



## PRESS RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST AWARDS FOR IRELAND

#### 2021 Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards Recognise Ireland's Best Beaches and Marinas

#### **A NEW RECORD: 93 Blue Flags and 63 Green Coast Awards for 2021**

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**Today, the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients for 2021 were announced by the Education Unit of An Taisce. The number of Blue Flags awarded this season set a new record for the Republic of Ireland.**

The Blue Flag and Green Coast Award sites for 2021 were announced by Ian Diamond, Coastal Awards Manager with An Taisce's Environmental Education unit this morning in a virtual awards ceremony attended by Local Authorities, marina operators and Clean Coasts groups who volunteer at the beaches receiving Green Coast Awards this 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. This year Ireland continues to punch above its weight with a record breaking 93 sites awarded, up 2 on last year's total.

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and inland bathing waters around the world. The 83 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.

Today the 83 beaches and 10 marinas being awarded the Blue Flag for the 2021 season were announced by Mr. Ian Diamond, Coastal Awards Manager with An Taisce's Environmental Education Unit. 79 of the 81 beaches and all 10 marinas awarded last year have retained Blue Flag status for 2021. 4 additional beaches have obtained Blue Flag status for the 2021 bathing season.

In Cork Warren, Cregane Strand has regained Blue Flag status last held in 2013, while Inchydoney East has been awarded a Blue Flag for the first time. The awarding of these two beaches brings the total number of beaches awarded the Blue Flag in Cork to 10 the joint highest to date. The retention of Blue Flag status at both Kinsale Yacht Club and Royal Cork Yacht Club means that Cork has a total of 12 Blue Flag beaches and marinas a record annual haul for the rebel county. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has been awarded a Blue Flag for Killiney for the first time since 2016. Golden Strand on Achill island in County Mayo has regained Blue Flag status last held in 2018. The improvement in bathing water quality rating at

Warrren, Cregane Strand, Killiney and Golden Strand over the past four seasons has enabled their being awarded this year.

### **63 Beaches receive the Green Coast Award for the 2021 Bathing Season**

The Green Coast Awards were presented back in 2003 to four beaches in County Wexford, then the award 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 involvement of Clean Coasts groups in the management of awarded sites.

Today the 63 beaches to receive Green Coast Award status were announced by An Taisce a virtual awards ceremony to representatives of the Local Authorities and Clean Coasts groups responsible for their management.

61 of the beaches awarded in 2020, of which 61 have retained Green Coast Award status for the coming season. There are 2 first time recipients of the Green Coast Award in 2021: Rush South Beach in Dublin and Gurteen Bay in County Galway.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage who was today in attendance at a ceremony marking the centenary of the burning of the Custom House, and so could not attend this morning's awards announcement had the following message for attendees of this year's awards.

*Commenting Minister O'Brien said, "I want to offer my sincere congratulations to each of the communities who have won these most prized awards. Winning a Blue Flag or a Green Coast award is a collective effort with local authorities, An Taisce, local coastal communities and other volunteers on the ground all playing their part. My Department and indeed the wider Government is committed to supporting programmes such as the Blue Flag and Green Coast Award and to building on them to achieve positive changes in environmental behaviour countrywide.*

Mr. Ian Diamond Coastal Awards Manager for An Taisce speaking at this mornings virtual Blue Flag and Green Coast Award presentation ceremony said:

*"I would like to thanks and acknowledge the work of the Local Authorities and marina operators with us today for all their efforts in ensuring that the sites being awarded this year have achieved the excellent standards required by the Blue Flag. I would also like to commend the many thousands of Clean Coasts volunteers who make an invaluable contribution to the protection of Ireland's coastal environment, not just at the beaches receiving a Green Coast Award today, but all along the coastline and along riversides, canals and lakeshores inland. Without the collaborative approach to beach management demonstrated by Local Authorities and Clean Coasts groups around the country the Green Coast Awards would not be possible".*

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**Detailed explanatory notes for editors below**

