sunny weather through much of the 2018 bathing water season contributed to the good quality bathing water.

3.2 Prior Warnings

Some beaches are susceptible to water quality problems when it rains. When heavy rainfall is forecast, many local authorities will put up 'Prior Warning' notices at these Bathing Waters to warn the public that a short term pollution event may occur. If the bathing water quality is actually impacted when the rain comes, the warning is then replaced by either an 'Advice against bathing' or a 'Bathing prohibition' notice, depending on the level of the pollution. 'Prior Warning' notices are precautionary and do not necessarily mean that pollution will occur. Their purpose is to advise the public of possible short term pollution events which usually last for only a few days at most.

In 2018, there were 30 Prior Warning notices. This is 83 less than 2017, and is most likely due to the unusually dry and sunny summer. Most of these Prior Warnings were in the second half of August in counties Donegal, Mayo and Galway, which had wetter than average conditions that month. For two of these warnings, the bathing water quality was actually impacted by the heavy rainfall that was forecast. Table 3 shows information on the number of Prior Warnings reported in 2017 and 2018.

Table 3: Prior Warnings in 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018	Difference
Prior Warnings	113	30	-83

¹ Summary of weather conditions based on Met Éireann seasonal and monthly summaries www.met.ie/climate/past-weather-statements

4 Poor Bathing Waters

A 'Poor' classification means that the Bathing Water has not met the minimum standard required under the Bathing Water Regulations. Poor Bathing Waters will have a bathing water restriction in place for the entire season the following year. The local authority must put up notices at the beach advising the public of the reasons for the Poor water quality rating. Measures should be progressed to improve the five Poor Bathing Waters to at least Sufficient, as Bathing Waters that have a Poor water quality for 5 years in a row, can no longer be identified as a Bathing Water, until the water quality improves.

4.1 Summary of Poor Bathing Waters in 2018

Table 4 shows the number of Poor Bathing Waters in 2017 and 2018.

- Five Bathing Waters were classified as Poor in 2018, an improvement from seven in 2017.
- Loughshinny improved from Poor in 2017 to Good in 2018, and Rush South Beach and Ballyloughane improved from Poor in 2017 to Sufficient in 2018.
- Lilliput, Lough Ennell deteriorated from Good in 2017 to Poor in 2018.
- Three of the five Poor Bathing Waters are in the Greater Dublin Area (Merrion Strand, Sandymount Strand and Portrane, the Brook Beach).

Table 4: Poor Bathing Waters in 2017 and 2018

Poor in 2017		Poor in 2018	
Local Authority	Bathing Water	Local Authority	Bathing Water
Dublin City Council	Merrion Strand	Dublin City Council	Merrion Strand
Dublin City Council	Sandymount Strand	Dublin City Council	Sandymount Strand
Fingal County Council	Portrane, the Brook Beach	Fingal County Council	Portrane, the Brook Beach
Galway County Council	Clifden Beach	Galway County Council	Clifden Beach
Galway City Council	Ballyloughane Beach	Westmeath County Council	Lilliput, Lough Ennell
Fingal County Council	Loughshinny Beach		
Fingal County Council	Rush, South Beach		

Merrion Strand (Dublin City Council)

Merrion Strand was classified as Poor for the last four years, 2015 to 2018. Bathing Waters that have a Poor water quality rating for 5 years in a row, can no longer be identified as a Bathing Water, until the water quality improves.

One of the main problems at Merrion Strand is two polluted streams which flow onto the beach. These are the Elm Park and Trimleston streams. These streams flow through both Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and Dublin City Council areas. According to Dublin City Council, these streams are polluted by a combination of misconnections, leaks, spills

and overflows from wastewater collection systems, and runoff from roads. Other potential sources of pollution, that require further investigation, include urban wastewater discharges, birds and dogs.

Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are working to find and fix the sources of pollution impacting the Elm Park and Trimleston streams. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has already fixed some misconnections and more work on this is planned. Dublin City Council is investigating the potential for creating wetlands to improve the water quality of the Elm Park stream. A research project called Acclimatize (see Section 5.3) is underway, which aims to identify the main sources of pollution in the Dublin Bay area, including Merrion Strand.

