



**AN TAISCE BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST AWARDS PRESS  
RELEASE**



**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 midday on Friday 20th of  
May 2022**

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Photos from the awards will be available on Monday from An Taisce contact Ian Diamond at [blueflag@eeu.antaisce.org](mailto:blueflag@eeu.antaisce.org) or 087 1120460

**2022 Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards Recognise Ireland's Best Beaches and Marinas**

**A Record-breaking 95 Blue Flags and 62 Green Coast Awards awarded in 2022**

Today, An Taisce announced the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients for 2022. The awards were presented by Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Heritage and Electoral Reform at a ceremony Curracloe Beach in County Wexford this afternoon.

Speaking at the awards ceremony Minister Noonan stated that:

*"This year celebrates 35 years of the Blue Flag as an international programme and during that time the Blue Flag has become an internationally recognised symbol of high standards in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety. I am pleased to be presenting 95 blue flags and 62 green coast awards today and want to commend the great efforts made by local authorities, An Taisce, coastal communities and volunteers for their work around the country."*

Mr. Ian Diamond, Coastal Awards Manager for An Taisce in announcing this year's Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients stated:

*"We were delighted to be welcomed to the Sunny Southeast today for the opportunity to celebrate the beaches and marinas awarded for the 2022 season. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to manage a beach or marina to the excellent standards required by these award programmes. It's been too long since we've had the opportunity to acknowledge these efforts in person, and I would like to thank all in attendance and our hosts Wexford County Council for helping us make today's event worth the wait."*

**Blue Flag**

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. Originating in France in 1985 it was launched as an International programme as part of the "European Year of the Environment in 1987. In 1988, the first year sites were awarded outside of France 19 beaches and 2 marinas received the Blue Flag in Ireland. 2022 is the 35<sup>th</sup> year that beaches and marinas have been awarded here in Ireland and the 95 beaches and marinas being awarded is the highest annual total to date.

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and eco-tourism boats around the world. The 85 Irish beaches and 10 marinas that have

achieved this accolade must adhere to specific criteria related to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and site management.

### **85 Beaches and 10 marinas awarded the Blue Flag for 2022**

- The number of sites receiving the award is up 2 on last year's total.
- 7 beaches not awarded in 2021 have been awarded for the coming bathing season. These are: Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach) in County Galway; Fountainstown and Youghal Front Strand in County Cork; Balcarrick, Donabate and Rush, South Beach in Fingal; Ballybunnion North Beach in Kerry and Ballymoney North Beach, in County Wexford.
- Trá Inis Oírr, the main beach on Inis Oírr in County Galway has been awarded a Blue Flag for the first time this year.
- In Cork Fountainstown has been awarded for the first time since 1991 and the second time since Blue Flags were first awarded in Ireland.
- Youghal Front Strand in Cork will fly the Blue Flag for the first time since 2011.
- Balcarrick, Donabate in Fingal has been awarded a Blue Flag for the first time since 2016.
- Ballybunnion North Beach, which last flew a Blue Flag in 2019 has been awarded for the 2022 bathing season.
- Ballymoney North Beach, in County Wexford regains Blue Flag status having not been awarded in 2021.
- 79 of the 83 beaches awarded in 2021 retained Blue Flag Status for the 2022 bathing season.
- The 5 beaches awarded in 2021 that have not been awarded for the 2022 season are: Bray South Promenade in Wicklow; Warren, Cregane Strand in Cork; Traught, Kinvara in County Galway; Carrowmore and Clare Island in County Mayo. None of these beaches achieved the "Excellent" water quality classification necessary to be awarded the Blue Flag. Each of the sites received a classification of "Good", the second highest classification available based on analysis of bathing water samples over the past four bathing seasons.
- All 10 marinas awarded in 2021 have retained Blue Flag status for the coming season.

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is responsible for the operation of the Blue Flag programme in Ireland on behalf of the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE). 48 Countries operate the Blue Flag programme globally and more than 5000 sites and tourism boats will be awarded the Blue Flag this year. The Blue Flag programme in Ireland is supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### **62 Beaches receive the Green Coast Award for the 2022 Bathing Season**

The Green Coast Award recognises beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty. Green Coast Award sites are exceptional places to visit and enjoy our rich coastal heritage and diversity. The Green Coast Awards were presented back in 2003 to four beaches in County Wexford, it was rolled out nationally in 2008 and has gone from strength to strength ever since.

