

# Bathing Water Quality In Ireland



A Report For The Year 2014



## 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 (CAFE) 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 Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Radiological Protection
- 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.



## **Report on Bathing Water Quality for 2014**

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil  
P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford, Ireland

Telephone: +353 53 9160600 Fax: +353 53 9160699

E-mail: [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie) Website:

[www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) LoCall: 1890 335599

© Environmental Protection Agency 2015

## Report on Bathing Water Quality 2014

Authors: Mr. Peter Webster, Dr. Micheal Lehané

### Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this publication however neither the Environmental Protection Agency, nor the authors, accept any responsibility whatsoever for loss or damage occasioned or claimed to have been occasioned, in part or in full, as a consequence of any person acting, or refraining from acting, as a result of a matter contained in this publication.

All or part of this publication may be reproduced without further permission, provided the source is acknowledged.

### Acknowledgements:

The bathing water information contained in this overview report and the EPA online bathing water system Splash ([splash.epa.ie](http://splash.epa.ie)) is provided by eighteen local authorities responsible for monitoring the quality of identified bathing waters within their functional areas.

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

The contributions from staff in the EPA's Office of Environmental Assessment and Office of Environmental Enforcement who assisted in the review of the information used in the compilation of this report, and in the management of the EPA's Bathing Water data management systems is acknowledged. Thanks go to Pádraig Fitzmaurice for the preparation of the Bathing Water Quality maps.

Published by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

ISBN: 978-1-84095-592-7    Web Only

Cover Image: Rossbeigh Beach, Co. Kerry © Cian O'Mahony (EPA), used with permission.

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
<b>Key Findings 2014 .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Improving bathing water quality .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Who does what.....	3
2.2 Sources of pollution .....	5
2.3 What we measure and why .....	4
2.4 New water quality classifications .....	6
2.5 How did we do? .....	7
2.6 How do I know what the results mean? .....	8
2.7 Incident management and New Signs .....	8
2.8 Public participation .....	10
2.9 Poor quality Waters .....	10
2.10 Examples of warning notices .....	13
2.11 Sources of further information .....	15
<b>3 Summary of Ireland's identified bathing waters .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>4 Summary of other monitored waters .....</b>	<b>21</b>

Any queries relating to this report or its content should be directed to:

Peter Webster  
Senior Scientist (Reporting & Assessment)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Cork Regional Inspectorate  
Co. Cork  
Ireland

Tel: 00353+(0)21 486 0802

Email: [p.webster@epa.ie](mailto:p.webster@epa.ie)

Or alternatively email [BathingWater@epa.ie](mailto:BathingWater@epa.ie)



## Key Findings of 2014

### Bathing Water Quality in Ireland

- 118 (86.8%) of Ireland's 136 identified bathing waters were classed as being of either 'Excellent' or 'Good' quality
- 128 (94.1%) of Ireland's identified bathing waters met the minimum standard of 'Sufficient' quality
- 7 waters (5.2%) failed to meet the minimum required standard
- 1 new bathing water was identified

### Pollution Notification

- 48 pollution events were notified in 2014
- 15 of the 136 bathing waters (11%) were affected by bathing restrictions during the 2014 bathing season
- Restrictions applied for just 74 days out of a total of 14,552 beach / days (0.51%)

### Causes of pollution events

- 27 incidents related to sewage pollution
- 8 incidents related to pollution from agricultural sources
- 4 incidents related to urban discharges
- 9 incidents related to pollution from other sources

# 1. Introduction

Good quality bathing water is a highly desirable natural resource for recreational use as well as being an important economic factor for tourism. Ireland possesses some of the best waters in northern Europe; however, our modern lifestyle presents continuing challenges. Impacts of pollution from urban run-off, wastewater discharges and from agricultural sources, especially after heavy rain, are a continuing threat particularly in our more built up areas.

In 2002 the European Commission (EC) began a major review of health information relating to bathing waters and in 2006 issued a revised Bathing Water Directive which was transposed into Irish legislation as the “Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008”. [S.I. No. 79 of 2008](#)

These new Regulations came fully into effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Their purpose is primarily three-fold:

- To improve health protection for bathers by introducing stricter standards for water quality and a new method of assessment;
- To establish a more pro-active approach to the assessment of possible pollution risks and the management of bathing waters;
- To promote increased public involvement and improved dissemination of information on bathing water quality to the general public.

In addition to using new microbiological parameters (E.coli and Intestinal Enterococci), assessment of water quality now includes all monitoring data for the previous 4 bathing seasons (2011-2014 inclusive) rather than focusing just on the most recent bathing season. A new classification of ‘Excellent’ has also been introduced for the highest quality waters.

Over the past few years the EPA has worked steadfastly to provide improved systems for the communication and management of bathing water data both for Local Authorities and in the provision of information to the general public. The national bathing water website [Splash \(splash.epa.ie\)](http://splash.epa.ie) has proved to be very popular, and a recent Twitter based incident alert service has allowed the public to be informed of the start and end of incidents.

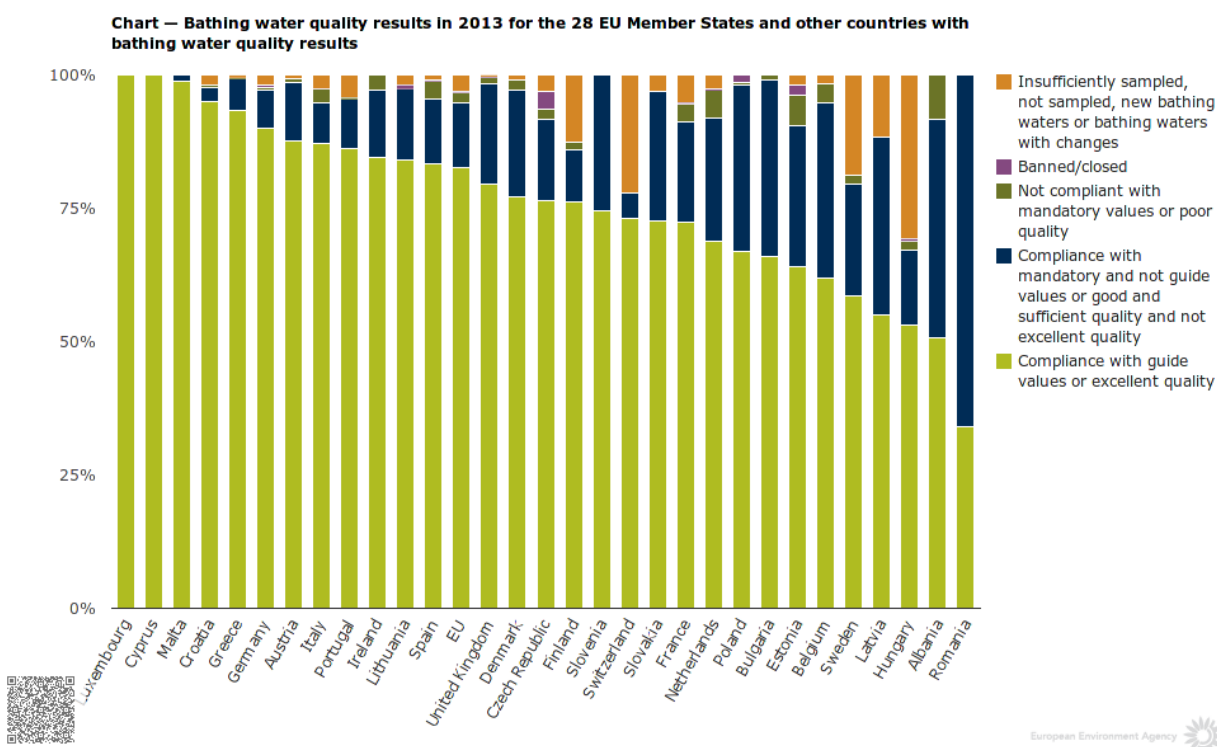
Sadly, each year there are too many bathing related accidents which lead to loss of life. A recent report by Irish Water Safety [\(IWS\)](#) covering 1988 -2012 shows that almost 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of these occurred in inland waterways, mostly rivers. Swimming in rivers, ponds, flooded quarries, and canals carries with it hidden dangers from submerged objects, strong currents, and hypothermia in addition to a wide range of possible microbial hazards. However tempting it may be never swim alone and above all be sensible around water.

