



## **2019 Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards Recognise Ireland's Best Beaches and Marinas**

### **88 Blue Flags and 62 Green Coast Awards awarded for the 2019**

Today, An Taisce announced the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients for 2019. The awards were presented at ceremony held at The Armada Hotel overlooking Spanish point Blue Flag beach in Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare this afternoon.

Speaking at the awards ceremony International Blue Flag Director Sophie Bachet Granados, who presented the Blue Flags said:

*"The Blue Flag has operated in Ireland for over thirty year's now. At The Foundation for Environmental Education we have been impressed by the standard of the sites from Ireland over this period. The Blue Flag is a symbol of excellence in environmental education, management, water quality, safety and services. I am delighted to be here today at Spanish Point, County Clare with our national operators An Taisce to present the Blue Flags to the Local Authorities and Marina Operators successful in achieving the Blue Flag standard".*

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

An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the involvement of Clean Coasts groups of which there are now over 800 comprised of thousands of volunteers throughout the island. Mr. Ian Diamond, Coastal Awards Manager for An Taisce in announcing this year's Green Coast Award recipients stated:

*"These awards are not easily achieved and represent a real effort by local authorities in cooperation with Clean Coasts groups to reach the highest standards in water quality and environmentally sensitive beach management. An Taisce would like to acknowledge in particular the dedication of Clean Coasts groups around the coast who give up their time to care for their local beaches throughout the year."*

### **Blue Flag**

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. The Blue Flag originated in France in 1985 when French coastal Local Authorities were awarded with the Blue Flag for compliance with sewage treatment and bathing water quality criteria. 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.

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and eco-tourism boats around the world. The 80 Irish beaches and 8 marinas that have achieved this accolade must adhere to specific criteria related to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and site management.

The number of sites receiving the award is down 2 on last year's total. Rathmullan Marina in Donegal has achieved Blue Flag Status for the first time this year. All 7 marinas awarded in 2018 have retained Blue Flag status for the coming season. 80 of the 83 beaches awarded in 2018 retained Blue Flag Status for 2018.

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). 49 Countries operate the Blue Flag

programme globally and more than 4500 sites and eco-tourism boats will be awarded in 44 countries this year.

The Blue Flag programme in Ireland is supported by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

## **62 Beaches receive the Green Coast Award for the 2018 Bathing Season**

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. The award recognises beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty. An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the management of sites in partnership with local Clean Coasts groups. These volunteers participate in community clean-ups and in cooperation with Local Authorities help sensitively manage their local beaches throughout the year.

This year's total of 62 is the highest number of sites to receive a Green Coast Award in Ireland to date. Seapoint in Termonfeckin and Rinroe in Co. Mayo are both first-time recipients of the award in 2019. Seapoint in Termonfeckin is the first site in County Louth to receive a Green Coast Award. Cadogan's Strand in Cork has regained a Green Coast Award for the first time in 8 years.

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, Planning and Local Government 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 2019: 80 (-3)**

	<b>Management Body</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Award Status 2018</b>	<b>Award Status 2019</b>
1	Clare County Council	Ballycuggeran (Killaloe)	Awarded	Retained
2	Clare County Council	Cappa pier	Awarded	Retained
3	Clare County Council	Fanore	Awarded	Retained
4	Clare County Council	Kilkee	Awarded	Retained
5	Clare County Council	Lahinch	Awarded	Retained
6	Clare County Council	Mountshannon	Awarded	Retained
7	Clare County Council	Spanish Point	Awarded	Retained
8	Clare County Council	White Strand Doonbeg	Awarded	Retained
9	Clare County Council	White Strand Miltown Malbay	Awarded	Retained
10	Cork County Council	Barleycove	Awarded	Retained
11	Cork County Council	Garretstown	Awarded	Retained
12	Cork County Council	Garrylucas	Awarded	Retained
13	Cork County Council	Inchydoney	Awarded	Retained
14	Cork County Council	Owenahincha	Awarded	Retained

