



Bathing Water Quality in Ireland

A report for the year 2020



Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

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

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

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

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

Our Responsibilities

Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (*e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations*);
- large scale industrial activities (*e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants*);
- intensive agriculture (*e.g. pigs, poultry*);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (*GMOs*);
- sources of ionising radiation (*e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources*);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

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

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

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

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

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

Environmental Research and Development

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

Radiological Protection

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

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

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

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

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

Management and structure of the EPA

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

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

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



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Environmental Protection Agency

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Cover photo: Clare Island Beach, Mayo

Photo: Anthony Mannix

Published by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

May 2021

ISBN: 978-1-84095-990-1

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Key findings for 2020

Bathing Water quality in 2020

- There were 148 identified bathing waters in 2020. This number has increased steadily from 135 in 2011.
- 96% of bathing waters met or exceeded the minimum required standard.
- 89% of bathing waters were classified as Excellent or Good.
- Four bathing waters were classified as Poor: Clifden Beach, Lilliput (Lough Ennell), Balbriggan (Front Strand Beach) and Cúas Crom.
- Clifden Beach was classified as Poor for the last five years, 2016 to 2020, meaning it will be closed or 'declassified' as a bathing water in 2021.
- Urban wastewater is the most common source of pollution affecting bathing water.

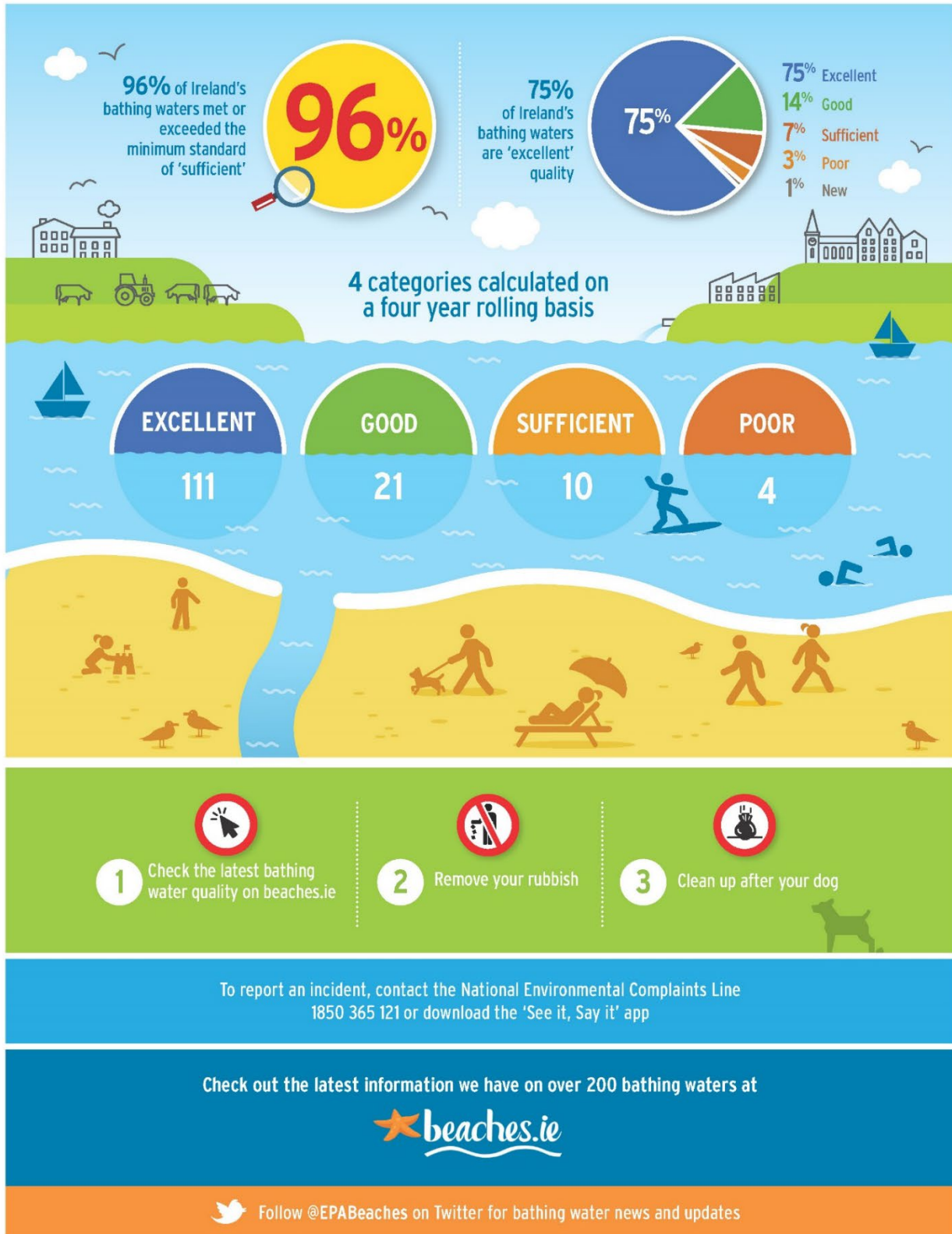
Changes since 2019

- Bathing water quality improved overall
- 2020 Classification:
 - 111 bathing waters were Excellent in 2020 (107 in 2019).
 - 21 bathing waters were Good in 2020 (24 in 2019).
 - 10 bathing waters were Sufficient in 2020 (9 in 2019).
 - 4 bathing waters were Poor in 2020 (5 in 2019).
- Two new bathing waters were identified in 2020.

Actions needed

- Local authorities must prioritise measures to improve the Poor bathing waters to at least Sufficient.
- Local authorities should prioritise measures to increase the number of bathing waters at Good or Excellent.
- Irish Water need improvements in the operation, management and maintenance of plants and networks which impact on bathing waters.
- We can all help by bringing our rubbish home, cleaning up after our dogs, and reporting pollution.

Bathing Water Quality in Ireland 2020



1: Introduction

This is a report about bathing water quality in Ireland during 2020. It is based on our assessment of water quality information local authorities have given us about the beaches that they manage. We provide the bathing water quality classification for formally identified bathing areas (beaches and lakes) and for some other monitored waters where it is available.

In this report, we also explain how we assess water quality and how you can help to keep our bathing waters clean and protect your health. A **Glossary** and background information for some of the technical terms used in this report is provided on page 22.

1.1 Who does what?

Local authorities

Local authorities are responsible for monitoring and managing bathing waters. They arrange for water samples to be taken and analysed throughout the bathing season (June to mid-September), and they maintain facilities. Local authorities report and investigate pollution events and carry out actions to reduce or remove any sources of pollution.

The EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the environmental regulator. We make sure that local authorities carry out their functions under the Bathing Water Regulations to monitor bathing waters, to warn of pollution events and to take action where there are water quality issues. EPA share the latest information provided by local authorities with the public through www.beaches.ie.