This report presents an assessment of all of Ireland’s identified bathing waters but also provides information on many more locations where monitoring of water quality is being undertaken.

We hope you find this report helpful as we look forward to another, hopefully sunny, bathing season in 2015.

## 2. Improving bathing water quality

Bathing water quality in Ireland has consistently been of a high standard for many years. In 2013 Ireland was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among EU countries based on the assessment of data for compliance with Excellent or Good quality from all Member States undertaken by the European Environment Agency. [EEA 2013 BW Report](#)



The new Bathing Water Directive is designed to significantly reduce the potential risk of contracting gastro-intestinal illness from exposure to bacterial pollution while bathing. The current thresholds represent an approximately two fold reduction in risk. (See section 2.3).

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) sets out requirements on all Member States for the improvement of natural waters. Changes to agricultural practices aimed at reducing accidental pollution from animal manures, together with major investment by both local authorities and Irish Water in the upgrading of wastewater infrastructure should result in a marked improvement in some of our poorer and more vulnerable waters.

The public too can play an important role in improving water quality and can help by better managing their waste from beach visits (e.g. take your rubbish home for disposal) and by controlling domestic animals such as dogs (e.g. bag dog poo – don't bury it in the sand). As well as being unsightly food waste can attract seabirds which are well recognized as a potential source of bacterial pollution.

Bathing remains a safe and generally pleasurable activity, but we all need to take an active part to ensure that quality improvements are delivered.



## 2.1 Who does what?

In Ireland, local authorities have the primary responsibility for the management of bathing waters and for the implementation of management measures to reduce or eliminate sources of pollution.

The EPA's role, as regulator, is to ensure that the requirements placed on local authorities are carried out in accordance with the Bathing Water Regulations. We collate the monitored data, undertake the assessment of water quality together with reviewing any actions taken by local authorities in relation to bathing water pollution incidents, and finally report this data to the European Commission each year. We also provide, and support, the SPLASH national bathing water website and its Twitter™ communications module.

Bathing in Ireland is an all year round activity in some areas; however, for the purposes of compliance with the Bathing Water Regulations, the bathing water season in Ireland runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> September each year for EU identified waters.

By 24<sup>th</sup> March of each year local authorities are required to identify to the EPA all bathing areas that they wish to be identified to the EU. Any new bathing areas are required to be identified and additional supporting data such as bathing water profile, maps, and photographs provided. 'Identified' waters would generally be those which have historically been used for bathing and where a large number of bathers would be expected. They would, in most cases, also have adequate car parking and facilities such as toilets, picnic areas etc. Some smaller, or more remote, locations which are important for eco-tourism may also be included.

Local authorities also provide the EPA with details of their planned sampling programme (their annual monitoring calendar) prior to the start of the bathing season. Sampling is required to be undertaken within 4 days of the planned date with a 'pre-season' sample taken in late May and a requirement for a minimum of monthly sampling. Many local authorities will however sample at frequencies of typically fortnightly or even weekly in some areas.

Local authorities report bathing water results to the EPA via the Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN) shared service and the results are extracted for display on the SPLASH website; however, there is always a short time delay between sampling and the availability of results. It can take up to 72 hours for results to be available once samples have been received by the laboratory due to the time it takes to culture the relevant bacteria. Unlike other areas of water quality assessment there are no quick alternatives to microbiological testing. Local authorities are encouraged to report their results promptly so that the data on Splash is kept up to date but the display of information and status assessment depends on how quickly data is reported.

When an incident occurs, or when sampling identifies a pollution risk which could have an impact on bather health, the Health Services Executive (HSE) is firstly contacted by the local authority for advice and their recommendation on any potential bathing restrictions. In the likelihood of short term pollution (STP), local authorities are required to advise the EPA. Incident details are notified via a dedicated Compliance and Risk Information System (CRIS) developed by EPA.

The public will generally be notified by means of beach signage and notices on local authority websites but notification can also include media broadcasts. Splash will issue Twitter™ alerts and relevant details will be displayed on the Splash website. Where the pollution is considered to be linked to wastewater discharges the local authority will also be in contact with Irish Water engineering staff.

Incident details are regularly updated on the EPA incidents notification system and their impacts will be assessed by both the EPA Bathing Water Unit and the EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement. At the end of each season the EPA undertakes a review of water quality information and submits the monitoring data, its assessment, details of any bathing restrictions, and management measures taken in respect of any incidents to the EU.

## 2.2 Sources of Pollution

Bacterial pollution can occur at any time but most of these impacts are more prevalent after heavy rainfall when bacteria present in animal faeces can be washed into streams or watercourses that may in turn drain to the sea, or where the hydraulic capacity of sewers is exceeded causing storm outfalls to operate to prevent flooding.

The four principal sources of bacterial pollution that affect bathing waters are:

- Wastewater (sewage) discharges, emergency discharges from storm water outfalls, and drainage from domestic wastewater systems (Septic tanks).
- Urban run-off from hard surfaces such as pavements, road gutters, and from streams which can run through built-up areas into which there can often be unauthorized discharges such as misconnections from housing estates.
- Agricultural run-off from fields where animal manures have been spread, as a result of animal access to streams, or as a direct result of deposition of animal faeces in waters or onto beaches (e.g. from dogs or horses).
- Extreme weather which may cause disruption to coastal environments which may alter tidal currents affecting the dispersion of wastewater discharges.

