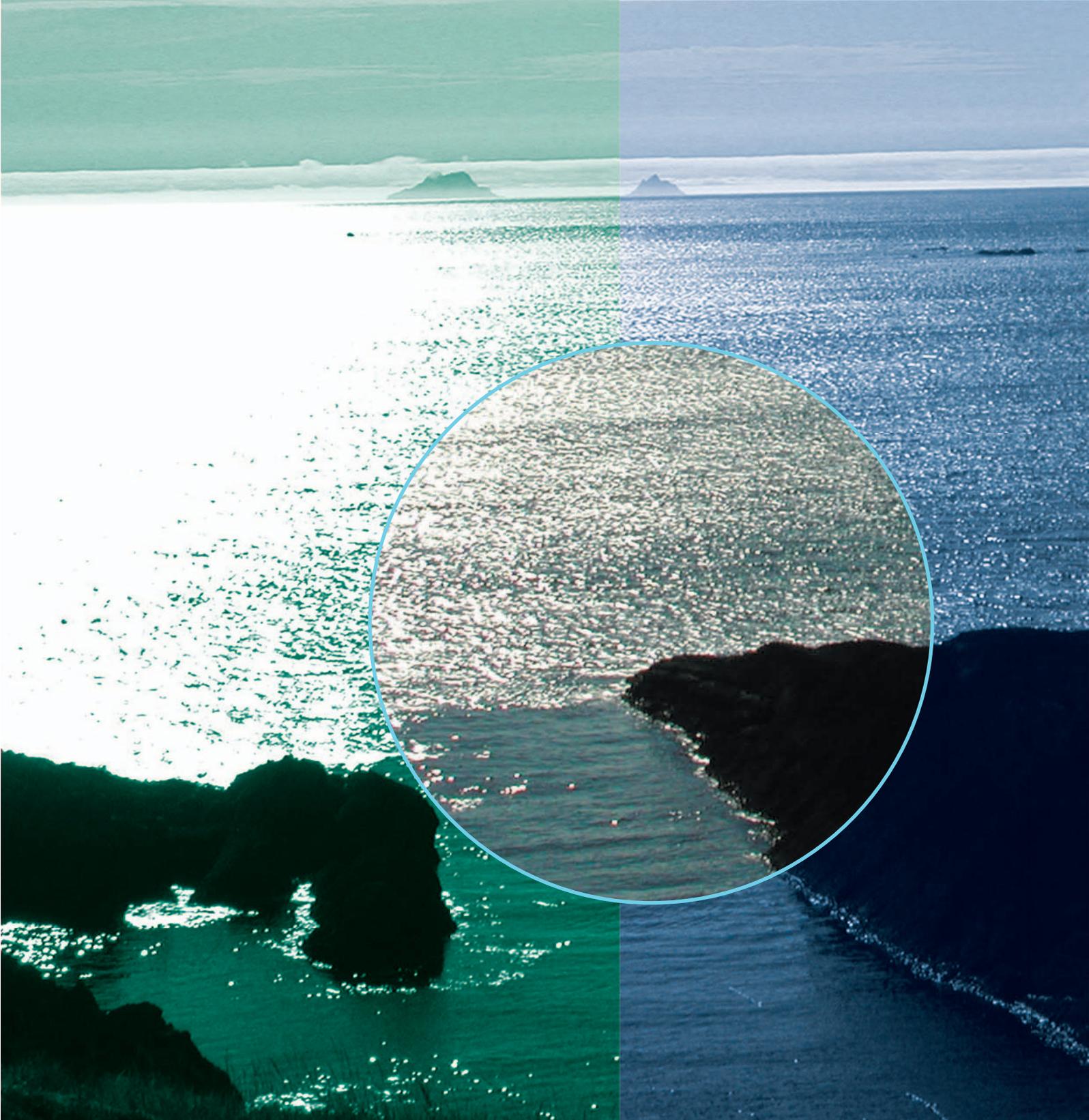




Environmental Protection Agency  
*An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil*

# The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland

2005





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**THE QUALITY OF BATHING WATER  
IN IRELAND (2005)**

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## SUMMARY

Results for 2005 show that the quality of bathing water in Ireland is very good with 96% (126 of 131 sites) of bathing areas complying with the mandatory standards specified in the EU Bathing Water Directive.

91% of bathing areas (119 of 131 sites) comply with the stricter guide values specified in the Directive. These guide values can be regarded as quality objectives which all bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Assessing compliance with Irish standards shows that 82% (107 of 131 sites) of bathing areas comply with national standards.

In Ireland, the primary legislation governing the quality of bathing waters is set out in the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992 (S.I 155 of 1992) and amendments, which transposed the EU Directive 76/160/EC concerning the quality of bathing water. The national Regulations set more stringent limits for some parameters than in the EU Directive and all parameters specified are used by the EPA in assessing compliance with the Regulations in contrast to the European Commission which uses a sub set of parameters in assessing compliance with the Directive.

The overall quality of bathing waters remains very good. The number of sites complying with EU mandatory values in 2005 shows a reduction of 2% when compared with 2004. However, guide compliance has increased by 3% from 2004 to reach 91% in 2005. There was a 6% increase in the compliance rate with National Standards in 2005 when compared with 2004.