# **IRISH SITES STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 12pm on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2021**

## **Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards 2021**

### **1. SUMMARY OF AWARDS**

- 156 awards announced for 150 sites today, with 6 beaches receiving both the Blue Flag and Green Coast Award
- 93 Blue Flags are being awarded today in the Republic of Ireland, 83 to beaches and 10 to marinas. This is a net increase of 2 Blue Flags since 2020.
- 63 Green Coast Awards are being announced today, the same number as in 2020 (but with 2 changes).
- The counties with the most Blue Flags for 2021 are Donegal and Kerry which have 14 Blue Flags for their beaches and marinas.
- The county receiving the most Green Coast Awards is Cork with 13
- The 6 beaches achieving dual award status are: Portmarnock in Fingal; Salthill and Silver Strand in Galway; Ballinskelligs in Kerry, Inchydoney East Beach in Cork and Rosses Point in Sligo.
- The county with the most awarded sites is Cork with 24: 10 Blue Flag beaches, 2 Blue Flag marinas and 13 Green Coast Awarded sites (Inchydoney East Beach is a dual award beach).

### **2. BLUE FLAGS GAINED**

#### ***Beaches 4 additional beaches awarded a Blue Flag***

1. Inchydoney East Beach in County Cork has achieved Blue Flag Status for the first time. This beach has also retained Green Coast Award status held in 2020.
2. Warren, Cregane Strand in County Cork has achieved Blue Flag Status for the first time since 2013.
3. Killiney in Co. Dublin has achieved Blue Flag Status for the first time since 2016.
4. Golden Strand in Mayo has regained Blue Flag status last held in 2018.

An improvement in bathing water quality rating at Warrren, Cregane Strand, Killiney and Golden Strand over the past four seasons has enabled them being awarded this year.

#### ***2 beaches have not retained Blue Flag status awarded in 2020***

Both Ballymoney North Beach in County Wexford and Bertra in County Mayo failed to retain Blue Flag status this year. Both of these beaches failed to achieve the Excellent Water Quality Rating necessary to obtain Blue Flag status in 2021. An Excellent rating is the highest available and the bathing water quality at both of these sites deteriorated slightly, with both sites achieving Good Status based on the analysis of in-season water quality samples taken between 2017 and 2020.

#### ***Marinas***

All 10 marinas awarded a Blue Flag in 2020 have been awarded a Blue Flag for the coming season.

### **3. ABOUT BLUE FLAG**

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is responsible for the operation of the Blue Flag programme in Ireland on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Over 50 Countries operate the Blue Flag programme globally and more than 4800 sites and eco-tourism boats will be awarded in 49 countries this year.

- The Foundation for Environmental Education is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with members in 73 countries world-wide.
- The Blue Flag programme is funded in Ireland by Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage

- Blue Flag beaches must be identified bathing waters and are judged against a total of 33 criteria [Blue Flag Beach Criteria - Beach Awards](#)
- 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.
- In 1987, the "European Year of the Environment", the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE) presented the French concept to the European Commission, and the Blue Flag Programme was launched as one of the year's community activities. In addition to sewage treatment and bathing water quality, criteria for obtaining a Blue Flag on a European level included other areas of environmental management, such as waste management and coastal planning and protection. Marinas were also eligible for the award.
- The Blue Flag has been operating in Ireland since 1987, in 1988 the first year flags were awarded here, 19 beaches and 2 marinas received the award.
- Blue Flags are awarded on the basis of:
  - ✓ Compliance with Blue Flag criteria relating to water quality, facilities for visitors, beach management, environmental education and the provision of information.
  - ✓ The results of in-season beach inspections which are carried out on 100% of all awarded beaches.
  - ✓ Recommendations of the National and International Blue Flag juries.