Local authorities are required to prepare bathing water profiles in which they identify the key sources of pollution, their risk potential, their likely impacts on bathing water quality and the management measures aimed at minimizing any impacts. The profiles are available on the Splash website ([splash.epa.ie](https://splash.epa.ie)) and can also be found on local authority websites.

Animal faeces contain typically 2 -10 million or more E.coli per gram of faeces and the faeces of some seabirds can be even higher. By contrast to the large numbers of bacteria found in these wastes the bathing water quality standard for Sufficient quality (the minimum mandatory standard) requires compliance with a 90 percentile target of just 500 E.coli per 100ml (a large glass of water) for coastal areas, and 900 E.coli per 100ml for freshwaters. Standards for Intestinal enterococci are even tighter at a 90 percentile of 185 per 100ml for coastal waters, and 330 per 100ml for freshwater.

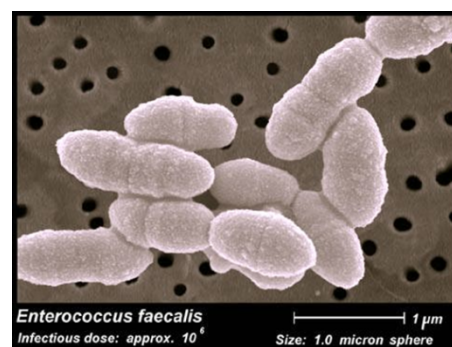
## 2.3 What we measure and why

The new regulations require the monitoring of *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) and Intestinal enterococci. These two groups of organisms have been shown to be closely linked to bather health. In saline / coastal waters the more resistant intestinal enterococci have been shown to have a strong correlation with gastro-intestinal illness whereas in freshwater *E.coli* is considered a better indicator. Other symptoms can include respiratory ailments or symptoms such as “bathers itch” – a common skin irritation.

It can take only a relatively small amount of faecal matter, whether from human or animal origin, to contaminate bathing waters; however, the analytical methods used can detect just a few bacteria in 100ml of water.



E.Coli



Enterococci

A comparison of the relative risks of contracting illness from the standards applied in the original 1976 Directive and the new Bathing Water Directive is shown below:

Original BWD 76/160/EEC	Risk of GI illness	New BWD 2006/7/EC	Risk of GI illness
n/a	n/a	Excellent	3%
Guide value (Good)	5%	Good	5%
Mandatory (Sufficient)	12 - 15%	Sufficient	8 - 9%
Poor	> 15%	Poor	> 10%

As can be seen above the new directive affords a much improved protection of public health.

## 2.4 New water quality classifications

One of the major changes in the revised Bathing Water Directive is the requirement to classify bathing waters according to four quality categories 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Sufficient', and 'Poor'. This extended classification recognizes for the first time those pristine quality waters – of which Ireland has a significant number.

Under the new Directive, water quality classifications will be made using data covering a four year period rather than just the past season's data and against more stringent bacterial limits designed to afford additional protection to public health. By 2016 all Member States across the EU will have to ensure that their bathing waters are of 'Sufficient' standard or better. Any bathing water classified as 'Poor' for 5 consecutive years (even if improvement measures have been introduced) will require a permanent 'advice against bathing' to be introduced.

### "New" Class – what it means

When an area where bathing occurs is first reported by the local authorities for formal identification under the Bathing Water Regulations for the first time it is given a classification of "New". In 2014 Trá Inis Oirr was formally identified by Galway County Council as EU bathing water even though it had been monitored by them for several years previously. Although the water quality meets the 'Excellent' standard (based on historic data) this bathing water will remain defined as 'New' until at least 16 samples are available post EU identification to allow a formal classification to be undertaken.

### Classification signs

Each of the new bathing water classifications also carries with it signage which will be displayed both on the Splash website and on beach noticeboards. These are shown below:



Excellent quality



Good water quality



Sufficient water quality



Poor water quality

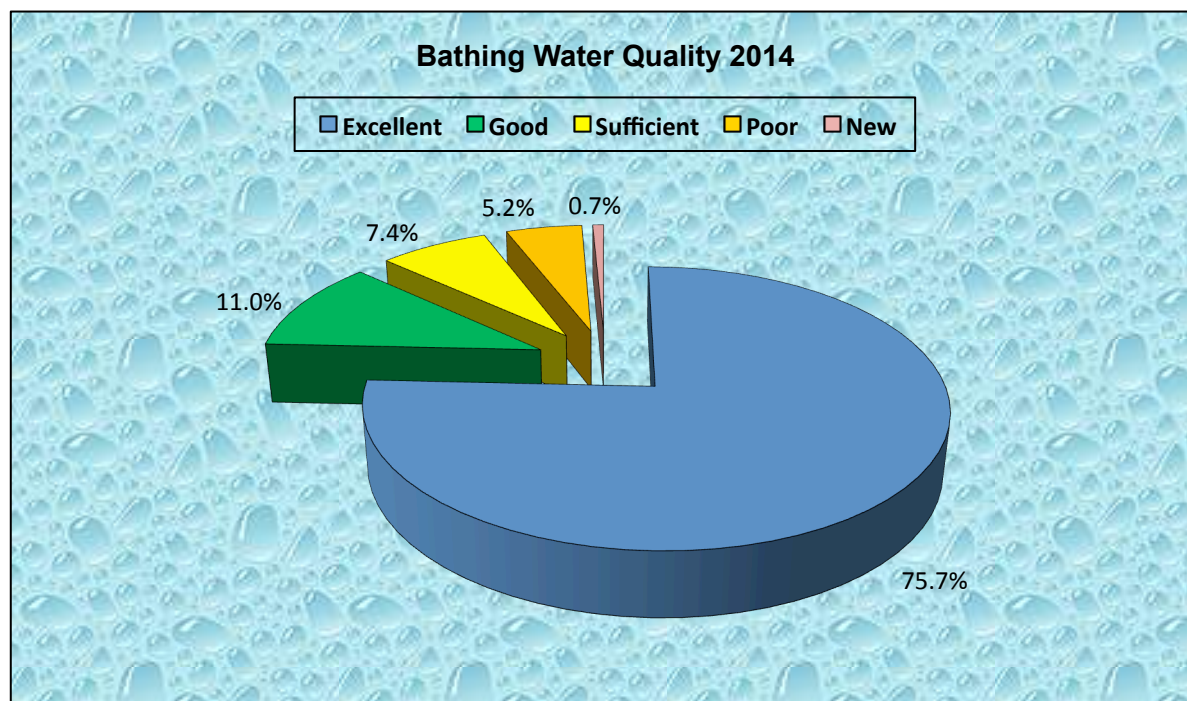
## 2.5 How did we do?

For the 2014 bathing season there were 136 identified bathing waters which were assessed. 127 of these are coastal waters and 9 are inland freshwaters.