All designated bathing areas were compliant with National and EU standards in each of the following Local Authorities:

- Donegal (19),
- Dun-Laoghaire/Rathdown (2),
- Galway City (2),
- Louth (4),
- Mayo (15),
- Westmeath (3) and
- Wexford (6)

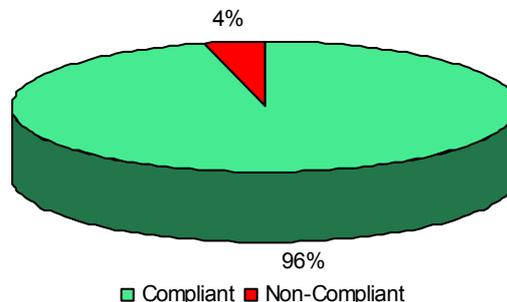


Figure 1: Compliance with EU Mandatory Values

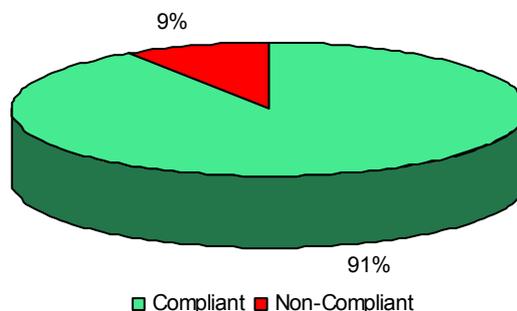


Figure 2: Compliance with EU Guide Values

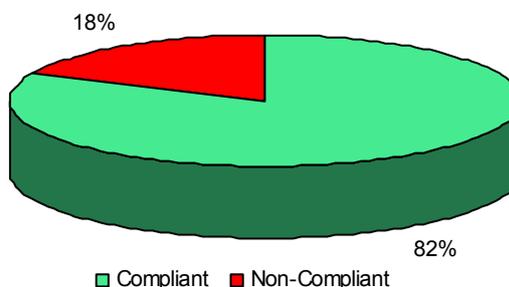


Figure 3: Compliance with National Values

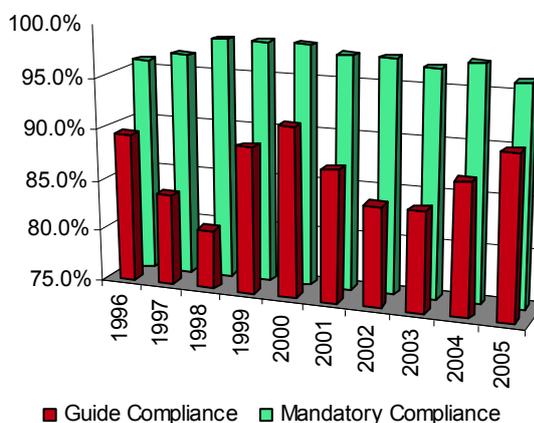


Figure 4: Compliance with EU Values 1996-2005

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The quality requirements for bathing water areas in Ireland are set out in the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations 1992 (S.I. No. 155 of 1992) and subsequent amendments. These Regulations transposed the requirements of the EC Directive concerning the quality of bathing waters (76/160/EEC), the purpose of which is to ensure that bathing water quality is maintained and if necessary improved so that it complies with specified standards designed to protect public health and the environment.

Details of the National Limit Values, the European Mandatory and Guide values are summarised in Table 1.

There are currently 131 designated bathing areas in Ireland of which 122 are sea water bathing areas and 9 are freshwater bathing areas. These bathing areas are monitored to check the quality of the bathing water by the competent local authority on a fortnightly basis during the bathing season which extends from

| Parameters <sup>5</sup>                              | EC Directive concerning the quality of bathing waters 76/160/EEC |   | National Limit Values (SI 155 of 1992)                                |
|--|--|---|---|
|  | G (Guide)  | I (Mandatory)   |   |
| <b>Microbiological:</b>                              |  |   |   |
| <i>Total Coliforms (Number/100ml)</i>                | ≤ 500 <sup>1</sup>   | ≤ 10,000 <sup>3</sup>   | ≤ 5,000 <sup>1</sup><br>≤ 10,000 <sup>3</sup>                         |
| <i>Faecal Coliforms (Number/100ml)</i>               | ≤ 100 <sup>1</sup>   | ≤ 2,000 <sup>3</sup>  | ≤ 1,000 <sup>1</sup><br>≤ 2,000 <sup>3</sup>                          |
| <i>Faecal Strep (Number/100ml)<sup>4</sup></i>       | ≤ 100 <sup>2</sup>   |   | ≤ 300 <sup>3</sup>  |
| <i>Salmonella (Number/litre)<sup>4</sup></i>         |  | 0 <sup>3</sup>  | 0 <sup>3</sup>  |
| <i>Enteric viruses (PFU/10 litres)<sup>4</sup></i>   |  | 0 <sup>3</sup>  | 0 <sup>3</sup>  |
| <b>Physicochemical:</b>                              |  |   |   |
| <i>pH</i>  |  | 6 to 9 <sup>3</sup>   | ≥ 6 and ≤ 9 <sup>3</sup>  |
| <i>Colour</i>  |  | no abnormal change in colour <sup>3</sup>                             | no abnormal change in colour <sup>3</sup>                             |
| <i>Mineral oils (mg/l)</i>                           | ≤ 0.3 <sup>2</sup>   | no film visible on the surface of the water and no odour <sup>3</sup> | no film visible on the surface of the water and no odour <sup>3</sup> |
| <i>Surface active substances (mg/l)</i>              | ≤ 0.3 <sup>2</sup>   | no lasting foam <sup>3</sup>  | no lasting foam <sup>3</sup>  |
| <i>Phenol (mg/l as C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH)</i> | ≤ 0.005 <sup>2</sup>   | no specific odour ≤ 0.05 <sup>3</sup>                                 | ≤ 0.05 and no specific odour <sup>3</sup>                             |
| <i>Transparency (m)</i>                              | ≥ 2 <sup>2</sup>   | ≥ 1 <sup>3</sup>  | ≥ 1 <sup>3</sup>  |
| <i>DO (% saturation O<sub>2</sub>)<sup>4</sup></i>   | 80 to 120 <sup>2</sup>   |   | ≥ 70 and ≤ 120 <sup>3</sup>   |
| <i>Tarry residues and floating material</i>          | Absence <sup>2</sup>   |   | no offensive presence <sup>3</sup>                                    |

