

Greenpiece



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



Big Beach Clean

15th, 16th & 17th Sept

We hope everyone will join the movement for litter free seas and be part of the world's largest coastal cleanup event and marine litter survey. The event takes place every year on the 3rd weekend in September.

Register Your Beach Clean...

Help a coastline you love by taking part in Clean Coasts Big Beach Clean. You will be helping to protect our beaches, seas and marine life locally, nationally and internationally.

Free clean-up kits are available which include gloves, bags, data collection cards, posters and high-vis vests are available while stocks last.

Register here to form a GREEN COAST GROUP www.cleancoasts.org or you can give us a call on **01 4002210**



Donegal's 12 Blue Flag Beaches

Bundoran, Rossnowlagh, Murvagh, Fintra, Narin/Portnoo, Carrickfinn, Killahoey, Marble Hill, Downings, Portsalon, Culdaff, Shrove.

Donegal's first Blue Flag Marina



Greencastle Marina is the first marina in the county to receive Blue Flag status and to attain this award the marina has had to comply with stringent criteria concerning environmental information and education, environmental management, safety and service facilities, and water quality.

COASTAL BICYCLE BIKE STANDS

Donegal County Council has recently unveiled 12 new bespoke Bicycle Stands installed at various points on beaches around the coast. These stands have been especially designed to suit their stunning coastal settings and add another great facility for visitors to our beaches. These locations include Lisfannon, Bundoran, Rossnowlagh, Murvagh, Fintra, Narin, Killahoey, Marble Hill, Downings, Portsalon, Culdaff and Stroove.

The benefits of cycling are obvious. Not only will increased numbers of cyclists take vehicles off our roads and ease congestion at our beaches, it will also have benefits for the environment as cycling is, perhaps, the most eco-friendly means of transport.



Donegal's 5 Green Coast Beaches



Ballyheirnan, Dooley, Drumnatinney (Falcarragh), Magheraarty, Port Arthur.

The Green Coast Awards are given to beaches that have excellent water quality, a five year beach management plan and where the local communities are encouraged to engage in the management of the beach. These beaches may not have the suite of facilities required for Blue Flag status but they are exceptional places to visit.



If you are
enjoying a picnic
on the beach, please
bring your
rubbish home
and leave
nothing behind



Free 'Poop Scoops'

Dog waste is very unpleasant, a nuisance and poses a serious health risk to young children. Dog owners must now remove their pets' waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner. Poop Scoop bags are available to pet owners free of charge from the lifeguard stations at all Blue Flag beaches and also from all Donegal County Council offices.



LIFESAVING • SWIMMING • WATER SAFETY

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk,
Cahade, Ireland.
LoCall 1800 429 282
Web: www.iws.ie

www.ringbuoys.ie

REPORT IT • DAMAGED • STOLEN • MISSING • FOUND

A STOLEN RINGBUOY - A STOLEN LIFE
help@ringbuoys.ie

HOW TO USE A RINGBUOY

- Stand back from the edge and establish voice contact with the person, shouting 'Kick your legs!'
- Look for the nearest ringbuoy (Yellow Box).
- Stand on the end of the rope or hold it in your hand.
- Holding the ringbuoy, swing back, then release forward with an under-arm throw, shouting: 'Ringbuoy! Ringbuoy! Ringbuoy!'
- Aim to land the ringbuoy beyond the person, so that the ringbuoy can be pulled into their grasp.
- Instruct the person to hold the ringbuoy. Slowly pull them to land, reassuring them.
- Get others to help you.

Dial 112 or 999 for Help & Emergency Services
Irish Water Safety www.iws.ie info@iws.ie

The Water Framework Directive

The EPA has issued its draft PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR IRELAND (2018-2021) for public consultation, and in that has reported that 32% of transitional waters and 76% of coastal waters have achieved good or high status.



Nationally, for our protected areas, 93% of bathing waters met the required standards in 2015. For shellfish waters the most recent information, for 2015, shows 75% of sites meeting the microbiological guide value. For Special Areas of Conservation, SAC's, in transitional waters only 37% of such areas met their required standards of good status.

Given the importance of the marine environment as an asset to rural coastal counties, like Donegal - for recreational amenity purposes, tourism, aquaculture and related employment, it is vital that the general public engage with the plan and state agencies in order to maintain and improve the status of these waters. For further information, check out www.catchments.ie and www.donegalcoco.ie/services/environment/ north western river basin district. There will be an Information Day in Donegal in October to facilitate engagement and feedback on the areas for action.

JELLYFISH AWARENESS

www.iws.ie/_fileupload/Publications/Jellyfish%20ID%20Card.pdf

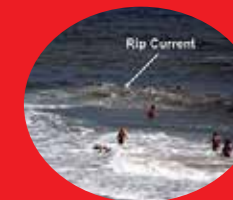


Identify a Rip Current

Rip currents are especially hazardous because they can be difficult to identify and they are often encountered by people who have no experience with ocean waves or currents.

Although some rip currents are visibly obvious and easily discerned, they are often not readily or easily identifiable to the average beachgoer. Some of the clues to rip current identification include:

- A channel of churning, choppy water
- A line of sea foam, seaweed, or debris moving steadily seaward
- Different colored water beyond the surf zone
- A break in the incoming wave pattern as waves roll into shore.



SAFE Swimming:

- Swim at lifeguarded waterways - listed at www.iws.ie/bathing-areas/map.372.html
- Swim with others in areas that are traditionally recognised as safe.
- Swim within your depth, parallel and close to shore.
- Never use inflatable toys in open water or swim out after anything drifting.
- Never swim in the dark.
- Avoid staying in the water too long as you risk the onset of hypothermia.
- Train for your aquatic activity at www.safetyzone.ie.
- Supervise children at all times near water - thirty aged fourteen and under drowned in a decade.
- In Marine Emergencies call 112 and ask for the coastguard.
- Water sports and alcohol don't mix. Tragically, alcohol is a factor in one third of adult deaths from drowning.

For more information contact **Fiona Kelly**,
Water and Environment, Donegal County Council **074 917 2283**
email fionakelly@donegalcoco.ie or visit www.donegalcoco.ie