Overall, **128** of the **136** waters (94.1%) met the minimum required standard of 'Sufficient'.

- **103** bathing waters were classified as 'Excellent' (75.7%)
- **15** were classified as 'Good' (11.0%)
- **10** were classified as 'Sufficient' (7.4%)
- **1** (Trá Inis Oirr) was classified as 'New' (0.7%) and
- **7** were classified as 'Poor' (5.2%).

Note: Percentage values are rounded to 1 decimal place for reporting purposes.



The breakdown between coastal and freshwater bathing areas was as follows:

Classification	Coastal (No.)	Coastal (%)	Inland (No.)	Inland (%)	Total	% (rounded)
Excellent	95	74.8%	8	88.9%	103	75.7%
Good	15	11.8%	-	-	15	11.0%
Sufficient	10	7.9%	-	-	10	7.4%
Poor	6	4.7%	1	11.1%	7	5.2%
New	1	0.8%	-	-	1	0.7%
Overall	127	100%	9	100%	136	100

Overall this is a good situation for Ireland and should see us maintain our position as being one of the leading northern European countries when it comes to bathing water quality.



## 2.6 How do I know what the results mean?

The EPA has worked closely with the HSE to ensure that the Splash website provides, not only the actual values reported, but also an indication of overall water quality at the time of sampling based on the values and their likelihood of presenting a significant health risk. The table below shows the thresholds used by EPA to define **individual sample status** as opposed to overall water quality classification. Units of measurement are No. per 100ml.

Parameter	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor
Escherichia coli	≤250	251 - 500	501 - 1000	>1000
Intestinal enterococci	≤ 100	101 - 200	201 - 250	>250

This information is available in the “Monitoring Results” section of Splash. Clicking on the information icon beside it brings up some additional explanatory text.

It is important to recognize that any assessment of the quality of an individual sample is just that - it is a moment in time - whereas the overall classification of water quality is based on 4 years of data so while you could occasionally an individual ‘poor’ sample its overall impact on the water quality may be very limited if for most of the time the quality is much better.

For this reason it is important to look at both the overall quality and the latest individual sample quality before deciding on your trip to the beach.

## 2.7 Incident management and the new signs

One of the key requirements of the Bathing Water Regulations is the notification to the public of any potential risks to bathing. This required the development of a range of signage to cover the following situations:

- Where a deterioration in water quality was predicted, or likely, to occur;
- When routine sampling showed a deterioration in water quality which indicated that bathing was not advisable and,
- When bacterial pollution is detected at concentrations which present an acute health risk and a bathing prohibition is required.

It is not always possible to predict, with absolute certainty, when deterioration in bathing water quality is likely to occur; however, many authorities have adopted a risk-matrix based on the likely impacts of pollution linked to increased rainfall. Several local authorities use mathematical modelling which allows them to forewarn the public that pollution may be likely to occur over a particular time period and that bathing may not be advisable. Such pre-warning notices are precautionary and do not necessarily mean that pollution will definitely occur.

Pollution can also be detected in bathing waters through routine monitoring and in such circumstances local authorities will generally seek advice from the HSE as to whether a

bathing restriction is required, and if so, whether it should be 'advice against bathing' or a 'prohibition'. In both cases the purpose of this signage is to advise the public of a possible increased risk to health as result of any deterioration in water quality.

In the case of advanced warning of pollution (e.g. a forecast of very heavy rainfall) the local authority will erect a Prior Warning notice. If any deterioration in quality is identified this will be replaced by either an 'Advice against bathing' or a 'Bathing prohibition' notice depending on the severity of the pollution. This signage will normally be placed on the beach notice boards, lifeguard stations, entrances, car parks, and also on their own local authority websites. The notices will be updated on a regular basis and if pollution does not materialize they will generally be removed within a few days. If however pollution is found to be present they are more likely to be replaced by either an advice against bathing, or a bathing prohibition notice.

Examples of each of the types of signs used are shown in Section 2.10. Copies of any signage erected is also required to be submitted to the EPA along with full details of the incident, the likely source of pollution, and the expected duration of the event. The EPA closely monitors each incident as it is ongoing. The following table shows the number and types of pollution incident reported in 2014.

Likely source of pollution	2014
Agricultural diffuse pollution	8
Wastewater discharges	27
Septic tanks	1
Animals / Birds	2
Urban discharges / combined with agriculture	3
Urban diffuse pollution	1
Other sources	6
Total	48

There were a number of short term pollution (STP) warnings notified, mostly in Co. Cork and Co. Kerry, where possible STP due to heavy rainfall was anticipated. No impacts were observed in any of these cases. STP warnings are very much a precautionary measure but their use is to be encouraged by all local authorities. There is however, a need to ensure that any assessment criteria provide an appropriate balance between the risk of not identifying potential problems and the imposition of unnecessary bathing restrictions.

Where incidents are reported as being potentially linked to wastewater discharges, diffuse pollution, or domestic wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks) then the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement is notified and they may choose to open an enforcement file depending on the severity and frequency of incident notification. They are consulted prior to final assessment of the impacts of incidents on overall water quality assessment.

A report on each incident, including the management measures and investigations undertaken by the local authority, is required prior to the EPA's assessment of bathing water quality and reporting to the EU at the end of each bathing season. Where it is considered necessary the EPA will liaise with HSE Public Health staff to determine whether or not there was any increase in levels of community illness which could have been associated with a pollution incident.

## 2.8 Public participation

The Ordnance Survey (OSI) estimate of Ireland's coastline is approximately 5630 km (of which around 650 km is in Northern Ireland). Using this estimate equates to having, on average, an EU-identified bathing water every 40 km of coastline though there are many more fine beaches in between.

The bathing water regulations provide for input from the general public as to the choice of bathing areas and each year local authorities are required to seek submissions from the public. This is generally undertaken via notification on their websites during the bathing season but national / local media, and community meetings have also been used as communication channels. To date, relatively few submissions have been made in this way however guidance for both the public and local authorities is being revised.

If your particular local authority has not identified any bathing waters and you know that there are locations which are used for bathing on a regular basis then you should make this information known to them with a request that they be considered for identification. Similarly, if you know of locations that are not currently being monitored, but where bathing is commonplace, then it is equally as important to make these locations known to the local authority.

Any submissions should be accompanied by as much evidence as can be provided in relation to the numbers of beach users, and in particular bathers, together with details of any facilities such as car parking, toilets, picnic areas, local amenities etc.

This information is extremely important to local authorities in determining whether the particular location meets the criteria for classification as an EU-identified bathing water and thus requiring to be managed under the requirements of Bathing Water Regulations. This is particularly so with regard to the number of bathers / beach users and facilities provided or other measures taken to promote bathing.

A new Twitter feed, [@EPABathingWater](#), has been introduced to keep bathers informed of bathing water related news items.