An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the involvement of Clean Coasts groups of which there are currently over 1800 comprised of tens of thousands of volunteers nationwide. These volunteers participate in community clean-ups and in cooperation with Local Authorities help sensitively manage their local beaches throughout the year.

- Ballynamona Beach in County Cork has been awarded a Green Coast Award for the first time this year.
- Cork is the county with the most Green Coast Award beaches once again in 2022 with 15.
- Mornington in Meath and Oysterhaven in Cork both last awarded in 2020 have been awarded for the 2022 season.
- Kilfarrassey in Waterford last awarded in 2018 and Balcarrick Beach, Donabate in Fingal, last awarded in 2016 have both been awarded for the upcoming season.

- 5 Beaches have been awarded a Blue Flag a Green Coast Award for the 2022 season, they are: Balcarrick Beach, Donabate in Fingal; Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs) in Kerry; Salthill and Silverstrand in Galway City and Trá Inis Oirr in Galway.

In the Republic of Ireland the Green Coast Award is operated by An Taisce's Environmental Education unit with the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Fáilte Ireland. An International Award the Green Coast Award is coordinated Northern Ireland and Wales by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and Keep Wales Tidy respectively.

## 1. Blue Flag Beaches Awarded by Management Body 2022: 85 (+2)

#	LOCAL AUTHORITY	BEACH	SITE TYPE	2021 AWARD STATUS	2022 AWARD STATUS
1	Clare County Council	Ballycuggeran	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
2	Clare County Council	Cappagh Pier, Kilrush	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
3	Clare County Council	Fanore	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
4	Clare County Council	Kilkee	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
5	Clare County Council	Lahinch	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
6	Clare County Council	Mountshannon, Lough Derg	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
7	Clare County Council	Spanish Point	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
8	Clare County Council	White Strand Doonbeg	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
9	Clare County Council	White Strand Miltown Malbay	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
10	Cork County Council	Barley Cove	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
11	Cork County Council	Fountainstown	Beach	NOT AWARDED (DID NOT APPLY)	AWARDED
12	Cork County Council	Garretstown	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
13	Cork County Council	Garrylucas, White Strand	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
14	Cork County Council	Inchydoney East Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
15	Cork County Council	Inchydoney West Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
16	Cork County Council	Owenahincha, Little Island Strand	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
17	Cork County Council	Redbarn	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
18	Cork County Council	Tragumna	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
19	Cork County Council	Youghal, Claycastle	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
20	Cork County Council	Youghal, Front Strand	Beach	NOT AWARDED (DID NOT APPLY)	AWARDED
21	Donegal County Council	Culdaff	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
22	Donegal County Council	Bundoran	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
23	Donegal County Council	Carrickfinn	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
24	Donegal County Council	Downings	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
25	Donegal County Council	Fintra	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
26	Donegal County Council	Killahoey	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
27	Donegal County Council	Marble Hill	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
28	Donegal County Council	Murvagh	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
29	Donegal County Council	Naran	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
30	Donegal County Council	Portsalon	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED

#	LOCAL AUTHORITY	BEACH	SITE TYPE	2021 AWARD STATUS	2022 AWARD STATUS
31	Donegal County Council	Rossnowlagh	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
32	Donegal County Council	Stroove	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
33	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Killiney	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
34	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Seapoint	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
35	Fingal County Council	Balcarrick, Donabate	Beach	NOT AWARDED (DID NOT APPLY)	AWARDED
36	Fingal County Council	Portmarnock, Velvet Strand Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
37	Fingal County Council	Rush, South Beach			
38	Galway City Council	Salthill Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
39	Galway City Council	Silverstrand Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
40	Galway County Council	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
41	Galway County Council	Bathing Place at Portumna	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
42	Galway County Council	Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
43	Galway County Council	Loughrea Lake	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
44	Galway County Council	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
45	Galway County Council	Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach)		NOT AWARDED (DID NOT APPLY)	AWARDED
46	Kerry County Council	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
47	Kerry County Council	Ballybunion North Beach	Beach	NOT AWARDED (DID NOT APPLY)	AWARDED
48	Kerry County Council	Ballybunion South Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
49	Kerry County Council	Ballyheigue	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
50	Kerry County Council	Banna Strand	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
51	Kerry County Council	Doire Fhíonáin (Derrynane)	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
52	Kerry County Council	Fenit	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
53	Kerry County Council	Fionntrá (Ventry)	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
54	Kerry County Council	Inch	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
55	Kerry County Council	Kells	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
56	Kerry County Council	Maharabeg	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
57	Kerry County Council	Rossbeigh, White Strand	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
58	Kerry County Council	White Strand, Caherciveen	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
59	Louth County Council	Clogherhead	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED

