



**Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil**  
 Environment, Community and Local Government

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

**BLUE FLAG AWARDEES 2016: 79 Beaches and 6 Marinas**

<b>Local Authority/Marina Operator</b>	<b>Awarded Beach/Marina</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Louth</b>	Port	Louth retains 3 Blue Flags
<b>Louth</b>	Templetown	
<b>Louth</b>	Clogherhead	
<b>Fingal</b>	Balcarrick, Donabate	Fingal retains 2 Blue Flags in Balcarrick, Donabate and Portmarnock. Lost a Blue Flag in Portrane as the Water Quality was deemed Good rather than excellent
<b>Fingal</b>	Portmarnock	
<b>DLR</b>	Killiney	DLR retains 2 Blue Flags.
<b>DLR</b>	SeaPoint	
<b>Wicklow</b>	Brittas Bay North	Wicklow retains 2 Blue Flags and gains 1 Blue Flag for Brittas Bay North.
<b>Wicklow</b>	Brittas Bay South	
<b>Wicklow</b>	Greystones South Beach	
<b>Wexford</b>	Curracloe	Wexford will be awarded 6 Blue Flags having retained all 5 Blue Flags awarded in and being awarded a first time Blue Flag for Ballymoney North Beach
<b>Wexford</b>	Courtown	
<b>Wexford</b>	Morriscastle	
<b>Wexford</b>	Rosslare Strand	
<b>Wexford</b>	Ballinesker	
<b>Wexford</b>	Ballymoney North Beach	
<b>Waterford</b>	Clonea	Waterford has retained all 4 Blue Flag awarded last year to Tramore, Clonea, Councillor's Strand and Dunmore Strand.
<b>Waterford</b>	Councillors Stand	
<b>Waterford</b>	Dunmore Strand	
<b>Waterford</b>	Tramore	
<b>Cork</b>	Garrylucas	Cork is awarded 5 Blue Flags. Cork has retained the Blue Flags for 5 beaches, whilst Garretstown and Red barn lose Blue Flag status for 2016
<b>Cork</b>	Inchydoney	
<b>Cork</b>	Owenahincha	
<b>Cork</b>	Barleycove	
<b>Cork</b>	Tragumna	

<b>Local Authority/Marina Operator</b>	<b>Awarded Beach/Marina</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	Ballinskelligs	Kerry has been awarded 13 Blue Flags retaining all flags awarded last year.
<b>Kerry</b>	Ballybunion North	
<b>Kerry</b>	Ballybunion South	
<b>Kerry</b>	Ballyheigue	
<b>Kerry</b>	Banna	
<b>Kerry</b>	Derrynane	
<b>Kerry</b>	Fenit	
<b>Kerry</b>	Inch	
<b>Kerry</b>	Kells	
<b>Kerry</b>	Maherabeg	
<b>Kerry</b>	Ventry	
<b>Kerry</b>	White Strand	
<b>Kerry</b>	Rossbeigh	
<b>Clare</b>	Ballycuggeran	Clare will be retains Blue Flag status at all 9 beaches awarded last year
<b>Clare</b>	Kilkee	
<b>Clare</b>	Whitestrans Doonbeg	
<b>Clare</b>	Mountshannon	
<b>Clare</b>	Cappa	
<b>Clare</b>	Fanore	
<b>Clare</b>	Lahinch	
<b>Clare</b>	Spanish Point	
<b>Clare</b>	Miltown Malbay	
<b>Galway</b>	Traught	Galway County retains 5 Blue Flags.
<b>Galway</b>	Cill Mhuirbhigh	
<b>Galway</b>	Loughrea	
<b>Galway</b>	Tra an Doilin	
<b>Galway</b>	Tra Mhor, Indreabhan	
<b>Galway City</b>	Salthill	Galway City retains 2 Blue Flags.
<b>Galway City</b>	Silverstrand	
<b>Mayo</b>	Dooega	Mayo will be awarded 11 Blue Flags for 2016. Mayo has retained all but one Blue Flag lost at Ross Killala due to failure to provide adequate lifeguard cover on the date of in season inspection.
<b>Mayo</b>	Carrowmore	
<b>Mayo</b>	Clare Island	
<b>Mayo</b>	Mulranny	
<b>Mayo</b>	Golden Strand	
<b>Mayo</b>	Mullaghroe	
<b>Mayo</b>	Silverstrand, Dugort	
<b>Mayo</b>	Keel	
<b>Mayo</b>	Elly Bay	
<b>Mayo</b>	Keem	
<b>Mayo</b>	Bertra	
<b>Sligo</b>	Rosses Point	Sligo retains the Blue Flag awarded to Rosses Point in 2015
<b>Donegal</b>	Bundoran	Donegal retains its 13 Blue Flags.
<b>Donegal</b>	Culdaff	

Local Authority/Marina Operator	Awarded Beach/Marina	Details
Donegal	Fintra	
Donegal	Downings	
Donegal	Killahoey	
Donegal	Marblehill	
Donegal	Lisfannon	
Donegal	Murvagh	
Donegal	Naran	
Donegal	Magherawarden	
Donegal	Stroove	
Donegal	Rossnowlagh	
Donegal	Carrickfinn	

Local Authority/Marina Operator	Marina	Details
Westmeath	Killinure Point Marina	Retained
Wexford	Kilmore Quay	Retained
Wexford	New Ross Marina	Retained
Cork	The Royal Cork Yacht Club	Retained
Cork	Kinsale Yacht Club	Retained
Kerry	Fenit Marina	Kinsale yacht club is being awarded the Blue Flag for the first time since 2003.