## 2.9 Poor quality waters

The fact that a bathing water has been assessed as being of 'Poor' water quality reflects the fact that from time to time these waters may be subject to more frequent, or more significant pollution, than waters of better quality.

This could reflect the sensitivity of the bathing water to diffuse pollution from streams as a result of heavy rainfall, or from the impacts of nearby sewage outfalls. The use of a statistical approach to water quality assessment using 4 years of data combined with tighter standards means that even just a few very high values over the 4 years could be sufficient to cause the water to be classified as Poor.

In the case of all of the 7 identified bathing waters currently classed as 'Poor' the problems have all been linked to the impacts of wastewater discharges.

As a consequence of a 'Poor' classification there are a number of management measures which require to be put in place to meet the requirements of the Bathing Water Regulations. These include that:

- An 'advice against bathing' or 'bathing prohibition' restriction be applied for the entire season;
- The local authority, in consultation with Irish Water (where relevant), establish a management plan for improving the water quality of the poor bathing water which includes both short and long term measures;
- EPA assessment of the management plan;
- The responsible authority(s) implementation of the management plan. Where the plan is not assessed as appropriate by the EPA, then a local authority will be required to issue a bathing prohibition for the following season.

In addition to these measures the local authority will be required to provide information to the public to reduce their potential exposure to pollution. This information includes:

- The causes and reasons for the poor classification;
- The measures taken or planned to improve the situation;
- The implications for bather health, and
- Contact details.

Monitoring of any 'Poor' water will continue to be undertaken throughout the bathing season and the results will be available on beach noticeboards and on the Splash website.

While an 'advice against bathing' is the most likely restriction, a local authority may choose to implement a **bathing prohibition** ... in effect a ban on bathing. In neither case does this mean that the beach itself is "off-limits" since the restriction applies to bathing rather than use of the landward area of the beach.

The EPA will be liaising with local authorities to assess the implementation and effects of any management measures during the 2015 bathing season.

The EPA met with local authorities and Irish Water to review their planned management measures in February 2015, and their management plans were submitted for review in March 2015.

A brief summary of the measures proposed by each authority are outlined in the following table:

<b>Bathing Water</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Summary of key management measures proposed</b>
<b>Ardmore</b>	Waterford City & County Council	Improvements are to be made to the WWTP effluent disinfection systems with increased dosage and backup systems. New WWTP and outfall upgrade is planned for 2017.
<b>Ballyloughane</b>	Galway City Council	Remedial works on combined storm outfalls to limit their operation have been undertaken. Sewer surveys are to be undertaken to identify misconnections to adjacent streams together with interception / separation of foul discharges. Longer term (2017) plans for sewer network upgrade. Upgrade of Mutton Island WWTP is ongoing and due for completion in late 2015.
<b>Clifden</b>	Galway County Council	Extensive overhaul of the sewer network is now largely complete with separation of surface and foul water in the town centre. The new WWTP is scheduled for completion by Q3 of 2015 with disinfection of the effluent discharge.
<b>Duncannon</b>	Wexford County Council	A temporary package WWTP is to be relocated to Duncannon with commissioning by Q3 of 2015. There are longer term plans for upgrading of the sewer network and construction of a permanent WWTP (expected 2017). Monitoring of water quality in the R. Barrow and increased monitoring of surface water discharges.
<b>Lilliput</b>	Westmeath County Council	Investigation of effluent flow paths has been undertaken together with process optimization of the WWTP. Plant maintenance and improvement of overhaul / replanting of reed bed effluent treatment system. Proposal to operate to trigger levels of E.coli with optional tankering and off-site disposal of effluent.
<b>Rush South Beach</b>	Fingal County Council	Inspections of septic tanks in the area of the beach catchment area are proposed together with dog fouling inspections and assessment of surface outfall quality. Longer term (2018) proposals to connect Rush agglomeration into the Portrane / Donabate / Rush / Lusk sewerage scheme.




<b>Youghal Front Strand</b>	Cork County Council	Proposed actions include interception and separation of foul discharges and surface water discharges to outfalls in proximity of the bathing area. An extensive upgrade of sewer network is underway and new WWTP is under construction. It is expected to be commissioned in 2017.
-----------------------------	---------------------	---

## 2.10 Examples of Warning Signs used by local authorities in 2014


The following are examples of signs used by various local authorities during the 2014 bathing season. They illustrate the type and range of information provided in each circumstance.

### Prior Warning sign – Precautionary

Beach : **Fionn Trá**



Date : **23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2014**



Bathers are advised of the possibility of an increase in the levels of bacteria in the bathing water over the coming days due to possible heavy rainfall.

To reduce the risk of illness, beach users should take the following precautions:

- **Avoid swallowing or splashing water**
- **Wash your hands before handling food**
- **Avoid swimming with an open cut or wound**
- **Avoid swimming if you are pregnant or have a weakened immune system.**

Higher levels of bacteria are usually short-lived and most bathers are unlikely to experience any illness.

**LIKELY CAUSE: Run-off from lands within the bathing water catchment**

**EXPECTED DURATION: 3 days**

**ACTIONS TAKEN/PROPOSED: Prior notification issued and water quality monitoring to be undertaken.**

For further information please contact: Environment Department, Kerry County Council; Tel: 066-7162000

Visit: <http://splash.epa.ie>

This type of signage would most commonly be used in circumstances where a deterioration in water quality was deemed to be a possibility due e.g. to a forecast of heavy rainfall.

In general any deterioration in quality is usually relatively short-lived, seldom lasting more than 1-2 days, however if the water remains discolored bathing would not be advisable. The local authority will generally monitor to confirm whether or not any pollution did actually occur and if so they may be required to update the sign to one of the following depending on the levels of pollution found and / or advice received from the HSE.

## Advice against bathing notice – Advisory

**ARDMORE**

**Waterford  
City & County Council**  
Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Phort Láirge

**NOTICE DATE 28/8/14**





**WARNING**

**ADVICE NOT TO SWIM**

Bathers are advised not to swim at this bathing water due to an increase in the levels of bacteria found in bathing water sample taken on 25/8/14.

To reduce the risk of illness, beach users should take the following precautions:

- Avoid swallowing or splashing water
- Wash your hands before handling food
- Avoid swimming with an open cut or wound
- Avoid swimming if you are pregnant or have a weakened immune system.

Higher levels of bacteria are usually short-lived and most bathers are unlikely to experience any illness.