15	Cork County Council	Redbarn Beach	Awarded	Retained
16	Cork County Council	Tragumna	Awarded	Retained
17	Donegal County Council	Carrickfinn	Awarded	Retained
18	Donegal County Council	Culdaff	Awarded	Retained
19	Donegal County Council	Downings	Awarded	Retained
20	Donegal County Council	Fintra	Awarded	Retained
21	Donegal County Council	Killahoey	Awarded	Retained
22	Donegal County Council	Magherawarden (Portsalon)	Awarded	Retained
23	Donegal County Council	Marblehill	Awarded	Retained
24	Donegal County Council	Murvagh	Awarded	Retained
25	Donegal County Council	Portnoo /Naran	Awarded	Retained
26	Donegal County Council	Rossnowlagh	Awarded	Retained
27	Donegal County Council	Stroove	Awarded	Retained
28	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Seapoint	Awarded	Retained
29	Fingal County Council	Portmarnock/Velvet Strand	Awarded	Retained
30	Galway City Council	Salthill	Awarded	Retained
31	Galway City Council	Silverstrand	Awarded	Retained
32	Galway County Council	An Trá Mhór (Inverin)	Awarded	Retained
33	Galway County Council	Cill Mhuirbhig (Aran)	Awarded	Retained
34	Galway County Council	Loughrea Lake	Awarded	Retained
35	Galway County Council	Portumna	Awarded	Retained
36	Galway County Council	Trá an Dóilin (An Cheathrú Rua)	Awarded	Retained
37	Galway County Council	Traught	Awarded	Retained
38	Kerry County Council	Ballinskelligs	Awarded	Retained
39	Kerry County Council	Ballybunion North	Awarded	Retained
40	Kerry County Council	Ballybunion South	Awarded	Retained
41	Kerry County Council	Ballyheigue	Awarded	Retained
42	Kerry County Council	Banna	Awarded	Retained
43	Kerry County Council	Derrynane	Awarded	Retained
44	Kerry County Council	Fenit	Awarded	Retained
45	Kerry County Council	Inch	Awarded	Retained
46	Kerry County Council	Kells	Awarded	Retained
47	Kerry County Council	Magherabeg	Awarded	Retained
48	Kerry County Council	Rossbeigh	Awarded	Retained
49	Kerry County Council	Ventry	Awarded	Retained
50	Kerry County Council	White Strand Caherciveen	Awarded	Retained
51	Louth County Council	Clogherhead	Awarded	Retained
52	Louth County Council	Port/Lurganboy	Awarded	Retained
53	Louth County Council	Shellinghill/Templetown	Awarded	Retained
54	Mayo County Council	Carrowmore	Awarded	Retained
	<b>Management Body</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Award Status 2018</b>	<b>Award Status 2019</b>

55	Mayo County Council	Clare Island	Awarded	Retained
56	Mayo County Council	Doega	Awarded	Retained
57	Mayo County Council	Elly Bay	Awarded	Retained
58	Mayo County Council	Keel	Awarded	Retained
59	Mayo County Council	Keem	Awarded	Retained
60	Mayo County Council	Mullaghroe	Awarded	Retained
61	Mayo County Council	Mulranny	Awarded	Retained
62	Mayo County Council	Ross Killala	Awarded	Retained
63	Mayo County Council	Silverstrand Dugort	Awarded	Retained
64	Sligo County Council	Rosses Point	Awarded	Retained
65	Waterford City and County Council	Ardmore	Awarded	Retained
66	Waterford City and County Council	Clonea	Awarded	Retained
67	Waterford City and County Council	Councillors Strand Dunmore East	Awarded	Retained
68	Waterford City and County Council	Dunmore Strand	Awarded	Retained
69	Waterford City and County Council	Tramore	Awarded	Retained
70	Wexford County Council	Ballinesker Beach	Awarded	Retained
71	Wexford County Council	Ballymoney North Beach	Awarded	Retained
72	Wexford County Council	Carne	Awarded	Retained
73	Wexford County Council	Courtown	Awarded	Retained
74	Wexford County Council	Curracloe	Awarded	Retained
75	Wexford County Council	Morriscastle	Awarded	Retained
76	Wexford County Council	Rosslare	Awarded	Retained
77	Wicklow County Council	Bray South Promenade	Awarded	Retained
78	Wicklow County Council	Brittas Bay North Beach	Awarded	Retained
79	Wicklow County Council	Brittas Bay South Beach	Awarded	Retained
80	Wicklow County Council	Greystones	Awarded	Retained