The HSE

The Health Service Executive (HSE) gives advice to local authorities on public and environmental health issues related to bathing water.

The public

We can all help by keeping our local beaches and lakes clean. Pollution events should be reported to the Local Authority and there are many community and public initiatives to get involved in, such as the two minute beach clean and Clean Coasts. The public can also make representations to local authorities to identify new bathing waters.

1.2 Why should I check the latest water quality information?

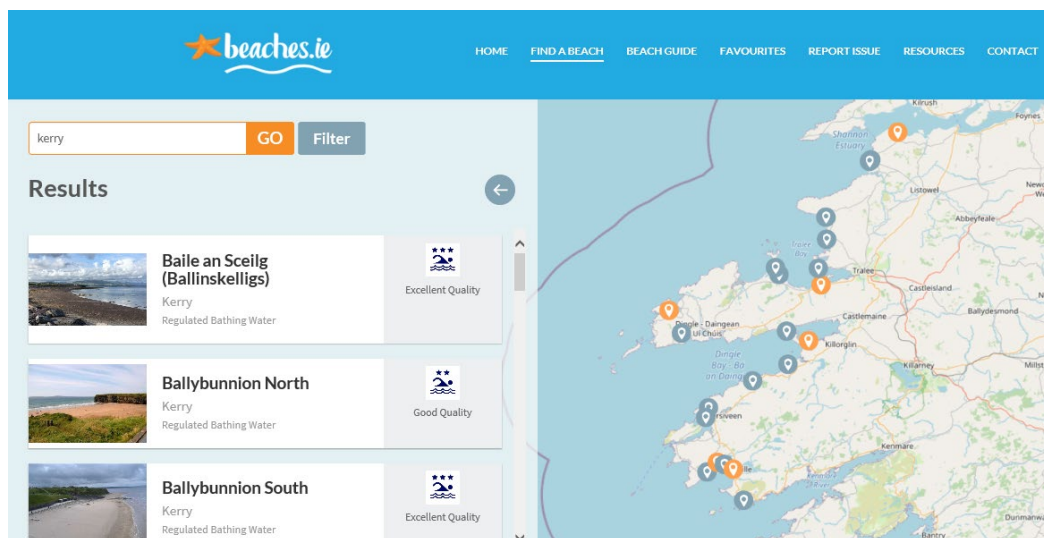
This report gives the annual classification for 2020. This indicates the water quality over the long term, based on the samples taken during the bathing season over four years. However, water quality can change quickly in the short term, especially during rainfall events which can wash pollution into our waters. For this reason, the information on the latest water quality samples, and any temporary swimming restrictions put in place by the Local Authorities, should be checked before swimming at www.beaches.ie. After any heavy rainfall event it is best to avoid recreational water activities at your beach or bathing area for at least 48 hours.

1.3 Where can I check the latest bathing water quality?

Our national bathing water website, www.beaches.ie, shares the **latest information** on more than 200 bathing waters sampled during the bathing water season. This website gives you information about:

- beaches near you
- which beaches have safe water quality or have known pollution events
- the weather and tides
- beach amenities.

So, before you head to the beach, find out what the latest water quality is and make sure there are no reported swim restrictions. This information will allow you to make an informed decision about which beach you will use. You can also follow us on Twitter @EPABeaches.



2: Bathing water quality

2.1 How is bathing water quality assessed?

Bathing water quality is assessed by taking water samples and classifying the results against a set of standards that protect our health. The same standards are used by all countries in the European Union.

Local authorities take samples of bathing waters just before, and during the bathing water season. In Ireland, the season runs from 1 June to 15 September each year. Local authorities must take samples of bathing water at least once a month. However, many local authorities sample once a fortnight, and even once a week in some areas. The samples are analysed in a laboratory. 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 grow the bacteria.

When we classify the quality of the water at a beach or a lake, we base the classification on water testing **results over four years**, rather than just the past season's information, or the information from the most recent sample taken. We must use at least 16 water samples.

Swimming in Ireland can be a year-round activity in some locations, however, for the purposes of assessing bathing water quality, we only use results from the bathing season. We classify water quality at our beaches and lakes as Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor. There is more information on bathing water classification in Appendix A.

Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The highest, cleanest class.
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally good water quality.
Sufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The water quality meets the minimum standard.
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The water quality has not met the minimum standard.

2.2 Bathing water quality in 2020

For the 2020 bathing season, we assessed 148 identified bathing waters. Of these, 142 (96%) met or exceeded the minimum required standard of Sufficient. Figure 1 summarises the bathing water quality for 2020. Figure 2 shows the locations of all identified bathing waters and their individual water quality classifications.

- 111 (75%) of bathing waters were classified as Excellent, one of which was newly classified in 2020
- 21 (14%) were classified as Good
- 10 (7%) were classified as Sufficient
- 4 (3%) were classified as Poor
- 2 (1%) bathing waters, Carrigaholt and Quilty (both in Clare), were new in 2020 and will be classified following the 2021 bathing season.

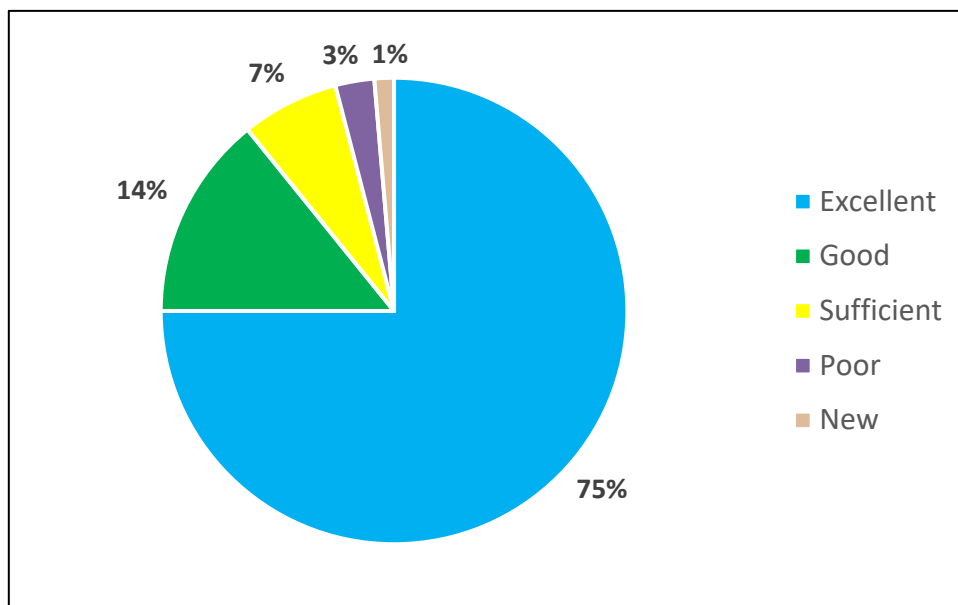


Figure 1: Bathing water quality in Ireland in 2020

Two bathing waters were classified for the first time in 2020. They were Inchydoney East Beach in Cork (Excellent) and Cúas Crom in Kerry (Poor).