**LIKELY CAUSE: HEAVY RAIN**

**EXPECTED DURATION: 2 DAYS**

**ACTIONS TAKEN/PROPOSED: RETEST AND REVIEW WATER QUALITY**

For further information please contact: WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL Tel: 058 22000  
Visit: <http://splash.epa.ie> or [WATERFORDCOUNCIL.IE](http://WATERFORDCOUNCIL.IE)

## Bathing Prohibition notice – Mandatory

**LADIES BAY BEACH**

**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

**BN2 Bathing Prohibition Notice Temporary  
12/06/14**





**WARNING**

**DO NOT SWIM**

**SWIMMING IN THIS WATER MAY CAUSE ILLNESS**

**BATHING IS PROHIBITED DUE TO: High levels of *E.coli***

**LIKELY CAUSE: Localised storms with prolonged heavy rainfall in catchment areas**

**EXPECTED DURATION: 48 hours**

**ACTIONS TAKEN/PROPOSED: Resample taken – notice will remain in place until incident has passed**

For further information please contact: Donegal Co. Co. Laboratory Tel: 074 9122787  
Visit: <http://splash.epa.ie> or [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

## 2.11 Sources of further information

Further information in relation to bathing waters both in Ireland and throughout the EU is available from the following sources.

1. These two sites offer an insight into pan-European bathing water quality with links to country specific reports and an interactive viewer:

EEA Water Information System for Europe (WISE)

<http://www.water.europa.eu/>

European Environment Agency

<http://www.eea.europa.eu>

2. These reports provide an overview of Ireland's own environment:

Water Quality in Ireland 2007 -2009 (EPA)

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/waterqualityinireland2007-2009.html>

Ireland's Environment 2012: An Assessment (EPA)

<http://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/irelandsenvironment2012/>

3. Other organisations with an interest in bathing water quality

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.cleancoasts.org](http://www.cleancoasts.org)

Blue Flag and Green Coast schemes are available at [www.blueflagireland.org](http://www.blueflagireland.org)

and at [www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)

4. Water Safety - Irish Water Safety [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie)

5. National Regulatory bodies (UK and Northern Ireland)

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing\\_waters.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing_waters.aspx)

Environmental Agency (England & Wales)

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/142937.aspx>

<http://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/explorer/index.html>

Natural Resources (Wales)

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/flooding-and-water/bathing-water-quality/?lang=en>

Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (UK)

[GOV.UK - Bathing Waters](http://gov.uk/Bathing-Waters)

Department of Environment (Northern Ireland)

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect\\_the\\_environment/water/bathing\\_water.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/water/bathing_water.htm)

### 3. Summary of Ireland's identified bathing waters

Water quality assessments have been undertaken on all of the EU identified waters for the period 2011-2014 involving statistical assessment of the 95 and 90 percentile values following logarithmic transformation of the bacteriological results. This information is presented in the following table. **Blue highlight** indicates a freshwater location.

2011-2014 Status Assessment	E.Coli status	Intestinal Enterococci status	Overall
<b>Clare County Council</b>			
Ballyallia Lake, Ennis	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ballycuggeran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Bishopsquarter	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cappagh Pier Kilrush	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Fanore	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kilkee	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Lahinch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mountshannon, Lough Derg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Spanish Point	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
White Strand , Doonbeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
White Strand, Miltown Malbay	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Cork County Council</b>			
Barley Cove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Coolmaine	Good	Excellent	Good
Fountainstown	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient
Garretstown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Garrylucas White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Garryvoe	Good	Excellent	Good
Inchydoney	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Owenahincha Little Island Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Redbarn	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Tragumna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Warren, Cregane Strand	Good	Excellent	Good
Youghal Claycastle	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
Youghal Front Strand Beach	Poor	Excellent	Poor
<b>Donegal County Council</b>			
Ballyhiernan, Fanad	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Bundoran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Carrickfinn	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Culdaff	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Downings	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Drumnatinny	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Fintra	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Killahoey	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

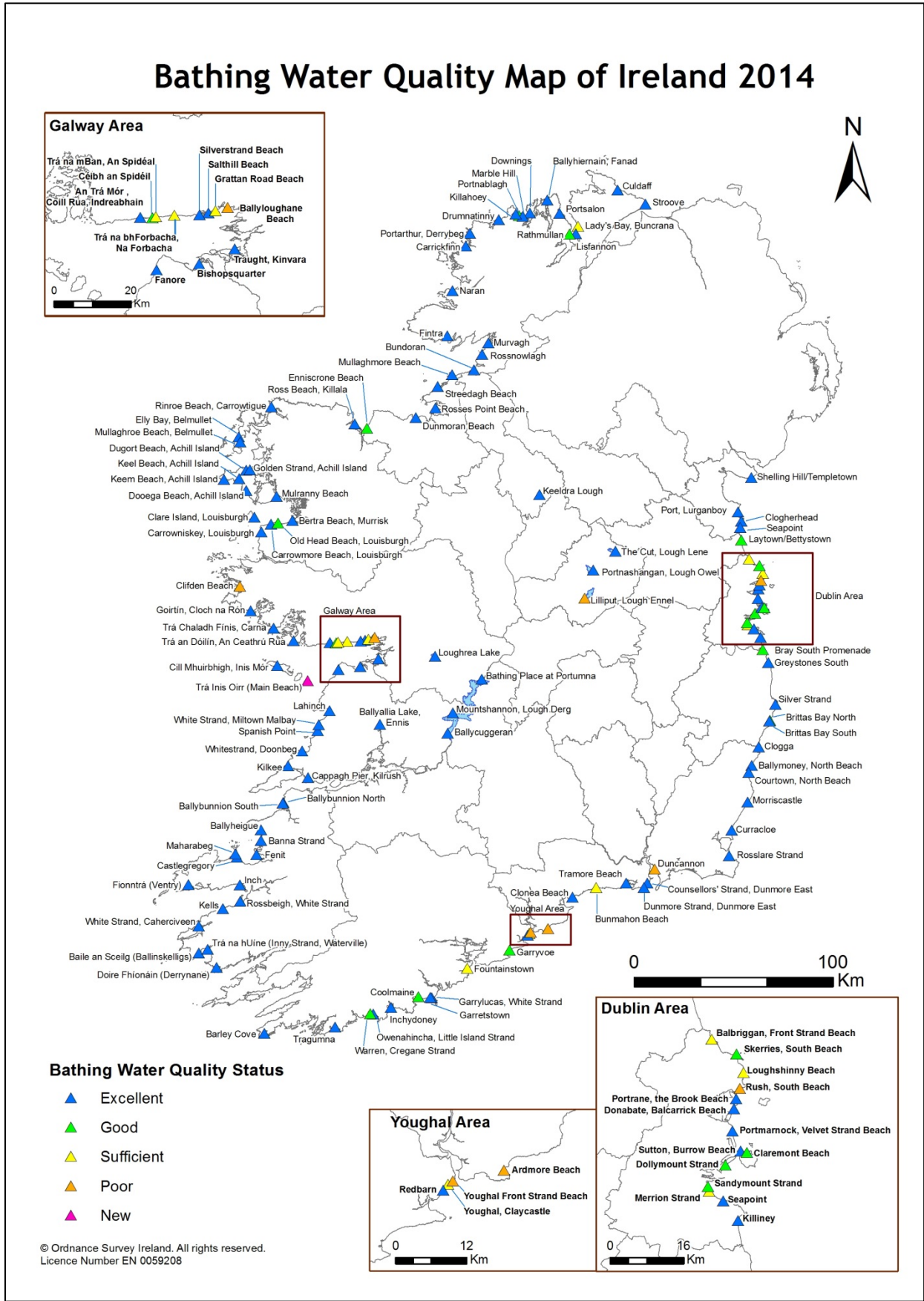
2011-2014 Status Assessment	E.Coli status	Intestinal Enterococci status	Overall
Lady's Bay, Buncrana	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient
Lisfannon	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Marble Hill	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Murvagh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Naran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Portarthur , Derrybeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Portnablagh	Excellent	Good	Good
Portsalon	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Rathmullan	Excellent	Good	Good
Rossnowlagh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Stroove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Dublin City Council</b>			
Dollymount Strand	Good	Good	Good
Merrion Strand	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Sandymount Strand	Good	Good	Good
<b>Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council</b>			
Killiney	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Seapoint	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Fingal County Council</b>			
Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient
Claremont Beach	Good	Good	Good
Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Loughshinny Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Portmarnock , Velvet Strand Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Portrane, the Brook Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Rush, South Beach	Sufficient	Poor	Poor
Skerries , South Beach	Good	Good	Good
Sutton, Burrow Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Galway City Council</b>			
Ballyloughane Beach	Poor	Poor	Poor
Grattan Road Beach	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
Salthill Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Silverstrand Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Galway County Council</b>			
An Tra Mor, Coill Rua, Indreabhain	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Bathing Place at Portumna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Céibh an Spidéil	Good	Good	Good
Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clifden	Poor	Poor	Poor
Goirtin, Cloch na Rón	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Loughrea Lake	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Trá Chaladh Fínis, Carna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent



2011-2014 Status Assessment	E.Coli status	Intestinal Enterococci status	Overall
Trá Inis Oirr (New for 2014)	(Excellent)	(Excellent)	(Excellent)
Trá na bhForbacha , Na Forbacha	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient
Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient
Traught, Kinvara	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Kerry County Council</b>			
Baile an Sceilig (Ballinskelligs)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ballybunnion North	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ballybunnion South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ballyheigue	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Banna Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Castlegregory	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Fenit	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Fionntrá (Ventry)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Inch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kells	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Maharabeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Rossbeigh, White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Trá na hUíne (Inny Strand,Waterville)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
White Strand, Caherciveen	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Leitrim County Council</b>			
Keeldra Lough	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Louth County Council</b>			
Clogherhead	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Port Lurganboy	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Seapoint	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Shelling Hill/Templetown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Mayo County Council</b>			
Bertra Beach, Murrisk	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clare Island, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dooega Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dugort Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Elly Bay, Belmullet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Golden Strand, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Keel Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Keem Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mulranny Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Old Head Beach, Louisburgh	Excellent	Good	Good
Rinroe Beach, Carrowtigie	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ross Beach, Killala	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

2011-2014 Status Assessment	E.Coli status	Intestinal Enterococci status	Overall
<b>Meath County Council</b>			
Laytown/Bettystown	Good	Excellent	Good
<b>Sligo County Council</b>			
Dunmorán Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Enniscrone Beach	Good	Excellent	Good
Mullaghmore Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Rosses Point Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Streedagh Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Waterford City and County Council</b>			
Ardmore Beach	Poor	Sufficient	Poor
Bunmahon Beach	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
Clonea Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Tramore Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Westmeath County Council</b>			
Lilliput, Lough Ennel	Poor	Good	Poor
Portnashangan, Lough Owel	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
The Cut, Lough Lene	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Wexford County Council</b>			
Ballymoney North Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Courtown North Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Curracloe	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Duncannon	Poor	Sufficient	Poor
Morriscastle	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Rosslare Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>			
Bray South Promenade	Good	Excellent	Good
Brittas Bay North	Excellent	Good	Good
Brittas Bay South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clogga	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Greystones South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Silver Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Figure 1: Map of Ireland's identified bathing waters (2014)



## 4. Summary of other monitored waters

Although there are currently 136 waters which Ireland has formally identified to the EU as bathing waters there are many other waters around the country which are being monitored by local authorities because bathing is known to take place there. These are generally smaller, more remote, beaches or those where the infrastructure to cater for a large numbers of users (e.g. car parking facilities etc.) 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 in connection with the Green Coast award scheme.

Examination of data held in the EDEN database for the period 2011-2014 shows the quality **likely to be achieved** at these waters.

It should be stressed that these waters have no formal EU classification and thus their expected status is reflected by means of a comparison with the bathing water standards. **Blue highlight** indicates a freshwater location.

The EPA is working with local authorities with the aim of bringing as many of these high quality waters as is practicable into the national monitoring program as EU identified bathing waters. While they are presently monitored voluntarily by local authorities and generally at the minimum frequency required by the Bathing Water Regulations they are not specifically covered by the legislative and management requirements of the bathing water regulations although the same water quality standards have been applied.

**Note:** It is important to stress that these bathing areas may not necessarily have the same signage that applies to the 136 EU identified waters.

