

Weather Conditions & Warnings

Met Éireann Forecasts on met.ie

- Irish Coastal Waters and Irish Sea
- Islands around Ireland
- Sea temperatures
- Wave heights in coastal waters
- Wind barbs for Ireland and Atlantic
- Inland lakes

Sunshine / UV Index

- Peak sunburn time between 11am and 3pm
- Water and sand reflect UV light
- Can get UV damage even in cloudy weather or in shade

Thunderstorms / Lightning

- Get out of open water/get off the beach
- Lightning can spread out over water and can hit boats nearby
- Sudden heavy downpours can lead to poor visibility/squally winds/flash flooding



Small Craft Warnings:
Beaufort Force 6 or 7 winds



Yellow Marine Gale Warnings:
Gale Force 8 or Strong Gale Force 9 winds



Orange Marine Storm Warnings:
Storm Force 10 winds



Red Marine Storm Warnings:
Violent Storm Force 11 winds



Met Éireann App:
Sign up for land and marine warnings notifications on your smartphone.

Safety Information

In case of emergency call 112/999 or use VHF Channel 16 and ask for the Coast Guard.

Always wear a Lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

If you get into difficulty don't struggle in the water, follow these steps:

- Remain calm
- Float in the water
- Do not fight the waves or current

Inflatable Toys

Inflatable toys such as Li-Los are not suitable for use at rivers, lakes or beaches. They are vulnerable to the slightest breeze and can quickly take a child away from shore and into danger. The temporary loss of such a device could attract children or adults to try and retrieve them from the water and thereby get into a life-threatening situation.

Never use these toys at or on rivers lakes or beaches.

For up to date Covid-19 information go to:
www.gov.ie/covid-19

gov.ie/summerready
watersafety.ie
safetyonthewater.gov.ie
met.ie

[@emergencyIE](https://twitter.com/emergencyIE)
[@IWSie](https://twitter.com/IWSie)
[@IrishCoastGuard](https://twitter.com/IrishCoastGuard)
[@MetEireann](https://twitter.com/MetEireann)



Be Summer-Ready

BE ALERT TO WATER SAFETY



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Coastal Water Safety

Stay Afloat – Stay in Contact

When going in, on or near water for any activity including all types of fishing, jet skiing, water skiing, sailing, windsurfing, paddle boarding, kayaking or canoeing always wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)/Lifejacket. Ensure it is the correct size, properly fitted, serviced and that you understand how to operate it. This will give you the confidence to enjoy your activity and enable you to survive the shock of entering the water and be rescued by colleagues or rescue services.

Before you go on or near the water make a plan.

Please refer to Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft.

Before you go on or near the water make a plan. Make sure you let somebody ashore know where you are going, when to expect you back and that you have a means of communicating e.g. vhf radio, fully charged mobile phone, flares, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), EPIRB, etc.

Rip Currents



Details on rip currents at: watersafety.ie/recreation/

Shore Angling & Coastal Walking

Before you go fishing or coastal walking make sure you have a plan. You need to consider location, weather, tides and any potential hazards on your trip.

When angling on the beach or on rocks, be aware of the dangers posed by wind, changing tides and rough or large seas. Avoid exposed areas where large waves are likely. Wave conditions can change as the tide changes. Know whether the tide is rising or falling and what direction the tide is flowing. If the wind is against the tide this will generally cause rougher seas.

Spend some time observing the area before you start fishing. Waves and swell tend to have cycles, so allowing a little time ensures you can gauge the conditions that are likely over a full cycle.

If waves or a swell are threatening your fishing spot, leave immediately before it gets too bad.

Lakes can be dangerous places. If on a lake, always have a PFD/Lifejacket, know the weather conditions, and ensure safe boat handling at all times.

All anglers must wear a suitable PFD/Lifejacket.

If out walking or angling, ensure your mobile phone is fully charged and stored in a watertight container.



Open Water Swimming

When swimming, follow this useful rule of thumb: "Get in warm, get out warm".

The sensible way to acclimatise to cold water is to swim in it regularly. Then gradually extend your time in the water with practice.

Swim at designated bathing areas where lifeguards are on duty. See list at watersafety.ie/lifeguards If there are no designated bathing areas near you, swim at known safe traditional bathing areas where ringbuoys are erected.

Make sure you can be seen. Wear a brightly coloured swimming cap and bring a brightly coloured tow float (see above) so other water users can see you. See guide at watersafety.ie/open-water-swimming/

Children

Uninterrupted supervision without distraction is essential to keep children safe around water

Fence off any rivers, streams, slurry pits or drains running near the home

An adult should always supervise playtime in paddling pools. Paddling pools should be emptied straight away after use.