Information on the likely quality for 'other' monitored bathing waters that are not formally identified, but where local authorities do take samples, is presented in Section 7.

Bathing Water Quality Map of Ireland 2020

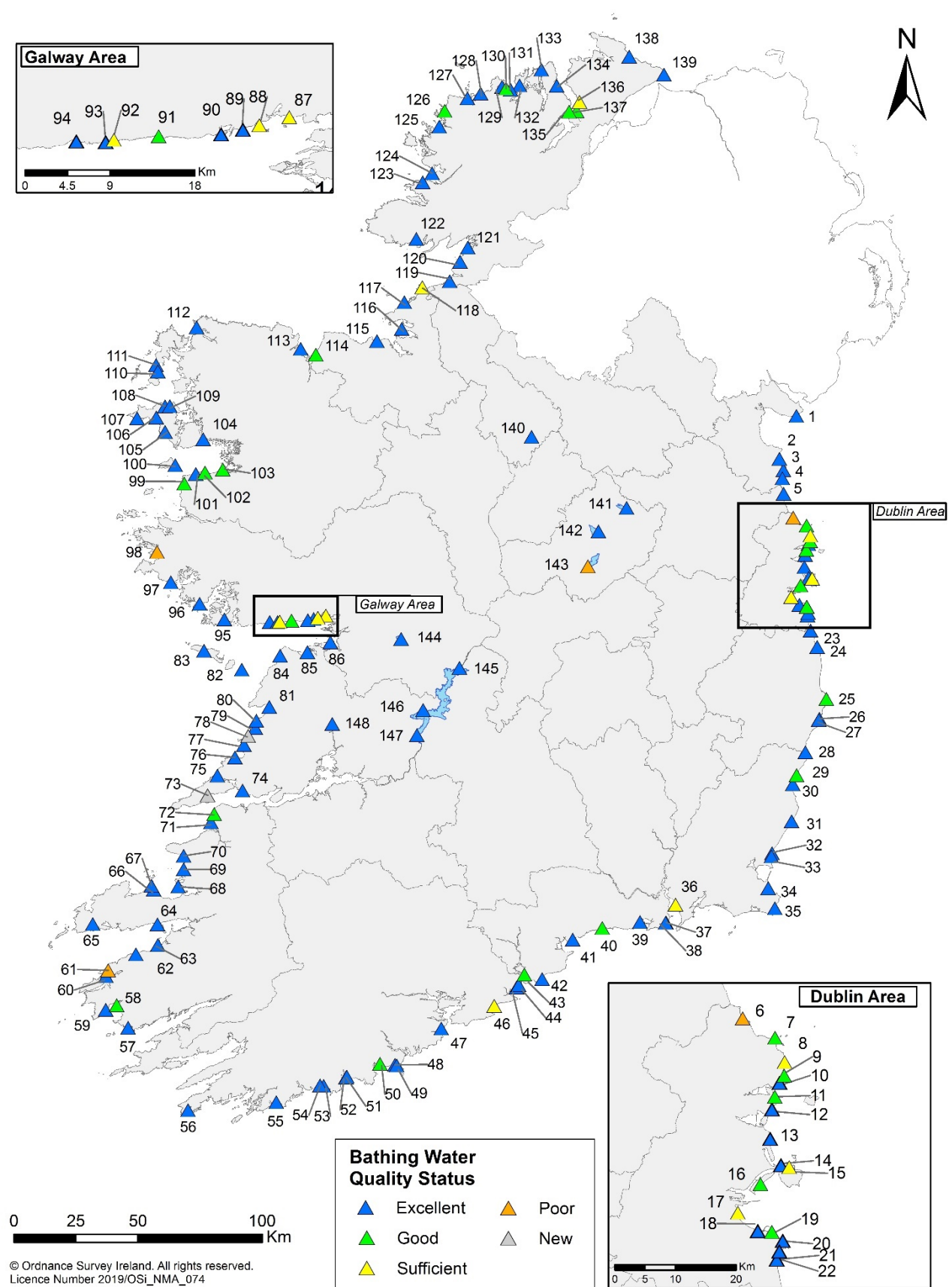


Figure 2: Bathing water quality map of Ireland 2020 for identified bathing waters

Bathing Water Names (Identified Bathing Waters in 2020)

1	Shelling Hill/Templetown	50	Coolmaine	99	Carrowniskey, Louisburgh
2	Port, Lurganboy	51	Inchydoney West Beach	100	Clare Island, Louisburgh
3	Clogherhead	52	Inchydoney East Beach	101	Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh
4	Seapoint	53	Owenahincha, Little Island Strand	102	Old Head Beach, Louisburgh
5	Laytown/Bettystown	54	Warren, Cregane Strand	103	Bertra Beach, Murrisk
6	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	55	Tragumna	104	Mulranny Beach
7	Skerries, South Beach	56	Barley Cove	105	Dooga Beach, Achill Island
8	Loughshinny Beach	57	Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)	106	Keel Beach, Achill Island
9	Rush, North Beach	58	Trá na hUíne (Inny Strand, Waterville)	107	Keem Beach, Achill Island
10	Rush, South Beach	59	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	108	Dugort Beach, Achill Island
11	Portrane, the Brook Beach	60	White Strand, Caherciveen	109	Golden Strand, Achill Island
12	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	61	Cúas Crom	110	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet
13	Portmarnock, Velvet Strand Beach	62	Kells	111	Elly Bay, Belmullet
14	Sutton, Burrow Beach	63	Rossbeigh, White Strand	112	Rinroe Beach, Carrowtigue
15	Claremont Beach	64	Inch	113	Ross Beach, Killala
16	Dollymount Strand	65	Fionntrá (Ventry)	114	Enniscrone Beach
17	Sandymount Strand	66	Maharabeg	115	Dunmorán Beach
18	Seapoint	67	Castlegregory	116	Rosses Point Beach
19	Sandycove Beach	68	Fenit	117	Streedagh Beach
20	Forty Foot Bathing Place	69	Banna Strand	118	Mullaghmore Beach
21	White Rock Beach	70	Ballyheigue	119	Bundoran
22	Killiney	71	Ballybunnion South	120	Rossnowlagh
23	Bray South Promenade	72	Ballybunnion North	121	Murvagh
24	Greystones South	73	Carrigaholt	122	Fintra
25	Silver Strand	74	Cappagh Pier, Kilrush	123	Naran
26	Brittas Bay North	75	Kilkee	124	Dooley
27	Brittas Bay South	76	White Strand, Doonbeg	125	Carrickfinn
28	Clogga	77	Seafield, Quilty	126	Portarthur, Derrybeg
29	Ballymoney, North Beach	78	Quilty	127	Magheraroarty
30	Courtown, North Beach	79	Spanish Point	128	Drumnatinny
31	Morriscastle	80	White Strand, Miltown Malbay	129	Killahoey
32	Ballinesker	81	Lahinch	130	Portnablagh
33	Curraclloe	82	Trá Inis Oirr (Main Beach)	131	Marble Hill
34	Rosslare Strand	83	Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór	132	Downings
35	Carne Beach	84	Fanore	133	Ballyhiernan, Fanad
36	Duncannon	85	Bishopsquarter	134	Portsalon
37	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	86	Traught, Kinvara	135	Rathmullan
38	Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East	87	Ballyloughane Beach	136	Lady's Bay, Buncrana
39	Tramore Beach	88	Grattan Road Beach	137	Lisfannon
40	Bunmahon Beach	89	Salthill Beach	138	Culdaff
41	Clonea Beach	90	Silverstrand Beach	139	Stroove
42	Ardmore Beach	91	Trá na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha	140	Keeldra Lough
43	Youghal Front Strand Beach	92	Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	141	The Cut, Lough Lene
44	Youghal Claycastle	93	Céibh an Spidéil	142	Portnashangan, Lough Owel
45	Redbarn	94	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán	143	Lilliput, Lough Ennel
46	Garryvoe	95	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	144	Loughrea Lake
47	Fountainstown	96	Trá Chaladh Fínis, Carna	145	Bathing Place at Portumna
48	Garrylucas, White Strand	97	Goirtín, Cloch na Rón	146	Mountshannon, Lough Derg
49	Garretstown	98	Clifden Beach	147	Ballycuggeran
				148	Ballyallia Lake, Ennis