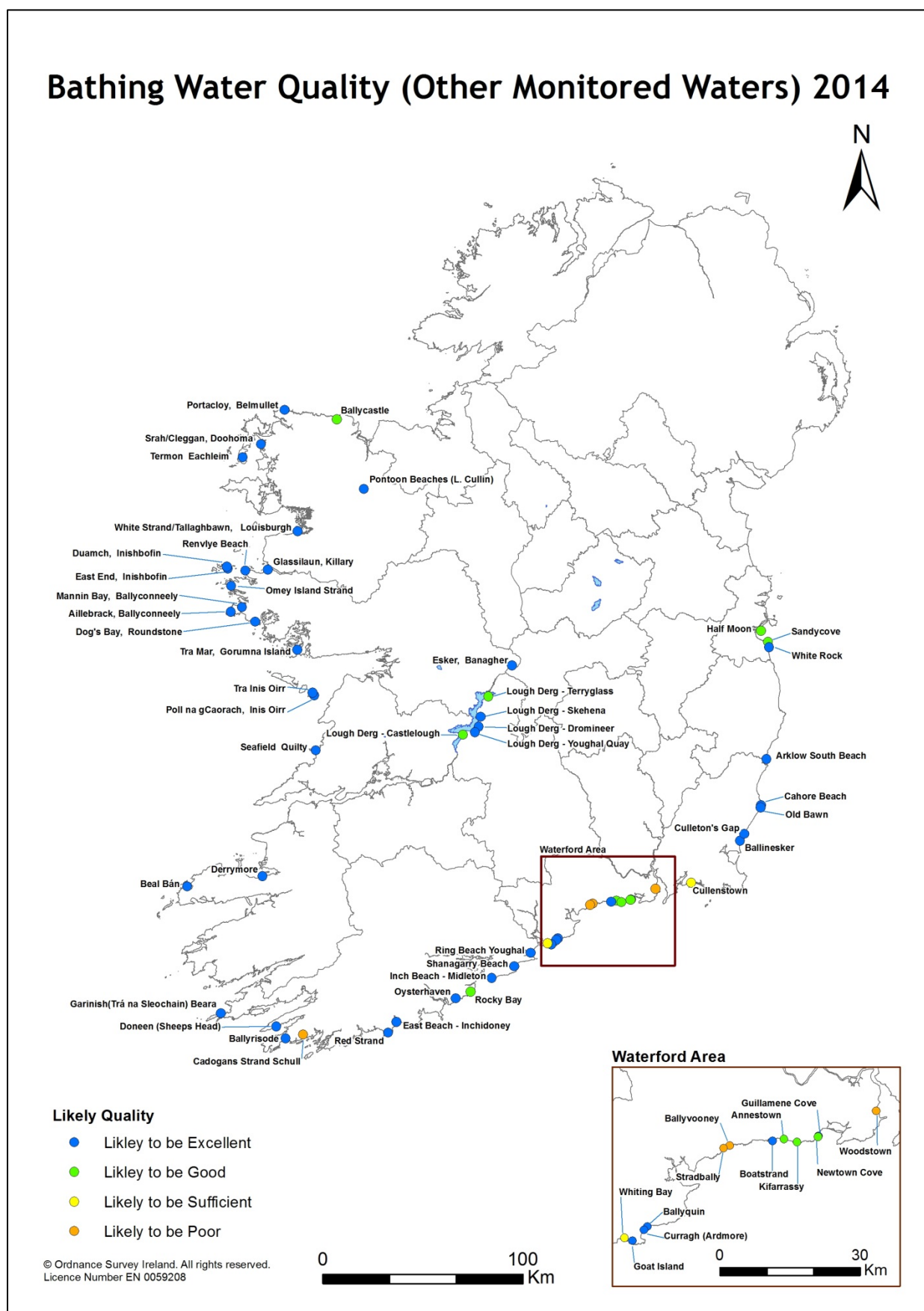
**It is strongly recommended** that before visiting any of these bathing waters that bathers check with the local authority to identify any bathing restrictions which may be in place and to check any local signage.

Local Authority	Bathing water	Likely Quality
Clare County Council	Seafield, Quilty	Excellent
Cork County Council	Ballyrisode	Excellent
	Cadogans strand, Schull	Poor
	East Beach - Inchidoney	Excellent
	Garinish(Trá na sleochain) Beara	Excellent
	Inch beach, Middleton	Excellent
	Oysterhaven	Excellent
	Red Strand	Excellent
	Ring Beach, Youghal	Excellent
	Rocky Bay	Good
	Shanagarry beach	Excellent
	Doneen Pier (Sheeps Head)	Excellent
Dublin City Council	Half Moon	Good
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council	Sandycove	Good
	White Rock	Excellent

Local Authority	Bathing water	Likely Quality
<b>Galway County Council</b>	Aillebrack, Ballyconneely	Excellent
	Dog's Bay, Roundstone	Excellent
	Duamch, Inishbofin	Excellent
	East End, Inishbofin	Excellent
	Esker, Banagher	Excellent
	Glassilaun, Killary	Excellent
	Mannin Bay, Ballyconneely	Excellent
	Omey Island Strand	Excellent
	Tra na gCaorach, Inis Oirr	Excellent
	Renvlye Beach	Excellent
	Tra Inis Oirr	Excellent
	Tra Mar, Gorumna Island	Excellent
<b>Kerry County Council</b>	Beal Ban	Excellent
	Derrymore	Excellent
<b>Mayo County Council</b>	Ballycastle	Good
	Pontoon beaches (L. Cullin)	Excellent
	Portacloy, Belmullet	Excellent
	Srah / Cleggan Doohoma	Excellent
	Termon Eachleim	Excellent
	White Strand/Tallaghbawn, Louisburgh	Excellent
<b>Tipperary County Council</b>	Lough Derg - Terryglass	Good
	Lough Derg - Skehena	Excellent
	Lough Derg - Dromineer	Excellent
	Lough Derg - Youghal Quay	Excellent
	Lough Derg - Castletlough	Good
<b>Waterford City and County Council</b>	Annestown	Good
	Ballyquin	Excellent
	Ballyvooney	Poor
	Boatstrand	Excellent
	Curragh (Ardmore)	Excellent
	Goat Island	Excellent
	Guillamene Cove	Excellent
	Kifarrassy	Good
	Newtown Cove	Good
	Stradbally	Poor
	Whiting Bay	Sufficient
	Woodstown	Poor
<b>Wexford County Council</b>	Ballinesker	Excellent
	Cahore Beach	Excellent
	Cullenstown	Sufficient
	Culleton's Gap	Excellent
	Old Bawn	Excellent
<b>Wicklow County Council</b>	Arklow South Beach	Excellent



Figure 2: Map of other monitored waters (2014)



# 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 gclóíonn leis na córais sin.*

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

**Tacaíocht:** *Bimid 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 dhíriú 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 ídíonn an ciseal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

### Bainistíocht Uisce

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

## Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú 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.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (m.sh. tuairisciú 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 shainaitheint, 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. mórfhleananna 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 teaghlacha 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 Aeráide, Ceadúnaithe agus Úsáide Acmhainní
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Measúnú Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Cosaint Raideolaíoch
- 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.



### **Headquarters and South East Region**

*Environmental Protection Agency  
PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate  
County Wexford, Ireland*

*Bosca Poist 3000, Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin  
Contae Loch Garman, Éire*

*T: +353 53 916 0600*

*F: +353 53 916 0699*

### **South/South West Region**

*Inniscarra, County Cork, Ireland*

*Inis Cara, Contae Chorcaí, Éire*

*T: +353 21 487 5540*

*F: +353 21 487 5545*

### **Midlands Region**

*Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny.*

*Lóiste Sevilla, Bóthar Challain,  
Cill Chainnigh, Éire*

*T +353 56 779 6700*

*F +353 56 779 6798*

### **East/North East Region**

*McCumiskey House, Richview  
Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14, Ireland*

*Teach Mhic Chumascaigh  
Dea-Radharc, Bóthar Cluain Sceach  
Baile Átha Cliath 14, Éire*

*T: +353 1 268 0100*

*F: +353 1 268 0199*

### **West/North West Region**

*John Moore Road  
Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland*

*Bóthar Sheán de Mórdha  
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Contae Mhaigh Eo, Éire*

*T: +353 94 904 8400*

*F: +353 94 904 8499*

**E: [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie)**

**W: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)**

**LoCall: 1890 33 55 99**



Printed on environmentally friendly paper stock