## 2. Blue Flag Marinas Awarded by Management Body 2019: 8 (+1)

	County	Management Body	Site Name	Award Status 2018	Award Status 2019
1	Cork	Kinsale Yacht Club	Kinsale Yacht Club	Awarded	Retained
2	Cork	Royal Cork Yacht club	The Royal Cork Yacht Club Marina	Awarded	Retained
3	Donegal	Donegal County Council	Greencastle Marina	Awarded	Retained
4	Donegal	Donegal County Council and Rathmullan Charters	Rathmullan Marina	Not Awarded	Awarded for first time

5	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Fenit Marina	Awarded	Retained
6	Westmeath	Quigley's Marina	Quigley's Marina, Killinure Point	Awarded	Retained
7	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Kilmore Quay Marina	Awarded	Retained
8	Wexford	Wexford County Council	New Ross Marina	Awarded	Retained

### 3. Beaches Awarded a Blue Flag in 2018, not awarded for 2019

Bundoran in Donegal was unsuccessful due to failure to meet the required water quality standard. The upper 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for E. coli calculated for water samples tested for 2015 to 2018 bathing seasons exceeded the upper limit of 250 cfu/100ml necessary to be classified as Excellent, which is a requirement for beach applicants to obtain Blue Flag status. Bundoran is classified as achieving Good Water Quality for 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018.

Bertra is classified as achieving Good Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Excellent water quality classification is the standard required of beach applicants to achieve Blue Flag status. Mayo County Council did not apply for a Blue Flag for Bertra for 2019 for this reason.

Golden Strand is classified as achieving Good Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Excellent Water Quality Status is the standard required of beach applicants to achieve Blue Flag status. Mayo County Council did not apply for a Blue Flag for Bertra for 2019 for this reason.

### 4. Green Coast Awards by County 2019: 62 Beaches (+3)

	County	Local Authority	Green Coast Award Site	Clean Coasts Group(s) and community groups associated with the site.
1	Clare	Clare County Council	Ballyallia Lake	Ballyallia Clean Coasts Group
2	Clare	Clare County Council	Bishops Quarter	Ballyvaughan Tidy Towns
3	Clare	Clare County Council	Seafield	Quilty Clean coast
4	Cork	Cork County Council	Cadogan's Strand,	Schull Tidy Town & Community association
5	Cork	Cork County Council	Ring	Ballymacoda Ladysbridge Community Council
6	Cork	Cork County Council	Ardnahinch, Shanagarry	Shanagarry Coastcare Group
7	Cork	Cork County Council	Inch Strand	Aghada Residents Association
8	Cork	Cork County Council	Fountainstown Beach	Fountainstown Community Association
9	Cork	Cork County Council	Rocky Bay	Roberts cove & Rocky bay residents Association
10	Cork	Cork County Council	Oysterhaven	Nohoval/Oysterhaven Residents Association