2.3 Changes in bathing water quality between 2019 and 2020

Overall, bathing water quality has continued to improve in 2020. Some 142 bathing waters met the minimum required standard of Sufficient in 2020, up from 140 in 2019. See Appendix B for classifications for all 148 identified bathing waters for the four-year period from 2017 to 2020.

Table 1 below shows the changes in bathing water quality between 2019 and 2020.

- 111 bathing waters were classified as Excellent in 2020, up from 107 in 2019
- 6 bathing waters improved from Good in 2019 to Excellent in 2020, while 3 bathing waters dropped from Excellent in 2019 to Good in 2020
- 21 bathing waters were classified as Good in 2020, down from 24 in 2019
- 10 bathing waters were classified as Sufficient in 2020, up from 9 in 2019
- 4 bathing waters were classified as Poor in 2020, down from 5 in 2019, with 2 of those being Poor in both years.

Table 1: Changes in bathing water classification between 2019 and 2020

Classification	Number of bathing waters in 2019	Number of bathing waters in 2020	Difference
Excellent	107	111	+4
Good	24	21	-3
Sufficient	9	10	+1
Poor	5	4	-1
New	2	2	0
Total	147	148	+1

3: Pollution incidents

During the bathing water season, swimming restrictions may be put in place at the beach if:

- a pollution incident (explained below) occurs
- water sampling indicates there could be a risk to human health.

When swimming restrictions are in place:

- details are put up on www.beaches.ie.
- signs are put up at the beach notice boards
- restrictions may be advertised in the media and on local authority websites
- the EPA Twitter account, @EPABeaches, sends out alerts.

Restrictions stay in place until sampling shows that the water quality has returned to normal.



3.1 Bathing water pollution incidents in 2020

A pollution incident is an incident that has the potential to cause the bathing water quality to deteriorate at the beach, for example when there is a stormwater overflow from a wastewater treatment plant, or when scheduled sampling identifies a pollution risk that has not had a 'Prior Warning' (see Section 3.2). In 2020, 57 bathing water pollution incidents were reported to us, compared to 50 in 2019 (see Table 2). A precautionary approach is taken when reporting incidents meaning that not all incidents reported to us result in a deterioration in the bathing water quality. This approach is taken to protect bathers' health.

Table 2: Pollution Incidents in 2019 and 2020

	2019	2020	Difference
Incidents	50	57	+7

Local authorities investigate and report the likely causes of these pollution incidents to the EPA. In 2020, they were caused by (see also Figure 3):

- urban wastewater (47%)
- diffuse pollution from agriculture (37%)
- water run-off from urban areas during rainfall and misconnections, where waste pipes from households have been incorrectly connected to surface drains (12%)
- septic tanks (4%).

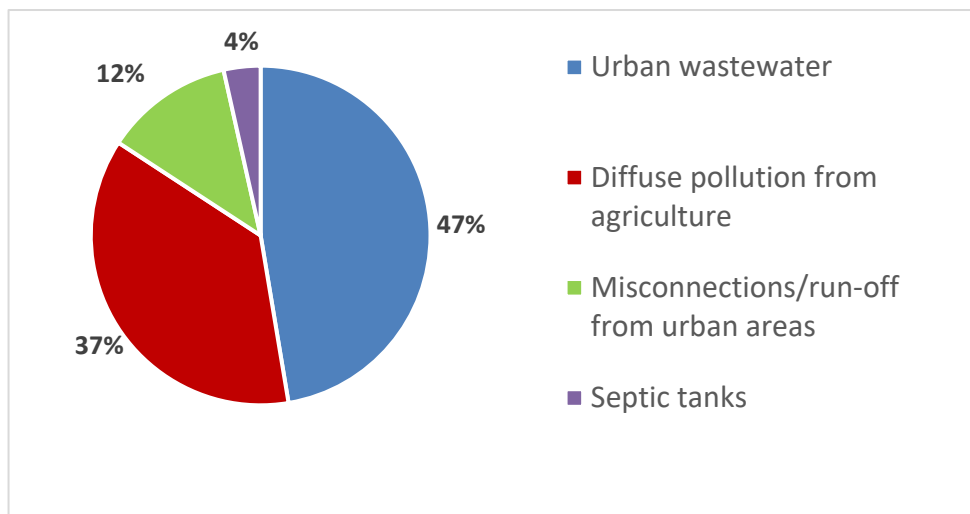


Figure 3: Likely causes of reported incidents in 2020

Weather during the 2020 bathing season

Rainfall and sunshine can affect bathing water quality. Heavy rainfall can increase the number of bacteria and other harmful organisms which get washed from our countryside and towns, through rivers and sewer systems, to our beaches and lakes. Sunshine can improve bathing water quality by killing bacteria and other harmful organisms. The summer of 2020 featured a lot of unsettled weather. The monthly total sunshine hours were below average throughout the country. Most places also experienced above average rainfall and below average air temperatures. Half of all bathing water incidents were reported during the

month of August when two named storms, Storm Ellen and Storm Francis, brought widespread gales and heavy rainfall, with flooding in some areas¹.

3.2 Prior warnings of potential pollution events

Some bathing waters are more likely to experience water quality problems when it rains. When heavy rainfall is forecast, many local authorities will put up a notice giving a 'Prior warning' of pollution events at these bathing waters. 'Prior warning' notices do not necessarily mean that pollution will occur. These are used in a precautionary approach to protect bathers' health by advising the public of possible short-term pollution events which usually last for only a few days at most.