Note 1 ≥ 80% of Samples,

Note 2 ≥ 90% of Samples,

Note 3 ≥ 95% of Samples

Note 4: To be sampled where investigations show or where

there are other grounds for believing that water quality has deteriorated in respect of this parameter

Note 5: Additional parameters (Ammonia, Nitrogen (Kjeldahal), pesticides, heavy metals, cyanides,

**Table 1: Quality Requirements for Bathing Water**

the 1st June until the end of August each year. Monitoring commences two weeks before the start of the season. The minimum number of samples to be taken during the season is seven.

## 1.1 Compliance Assessment

While the sampling and analysis criteria for bathing waters is largely similar for both National and EU legislation there are differences in the way in which compliance with the results of these parameters is interpreted.

### 1.1.1 National Compliance

The National Regulations stipulate that each sample obtained must be analysed for the following 8 microbiological and physicochemical parameters:

- Total coliforms
- Faecal coliforms
- Colour
- Mineral oils
- Surface active substances
- Phenols
- Transparency
- Tarry residues, floating materials

Under certain circumstances, in particular where there has been a deterioration of water quality, both the frequency of monitoring and range of analytes must be increased. Similarly, where bathing water quality is found to be consistently of a very good quality, the monitoring frequency may be reduced to a minimum of four times during the bathing season.

In addition to the 8 compulsory parameters, there are a number of additional parameters set out in the Regulations which must be sampled where there are grounds for believing that there has been a deterioration in respect of the parameter or substance concerned at the site .

Local Authorities must report the results of sampling to the EPA at the end of each bathing season.

The Agency interprets compliance with the Regulations based on all of the parameters which are required to be sampled and analysed.

### 1.1.2 EU Compliance

The parameters which are required to be sampled and analysed under EU Directive (76/160/EEC) are the same as those prescribed under the National Regulations. However, unlike National compliance which includes all parameters, EU bathing water compliance is based on a sub-set of these parameters.

The 5 parameters considered for EU compliance purposes are:

- Total coliforms
- Faecal coliforms
- Mineral oils
- Surface-active substances
- Phenol

The parameters transparency and colour are omitted for compliance determination.

There may be good reason for disregarding transparency and colour at seawater sites as turbulent seas may lead to a deterioration in both of these parameters and, as such results may not be indicative of the water quality.

This argument however is less applicable at freshwater sites as colour and transparency are indicators of the possible trophic status of the water.

## 2. SEA WATER BATHING AREAS

The number of designated seawater bathing areas remained at 122 in 2005.

### 2.1 Compliance with National standards

Of the 122 sites, 82 % (100 of 122) complied with the National standard in 2005.

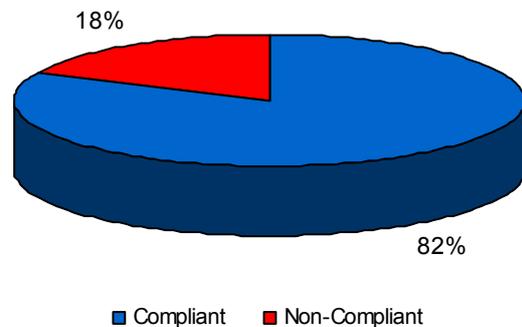
Six bathing areas failed to comply with the National standard for faecal coliforms. These were:

- Loughshinny (Dublin Fingal)
- Sutton Burrow Beach (Dublin Fingal)
- Clifden (Galway County)
- Na Forbacha (Galway County),
- Ardmore (Waterford)
- Merrion Strand (Dublin City).

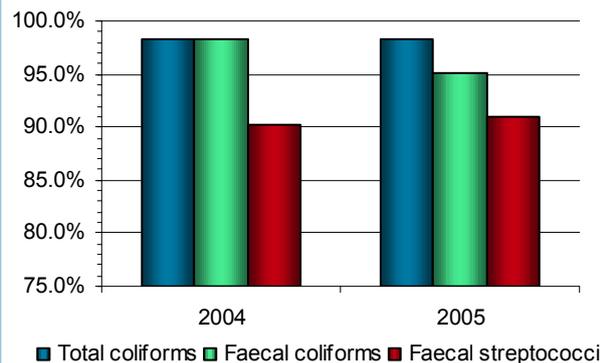
Both Merrion Strand and Na Forbacha also failed the National standard for total coliforms.