Sandymount Strand (Dublin City Council)

Sandymount Strand was classified as Poor in 2017 and 2018.

The Elm Park and Trimleston streams impact Sandymount Strand. Although these streams do not flow directly onto Sandymount Strand, they impact on both Merrion and Sandymount Strands because both beaches are connected. Like Merrion Strand, other potential sources of pollution that require further investigation include, urban wastewater discharges, birds and dogs. The management actions for Sandymount Strand are the same as for Merrion Strand, i.e. finding and fixing the sources of pollution impacting the Elm Park and Trimleston streams.

Portrane, the Brook Beach (Fingal County Council)

Portrane, the Brook Beach, was classified as Poor for the last three years, 2016 to 2018.

According to Fingal County Council, the main sources of pollution thought to be affecting the water quality at Portrane, the Brook Beach are, septic tank discharges, birds, dog fouling and leaks, spills and overflows from sewers.

Fingal County Council plan to continue inspections of septic tanks and sewer overflows in the area. Fingal County Council will continue the Green Dog Walker Scheme at this beach in 2019. This environmental awareness campaign highlights the environmental impacts of dog fouling. Dog wardens will also carry out targeted inspections during the bathing season. The Acclimatize research project includes Portrane, the Brook Beach and will be looking for specific solutions to improve the water quality.

Clifden Beach (Galway County Council)

Clifden Beach was classified as Poor for the last three years, 2016 to 2018.

According to Galway County Council, the main problems at Clifden Beach are the public sewer network and a storm water overflow at the Clifden wastewater treatment plant. Other potential sources of pollution include discharges from domestic and non-domestic septic tanks in the area.

Galway County Council will continue to engage with Irish Water to help minimise leaks, spills or overflows of untreated sewage from the Clifden wastewater treatment plant. Irish Water are also planning further rehabilitation works on the Clifden sewer network in 2019. Galway County Council will continue to inspect septic tanks in the area and, for any which are not operating correctly, will instruct owners to take specific action to fix them. The local authority tankers away wastewater from the non-domestic septic tanks (public toilets and Royal National Lifeboat Institution facility) and are working to ensure that these facilities are upgraded.

Lilliput, Lough Ennell (Westmeath County Council)

Lilliput, Lough Ennell has been classified as Poor for 2018. It deteriorated from Good in 2017.

Many water samples taken during the 2018 bathing season had very high levels of pollution. Westmeath County Council carried out extensive investigations in and around the lake over a number of months. This included taking several water samples at various locations.

According to Westmeath County Council, the main sources of pollution thought to be affecting the lake water quality are agriculture, and potentially birds and discharges from septic tanks.

Westmeath County Council will work with the Local Authorities Waters Programme to investigate the causes of pollution in a nearby stream, which may be affecting the water quality of the lake. A small wastewater treatment plant located close to the bathing water is emptied daily during the bathing season to remove the contents for treatment offsite.

Sufficient Bathing Waters

Twelve Bathing Waters are currently classified as Sufficient, which is the minimum acceptable standard. Local authorities should carry out appropriate actions to improve the Sufficient Bathing Waters to Good or Excellent, and to prevent deterioration to Poor. Table 5 shows the number of Bathing Waters classified as Sufficient in 2018.

Table 5: Sufficient Bathing Waters in 2018

Local Authority	Bathing Water
Cork County Council	Coolmaine
Cork County Council	Garryvoe
Cork County Council	Youghal Front Strand Beach
Donegal County Council	Lisfannon
Fingal County Council	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach
Fingal County Council	Claremont Beach
Fingal County Council	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach
Fingal County Council	Rush, South Beach
Galway City Council	Ballyloughane Beach
Galway City Council	Grattan Road Beach
Galway County Council	Trá na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha
Sligo County Council	Mullaghmore Beach

5 Public Participation and Research

5.1 What can you do to help?

You can play an important part in improving water quality by reducing the waste you leave behind on the beach. Make sure that you:

- bring your rubbish home with you;
- pick up dog poo and bring it home, or dispose of it in suitable bins – don't just bury it in the sand;
- bring waste food home with you, as leaving it behind attracts seabirds that can cause bacterial pollution;
- report any pollution using the "See It - Say it" app. Details of the app are available at www.epa.ie/enforcement/report/seeit/

5.2 Community and Public Initiatives

The following are a few ideas to help you to get involved in looking after your local beach.