#### 4. ABOUT GREEN COAST AWARD

- The Green Coast Awards is supported by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and by Fáilte Ireland.
- The aim of the Green Coast Award is to recognise beaches of high environmental quality. To achieve the award, beaches must have excellent water quality and have effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment.
- The Green Coast Award aims to acknowledge and promote environmentally sensitive management of beaches. It places a strong emphasis on community involvement and encourages Local Authorities to work together with local communities in the management of sites.
- The Green Coast Award builds on the public participation process as it involves local communities in the production of beach management plans and encourages their participation in the adoption and implementation of these plans. This process gives the people who are most affected by such plans, a say in how they should be designed and implemented, thus promoting a fine example of the bottom up approach.
- The plans must be sensitive to conservation sites of national and international importance and ensure that they are implemented in line with international beach management best practice.
- The Green Coast Award is also run in Northern Ireland by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and in Wales by Keep Wales Tidy.

#### 5. 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 are subject to the same sampling and testing requirements

| Parameter              | Coastal & transitional waters<br>limit values | Inland waters<br>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.

## 6. Blue Flags Awarded in Ireland Since 2017

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 |
|------|-------------------|
| 2017 | 88                |
| 2018 | 90                |
| 2019 | 88                |
| 2020 | 91                |
| 2021 | 93                |

## 7. List of Blue Flag Beaches and Marinas 2021

| #  | County  | Management Body        | Site Name                         |
|----|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Ballycuggeran                     |
| 2  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Cappagh Pier                      |
| 3  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Fanore                            |
| 4  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Kilkee                            |
| 5  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Lahinch                           |
| 6  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Mountshannon, Lough Derg          |
| 7  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | Spanish Point                     |
| 8  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | White Strand Doonbeg              |
| 9  | Clare   | Clare County Council   | White Strand Miltown Malbay       |
| 10 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Redbarn Beach                     |
| 11 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Barley Cove                       |
| 12 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Garretstown                       |
| 13 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Garrylucas, White Strand          |
| 14 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Inchydoney West Beach             |
| 15 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Owenahincha, Little Island Strand |
| 16 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Tragumna                          |
| 17 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Youghal, Claycastle               |
| 18 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Warren, Cregane Strand            |
| 19 | Cork    | Cork County Council    | Inchydoney East Beach             |
| 20 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Downings                          |
| 21 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Rossnowlagh                       |
| 22 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Greencastle Marina                |
| 23 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Rathmullan Marina                 |
| 24 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Bundoran                          |
| 25 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Carrickfinn                       |
| 26 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Culdaff                           |
| 27 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Fintra                            |
| 28 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Killahoey                         |
| 29 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Portsalon                         |
| 30 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Marble Hill                       |
| 31 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Murvagh                           |
| 32 | Donegal | Donegal County Council | Naran                             |

| #  | County                 | Management Body                       | Site Name                            |
|----|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 33 | Donegal                | Donegal County Council                | Stroove                              |
| 34 | Dun Laoghaire Rathdown | Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council | Killiney                             |
| 35 | Dun Laoghaire Rathdown | Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council | Seapoint                             |
| 36 | Fingal                 | Fingal County Council                 | Portmarnock, Velvet Strand Beach     |
| 37 | Galway City            | Galway City Council                   | Salthill Beach                       |
| 38 | Galway City            | Galway City Council                   | Silverstrand Beach                   |
| 39 | Galway                 | Galway County Council                 | An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán    |
| 40 | Galway                 | Galway County Council                 | Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór            |
| 41 | Galway                 | Galway County Council                 | Loughrea Lake                        |
| 42 | Galway                 | Galway County Council                 | Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua        |
| 43 | Galway                 | Galway County Council                 | Traught, Kinvara                     |
| 44 | Galway                 | Galway County Council                 | Bathing Place at Portumna            |
| 45 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Inch                                 |
| 46 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)     |
| 47 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Ballybunion South                    |
| 48 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Ballyheigue                          |
| 49 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Banna Strand                         |
| 50 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Doire Fhíonáin (Derrynane)           |
| 51 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Fenit                                |
| 52 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Kells                                |
| 53 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Maharabeg                            |
| 54 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Rossbeigh, White Strand              |
| 55 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Fiontrá (Ventry)                     |
| 56 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | White Strand, Caherciveen            |
| 57 | Kerry                  | Kerry County Council                  | Fenit Marina                         |
| 58 | Clare                  | Kilrush Maritime Ltd                  | Kilrush Marina                       |
| 59 | Kilrush Maritime Ltd   | Kilrush Maritime Ltd                  | Portmagee Seasonal Visitors Pontoons |
| 60 | Cork                   | Kinsale Yacht Club                    | Kinsale Yacht Club                   |
| 61 | Louth                  | Louth County Council                  | Clogherhead                          |
| 62 | Louth                  | Louth County Council                  | Port, Lurganboy                      |
| 63 | Louth                  | Louth County Council                  | Shelling Hill/Templetown             |
| 64 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Golden Strand, Achill Island         |
| 65 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh         |
| 66 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Clare Island, Louisburgh             |
| 67 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Dooega Beach, Achill Island          |
| 68 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Elly Bay, Belmullet                  |
| 69 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Keel Beach, Achill Island            |
| 70 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Keem Beach, Achill Island            |
| 71 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet          |
| 72 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Mulranny Beach                       |
| 73 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Ross Beach, Killala                  |
| 74 | Mayo                   | Mayo County Council                   | Dugort Beach, Achill Island          |
| 75 | Westmeath              | Quigleys Marina                       | Killinure Point                      |