In 2020, there were 135 'Prior warning' notices, 6 more than 2019. Most of these warnings (64%) were reported during the month of August with the heavy rainfall. Table 3 shows information on the number of 'Prior warnings' reported in 2019 and 2020.

Table 3: 'Prior warnings' of water quality problems in 2019 and 2020

	2019	2020	Difference
Prior warnings	129	135	+6

For 16 of the prior warnings reported, samples taken indicated that the bathing water quality was affected by the heavy rainfall that was forecast. When this happens, depending on the level of pollution, the Local Authority replace the warning with one of the following temporary restrictions:

- an 'Advice against bathing', or
- a 'Bathing prohibition' notice.

The restriction is removed when water sampling shows that the pollution event is over.

¹ Summary of weather conditions based on Met Éireann seasonal and monthly summaries www.met.ie/climate/past-weather-statements (Year = 2020, month = Summer)

4: Poor bathing waters

A 'Poor' classification means that the bathing water has not met the minimum standard required under the Bathing Water Regulations. For Poor bathing waters, the local authority must put up notices at the beach telling the public why there is a Poor water quality rating (Figure 4). Work must be done by local authorities to improve Poor bathing waters to at least Sufficient quality.

Lilliput, Lough Ennell  **WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL** COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA h-ARMHÍ Poor Bathing Water Advisory Notice Entire Season BNS
1st June 2020



WARNING



DO NOT SWIM

THIS BATHING RESTRICTION WILL REMAIN IN PLACE FOR THE 2020 BATHING SEASON

SWIMMING IN THIS WATER MAY CAUSE ILLNESS

REASON FOR RESTRICTION: This bathing water was classed to be of 'Poor' quality following assessment of the last 4 years monitoring results. As per 2008 Bathing Water Quality Regulations, the bathing water must now have a bathing restriction in place for this entire season. The bathing water will continue to be monitored during the bathing season (1 June – 15 September) and current water quality results are available at the beach notice board and on the Beaches website <http://www.beaches.ie>. *Water quality is not routinely monitored outside the bathing season.*

CAUSE(S) OF POLLUTION: Agricultural Diffuse Pollution

MEASURES TAKEN/PLANNED:

- Increased Monitoring
- Agricultural Source Investigations
- Discharges from Wastewater Treatment System Discontinued

For further information please contact: Westmeath County Council Tel: 044 9332000
Visit: <http://www.beaches.ie> or www.westmeathcoco.ie

Figure 4: Example of warning notice for a bathing water with a Poor classification

Bathing waters that are classified as Poor for five consecutive years must be declassified and are no longer identified under the Bathing Water Regulations. This is the case for Clifden Beach in Galway, which has been declassified as it has had Poor water quality for five years (2016-2020 inclusive). Table 4 shows the number of Poor bathing waters in 2019 and 2020.

Table 4: Poor bathing waters in 2019 and 2020

Local authority	Bathing water	2019	2020
Galway County Council	Clifden Beach	Poor	Poor
Westmeath County Council	Lilliput, Lough Ennell	Poor	Poor
Fingal County Council	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	Poor
Kerry County Council	Cúas Crom	New	Poor
Fingal County Council	Portrane, the Brook Beach	Poor	Good
Galway City Council	Ballyloughane Beach	Poor	Sufficient
Dublin City Council	Merrion Strand	Poor	n/a

- Four bathing waters were classified as Poor in 2020, one less than in 2019.
- One of the four Poor bathing waters is in Galway (Clifden Beach), one is in Westmeath (Lilliput, Lough Ennell), one is in Dublin (Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach), and one is located in Kerry (Cúas Crom). Two of these bathing waters (Clifden Beach and Lilliput) were Poor in both years.
- Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach deteriorated from Sufficient in 2019 to Poor in 2020.
- Cúas Crom was identified in 2019 and its first classification, in 2020, was Poor.
- Ballyloughane Beach improved from Poor in 2019 to Sufficient in 2020.
- Portrane, the Brook Beach improved from Poor in 2019 to Good in 2020.
- Merrion Strand, which was Poor in 2019 has now been declassified and is no longer an identified bathing water.

The Local Authorities with Poor bathing waters have management plans in place to address the issues at the four Poor bathing waters. There is a summary below based on the information provided in the plans. For more details visit www.beaches.ie.

Clifden Beach (Galway County Council)

Clifden Beach has been classified as Poor for the last five years, 2016 to 2020.

This now means that this bathing water must be 'declassified' in 2021.

The main issue at Clifden Beach is a storm water overflow at the Clifden wastewater

treatment plant. Other potential sources of pollution include discharges from septic tanks in the area.

How Galway County Council is addressing this issue

Galway County Council will continue to engage with Irish Water in relation to the storm water overflow. Irish Water has undertaken rehabilitation works on the Clifden sewer network and the waste water treatment plant.

Other potential sources of pollution include discharges from septic tanks in the area. Galway County Council will continue to follow up in relation to any issues identified that may pose a risk to the bathing area.

Galway County Council will continue monitoring Clifden Beach. Signage will be put up at Clifden Beach to inform the public that the area is no longer a designated bathing water.

Galway County Council has identified a new, better quality, bathing area nearby, Aillebrack / Silverhill Beach, for the 2021 bathing season.

Lilliput, Lough Ennell (Westmeath County Council)

Lilliput, Lough Ennell, has been classified as Poor for the last three years, 2018 to 2020. Investigations have found that the main source of pollution affecting the bathing water is diffuse agriculture. Septic tank discharges and birds are also potential, but less likely, sources of pollution.

How Westmeath County Council is addressing this issue

Westmeath County Council are working with the Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO) team to investigate the sources of pollution. Extra samples have been taken from the lake and its feeder streams, and farm and septic tank surveys have been carried out.

More surveys and sampling are planned for the 2021 season. Westmeath County Council will write to local landowners to provide information on best practice under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. During the 2020 bathing season, Westmeath County Council arranged to turn off the local small wastewater treatment plant and remove the

wastewater regularly throughout the summer. This practice will be continued in 2021.

Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach (Fingal County Council)

Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach was classified as Poor in 2020, having been classified as Sufficient for many years. Fingal County Council considers that the main sources of pollution are sewage discharges and misconnections from domestic plumbing systems, birds and other animals, and contaminated surface streams.

How Fingal County Council is addressing this issue

Fingal County Council has been carrying out misconnection surveys. In 2020 Fingal County Council's dog wardens carried out targeted inspections at weekends. The Green Dog Walker Scheme is promoted to encourage responsible dog ownership as dog fouling is a risk to bathing waters. These initiatives will be continued in 2021.

During 2020 a pollution assessment study on the River Bracken, which flows through the town, was commissioned by Balbriggan Tidy Towns Committee and funded by Fingal County Council and LAWPRO. Fingal County Council will carry out further inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems and farms in the catchment area of the River Bracken in 2021.