#2minutebeachclean



Pick up a few bits of litter when you go to the beach, take a picture of the litter and post it on social media, then take it home to recycle, or put it in a bin at the beach. In Ireland, there are over 120 #2minutebeachclean boards around the coast.

www.cleancoasts.org/our-initiatives/2minutebeachclean/

www.beachclean.net

Make Kilkee Plastic Free

This initiative aims to reduce the quantity of single use plastics used in Kilkee, Co. Clare. It makes a direct link between the quality of the ocean, which drives coastal economies, and the responsibilities of the businesses that benefit from it.

www.kilkeekeith.wixsite.com/kilkeeplasticfree

GLAN

GLAN is an initiative that helps community groups and businesses to work together to reduce the environmental impact of their town. It has been piloted in Dingle and Tralee, Co. Kerry to date with huge success. It focuses on reducing single use plastics in our everyday lives and inspiring environmental actions.

www.glan.ie/

Havin' a Laugh

Havin' a Laugh is a charity working to promote positive mental health through life-enhancing activities. The charity, which is based in Sligo, embraces the coast and the outdoors and does beach cleans and other coastal activities.

www.havinalaugh.com/

Think Before You Flush

Think Before You Flush is a public awareness campaign about the problem sanitary products and other items can cause in our marine environment and our wastewater systems, if they are flushed down the toilet. The campaign is operated by An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme and is supported by Irish Water.

www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org/

5.3 Research

This section provides a summary of on-going bathing water research projects that will help inform how sources of pollution are identified, which will in turn inform policy, improve bathing water quality and protect bathers.

EU SWIM Project



The EU SWIM project is a cross-border research programme that is developing a system for predicting bathing water quality. The aim is to develop a system that will allow bathers to view the predicted water quality of their chosen bathing spots on a smart phone application. University College Dublin is the lead project partner and the Northern Irish project partners include the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

www.swimproject.eu www.twitter.com/EUSWIMproject

Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme



Wexford County Council are the lead authority in this three-year project funded under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's European Innovation Partnership scheme. The long-term aim of the project is to recover the Blue Flag for Duncannon Beach. It will do this by improving the bacterial quality of the two coastal streams that flow onto the beach by reducing pollution from both agricultural and domestic sources. Community involvement will be encouraged through citizen science, leaflets, private well testing, school science projects and public talks. Other project partners include Teagasc, Irish Farmers Association, Bord Bia, Glanbia, and farm advisors.

www.ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/duncannon-blue-flag-farming-communities-scheme



Figure 4: Duncannon Beach

PIER: Public health Impact of Exposure to antibiotic Resistance in coastal waters

This is an EPA funded research project to look at the human health risk from antimicrobial resistant organisms in coastal bathing waters and will generate valuable evidence to inform policy makers and water regulators. The proposed research will also examine how environmental exposure to antimicrobial resistant organisms impacts on the quality of life and use of blue or green spaces. The National University of Ireland Galway will lead this project. It will run from 2019 to 2023.

Acclimatize Research Project– addressing pollution in urban and rural bathing waters

Acclimatize is a €6.7 million project part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund that focuses on understanding impacts to bathing water quality and the potential impacts of climate change. The project is led by University College Dublin, in collaboration with Aberystwyth University, Wales. In Ireland, the team is focusing on urban bathing waters in the Greater Dublin area; Sandymount, Merrion and Dollymount strands and Portrane, the Brook Beach. In Wales, the focus is on rural bathing waters. The project started in May 2017 and will run until October 2021.

www.acclimatize.eu www.twitter.com/AcclimatizeEU

6 Other Monitored Bathing Waters

Other monitored bathing waters are not formally identified as bathing waters but are still monitored by local authorities for bathing water quality. These are generally smaller, or more remote beaches, where the infrastructure to cater for many users (for example, car parking facilities) may not be as well developed as the popular bathing areas, but which are considered important for eco-tourism purposes. Many of these waters are monitored under the Green Coast award scheme run by An Taisce. It is strongly recommended that bathers check www.beaches.ie or any signage at the beach for bathing restrictions, and/or contact the local authority for information relating to bathing water quality. Not all of these bathing waters are on www.beaches.ie and signage may be absent as they are not officially identified as bathing waters.