| #  | County    | Management Body                 | Site Name                                     |
|----|-----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 76 | Cork      | Royal Cork Yacht club           | The Royal Cork Yacht Club                     |
| 77 | Sligo     | Sligo County Council            | Rosses Point Beach*<br>*See Note in Section 9 |
| 78 | Waterford | Waterford City & County Council | Clonea Beach                                  |
| 79 | Waterford | Waterford City & County Council | Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East             |
| 80 | Waterford | Waterford City & County Council | Dunmore Strand, Dunmore East                  |
| 81 | Waterford | Waterford City & County Council | Tramore Beach                                 |
| 82 | Waterford | Waterford City & County Council | Ardmore Beach                                 |
| 83 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | Ballinesker Beach                             |
| 84 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | Curraclloe                                    |
| 85 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | Morriscastle                                  |
| 86 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | Rosslare Strand                               |
| 87 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | Carne   |
| 88 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | Kilmore Quay Marina                           |
| 89 | Wexford   | Wexford County Council          | New Ross Marina                               |
| 90 | Wicklow   | Wicklow County Council          | Brittas Bay North Beach                       |
| 91 | Wicklow   | Wicklow County Council          | Brittas Bay South Beach                       |
| 92 | Wicklow   | Wicklow County Council          | Greystones South Beach                        |
| 93 | Wicklow   | Wicklow County Council          | Bray South Promenade                          |

## 8. List of Green Coast Award Beaches 2021

| #  | County | Beach Name                          | Local Authority      | Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site. |
|----|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1  | Clare  | Seafield                            | Clare County Council | Quilty Clean coast                                      |
| 2  | Clare  | Bishops Quarter                     | Clare County Council | Ballyvaughan Tidy Towns                                 |
| 3  | Clare  | Ballyallia Lake                     | Clare County Council | Ballyallia Bf Working group                             |
| 4  | Clare  | Carrigaholt Beach                   | Clare County Council | Carrigaholt tidy towns                                  |
| 5  | Cork   | Sherkin Island, Silver Strand Beach | Cork County Council  | Sherkin Island Community Group                          |
| 6  | Cork   | Ballyrisode                         | Cork County Council  | Goleen Community Council                                |
| 7  | Cork   | Galley Cove                         | Cork County Council  | Goleen Community Council                                |
| 8  | Cork   | Inch Strand                         | Cork County Council  | Aghada Residents Association                            |
| 9  | Cork   | Ardnahinch, Shanagarry              | Cork County Council  | Shanagarry Coastcare Group                              |
| 10 | Cork   | Ring                                | Cork County Council  | Ballymacoda Ladysbridge Community Council               |
| 11 | Cork   | Fountainstown Beach                 | Cork County Council  | Fountainstown Community Association                     |