Cúas Crom (Kerry County Council)

Cúas Crom is classified as having Poor Water Quality in 2020 and an Advice Not To Swim restriction will apply at the bathing water for the 2021 season. Although the beach was classified for the first time in 2020, Kerry County Council has been monitoring the beach since 2017. Extreme rainfall events causing short term pollution at the beach appears to be the reason the water quality declined in 2020.

How Kerry County Council is addressing this issue

Kerry County Council will carry out targeted water quality assessments and inspections to find the sources of the short-term pollution.

5: Sufficient bathing waters

Ten bathing waters are currently classified as Sufficient, which is the minimum acceptable standard. Local authorities should carry out appropriate actions to improve the Sufficient bathing waters to Good or Excellent, and to prevent deterioration to Poor. Table 5 lists the bathing waters classified as Sufficient in 2020. The EPA is working with the relevant Local Authorities to encourage good management practices at these bathing waters.

Table 5: Sufficient bathing waters in 2019 and 2020

Local authority	Bathing water	2019	2020
Cork County Council	Garryvoe	Sufficient	Sufficient
Donegal County Council	Lady's Bay, Bunrana	Good	Sufficient
	Portarthur, Derrybeg	Sufficient	Good
Dublin City Council	Sandymount Strand	Sufficient	Sufficient
Fingal County Council	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	Poor
	Claremont Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient
	Loughshinny Beach	Good	Sufficient
Galway City Council	Ballyloughane Beach	Poor	Sufficient
	Grattan Road Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient
Galway County Council	Trá na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha	Sufficient	Good
	Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	Sufficient	Sufficient
Sligo County Council	Mullaghmore Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient
Wexford County Council	Duncannon	Good	Sufficient

6: Public participation and research

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

- bring your rubbish home
- pick up dog waste and bring it home, or dispose of it in suitable bins – don't just bury it in the sand
- bring waste food home, as leaving it behind attracts seabirds that can cause bacterial pollution
- report any pollution using the 'See It - Say it' app – details of the app are available at <http://www.epa.ie/enforcement/report/>
- check out how to get involved in community and public initiatives such as the [Two minute beach clean](#) and [Clean coasts groups](#).

A number of research projects are underway to give us more information about sources of pollution at beaches, such as the [Duncannon Project](#), [Acclimatize](#) and the [Pier Project](#).

7: 'Other' monitored bathing waters

Some other places where people swim, but that are **not formally identified** as bathing waters, are still monitored by local authorities for water quality. These are generally smaller, or more remote beaches. Their infrastructure to cater for many users (for example, car parking facilities) may not be as well developed as the popular bathing areas, but they are still considered important for eco-tourism purposes. An Taisce inspect many of these waters under the Green Coast award scheme.

We recommend that bathers check www.beaches.ie or signage at the beach, where present, to review the most up to date bathing water quality. You can also contact the local authority for information relating to bathing water quality.

Water quality

We have assessed the monitoring information for the 'other' monitored bathing waters for the quality that is *likely* to be achieved at these waters. The results are in Figure 5 and

Appendix C. Monitoring may not be carried out to the same standard or minimum frequency (at least once a month) required for identified bathing waters. We encourage local authorities to formally identify these bathing waters where practical.

Bathing Water Quality (Other Monitored Waters) 2020

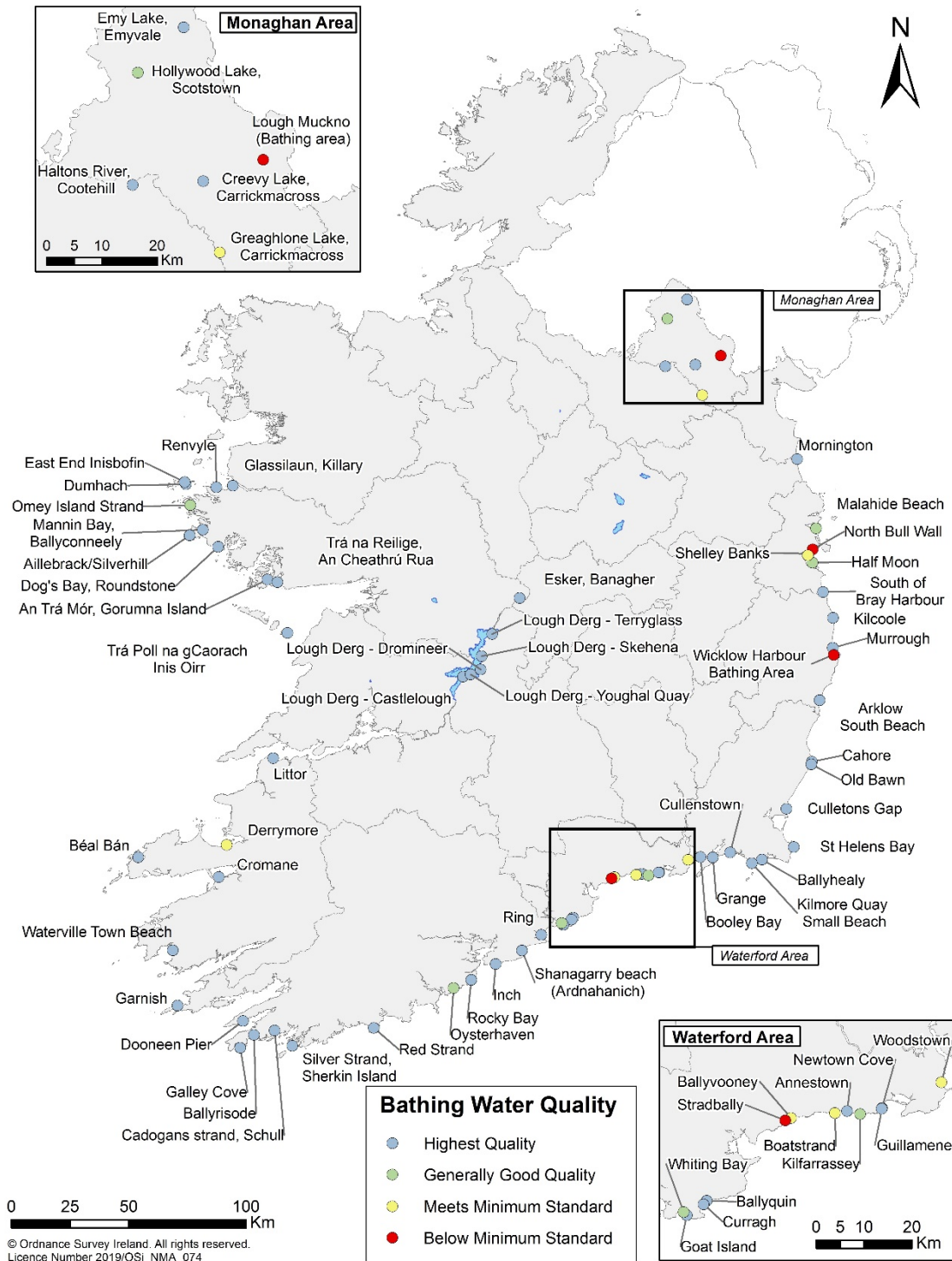


Figure 5: Bathing water quality ('other' monitored waters) Map of Ireland 2020

8: Conclusions

96% of bathing waters met the minimum standard of Sufficient

Water quality improved in 2020, with 96% of bathing waters reaching or exceeding the minimum required standard of Sufficient. Two newly identified bathing waters (1%) were not assessed as they do not yet have the required number of samples. Information on bathing waters is available on www.beaches.ie.