Water Quality

The monitoring data for the other monitored bathing waters have been assessed for the quality that is *likely* to be achieved at these waters. The results are presented in Figure 5 and *Appendix C*. Monitoring may not be carried out to the same standard or minimum frequency (at least once a month) required for identified bathing waters. Local authorities are encouraged to formally identify these bathing waters where practical.

Bathing Water Quality (Other Monitored Waters) 2018

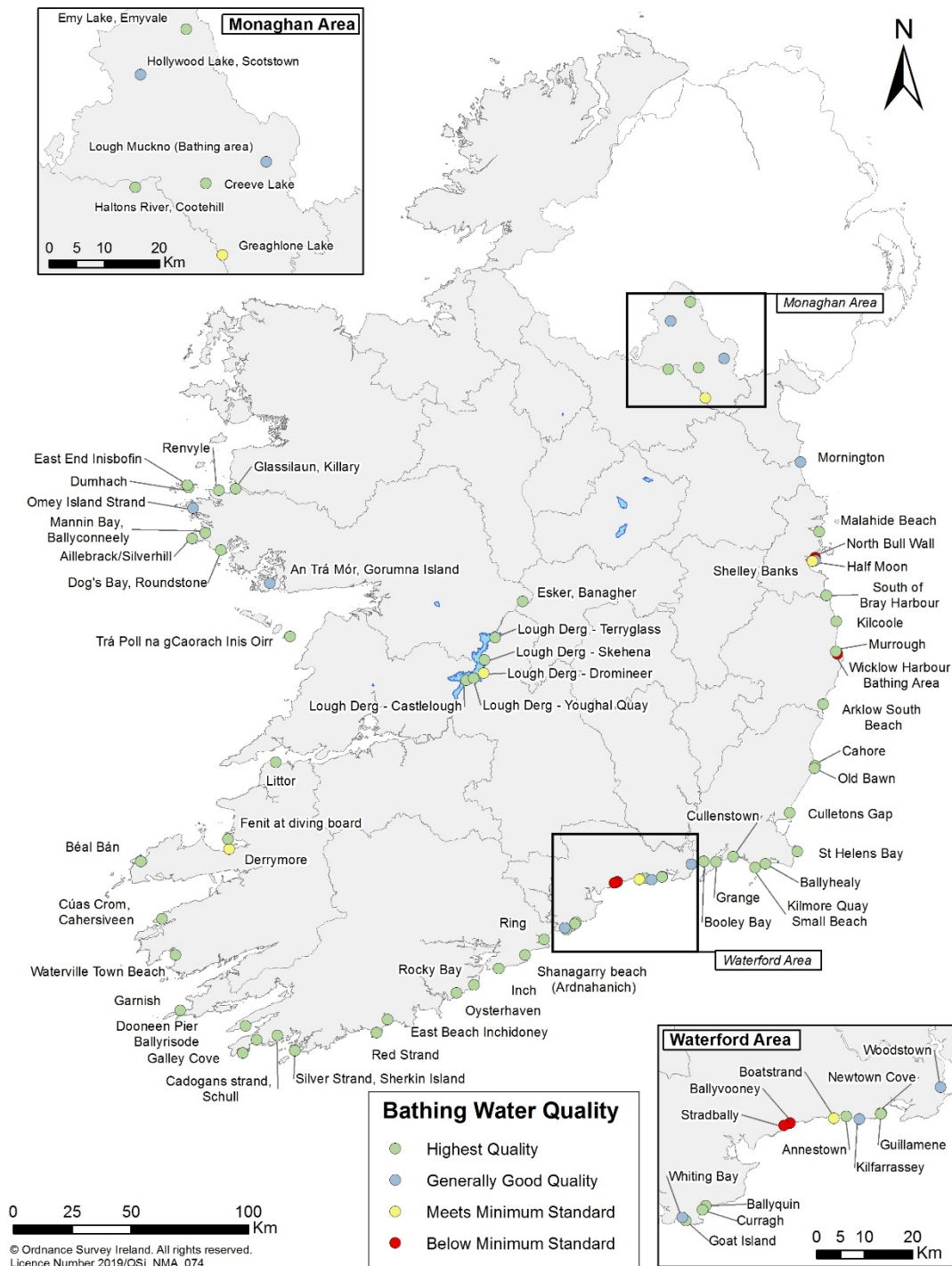


Figure 5: Bathing Water Quality (Other Monitored Waters) Map of Ireland 2018

7 Conclusions

Bathing Water quality improved in 2018, with 94% of Bathing Waters reaching at least the minimum required standard of Sufficient. The dry and sunny weather through much of the 2018 bathing water season contributed to improved Bathing Water quality and a reduction in the number of Prior Warning notices submitted to the EPA. The number of incidents reported to the EPA in 2018 increased from 50 to 55. Fifteen of these were related to problems at a wastewater treatment plant and do not appear to have impacted on Bathing Water quality.

Urban wastewater is the most common source of pollution impacting Bathing Water. Improvements in operation, management and maintenance of plants and networks should continue to be progressed.

Five Bathing Waters were Poor in 2018, an improvement from seven in 2017. Local authorities should carry out appropriate actions to increase the number of Bathing Waters classified as Good or Excellent. Merrion Strand was classified as Poor for the last four years, 2015 to 2018. Bathing Waters that have a Poor water quality rating for 5 years in a row can no longer be identified as a Bathing Water, until the water quality improves. Actions should be progressed to improve bathing water quality at Merrion Strand.

On-going research will help us further understand how we can protect and improve bathing water quality.

You can play your part through initiatives such as #2minutebeachclean and GLAN.

Glossary and background information

Agriculture Diffuse	Pollution from agriculture can be widespread over large areas. This kind of diffuse pollution can be more difficult to locate than point sources of pollution such as pipes or channels.
Bathing Water	This is a general term used for those locations where swimming or recreational use of beaches and lakes is practiced.