| #  | County  | Beach Name                      | Local Authority        | Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.   |
|----|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 12 | Cork    | Rocky Bay                       | Cork County Council    | Roberts Cove & Rocky Bay Residents Association  |
| 13 | Cork    | Dooneen Pier                    | Cork County Council    | Sheepshead Way Community Group  |
| 14 | Cork    | Red Strand                      | Cork County Council    | Ardfield Tidy Towns Group   |
| 15 | Cork    | Inchydoney East                 | Cork County Council    | Inchydoney Residents Association  |
| 16 | Cork    | Cadogan's Strand,               | Cork County Council    | Schull Tidy Town & Community Association  |
| 17 | Cork    | Garnish Beach, Lehanmore        | Cork County Council    | Lehanemore Community Co-Op  |
| 18 | Donegal | Ballyheirnan                    | Donegal County Council | Mowi Ireland  |
| 19 | Donegal | Dooley Beach                    | Donegal County Council | Dooley Clean Coast Group  |
| 20 | Donegal | Drumnatinney                    | Donegal County Council | Cósta Glan agus Glas Falcarragh Clean Coast Group   |
| 21 | Donegal | Magheroarty Beach               | Donegal County Council | Meas Larthuaisceart   |
| 22 | Fingal  | Velvet Strand, Portmarnock      | Fingal County Council  | PCA Community Beach Committee, Portmarnock Community School, Hanrahans, Praxis Day Service, Kilcoskan National School, Scoil Mochua |
| 23 | Fingal  | Burrow Beach, Sutton            | Fingal County Council  | Sutton Dinghy Club, Seastainability   |
| 24 | Fingal  | South Beach, Rush               | Fingal County Council  | Rush Tidy Towns & Rush Clean Coasts   |
| 25 | Galway  | Salthill                        | Galway City Council    | Galway Atlantaquaria  |
| 26 | Galway  | Silver Strand                   | Galway City Council    | Silverstrand Clean Coast group  |
| 27 | Galway  | Dumhach Beach                   | Galway County Council  | Inishbofin Development Company  |
| 28 | Galway  | East End Bay, Inishbofin        | Galway County Council  | Inishbofin Development Company  |
| 29 | Galway  | Trá Inis Oirr                   | Galway County Council  | Coiste na Trá c/o Comhar Caomhán Teoranta   |
| 30 | Galway  | Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oirr | Galway County Council  | Coiste na Trá c/o Comhar Caomhán Teoranta, Inis Oírr  |
| 31 | Galway  | Renvyle Beach (The Whitestrand) | Galway County Council  | Renvyle Beach Group   |
| 32 | Galway  | Aillebrack/Silver Hill          | Galway County Council  |   |