Eleven bathing areas failed to meet the National standard for faecal streptococci. These were:

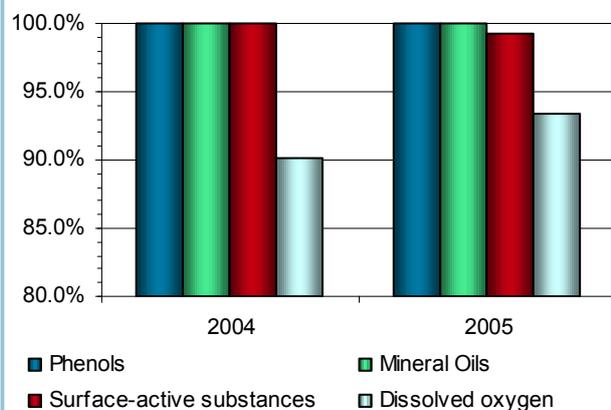
- Claycastle (Cork County)
- Coolmaine (Cork County)
- Na Forbacha (Galway County)
- Ardmore (Waterford),
- Bray Beach (Wicklow),
- Loughshinny (Dublin, Fingal)
- Portmarnock (Dublin, Fingal)
- Sutton Burrow Beach (Dublin, Fingal)
- Rush (Dublin, Fingal)
- Sandymount (Dublin City)
- Merrion Strand (Dublin City)



**Figure 2.1 : Seawater bathing area compliance with National standards**



**Figure 2.2: Seawater microbiological compliance with National standards**



**Figure 2.3: Seawater physiochemical compliance with National standards**

## 2.2 Compliance with EU Directive

### 2.1.1 Mandatory Values

In total, 96% of designated sites (117 of 122) complied with the mandatory values laid for the five parameters in 2005. This represents a marginal decrease on the compliance rate of 98% in 2004.

Five bathing areas failed to comply with the mandatory values specified in the EU Bathing Water Directive.

- Merrion Strand (Dublin City)
- Na Forbacha (Galway County)
- Sutton Burrow Beach (Dublin Fingal)
- Ardmore (Waterford County) and
- Clifden (Galway County)

Both Merrion Strand and Na Forbacha failed to meet the EU mandatory standard for both total and faecal coliforms. Sutton Burrow Beach failed to meet the standard for faecal coliforms and surface active substances and Ardmore and Clifden the standard for faecal coliforms.

### 2.1.2 Guide Values

In total, 92% of seawater bathing areas (112 of 122) complied with guide values specified in the Directive. This represents a 4% improvement on 2004.

A list of seawater and freshwater bathing area which were non-compliant with mandatory and/or guide values in 2005 are outlined in Table 2.

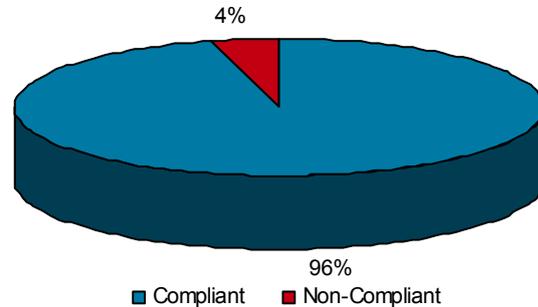


Figure 2.4: Seawater bathing area compliance with EU Directive mandatory values.

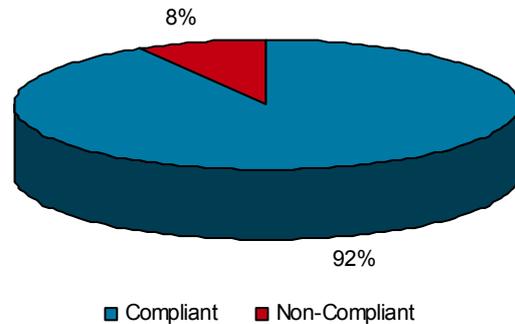
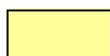


Figure 2.5: Seawater bathing area compliance with EU Directive guide values

| Beach                | Location         | Water Type | Parameter which did not meet relevant value |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|---|
| MERRION STRAND       | Dublin City      | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms, Total Coliforms           |
| SUTTON, BURROW BEACH | Dublin Fingal    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms, Surface active subs.      |
| CLIFDEN              | Galway County    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms                            |
| NA FORBACHA          | Galway County    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms, Total Coliforms           |
| ARDMORE              | Waterford County | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms                            |
| BALLYALLIA           | Clare            | Freshwater | Total Coliforms                             |
| KEELDRA              | Leitrim          | Freshwater | Total Coliforms                             |
| SANDYMOUNT           | Dublin City      | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms, Total Coliforms           |
| BALBRIGGAN           | Dublin Fingal    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms, Total Coliforms           |
| LOUGHSHINNY          | Dublin Fingal    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms                            |
| PORTMARNOCK          | Dublin Fingal    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms                            |
| SPIDDAL, MAIN BEACH  | Galway County    | Seawater   | Faecal Coliforms                            |



bathing areas which failed both Mandatory and Guide EU Limit Values



bathing areas which failed Guide EU Limit Values

**Table 2: Seawater and freshwater bathing areas which failed to meet Guide and/or Mandatory EU Directive Limit Values in 2005**

### 3. FRESH WATER BATHING AREAS

The number of designated inland bathing areas remained at nine in 2005.

#### 3.1 Compliance with National standards

In 2005, 78% (7 of 9) of designated freshwater sites complied with the limit values set out in the National Regulations. The non-compliant bathing areas were:

- Portumna (Galway)
- Keeldra (Leitrim)

Both sites failed to meet the National standard for transparency. Transparency is more relevant to inland bathing sites as it may be indicative of the pollution status of the waterbody.