Bathing Water Regulations	This refers to Statutory Instrument 79 of 2008 (SI 79 of 2008), the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, which brought the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC into Irish legislation.
Cyanobacteria	Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are bacteria found in freshwater lakes, streams and coastal waters. They can form “blooms” on the surface of the water that produce toxins that may be harmful to humans and animals. The blooms typically occur in still or slow moving water that is warm, gets plenty of sunlight, and is rich in nutrients like phosphorous and nitrogen.
E. coli / Intestinal Enterococci	These are two types of bacteria found in both human and animal faeces in large numbers. They are used as indicators of the possible presence of other harmful micro-organisms such as viruses.
Eco-tourism	Visits by the public to areas of natural beauty where the setting is unspoiled, and where visitors are encouraged to act responsibly and to respect the environment and the wellbeing of local communities.

Identified Bathing Waters	This is the legal term used for those beaches and lakes managed under the Bathing Water Regulations. Local authorities are responsible for identifying Bathing Waters within their functional area. These are generally the ones considered to be the most popular. EPA reports these to the European Commission each year. The public can propose new Bathing Waters to be identified for management under the Bathing Water Regulations. Guidance on this is available from www.beaches.ie
Misconnections	Misconnections are outlet pipes from toilets or household appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines, that have been incorrectly connected to surface drains, rather than sewers. They can be a source of pollution because they are untreated.
Other monitored waters	This is an EPA- term which has been applied to generally smaller and less popular beaches that are monitored by local authorities as a public health measure, but are not formally managed under the Bathing Water Regulations.
Pollution	This is defined (for bathing water purposes) as the presence of microbiological contamination or waste affecting water quality and presenting a risk to the health of bathers.
Short term pollution	This term is used in the Regulations for microbiological contamination that has clearly identifiable causes, is not expected to last more than 72 hours, and for which the local authority has established procedures to predict and manage.
Urban Run-off	Surface Run-off of rainwater and contaminants in urban areas.