| #  | County    | Beach Name                                   | Local Authority                   | Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.                                  |
|----|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 33 | Galway    | Goirtín, Cloch na Rón                        | Galway County Council             | Gurteen / Dogs Bay Conservation  |
| 34 | Kerry     | Béal Bán                                     | Kerry County Council              | Scoil An Fheirtéaraigh   |
| 35 | Kerry     | Castlegregory                                | Kerry County Council              | Castlegregory Coast Care Group   |
| 36 | Kerry     | Littor                                       | Kerry County Council              | Littor Clean Coast Group   |
| 37 | Kerry     | Waterville                                   | Kerry County Council              | An Coireán Coast Care Group  |
| 38 | Kerry     | Ballinskelligs                               | Kerry County Council              | Ballinskelligs Tidy Towns group  |
| 39 | Louth     | Seapoint Beach, Termonfeckin                 | Louth County Council              | Termonfeckin & District Community group  |
| 40 | Mayo      | Cross, Erris Peninsula                       | Mayo County Council               | Meas Mara Lar Ros  |
| 41 | Mayo      | Portacloy Beach                              | Mayo County Council               | Comhar Dun Chaochain Teoranta  |
| 42 | Mayo      | Srah Beach                                   | Mayo County Council               | Claggan Island RSS   |
| 43 | Mayo      | Termon Beach                                 | Mayo County Council               | Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile  |
| 44 | Mayo      | Tránaun, Inishturk                           | Mayo County Council               | Inishturk Community Club   |
| 45 | Mayo      | Rinroe                                       | Mayo County Council               | 1. Comhar Dun Chaochain Teoranta 2. Scoil Naisunta Cheathru Thaidhg and 3. Kilcommon RSS |
| 46 | Sligo     | Rosses Point<br>*See Note in Section 9 below | Sligo County Council              | Rosses Point Tidy Towns Committee and other Coast Care groups                            |
| 47 | Sligo     | Streedagh Beach                              | Sligo County Council              | North Sligo Playground Group   |
| 48 | Sligo     | Dunmorán Strand                              | Sligo County Council              | Skreen Dromard Coast Care Group  |
| 49 | Waterford | Ballyquin                                    | Waterford City and County Council | Ardmore Tidy Towns   |
| 50 | Waterford | Curragh                                      | Waterford City and County Council | Ardmore Tidy Towns   |
| 51 | Waterford | Goat Island Beach                            | Waterford City and County Council | Ardmore Tidy Towns   |
| 52 | Waterford | Guillamene Cove                              | Waterford City and County Council | Newtown and Guillamene swim Club and Crawford Scaffolding                                |

| #  | County    | Beach Name            | Local Authority                   | Name of Clean Coasts Group(s) associated with the site.  |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 53 | Waterford | Newtown Cove, Tramore | Waterford City and County Council | Newtown and Guilamene swim Club and Crawford Scaffolding |
| 54 | Waterford | Annestown             | Waterford City and County Council | Annestown Community Group                                |
| 55 | Wexford   | Grange                | Wexford County Council            | Hook Tourism   |
| 56 | Wexford   | Cullenstown Strand    | Wexford County Council            | Friends of Cullenstown                                   |
| 57 | Wexford   | St. Helen's Bay       | Wexford County Council            | St. Helen's Bay Residents Group                          |
| 58 | Wexford   | Ballyhealy            | Wexford County Council            | Kilmore School, Wexford Sub Aqua Club                    |
| 59 | Wexford   | Booley Bay            | Wexford County Council            | Hook Tourism   |
| 60 | Wexford   | Cahore Point Beach    | Wexford County Council            | Ballygarrett Tidy Towns                                  |
| 61 | Wexford   | Culleton's Gap        | Wexford County Council            | Friends of the Raven Coast Care Group                    |
| 62 | Wexford   | Old Bawn Beach        | Wexford County Council            | Ballygarrett Tidy Towns                                  |
| 63 | Wexford   | Baginbun Beach        | Wexford County Council            | Hook Tourism   |

## 9. Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards by County 2021

| County | No. BFs Awarded | No. GCAs Awarded | Total Number of Awards | Notes on Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards   |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|---|
| Clare  | 10              | 4                | 14                     | All nine Blue Flag beaches managed by Clare County Council retain Blue Flag Status for the 2021 bathing season. Kilrush Marina retains the Blue Flag status awarded last year. The 4 Clare beaches that received the Green Coast Award in 2021 have retained the award for the coming season.   |
| Cork   | 12              | 13               | 25                     | The awarding of these two additional beaches brings the total number of beaches managed by Cork County Council to 10 the joint highest to date. The retention of Blue Flag status by both Kinsale Yacht Club and Royal Cork Yacht Club mean that Cork has 12 Blue Flag beaches and marinas for 2021 a record setting total for the rebel county. Cork has 22 beaches receiving awards in 2021, more than any other county. 22 beaches in Cork are receiving a total of 23 awards, Inchydoney East is one of the six sites nationally that has received a Blue Flag and a Green Coast Award. |