#### 3.2 Compliance with EU Bathing Water Directive

During the 2005 bathing season all 9 freshwater sites complied with EU mandatory limits set out for the five parameters

1. total coliforms;
2. faecal coliforms;
3. surface active substances;
4. mineral oils; and
5. phenols.

In total, 78% of freshwater bathing areas (7 of 9) complied with guide values specified in the Directive. This represents a decrease of 1 site compared with 2004 when 8 freshwater areas were compliant. The non-compliant bathing areas were:

- Ballyallia (Clare)
- Keeldra (Leitrim)

Both sites failed to meet the EU guide standard for total coliforms.

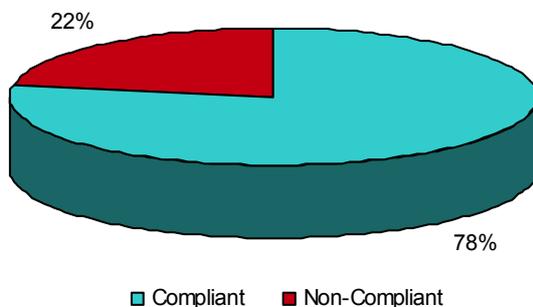


Figure 3.1: Fresh water bathing area compliance with National standards

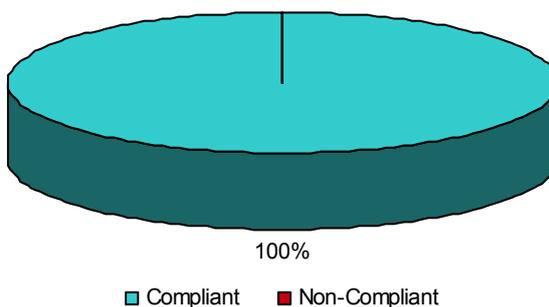


Figure 3.2: Fresh water bathing area compliance with EU Directive Mandatory Values.

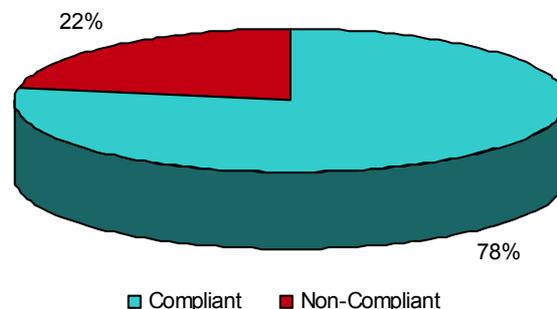


Figure 3.3: Fresh water bathing area compliance with EU Directive Guide Values

## 4. DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Compliance Assessment

In Ireland the primary legislation governing the quality of bathing waters is set out in the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992 (S.I 155 of 1992) which transposed the EU Directive 76/160/EC concerning the quality of bathing water.

In comparing the National Regulations to the EU Directive Mandatory Values, the Regulations set more stringent limits for microbiological parameters and also include an additional parameter, faecal streptococci, for compliance purposes.

The EPA assesses compliance with the National Regulations based on all parameters which are required to be monitored under the Regulations. While the Directive specifies the same approach to compliance assessment, the European Commission are currently assessing compliance based on a subset of monitored parameters. As a result, compliance figures for the National Regulations and the EU Directive may differ.

### 4.2 Bathing Water Quality 2005

Results for 2005 show that the quality of the bathing water in Ireland is very good with 82% of bathing areas (107 of 131 sites) complying with the National standards.

This represents an increase of 6% from 2004 when 76% of sites were compliant. Assessing compliance in line with the European Commission approach shows that Irish bathing water compared very favourably in 2004 with other EU member states. The results for the 2004 and 2005 bathing seasons are summarised in Table 4 below.

#### 4.2.1 Status Changes

The status of 16 bathing water areas have changed between 2004 and 2005. Most of the status changes resulted in bathing water areas moving between mandatory and guide compliance but a number of sites experienced more significant status changes. All bathing water areas that experienced a change in compliance status are outlined in Table 5.

#### 4.3 Number of Designated Bathing Areas

Ireland has 34 designated bathing areas per million population, which places the country mid-range in comparison with other EU Countries (see Fig 4.1). It is some time since the number of designated bathing areas has been updated in Ireland and it is recommended that a review be undertaken in advance of the 2007 bathing water season with a view to increasing the number of designated bathing areas from the present level of 131.

|  | Sea Water  |            | Freshwater  |             | Overall    |            |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
|  | 2004       | 2005       | 2004        | 2005        | 2004       | 2005       |
| Number of sampling points                              | 122        | 122        | 9           | 9           | 131        | 131        |
| Number of points complying with EU mandatory values    | 119        | 117        | 9           | 9           | 128        | 126        |
| <b>Percentage compliant with EU mandatory values</b>   | <b>98%</b> | <b>96%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>98%</b> | <b>96%</b> |
| Number of points complying with EU guide values        | 107        | 112        | 8           | 7           | 115        | 119        |
| <b>Percentage compliant with EU guide values</b>       | <b>88%</b> | <b>92%</b> | <b>89%</b>  | <b>78%</b>  | <b>88%</b> | <b>91%</b> |
| Number of points complying with National limit values  | 92         | 100        | 7           | 7           | 99         | 107        |
| <b>Percentage compliant with National limit values</b> | <b>75%</b> | <b>82%</b> | <b>78%</b>  | <b>78%</b>  | <b>76%</b> | <b>82%</b> |

Table 4: EU Bathing Water Compliance Status in 2004 and 2005

#### 4.4 New Directive concerning the quality of bathing water

The Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC) is more than 25 years old and has, since its adoption, contributed to the improvement in water quality in the coastal and inland bathing areas in Europe. However, it is also recognised that the Directive has a number of limitations and weaknesses that need to be addressed, particularly in relation to the specified water quality parameters for monitoring and their associated limit values.