There are 4 Poor Bathing waters

Four bathing waters were Poor in 2020, down one from 2019. Local authorities should work with key stakeholders to carry out appropriate actions to increase the number of bathing waters classified as Good or Excellent.

Clifden Beach Poor for 5 years in a row

Clifden Beach has been classified as Poor for the last 5 years, 2016 to 2020. This bathing water must now be 'declassified' in 2021.

Reported incidents up from 50 to 57

The number of pollution incidents reported to the EPA increased from 50 in 2019 to 57 in 2020.

Urban wastewater is the biggest problem

Urban wastewater is the most common source of pollution affecting bathing water. Irish Water need to make improvements in the operation, management and maintenance of plants and networks which are impacting on bathing water quality.

Everyone can contribute to improving water quality

Everyone can play their part by bringing their rubbish home, cleaning up after their dogs and reporting pollution through the National Environmental Complaints Line 1850 365 121 or using the 'See it, Say it' app.

Glossary and background information

Agriculture 'diffuse'	Pollution from agriculture can be widespread over large areas. This kind of diffuse pollution can be more difficult to locate than smaller 'point' sources of pollution like pipes or channels.
Bathing water	This is a general term used for those locations where people swim or use beaches and lakes for recreation.
Bathing Water Regulations	This refers to Statutory Instrument 79 of 2008 (SI 79 of 2008), the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, which brought the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC into Irish legislation.
Declassified	A bathing water is declassified when it is no longer identified under the Bathing Water Regulations.
E. coli / intestinal enterococci	These are two types of bacteria found in both human and animal faeces (poo) in large numbers. They are used as indicators of the possible presence of other harmful micro-organisms like viruses.
Eco-tourism	Visits by the public to areas of natural beauty where the setting is unspoiled. Visitors are encouraged to act responsibly and to respect the environment and the wellbeing of local communities.
Identified Bathing Waters	This is the legal term used for those beaches and lakes managed under the Bathing Water Regulations. Local authorities are responsible for identifying bathing waters within their area. These are generally the waters considered to be the most popular. We report these to the European Commission each year. The public can propose that new bathing waters be identified under the Bathing Water Regulations. Guidance on this is available from www.beaches.ie
Misconnections	Misconnections are outlet pipes from toilets or household appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines, that have been incorrectly connected to surface drains, rather than sewers. They can be a source of pollution because they are untreated.
'Other' monitored waters	This is an EPA term which generally applies to smaller and less popular beaches that are monitored by local authorities as a public health measure. These beaches are not formally managed under the Bathing Water Regulations.
Pollution	This is defined (for bathing water purposes) as the presence of microbiological contamination or waste affecting water quality and presenting a risk to the health of bathers.

<p>Prior Warning</p>	<p>Also meaning ‘Short-term pollution’, as used in the regulations for microbiological contamination that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has clearly identifiable causes • is not expected to last more than 72 hours <p>for which the local authority has set up procedures to predict and manage.</p>
<p>Septic tanks</p>	<p>Also called domestic waste water treatment systems. An underground tank made of concrete, fiberglass, or plastic through which domestic waste water (waste water from toilets, sinks, showers, washing machines and dishwashers in houses) flows for basic treatment.</p>
<p>Urban run-off</p>	<p>Surface run-off of rainwater and contaminants in urban areas.</p>

Appendix A: Additional information on bathing water classifications

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

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

For the bathing water classifications, we assess the results of the previous four years' monitoring. We need at least 16 samples for classification. We use sampling results for two microbial indicators of pollution – E. coli and Intestinal enterococci (see glossary).

We carry out a statistical assessment of the four years of data and compare the results to the bathing water standards. The comparison with the standards gives the bathing water its classification of Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor.

This classification is an annual assessment that uses the latest four years of data.

Appendix B: Summary information for identified bathing waters

This section lists the classifications for all 148 Identified Bathing Waters for the period 2017 to 2020.

Local authority	Identified Bathing Water	2017	2018	2019	2020
Clare County Council	Ballyallia Lake, Ennis	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Ballycuggeran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Bishopsquarter	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Cappagh Pier, Kilrush	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Carrigaholt	n/a	n/a	n/a	New
	Fanore	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Kilkee	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Lahinch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Mountshannon, Lough Derg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Quilty	n/a	n/a	n/a	New
	Seafield, Quilty	New	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Spanish Point	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	White Strand, Doonbeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	White Strand, Miltown Malbay	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Cork County Council	Barley Cove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Coolmaine	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good	Good
	Fountainstown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Garretstown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Garrylucas, White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Garryvoe	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
	Inchydoney East Beach	n/a	n/a	New	Excellent
	Inchydoney West Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Owenahincha, Little Island Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Redbarn	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Tragumna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Warren, Cregane Strand	Good	Good	Good	Excellent
	Youghal Claycastle	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent
	Youghal, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good	Good
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) County Council	Forty Foot Bathing Place	n/a	New	Excellent	Excellent
	Killiney	Good	Good	Good	Excellent
	Sandycove Beach	n/a	New	Good	Good
	Seapoint	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	White Rock Beach	n/a	New	Excellent	Excellent
Donegal County Council	Ballyhiernan, Fanad	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Bundoran	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
	Carrickfinn	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Environmental Protection Agency | Bathing Water

Local Authority	Identified Bathing Water	2017	2018	2019	2020
Donegal County Council continued	Culdaff	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Dooyey	New	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Downings	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Drumnatinny	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Fintra	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Killahoey	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Lady's Bay, Bunrana	Sufficient	Good	Good	Sufficient
	Lisfannon	Good	Sufficient	Good	Good
	Magheraroarty	New	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Marble Hill	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Murvagh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Naran	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Portarthur, Derrybeg	Good	Good	Sufficient	Good
	Portnablagh	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Portsalon	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Rathmullan	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Rossnowlagh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Stroove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dublin City Council	Dollymount Strand	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
	Sandymount Strand	Poor	Poor	Sufficient	Sufficient
Fingal County Council	Balbriggan, Front Strand Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Poor
	Claremont Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good	Excellent
	Loughshinny Beach	Poor	Good	Good	Sufficient
	Portmarnock, Velvet Strand Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Portrane, the Brook Beach	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good
	Rush North Beach	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good
	Rush, South Beach	Poor	Sufficient	Good	Excellent
	Skerries, South Beach	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good
	Sutton, Burrow Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway City Council	Ballyloughane Beach	Poor	Sufficient	Poor	Sufficient
	Grattan Road Beach	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
	Salthill Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Silverstrand Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Galway County Council	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Bathing Place at Portumna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Céibh an Spidéil	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent
	Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Clifden Beach	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
	Goirtín, Cloch na Rón	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Loughrea Lake	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Trá Chaladh Fínis, Carna	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	