| County        | No. BFs Awarded | No. GCAs Awarded | Total Number of Awards | Notes on Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards   |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|---|
| Donegal       | 14              | 4                | 18                     | The 12 beaches and 2 marinas awarded a Blue Flag in Donegal for 2020 have retained Blue Flag status for the coming season. Donegal along with Kerry has the most Blue Flag sites with 14. 4 Donegal beaches have received Green Coast Awards.   |
| Dublin        | 3               | 3                | 6                      | DLR Co. Co. have been awarded a Blue Flag for Killiney for the first time since 2016. Seapoint retains Blue Flag status held since 2013. Fingal County Council: Portmarnock retains Blue Flag status for the 2021 season. Fingal County Council: retains Green Coast Award status at Portmarnock and the Burrow Beach, Sutton. Rush South Beach has been awarded a Green Coast Award for the first time.  |
| Galway County | 8               | 9                | 17                     | Galway County Council retains Blue Flag status for all 6 sites awarded in 2020. Galway City Council retains Blue Flag status and Green Coast Award status for Salthill and Silverstrand for the 2021 season. 7 beaches in Galway County have received Green Coast Awards for the 2021 season.   |
| Kerry         | 14              | 5                | 19                     | Kerry County Council retains Blue Flag status for all 13 beaches awarded in 2020. Kerry County Council retains Blue Flag status for Fenit marina for the 2021 season. Kilrush maritime Ltd has retained BF status for Portmagee Seasonal Visitors Pontoons. Kerry along with Donegal has the most Blue Flag sites with 14. 5 Kerry beaches have received Green Coast Awards.  |
| Louth         | 3               | 1                | 4                      | Louth County Council retains Blue Flag status for all 3 beaches awarded in 2020. The three beaches awarded in Louth have all held a Blue Flag every year since 2009, Shelling Hill/Templetown and Clogherhead have both been awarded a Blue Flag on more than 20 occasions since 1988.<br><br>Seapoint Beach, Termonfeckin has retained Green Coast Award status for 2021.  |
| Mayo          | 11              | 6                | 17                     | Mayo County Council retains Blue Flag status for 10 awarded in 2020. Golden Strand has been awarded for the first time since 2018, due in part to an improvement in bathing water quality at the beach. Bertra has been classified as achieving Good Water Quality in 2020 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2017 to 2020. 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 2021 for this reason. 6 Mayo beaches have received Green Coast Awards. |

| <b>County</b> | <b>No. BFs Awarded</b> | <b>No. GCAs Awarded</b> | <b>Total Number of Awards</b> | <b>Notes on Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards</b>   |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Sligo         | 1                      | 3                       | 4                             | Coastal protection works are ongoing at Rosses Point addressing erosion issues. While works are ongoing, the site is not fully compliant with all of the awards' criteria and therefore, neither the Blue Flag nor the Green Coast Award flag may be flown at the beach during this time. Once works are completed and the site is in compliance with all award criteria, the flags may then be raised and flown.  |
| Waterford     | 5                      | 6                       | 11                            | Waterford retains Blue Flag status for all 5 beaches awarded in 2020 and Green Coast Award status for all 6 beaches awarded last year.   |
| Westmeath     | 1                      | 0                       | 1                             | Quigley's Marina, Killinure Point has retained the Blue Flag awarded in 2020. Quigleys' Marina has been awarded every year since 2003.   |
| Wexford       | 7                      | 9                       | 16                            | Wexford County Council retains Blue Flag status for 5 beaches and both marinas awarded in 2020. Ballymoney North Beach awarded in 2020 has not retained Blue Flag status for the 2021 season. The beach has been classified as achieving a Good Water Quality rating in 2020 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2017 to 2020. Excellent water quality classification is the standard required of beach applicants to achieve Blue Flag status. Wexford has received more Blue Flags and Green Coast Awards than any other county in Leinster. |
| Wicklow       | 4                      | 0                       | 4                             | Wicklow County Council retains Blue Flag status for all 4 beaches awarded in 2020.   |