In 2002 the European Commission presented a proposal for a new Directive on bathing water quality. The new proposal is intended to deliver general benefits in relation to improved health-protection for bathers and a more pro-active approach to beach management, including public involvement.

In terms of monitoring, the new Directive proposes to eliminate the tests for 19 different pollutant parameters and replace them with two bacteriological measurements, intestinal enterococci and *escherichia coli*, which focus specifically on the protection of human health. Compared with current standards, the proposed standards are intended to provide significantly higher protection against the risk of contracting gastroenteritis and respiratory diseases as a result of bathing.

The new Directive also aims to make more use of modern communication methods, such as the Internet, to inform the public about the quality of bathing waters and thereby allow the public to make a more informed choice on where to bathe. The bathing water quality standards specified in the new Directive are considered tougher than the present Bathing Water Directive. The new EU Directive 2006/7/EC on bathing water quality entered into force on 24 March 2006 repealing Directive 76/160/EEC. Member States have until 24 March 2008 to comply with the provisions of the Directive.

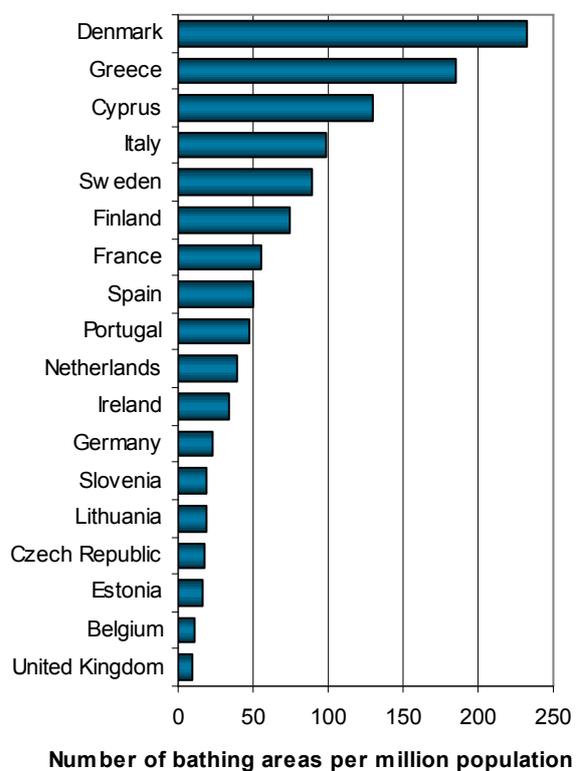


Figure 4.1: Number of bathing areas per million of population in EU member states

| Local Authority          | Bathing Water Area        | Status 2004 | Status 2005 | Trend |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Clare County Council     | Ballyallia                | G.C.        | M.C.        | ↓     |
| Cork County Council      | Coolmaine                 | M.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |
| Cork County Council      | Fountainstown             | M.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |
| Cork County Council      | Redbarn                   | M.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |
| Dublin City Council      | Merrion Strand            | M.C.        | N.C.        | ↓     |
| Dublin Fingal            | Balbriggan                | N.C.        | M.C.        | ↑     |
| Dublin Fingal            | Sutton, Burrow Beach      | M.C.        | N.C.        | ↓     |
| Dublin Fingal            | Skerries                  | N.C.        | M.C.        | ↑     |
| Dublin Fingal            | Portmarnock               | G.C.        | M.C.        | ↓     |
| Dublin Fingal            | Rush, South Beach         | M.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |
| Galway County Council    | Na Forbacha               | G.C.        | N.C.        | ↓     |
| Galway County Council    | Clifden                   | G.C.        | N.C.        | ↓     |
| Meath County Council     | Laytown/Bettystown        | M.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |
| Waterford County Council | Ardmore                   | G.C.        | N.C.        | ↓     |
| Waterford County Council | Dunmore East, Main Strand | N.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |
| Wicklow County Council   | Bray Beach                | M.C.        | G.C.        | ↑     |

**Table 5: Bathing Areas which experienced a Status change in relation to EU standards between 2004 and 2005**

- G.C. *Guide Compliant (indicates water of good quality)*  
M.C. *Mandatory Compliant (indicates water of acceptable quality)*  
N.C. *Non-Compliant (indicates water of insufficient quality - does not comply with either the EU mandatory or guide values)*