Environmental Protection Agency | Bathing Water

Local Authority	Identified Bathing Water	2017	2018	2019	2020
Galway County Council continued	Trá na bhForbacha, Na Forbacha	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good
	Trá na mBan, An Spidéal	Sufficient	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient
	Traught, Kinvara	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Kerry County Council	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Ballybunnion North	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
	Ballybunnion South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Ballyheigue	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Banna Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Castlegregory	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Cúas Crom	n/a	n/a	New	Poor
	Doire Fhíonáin (Derrynane)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Fenit	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Fionntrá (Ventry)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Inch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Kells	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Maharabeg	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Rossbeigh, White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Trá na hUíne (Inny Strand, Waterville)	Good	Good	Good	Good
White Strand, Caherciveen	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	
Leitrim County Council	Keeldra Lough	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Louth County Council	Clogherhead	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Port, Lurganboy	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Seapoint	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Shelling Hill/Templetown	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Mayo County Council	Bertra Beach, Murrisk	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
	Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Carrowniskey, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
	Clare Island, Louisburgh	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Dooega Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Dugort Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Elly Bay, Belmullet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Golden Strand, Achill Island	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
	Keel Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Keem Beach, Achill Island	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Mulranny Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Old Head Beach, Louisburgh	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Rinroe Beach, Carrowtigue	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Ross Beach, Killala	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Meath County Council	Laytown/Bettystown	Good	Good	Good	Excellent
Sligo County Council	Dunmorán Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Enniscrone Beach	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Mullaghmore Beach	Good	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
	Rosses Point Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Local Authority	Identified Bathing Water	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sligo County Council continued	Streedagh Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Waterford City and County Council	Ardmore Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Bunmahon Beach	Sufficient	Good	Good	Good
	Clonea Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Tramore Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Westmeath County Council	Lilliput, Lough Ennell	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor
	Portnashangan, Lough Owel	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	The Cut, Lough Lene	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wexford County Council	Ballinesker	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Ballymoney, North Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
	Carne	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Courtown, North Beach	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Curracloe	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Duncannon	Good	Good	Good	Sufficient
	Morriscastle	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Rosslare Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Wicklow County Council	Bray South Promenade	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Brittas Bay North	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Brittas Bay South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Clogga	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Greystones South	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Silver Strand	Good	Excellent	Good	Good

Appendix C: Summary information for 'other' monitored bathing waters

This section lists the likely classifications for all 'other' monitored bathing waters for the period 2017 to 2020.

Local authority/bathing water	Water Quality (2017-2020)	Number of samples over 4 years
Cork County Council		
Ballyrisode	Highest Quality	20
Cadogans strand, Schull	Highest Quality	21
Dooneen Pier	Highest Quality	20
Galley Cove	Highest Quality	20
Garnish	Highest Quality	20
Inch	Highest Quality	20
Oysterhaven	Generally Good Quality	21
Red Strand	Highest Quality	21
Ring	Highest Quality	20
Rocky Bay	Highest Quality	20
Shanagarry beach (Ardnahanich)	Highest Quality	21
Silver Strand, Sherkin Island	Highest Quality	19
Dublin City Council		
Half Moon	Generally Good Quality	89
North Bull Wall	Below Minimum Standard	90
Shelley Banks	Meets Minimum Standard	86
Fingal County Council		
Malahide Beach	Generally Good Quality	40
Galway County Council		
Aillebrack/Silverhill	Highest Quality	20
Dog's Bay, Roundstone	Highest Quality	20
Dumhach	Highest Quality	19
East End Inisbofin	Highest Quality	19
Esker, Banagher	Highest Quality	16
Glassilaun, Killary	Highest Quality	21
Mannin Bay, Ballyconneely	Highest Quality	16
Omey Island Strand	Generally Good Quality	21
Trá Poll na gCaorach Inis Oirr	Highest Quality	21
Renvyle	Highest Quality	20
An Trá Mór, Gorumna Island	Highest Quality	22
Trá na Reilige, An Cheathrú Rua	Highest Quality	16
Kerry County Council		
Béal Bán	Highest Quality	33
Cromane	Highest Quality	38
Derrymore	Meets Minimum Standard	23
Littor	Highest Quality	27
Waterville Town Beach	Highest Quality	35

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Local authority/bathing water	Water Quality (2017-2020)	Number of samples over 4 years
Meath County Council		
Mornington	Highest Quality	28
Monaghan County Council		
Creevy Lake, Carrickmacross	Highest Quality	17
Emy Lake, Emyvale	Highest Quality	23
Greaghlonge Lake, Carrickmacross	Meets Minimum Standard	18
Halton's River, Cootehill	Highest Quality	18
Hollywood Lake, Scotstown	Generally Good Quality	18
Lough Muckno (Bathing area)	Below Minimum Standard	22
Tipperary County Council		
Lough Derg - Castlough	Highest Quality	19
Lough Derg - Dromineer	Highest Quality	20
Lough Derg - Skehena	Highest Quality	19
Lough Derg - Terryglass	Highest Quality	19
Lough Derg - Youghal Quay	Highest Quality	19
Waterford City and County Council		
Annestown	Highest Quality	22
Ballyquin	Highest Quality	19
Ballyvooney	Meets Minimum Standard	22
Boatstrand	Meets Minimum Standard	24
Curragh	Highest Quality	19
Goat Island	Highest Quality	21
Guillamene	Highest Quality	20
Kilfarrassey	Generally Good Quality	24
Newtown Cove	Highest Quality	19
Stradbally	Below Minimum Standard	42
Whiting Bay	Generally Good Quality	20
Woodstown	Meets Minimum Standard	22
Wexford County Council		
Ballyhealy	Highest Quality	59
Booley Bay	Highest Quality	62
Cahore	Highest Quality	61
Cullenstown	Highest Quality	62
Culletons Gap	Highest Quality	60
Grange	Highest Quality	64
Kilmore Quay Small Beach	Highest Quality	60
Old Bawn	Highest Quality	60
St Helens Bay	Highest Quality	61
Wicklow County Council		
Arklow South Beach	Highest Quality	26
Kilcoole	Highest Quality	25
Murrough	Highest Quality	24
South of Bray Harbour	Highest Quality	32
Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area	Below Minimum Standard	30

* Oysterhaven (Cork) and Woodstown (Waterford) updated since first release of the report

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

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

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

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

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

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

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

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

- saoráidí dramhaíola (*m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola*);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíoch a 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 tionsclaíochta*);
- 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 húdarás áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhírú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídionn an ciseal ózón.
- 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, uisce idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéal 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 gás ceaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

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

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

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

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

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

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

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

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

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



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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