60	Louth County Council	Port, Lurganboy	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
61	Louth County Council	Shelling Hill/Templetown	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
62	Mayo County Council	Dooega Beach, Achill Island	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
63	Mayo County Council	Dugort Beach, Achill Island	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
64	Mayo County Council	Elly Bay, Belmullet	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
65	Mayo County Council	Golden Strand, Achill Island	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
66	Mayo County Council	Keel Beach, Achill Island	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
67	Mayo County Council	Keem Beach, Achill Island	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
68	Mayo County Council	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
69	Mayo County Council	Mulranny Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
70	Mayo County Council	Ross Beach, Killala	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
71	Sligo County Council	Rosses Point Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
72	Waterford City & County Council	Ardmore Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
73	Waterford City & County Council	Clonea Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
74	Waterford City & County Council	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
75	Waterford City & County Council	Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
76	Waterford City & County Council	Tramore Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
77	Wexford County Council	Ballinesker	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
78	Wexford County Council	Ballymoney North Beach	Beach	NOT AWARDED	AWARDED
79	Wexford County Council	Carne	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
80	Wexford County Council	Curraclloe	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
81	Wexford County Council	Morriscastle	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
82	Wexford County Council	Rosslare Strand	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
83	Wicklow County Council	Bray South Promenade	Beach	AWARDED	NOT AWARDED
84	Wicklow County Council	Brittas Bay North	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED
85	Wicklow County Council	Greystones South Beach	Beach	AWARDED	AWARDED

## 2. Blue Flag Marinas Awarded by Management Body 2022: 8 (+1)

#	County	Management Body	Site Name	Award Status 2021	Award Status 2022
1	Cork	Kinsale Yacht Club	Kinsale Yacht Club	Awarded	Awarded
2	Cork	Royal Cork Yacht club	The Royal Cork Yacht Club Marina	Awarded	Awarded
3	Clare	Kilrush Maritime Ltd.	Kilrush Marina	Awarded	Awarded
4	Donegal	Donegal County Council	Greencastle Marina	Awarded	Awarded
5	Donegal	Donegal County Council and Rathmullan Charters	Rathmullan Marina	Awarded	Awarded

6	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Fenit Marina	Awarded	Awarded
7	Kerry	Kilrush Maritime Ltd.	Portmagee Seasonal Pontoon	Awarded	Awarded
8	Westmeath	Quigley's Marina	Quigley's Marina, Killinure Point	Awarded	Awarded
9	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Kilmore Quay Marina	Awarded	Awarded
10	Wexford	Wexford County Council	New Ross Marina	Awarded	Awarded

### 3. Green Coast Awards by County 2022: 63 Beaches (+3)

#	County	Beach Name	Local Authority	Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.	Award Status
1	Clare	Ballyallia Lake	Clare County Council	Ballyalla Blue Flag Working Group	Awarded
2	Clare	Bishops Quarter	Clare County Council	Ballyvaughan Tidy Towns	Awarded
3	Clare	Carrigaholt Beach	Clare County Council	Carrigaholt Tidy Towns and Carrigaholt Development Association	Awarded
4	Clare	Seafield	Clare County Council	Quilty clean coast	Awarded
5	Cork	Sherkin Island, Silver Strand Beach	Cork County Council	Sherkin Island Community Group	Awarded
6	Cork	Ballyrisode	Cork County Council	Goleen Communitiy Group	Awarded
7	Cork	Galley Cove	Cork County Council	Goleen Communitiy Group	Awarded
8	Cork	Inch Strand	Cork County Council	Aghada Residents Association	Awarded
9	Cork	Ardnahinch, Shanagarry	Cork County Council	Shanagarry Coast Care Group	Awarded
10	Cork	Ring	Cork County Council	Ballymacoda Ladysbridge Community Council Ltd	Awarded
11	Cork	Oysterhaven	Cork County Council	Nohoval/Oysterhave Residents Association	Awarded