Appendix A: Additional Information on Bathing Water Classifications

The process for monitoring and assessing bathing water quality is the same across the EU. It is set out in the EU Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) and in Irish Legislation (Bathing Water Regulations S.I. No. 79 of 2008).

Local authorities submit a monitoring calendar to the EPA for each identified bathing water before the bathing water season begins. Local authorities take samples on the dates given in the monitoring calendar. The results of the sample analysis are submitted to the EPA.

For the bathing water classifications, the results of the previous four years of monitoring are assessed. A minimum of sixteen samples is required for classification. Sampling results for two microbial indicators of pollution are used – *E. coli* and Intestinal enterococci.

A statistical assessment of the four years of data is carried out and the results are compared to the bathing water standards. The comparison with the standards gives the bathing water its classification of Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor. This classification is an annual assessment using the latest four years of data.

Appendix B: Summary Information for Identified Bathing Waters

This section lists the classifications for all 145 identified Bathing Waters for the period 2015 to 2018.

Local Authority	Bathing Water	2015	2016	2017	2018
Clare Co Co	Ballyallia Lake, Ennis	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Ballycuggeran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Bishopsquarter	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Cappagh Pier, Kilrush	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Fanore	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Kilkee	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Lahinch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Mountshannon, Lough Derg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Seafield, Quilty	n/a	n/a	New	Excellent
Clare Co Co	Spanish Point	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	White Strand, Doonbeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Co Co	White Strand, Miltown Malbay	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Barley Cove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Coolmaine	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient
Cork Co Co	Fountainstown	Sufficient	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Garretstown	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Garrylucas, White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Garryvoe	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Cork Co Co	Inchydoney	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Owenahincha, Little Island Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Redbarn	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Tragumna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork Co Co	Warren, Cregane Strand	Good	Sufficient	Good	Good
Cork Co Co	Youghal Front Strand Beach	Poor	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Cork Co Co	Youghal, Claycastle	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good
DLR Co Co	Forty Foot Bathing Place	n/a	n/a	n/a	New
DLR Co Co	Killiney	Excellent	Good	Good	Good
DLR Co Co	Sandycove Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a	New
DLR Co Co	Seapoint	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
DLR Co Co	White Rock Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a	New
Donegal Co Co	Ballyhiernan, Fanad	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Bundoran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Donegal Co Co	Carrickfinn	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Culdaff	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Dooley	n/a	New	New	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Downings	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Local Authority	Bathing Water	2015	2016	2017	2018
Donegal Co Co	Drumnatinny	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Fintra	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Killahoey	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Lady's Bay, Buncrana	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good
Donegal Co Co	Lisfannon	Excellent	Good	Good	Sufficient
Donegal Co Co	Magheraroarty	n/a	New	New	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Marble Hill	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Murvagh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Naran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Portarthur, Derrybeg	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
Donegal Co Co	Portnablagh	Good	Good	Good	Good
Donegal Co Co	Portsalon	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Rathmullan	Good	Good	Good	Good
Donegal Co Co	Rossnowlagh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal Co Co	Stroove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dublin City Co	Dollymount Strand	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good
Dublin City Co	Merrion Strand	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Dublin City Co	Sandymount Strand	Sufficient	Sufficient	Poor	Poor
Fingal Co Co	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Fingal Co Co	Claremont Beach	Good	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient
Fingal Co Co	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient
Fingal Co Co	Loughshinny Beach	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good
Fingal Co Co	Portmarnock, Velvet Strand Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Fingal Co Co	Portrane, the Brook Beach	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor
Fingal Co Co	Rush North Beach	n/a	New	Sufficient	Good
Fingal Co Co	Rush, South Beach	Poor	Sufficient	Poor	Sufficient
Fingal Co Co	Skerries, South Beach	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient	Good
Fingal Co Co	Sutton, Burrow Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway City Co	Ballyloughane Beach	Poor	Poor	Poor	Sufficient
Galway City Co	Grattan Road Beach	Sufficient	Good	Good	Sufficient
Galway City Co	Salthill Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway City Co	Silverstrand Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Bathing Place at Portumna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Céibh an Spidéil	Good	Good	Good	Good
Galway Co Co	Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Clifden Beach	² Changes	Poor	Poor	Poor
Galway Co Co	Goirtín, Cloch na Rón	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Loughrea Lake	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Trá Chaladh Fínis, Carna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach)	New	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway Co Co	Trá na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha	Sufficient	Poor	Sufficient	Sufficient