## Appendix 2: EU Compliance Rates For Bathing Areas (1991-2005)

| <b>Ireland</b>    | <b>Total</b> | <b>C(I) %</b> | <b>C(G) %</b> |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Sea Water</b>  |              |               |               |
| <b>1995</b>       | 108          | 98.1          | 87.9          |
| <b>1996</b>       | 115          | 95.6          | 89.5          |
| <b>1997</b>       | 115          | 96.5          | 83.5          |
| <b>1998</b>       | 121          | 98.4          | 80.2          |
| <b>1999</b>       | 121          | 98.3          | 89.3          |
| <b>2000</b>       | 121          | 98.3          | 91.7          |
| <b>2001</b>       | 122          | 97.5          | 87.7          |
| <b>2002</b>       | 122          | 97.5          | 83.6          |
| <b>2003</b>       | 122          | 96.7          | 83.6          |
| <b>2004</b>       | 122          | 97.5          | 87.7          |
| <b>2005</b>       | 122          | 95.9          | 91.8          |
| <b>Freshwater</b> |              |               |               |
| <b>1996</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 88.9          |
| <b>1997</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 88.9          |
| <b>1998</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 88.9          |
| <b>1999</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 88.9          |
| <b>2000</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 88.9          |
| <b>2001</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 100.0         |
| <b>2002</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 100.0         |
| <b>2003</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 100.0         |
| <b>2004</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 88.9          |
| <b>2005</b>       | 9            | 100.0         | 77.7          |

C(I) Mandatory Compliant C(G) Guide Compliant

## Appendix 3: Roles and Responsibilities

The local authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government each have specified roles in the administration of the legislation concerning the quality of bathing waters.

### Local Authorities

#### Sampling and Investigations

Local authorities are required to sample (or arrange for the sampling of) waters at the bathing areas for which they are responsible. These samples must be taken at specified locations, at a required frequency and as far as possible, analysed using specified methodologies. Local authorities are also responsible for conducting periodic investigations of conditions which may affect the quality of bathing waters for the purpose of determining the volume, nature and effect of all potentially polluting discharges at the bathing areas.

Where bathing waters do not comply with the specified standards, local authorities are required to give public notice of this fact and to undertake the necessary measures to ensure compliance with standards. However, deviations of water quality standards caused by floods, other natural disasters or abnormal weather conditions should not be taken into consideration in determining compliance with the standards.

#### Access to Information

Each local authority involved in sampling of water at the designated bathing areas must establish and maintain a register of sampling results which should be made available for inspection by any person during office hours.

During the bathing season, the results of sampling should be displayed at or near the bathing area or alternative arrangements should be made for their availability to the public at the area concerned. The results displayed should be updated regularly, at least every four weeks and location of the sampling point(s)

should be indicated on a map displayed at or near the bathing area.

#### Reporting of Results

Local Authorities are required to forward monitoring results and reports annually to the EPA at the end of the bathing season. A new web based reporting system was set up in 2003 to help streamline the reporting process.

#### Environmental Protection Agency

The role of the Environmental Protection Agency is to collate the water quality results from each local authority involved and to compile a national report, which is sent to the European Commission. The results from 2005 which were sent to the European Commission in December 2005 are incorporated in this report, which also includes additional explanatory material for the general reader.

This national overview, together with similar reports from other member states are assembled into one single European-wide document, which is published annually by the Commission.

An additional role extended to the Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 is the authorisation of departures from bathing water quality standards under specific circumstances. Prior to 2001, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government had this responsibility.

A departure may be granted on condition that it does not constitute a public health hazard. The granting of the departure may also be subject to conditions specified by the EPA and may be restricted to a specified time period.

#### Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

The role of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government includes the preparation of the National Regulations and their updating according as the need arises.

### **Blue Flag Beaches**

The Blue Flag Scheme is a voluntary scheme administered in Ireland by An Taisce and at European level by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE). To receive a blue flag, a bathing site, in addition to maintaining a high standard of water quality, must meet specified objectives with regard to the provision of safety services and facilities, environmental management of the beach area and environmental education. The Environmental Protection Agency has co-operated with An Taisce to check that all water quality results obtained by both organisations for the 2005 bathing season are comparable. The analysis of bathing water in respect of the Directive is separate from, although complementary to, the European Blue Flag Scheme. The EPA also participates in the National Blue Flag Jury, which assists in the initial assessment of the Irish applicants for the Blue Flag Award.

## Appendix 4: Compliance Status for designated bathing areas in 2005

| <i>Responsible Local Authority</i> | <i>Bathing Area</i>          | <i>Compliance With:</i> |                 |            |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
|                                    |                              | <b>EU Mandatory</b>     | <b>EU Guide</b> | <b>NLV</b> |
| <i>Clare County Council</i>        | Ballyallia Lake, Ennis       | √                       | x               | √          |
|                                    | Ballycuggeran                | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Bishopsquarter               | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Cappagh Pier, Kilrush        | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Fanore                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Kilkee                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Lahinch                      | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Mountshannon, Lough Derg     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Spanish Point                | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | White Strand, Doonbeg        | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | White Strand, Miltown Malbay | √                       | √               | √          |
| <i>Cork County Council</i>         | Barley Cove                  | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Claycastle, Youghal          | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Coolmaine                    | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Fountainstown                | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Garretstown                  | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Garrylucas, White Strand     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Garryvoe                     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Inchydoney                   | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Owenahincha                  | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Redbarn                      | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Tragumna                     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Warren                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Youghal, Main Beach          | √                       | √               | √          |

| <i>Responsible Local Authority</i>           | <i>Bathing Area</i>   | <i>Compliance With:</i> |                 |            |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
|  |                       | <b>EU Mandatory</b>     | <b>EU Guide</b> | <b>NLV</b> |
| <i>Donegal County Council</i>                | Ballyhernan, Fanad    | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Bundoran              | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Carrickfinn           | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Culdaff               | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Downings              | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Drumatinny            | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Fintra                | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Killahoey             | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Lady's Bay, Buncrana  | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Lisfannon             | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Marble Hill           | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Murvagh               | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Naran, Portnoo        | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Port Arthur, Derrybeg | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Portnablagh           | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Portsalon             | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Rathmullan            | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Rossnowlagh           | √                       | √               | √          |
| Shroove                                      | √                     | √                       | √               |            |
| <i>Dublin City Council</i>                   | Dollymount Strand     | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Merrion Strand        | x                       | x               | x          |
|  | Sandymount Strand     | √                       | x               | x          |
| <i>Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council</i> | Killiney              | √                       | √               | √          |
|  | Seapoint              | √                       | √               | √          |