#	County	Beach Name	Local Authority	Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.	Award Status
12	Cork	Rocky Bay	Cork County Council	Roberts Cove & Rocky Bay Residents Association	Awarded
13	Cork	Dooneen Pier	Cork County Council	Sheeps Head Way Community Group	Awarded
14	Cork	Red Strand	Cork County Council	Ardfield Tidy Towns Group	Awarded
15	Cork	Cadogan's Strand,	Cork County Council	Schull Tidy Towns & Community Group	Awarded
16	Cork	Garnish Beach, Lehanmore	Cork County Council	Lehanmore Community Co-op	Awarded
17	Cork	Ballynamona Beach	Cork County Council	Ballynamona Clean Coast Group	Awarded
18	Cork	Fountainstown Beach	Cork County Council	Fountainstown Community Association	Awarded
19	Cork	Inchydoney East	Cork County Council	Inchydoney East Residents Association	Awarded
20	Donegal	Drumnatinney	Donegal County Council	Drumnatinney Clean Coasts Group	Awarded
21	Donegal	Dooley Beach	Donegal County Council	Dooley Clean Coasts Group	Awarded
22	Donegal	Ballyheirnan	Donegal County Council	Fanad Coastal Group	Awarded
23	Donegal	Magheroarty Beach	Donegal County Council	Ionad Pobail Mhachaire Rabhartaigh or	Awarded
24	Fingal	Balcarrick Beach, Donabate	Fingal County Council	New CC Group (name TBC)	Awarded
25	Galway City	Silver Strand	Galway City Council	Barna Tidy Towns	Awarded
26	Galway City	Salthill	Galway City Council	Galway Atlantaquaria Ltd	Awarded
27	Galway County	Aillebrack/Silver Hill	Galway County Council	Aillebrack/Silver Hill Coast Care	Awarded
28	Galway County	Dumhach Beach	Galway County Council	Inishbofin Development Company	Awarded
29	Galway County	Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oírr	Galway County Council	Comhar Caomhán Teoranta, Inis Oírr	Awarded
30	Galway County	An Trá Inis Oírr (Main Beach)	Galway County Council	Comhar Caomhán Teoranta, Inis Oírr	Awarded

#	County	Beach Name	Local Authority	Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.	Award Status
31	Galway County	East End Bay, Inisbofin	Galway County Council	Inishbofin Development Company	Awarded
32	Galway County	Renvyle Beach (The Whitestrand)	Galway County Council	Renvyle Beach Group	Awarded
33	Kerry	Littor	Kerry County Council	Littor Clean Coast Group	Awarded
34	Kerry	Waterville	Kerry County Council	An Coirean Coast Care	Awarded
35	Kerry	Ballinskelligs	Kerry County Council	Ballinskelligs Tidy Town	Awarded
36	Kerry	Castlegregory	Kerry County Council	Castlegregory Coast Care Group	Awarded
37	Kerry	Béal Bán	Kerry County Council	Scoil An Fheirtearaigh	Awarded
38	Louth	Seapoint Beach, Termonfeckin	Louth County Council	Costa Alainn	Awarded
39	Mayo	Termon Beach	Mayo County Council	Comharchumann Forbartha Ionas Deirdhile	Awarded
40	Mayo	Srah Beach	Mayo County Council	Claggan Island RSS	Awarded
41	Mayo	Portacloy Beach	Mayo County Council	Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teoranta, Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin	Awarded
42	Mayo	Rinroe	Mayo County Council	Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teoranta, Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin (The Kilcommon Rural Social Scheme)	Awarded
43	Mayo	Tránaun, Inishturk	Mayo County Council	awaiting response	Awarded
44	Meath	Mornington	Meath County Council	Beach Management Committee	Awarded
45	Sligo	Rosses Point	Sligo County Council	Rosses Point Development Association Tidy Towns Committee; North West Sea Kayaking	Awarded

				Association; Sligo Surf Lifesaving Club	
#	County	Beach Name	Local Authority	Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.	Award Status
46	Sligo	Streedagh Beach	Sligo County Council	North Sligo Playground Goups	Awarded
47	Waterford	Guillamene Cove	Waterford City and County Council	Guillamene Swimming Club	Awarded
48	Waterford	Ballyquin	Waterford City and County Council	Coast Care Group merged with Ardmore Tidy Towns Committee	Awarded
49	Waterford	Annestown	Waterford City and County Council	Annestown Community Group	Awarded
50	Waterford	Newtown Cove, Tramore	Waterford City and County Council	Newtown and Guillamene Swimming Club	Awarded
51	Waterford	Goat Island Beach	Waterford City and County Council	Ardmore Tidy Towns Committee	Awarded
52	Waterford	Curragh	Waterford City and County Council	Curragh Coast Care Group merged with Ardmore Tidy Towns Committee	Awarded
53	Waterford	Kilfarrassey	Waterford City and County Council	Waterford SubAqua Club	Awarded
54	Wexford	Cahore Point Beach	Wexford County Council	Ballygarrett Tidy Towns	Awarded
55	Wexford	Ballyhealy	Wexford County Council	Wexford Sub Aqua Club	Awarded
56	Wexford	Grange	Wexford County Council	Hook Tourism	Awarded
57	Wexford	Old Bawn Beach	Wexford County Council	Ballygarrett Tidy Towns	Awarded
58	Wexford	Baginbun Beach	Wexford County Council	Hook Tourism	Awarded