Local Authority	Bathing Water	2015	2016	2017	2018
Galway Co Co	Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good
Galway Co Co	Traught, Kinvara	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Ballybunnion North	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Ballybunnion South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Ballyheigue	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Banna Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Castlegregory	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Doire Fhíonáin (Derrynane)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Fenit	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Fionntrá (Ventry)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Inch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Kells	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Maharabeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Rossbeigh, White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry Co Co	Trá na hUíne (Inny Strand, Waterville)	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
Kerry Co Co	White Strand, Caherciveen	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Leitrim Co Co	Keeldra Lough	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Louth Co Co	Clogherhead	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Louth Co Co	Port, Lurganboy	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Louth Co Co	Seapoint	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Louth Co Co	Shelling Hill/Templetown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Bertra Beach, Murrisk	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Mayo Co Co	Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Clare Island, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Dooega Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Dugort Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Elly Bay, Belmullet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Golden Strand, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Mayo Co Co	Keel Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Keem Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Mulranny Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Old Head Beach, Louisburgh	Good	Good	Good	Good
Mayo Co Co	Rinroe Beach, Carrowtigue	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo Co Co	Ross Beach, Killala	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Meath Co Co	Laytown/Bettystown	Good	Good	Good	Good
Sligo Co Co	Dunmorán Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Sligo Co Co	Enniscrone Beach	Good	Good	Good	Good
Sligo Co Co	Mullaghmore Beach	Excellent	Good	Good	Sufficient
Sligo Co Co	Rosses Point Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Sligo Co Co	Streedagh Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Local Authority	Bathing Water	2015	2016	2017	2018
Waterford City & Co Co	Ardmore Beach	Sufficient	² Changes	Excellent	Excellent
Waterford City & Co Co	Bunmahon Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good
Waterford City & Co Co	Clonea Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Waterford City & Co Co	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Waterford City & Co Co	Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Waterford City & Co Co	Tramore Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Westmeath Co Co	Lilliput, Lough Ennell	² Changes	Good	Good	Poor
Westmeath Co Co	Portnashangan, Lough Owel	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Westmeath Co Co	The Cut, Lough Lene	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Ballinesker	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Ballymoney, North Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Carne	n/a	n/a	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Courtown, North Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Curraclloe	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Duncannon	Poor	Sufficient	Good	Good
Wexford Co Co	Morriscastle	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford Co Co	Rosslare Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow Co Co	Bray South Promenade	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow Co Co	Brittas Bay North	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow Co Co	Brittas Bay South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow Co Co	Clogga	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow Co Co	Greystones South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow Co Co	Silver Strand	Good	Good	Good	Excellent

² If local authority management actions at a 'Poor' or 'Sufficient' bathing water give a significant improvement in water quality, a 'Changes' class is given to the beach for the following bathing season. The 'Changes' class remains until at least 16 water sample are taken. A new quality rating is then calculated.

Appendix C: Summary Information for Other Monitored Bathing Waters

This section lists the classifications for all other monitored bathing waters for the period 2015 to 2018.