| <i>Responsible Local Authority</i> | <i>Bathing Area</i>            | <i>Compliance With:</i> |                 |            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
|                                    |                                | <b>EU Mandatory</b>     | <b>EU Guide</b> | <b>NLV</b> |
| <i>Fingal County Council</i>       | Balbriggan                     | √                       | x               | √          |
|                                    | Donabate                       | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Loughshinny                    | √                       | x               | x          |
|                                    | Malahide                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Portmarnock                    | √                       | x               | x          |
|                                    | Portrane                       | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Rush, South Beach              | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Skerries                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Sutton, Burrow Beach           | x                       | x               | x          |
| <i>Galway County Council</i>       | An Cnoc, Inverin               | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Bathing Place at Loughrea Lake | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Bathing Place at Portumna      | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Beach at Spiddal Pier          | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Cill Muirbhthe, Inis Mor       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Clifden                        | x                       | x               | x          |
|                                    | Gortin, Cloch Na Ron           | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Na Forbacha                    | x                       | x               | x          |
|                                    | Spiddal, Main Beach            | √                       | x               | x          |
|                                    | Tra An Doilin, Ceathru Rua     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Tra Chaladh Bhfuinnse          | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Traught, Kinvara               | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | <i>Galway City Council</i>     | Salthill                | √               | √          |
| Silver Strand                      |                                | √                       | √               | √          |

| <i>Responsible Local Authority</i> | <i>Bathing Area</i>        | <i>Compliance With</i> |                 |            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
|                                    |                            | <b>EU Mandatory</b>    | <b>EU Guide</b> | <b>NLV</b> |
| <i>Kerry County Council</i>        | Ballinskelligs             | √                      | √               | x          |
|                                    | Ballybunion North          | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Ballybunion South          | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Ballyheigue                | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Banna Strand               | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Castlegregory              | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Derrynane                  | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Fenit                      | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Inch                       | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Inny, Waterville           | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Kells                      | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Maharabeg, Castlegregory   | √                      | √               | x          |
|                                    | Rossbeigh, White Strand    | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Ventry                     | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | White Strand, Caherciveen  | √                      | √               | x          |
| <i>Leitrim County Council</i>      | Keeldra, Cloone            | √                      | x               | x          |
| <i>Louth County Council</i>        | Clogherhead                | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Port, Lurganboy            | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Seapoint                   | √                      | √               | √          |
|                                    | Shelling Hill/, Templetown | √                      | √               | √          |

| <i>Responsible Local Authority</i> | <i>Bathing Area</i>              | <i>Compliance With:</i> |                 |            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
|                                    |                                  | <b>EU Mandatory</b>     | <b>EU Guide</b> | <b>NLV</b> |
| <i>Mayo County Council</i>         | Bertra                           | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Carrawmore                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Doogort                          | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Dooga, Achill                    | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Elly Bay, Belmullet              | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Golden Strand, Achill            | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Keel, Achill                     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Keem, Achill                     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Killala, Ross Strand             | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Louisburgh, Old Head Beach       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Louisburgh, Silver Strand        | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Mullaghroe, Belmullet            | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Mulranny                         | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Rinroe, Carratigue               | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | The Harbour , Clare Island       | √                       | √               | √          |
| <i>Meath County Council</i>        | Laytown/Bettystown               | √                       | √               | x          |
| <i>Sligo County Council</i>        | Enniscrone                       | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Mullaghmore                      | √                       | √               | x          |
|                                    | Rosses Point                     | √                       | √               | √          |
| <i>Waterford County Council</i>    | Ardmore                          | x                       | x               | x          |
|                                    | Bonmahon                         | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Clonea, East                     | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Dunmore East, Counsellors Strand | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Dunmore East, Main Strand        | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Tramore, Main Strand             | √                       | √               | √          |
| <i>Westmeath County Council</i>    | Lilliput, Lough Ennel            | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | Portnashangan, Lough Owel        | √                       | √               | √          |
|                                    | The Cut, Lough Lene              | √                       | √               | √          |



| <i>Responsible<br/>Local Authority</i> | <i>Bathing Area</i>   | <i>Compliance With:</i> |                     |            |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|
|  |                       | <b>EU<br/>Mandatory</b> | <b>EU<br/>Guide</b> | <b>NLV</b> |
| <i>Wexford County Council</i>          | Ballymoney            | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Courtown, North Beach | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Curracloe             | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Duncannon             | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Morriscastle          | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Rosslare Strand       | √                       | √                   | √          |
| <i>Wicklow County Council</i>          | Bray Beach            | √                       | √                   | x          |
|  | Brittas Bay North     | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Brittas Bay South     | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Clogga Beach          | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Greystones            | √                       | √                   | √          |
|  | Silver Strand         | √                       | √                   | √          |

## USER COMMENT FORM

Completed comments to be forwarded to: The Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford.

Document Title: **Bathing Water Quality in Ireland (2005)**

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