59	Wexford	Cullenstown Strand	Wexford County Council	Friends of Cullenstown	Awarded
60	Wexford	St. Helen's Bay	Wexford County Council	St Helens Bay Community Coastcare Group	Awarded
61	Wexford	Culleton's Gap	Wexford County Council	Friends of the Raven	Awarded
62	Wexford	Booley Bay	Wexford County Council	Hook Tourism	Awarded

Ends

#### 4. BEACH AWARDS & WATER QUALITY

- Since 2012, beaches applying for Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards are assessed based on the standards of the new EU Bathing Water Directive. This requires that the water quality of candidate beaches are assessed using a 95<sup>th</sup> percentile calculation over a 4 year period.
- Only beaches that meet the excellent standard for both E. Coli and Intestinal Enterococci parameters are eligible for the award.
- While the Green Coast Award does not require sites to be Identified Bathing Waters they need to be sampled at the same frequency and the same thresholds apply in relation to the microbiological parameters

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Parameter	Coastal & transitional waters limit values	Inland waters limit values
Escherichia Coli	250 cfu/ 100ml	500 cfu/ 100ml
Intestinal Enterococci	100 cfu/ 100ml	200 cfu/ 100ml

- The Blue Flag programme in Ireland has been the driving force behind improvements in water quality for many years and as an award of excellence the Blue Flag implemented the stricter standards in Ireland in 2013. The microbiological standards of the 2006 EU Directive are almost twice as strict as the 1976 EU Directive band representing a lowering of the risk threshold for bathers to ca. 3% with the more stringent category of "Excellent" water quality being applied.

#### 5. BLUE FLAG AWARDS SINCE 2010

The Blue Flag Programme has been in operation since 1987 with the first awards presented for the 1988 bathing season, when 21 flags were awarded.

Year	No. of Blue Flags
2010	76
2011	84
2012	87
2013	74
2014	80
2015	86
2016	85
2017	88
2018	90
2019	88
2020	92
2021	93
2022	95

## **6. BLUE FLAG CRITERIA SUMMARY**

### **Criteria under which Blue Flag beaches are assessed (33 criteria):**

#### **1) Environmental Education and Information**

- Information about the Blue Flag must be displayed.
- Environmental education activities must be offered and promoted to beach users.
- Information about bathing water quality must be displayed.
- Information relating to local eco-systems and environmental phenomena must be displayed.
- A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed.
- A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas must be displayed.

#### **2) Water Quality**

- The beach must fully comply with the water quality sampling and frequency requirements.
- The beach must fully comply with the standards and requirements for water quality analysis.
- No industrial, waste-water or sewage-related discharges should affect the beach area.
- The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the microbiological parameter *Escherichia coli* (faecal coli bacteria) and intestinal enterococci (streptococci)
- The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for physical and chemical parameters.

#### **3) Environmental Management**

- The local authority/beach operator should establish a beach management committee.
- The local authority/beach operator must comply with all regulations affecting the location and operation of the beach.
- The beach must be clean.
- Algae vegetation or natural debris should be left on the beach.
- Waste disposal bins/containers must be available at the beach in adequate numbers and they must be regularly maintained.
- Facilities for the separation of recyclable waste materials should be available at the beach.
- An adequate number of toilet or restroom facilities must be provided.
- The toilet or restroom facilities must be kept clean.
- The toilet or restroom facilities must have controlled sewage disposal.
- There should be no unauthorised camping, driving or dumping of waste on the beach.
- Access to the beach by dogs and other domestic animals must be strictly controlled.
- All buildings and beach equipment must be properly maintained.
- Coral reefs in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored.
- A sustainable means of transportation should be promoted in the beach area.

#### **4) Safety and Services**

- An adequate number of lifeguards and/or lifesaving equipment must be available at the beach.
- First aid equipment must be available on the beach.
- Emergency plans to cope with pollution risks must be in place.
- There must be management of beach users and events to prevent conflicts and accidents.
- There must be safety measures in place to protect beach users.
- A supply of drinking water should be available at the beach.
- At least one Blue Flag beach in each municipality must have wheelchair and accessibility features.
- Wheelchair access and accessibility features must be in place for at least one Blue Flag beach in each municipality.