Local Authority/Bathing Water	Water Quality (2015-2018)	Number of samples over 4 years
Cork County Council		
Ballyrisode	Highest Quality	20
Cadogans strand, Schull	Highest Quality	20
Dooneen Pier	Highest Quality	19
East Beach Inchidoney	Highest Quality	20
Galley Cove	Highest Quality	20
Garnish	Highest Quality	20
Inch	Highest Quality	20
Oysterhaven	Highest Quality	20
Red Strand	Highest Quality	21
Ring	Highest Quality	20
Rocky Bay	Highest Quality	21
Shanagarry beach (Ardnahanich)	Highest Quality	21
Silver Strand, Sherkin Island	Highest Quality	19
Dublin City Council		
Half Moon	Generally Good Quality	88
North Bull Wall	Below Minimum Standard	43
Shelley Banks	Meets Minimum Standard	43
Fingal County Council		
Malahide Beach	Highest Quality	28
Galway County Council		
Aillebrack/Silverhill	Highest Quality	20
An Trá Mór, Gorumna Island	Generally Good Quality	23
Dog's Bay, Roundstone	Highest Quality	20
Dumhach	Highest Quality	20
East End Inisbofin	Highest Quality	20
Esker, Banagher	Highest Quality	16
Glassilaun, Killary	Highest Quality	21

Local Authority/Bathing Water	Water Quality (2015-2018)	Number of samples over 4 years
Mannin Bay, Ballyconneely	Highest Quality	16
Omey Island Strand	Generally Good Quality	19
Renvyle	Highest Quality	20
Trá Poll na gCaorach Inis Oirr	Highest Quality	21
Kerry County Council		
Béal Bán	Highest Quality	31
Cúas Crom, Cahersiveen	Highest Quality	20
Derrymore	Meets Minimum Standard	22
Fenit at diving board	Highest Quality	12
Littor	Highest Quality	35
Waterville Town Beach	Highest Quality	31
Meath County Council		
Mornington	Generally Good Quality	24
Monaghan County Council		
Creeve Lake	Highest Quality	16
Emy Lake, Emyvale	Highest Quality	20
Greaghlonge Lake	Meets Minimum Standard	16
Halton's River, Cootehill	Highest Quality	18
Hollywood Lake, Scotstown	Generally Good Quality	21
Lough Muckno (Bathing area)	Generally Good Quality	21
Tipperary County Council		
Lough Derg - Castlelough	Highest Quality	18
Lough Derg - Dromineer	Meets Minimum Standard	19
Lough Derg - Skehena	Highest Quality	18
Lough Derg - Terryglass	Highest Quality	19
Lough Derg - Youghal Quay	Highest Quality	18
Waterford City and County Council		
Annestown	Highest Quality	22
Ballyquin	Highest Quality	20
Ballyvooney	Below Minimum Standard	20
Boatstrand	Meets Minimum Standard	22
Curragh	Highest Quality	20
Goat Island	Highest Quality	19
Guillamene	Highest Quality	20
Kilfarrassey	Generally Good Quality	24

Local Authority/Bathing Water	Water Quality (2015-2018)	Number of samples over 4 years
Newtown Cove	Highest Quality	20
Stradbally	Below Minimum Standard	33
Whiting Bay	Generally Good Quality	20
Woodstown	Generally Good Quality	21
Wexford County Council		
Ballyhealy	Highest Quality	44
Booley Bay	Highest Quality	45
Cahore	Highest Quality	60
Cullenstown	Highest Quality	61
Culletons Gap	Highest Quality	60
Grange	Highest Quality	46
Kilmore Quay Small Beach	Highest Quality	46
Old Bawn	Highest Quality	61
St Helens Bay	Highest Quality	44
Wicklow County Council		
Arklow South Beach	Highest Quality	23
Kilcoole	Highest Quality	12
Murrough	Highest Quality	12
South of Bray Harbour	Highest Quality	12
Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area	Below Minimum Standard	12

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL
Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ó éifeachtaí díobhálacha na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialú: Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maithe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.

Eolas: Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírith agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.

Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:

- saoráidí dramhaíola (*m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola*);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (*m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta*);
- an diantalmhaíocht (*m.sh. muca, éanlaith*);
- úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (*OGM*);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha*);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitрил;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdaráis áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhírú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a idíonn an ciseal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéil uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairiscíú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairiscíú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (*m.sh. tuairiscíú tréimhsiúil ar staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí*).

Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gáis cheaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainithint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (*m.sh. mórfheananna forbartha*).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta, measúnacht a dhéanamh ar nochtadh mhuintir na hÉireann don radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d’earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (*m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, léarscáileanna radóin*).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d’Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inmharthanacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fianaise is Measúnú
- Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireachta Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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