## BLUE FLAG AWARDS SINCE 2007

The Blue Flag Programme has been in operation since 1988 in Ireland, when 19 flags were awarded.

Year	No. of Blue Flags
2007	83
2008	80
2009	77
2010	76
2011	84
2012	87
2013	74
2014	80
2015	86
2016	85

## GREEN COASTS AWARDEES 2016: 56 Beaches

Beach Name	Award	Details
Clare	Bishops Quarter	Clare retains the 2 Green Coast Awards, awarded in 2015, at Bishops Quarter and Seafield.
Clare	Seafield	
Cork	Ardnahinch	Cork is being awarded 10 Green Coast Awards. Cork has retained the award at 9 sites from 2015, Rocky Bay has not retained GCA status due to failure to meet the excellent water quality status required. Red Strand is awarded the Green Coast Award for 2016, due in part to improved water quality over the past few years.
Cork	Ballyrisode	
Cork	Dooneen Pier	
Cork	Galley Cove	
Cork	Garnish	
Cork	Inch	
Cork	Oysterhaven	
Cork	Ring	
Cork	Red Strand	
Cork	Inchydoney East	
Donegal	Ballyherman	
Donegal	Dooy Beach	
Donegal	Drumnatinney	
Donegal	Magheroarty	
Donegal	Port Arthur	
Fingal	Balcarrick	Fingal will be awarded 3 Green Coast Awards. Fingal has retained the Green Coast Award for 3 beaches. These 3 beaches are dual award achieving Blue Flag status also. Portrane has lost its Green Coast Award due to failure to comply with water quality requirements.
Fingal	The Velvet Strand Portmarnock	
Fingal	The Burrow	
Galway	Aillebrack	Galway County has retained all 6 Green Coast Awards from 2015
Galway	Dumhach	
Galway	East End Inisbofin	
Galway	Renvyle	
Galway	Trá Inis Oirr	
Galway	Trá gCaorach Inis Oirr	
Galway City	Salthill	Galway City has retained 2 Green Coast Awards. These 2 beaches are dual award achieving Blue Flag status also.
Galway City	Silver Strand	
Kerry	Béal Bán	Kerry has retained the Green Coast Award for Béal Bán
Mayo	Carrowniskey	Mayo has 6 Green Coast Awards. Mayo did not apply for a Green Coast Award for White Strand and Cross, Louisburgh as it did not meet excellent bathing water classification required to be awarded the Green Coast Award.
Mayo	Cross, Belmullet	
Mayo	Portacloy	
Mayo	Silver Strand	
Mayo	Srah	

Beach Name	Award	Details
Mayo	Termon	
Sligo	Dunmorán	Sligo has retained 4 Green Coast Awards. Rosses Point has once again achieved dual award status.
Sligo	Mullaghmore	
Sligo	Rosses Point	
Sligo	Streedagh	
Waterford	Guillamene	Waterford is being awarded 8 Green Coast Awards having retained the Flag at all sites awarded last year and Boat strand receiving the accolade for the first time since 2010.
Waterford	Annestown	
Waterford	Ballyquin	
Waterford	Curragh	
Waterford	Goat Island	
Waterford	Kilfrasey	
Waterford	Newtown Cove	
Waterford	Boat strand	
Wexford	Old Bawn	Wexford will be awarded 8 Green Coast Awards in 2016 having retained the flag at every site awarded last year.
Wexford	Cahore	
Wexford	Culleton's Gap	
Wexford	Ballyhealy	
Wexford	Ballymoney	
Wexford	Booley Bay	
Wexford	Grange	
Wexford	St Helens Bay	
Wicklow	Arklow South Beach	Wicklow has retained the Green Coast Award for Arklow South Beach

## The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)

FEE is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with members in around 60 countries worldwide. FEE is active in environmental education mainly through five programmes: Blue Flag, Green-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, Learning about Forests, and Green Key. More information about FEE and the FEE programmes can be found at [www.fee-international.org](http://www.fee-international.org).

### An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland is the Irish member of FEE and responsible for the coordination of FEE programmes in Ireland.

### Blue Flag Scheme

The Blue Flag was originally a French idea, the Blue Flag programme became an international award in 1987 and has since spread across the world, expanding from one to 46 countries and reaching New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Brazil.

The Blue Flag Award scheme is an internationally recognised quality mark for bathing waters and is coordinated in Ireland by An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland). It requires that bathing waters

achieve, among many other elements, compliance with the EU guide values for both microbiological parameters.

## Green Coast awards

The Green Coast Award is part of the Clean Coasts Programme which is funded by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. The Green Coast award is a similar scheme to the Blue Flag, for beaches where less infrastructure is in place

The Green Coast Awards were originally operated as a partnership between some of the east counties and the authorities in Wales. In 2008 the programme was extended to embrace the whole coastline of Ireland. The programme is now facilitated through partnership between An Taisce, Tidy Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The Department has provided funding to An Taisce to support the nationwide roll-out of the awards and the authorities in Northern Ireland have similarly provided funding there. The programme is also sponsored by Fáilte Ireland and Coca-Cola.

The aim of the Green Coast Award is to recognise beaches of high environmental quality. To achieve the award, beaches must attain Guideline water quality (the highest European standard) and have effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment. The Green Coast Award is a symbol of excellence. It aims to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of rural beaches. It places a strong emphasis on community and environmental activities. .

## Details of the Blue Flag and Green Coast Schemes

Available at [www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org),  
[www.beachawards.ie](http://www.beachawards.ie) and [www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)

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