11	Cork	Cork County Council	Inchydoney East	Inchydoney Residents Association
12	Cork	Cork County Council	Red Strand	Ardfield Tidy Towns Group
13	Cork	Cork County Council	Ballyrisode	Goleen Community Council
14	Cork	Cork County Council	Galley Cove	Goleen Community Council
15	Cork	Cork County Council	Dooneen Pier	Sheepshead Way Community Group
16	Cork	Cork County Council	Garnish Beach, Lehanmore	Lehanemore Community Co-Op
17	Cork	Cork County Council	Sherkin Island, Silver Strand Beach	Sherkin Island Community Group
18	Donegal	Donegal County Council	Magheroarty Beach	Meas Larthuaisceart
19	Donegal	Donegal County Council	Drumnatinney	Falcarragh Coast Care
20	Donegal	Donegal County Council	Dooley Beach	Dooley Beach Clean Coast group
21	Donegal	Donegal County Council	Ballyheirnan	Fanad Clean Coasts Group and Marine Harvest Ireland
22	Fingal	Fingal County Council	Burrow Beach, Sutton	Sutton Dinghy Club
23	Fingal	Fingal County Council	Velvet Strand, Portmarnock	Portmarnock Community Association Beach Committee
24	Galway City	Galway City Council	Silver Strand	Galway Atlantaquaria and Eglington Residents Committee
25	Galway City	Galway City Council	Salthill	Meanscoil Muire Newtownsmith, Galway Atlantaquaria, Grundy, NUIG-GMIT Sub Aqua Club
26	Galway	Galway County Council	Aillebrack/Silver Hill	Aillebrack Clean Coasts Group
27	Galway	Galway County Council	East End Bay, Inishbofin	Inishbofin Development Company
28	Galway	Galway County Council	Dumhach Beach	Inishbofin Development Company
29	Galway	Galway County Council	Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oírr	Coiste na Trá c/o Comhar Caomhán Teoranta, Inis Oírr
30	Galway	Galway County Council	Trá Inis Oírr	Coiste na Trá c/o Comhar Caomhán Teoranta
31	Galway	Galway County Council	Renvyle Beach (The Whitestrand)	Renvyle Beach Group
32	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Waterville Town Beach	An Coireán Coast Care Group
33	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Littor	Littor Clean Coast Group
34	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Castlegregory	Castlegregory Coast Care Group
35	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Béal Bán	Scoil An Fheirtéaraigh

36	Kerry	Kerry County Council	Ballinskelligs	Ballinskelligs Tidy Towns group
37	Louth	Louth County Council	Seapoint Beach, Termonfeckin	Drogheda Lions Club
38	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Tranaun, Inishturk	Coastal Friends of Inishturk
39	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Termon Beach	Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile
40	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Srah Beach	Claggan Island RSS
41	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Portacloy Beach	Seirbhisí Curam Chill Chomáin
42	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Cross, Erris Peninsula (Belmullet)	Meas Mara Lar Ros
43	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Carrowniskey Beach	Keep Our Beaches Clean ; GMIT Mayo; Ascension Adventure Agents
44	Mayo	Mayo County Council	Rinroe Beach	Seirbhisí Curam Chill Chomáin; Scoil Naisunta Cheathru Thaidhg and Kilcommon RSS
45	Sligo	Sligo County Council	Dunmorán Strand	Skreen Dromard Coast Care Group
46	Sligo	Sligo County Council	Streedagh Beach	North Sligo Playground Group
47	Sligo	Sligo County Council	Rosses Point	Rosses Point Tidy Towns Committee and other Coast Care groups
48	Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	Annestown	Annestown Community Group
49	Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	Ballyquin	Ardmore Tidy Towns
50	Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	Curragh	Ardmore Tidy Towns
51	Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	Goat Island Beach	Ardmore Tidy Towns
52	Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	Guilamene Cove	Newtown and Guilamene swim Club
53	Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	Newtown Cove, Tramore	Newtown and Guilamene swim Club and Crawford Scaffolding
54	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Ballyhealy	Kilmore School and Wexford Sub Aqua Club
55	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Booley Bay	Hook Residents Coast Care Group
56	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Cahore Point Beach	Ballygarrett Tidy Towns
57	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Cullenstown Strand	Cullenstown Community Group
58	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Culleton's Gap	Friends of the Raven Coast Care Group
59	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Grange	Hook Residents Coast Care Group

60	Wexford	Wexford County Council	Old Bawn Beach	Ballygarrett Tidy Towns
61	Wexford	Wexford County Council	St. Helen's Bay	St. Helen's Bay Residents Group
62	Wicklow	Wicklow County Council	Arklow South Beach	Arklow Coastcare