# BLUE FLAG 2021

## AWARDED BEACHES & MARINAS

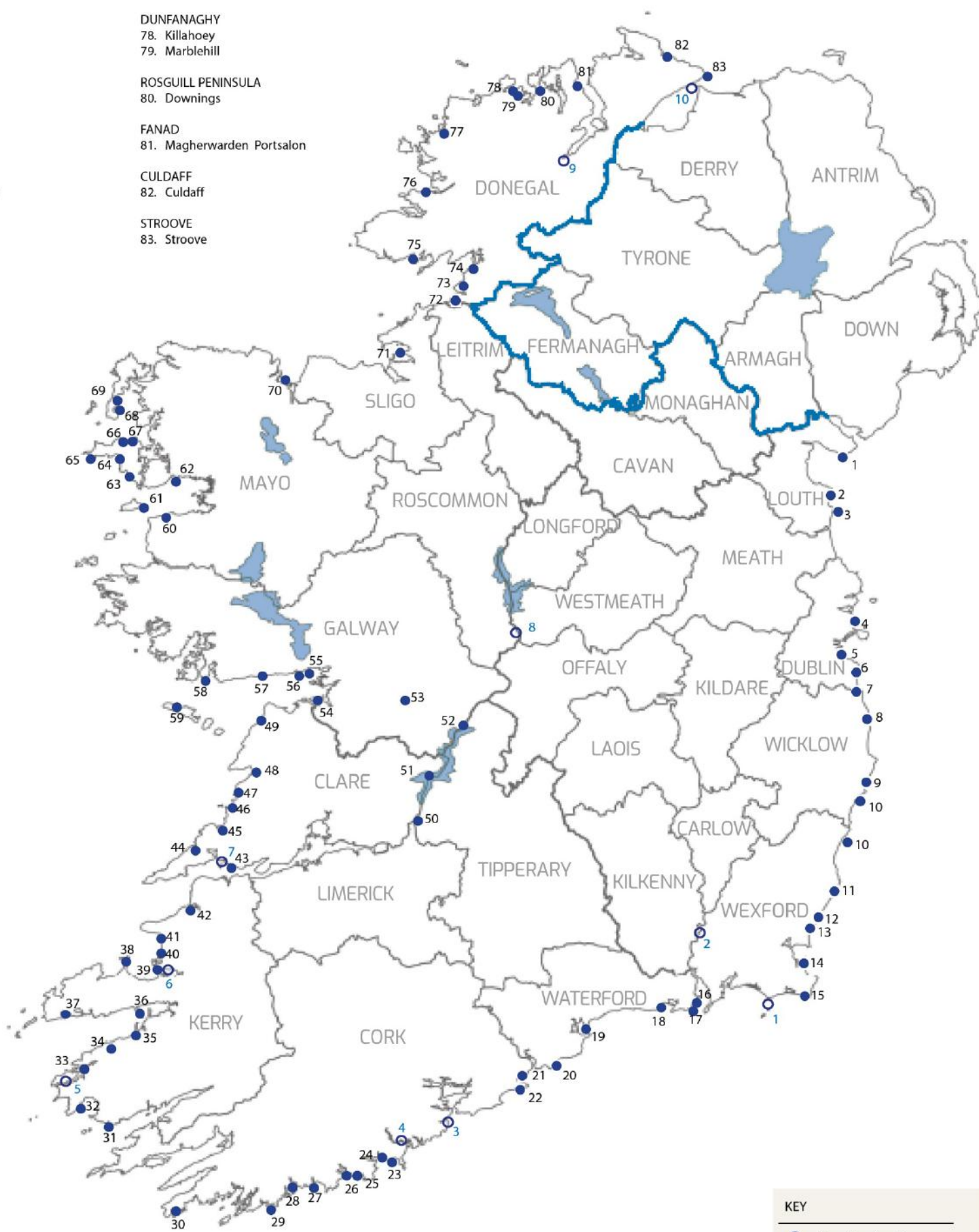
### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

#### BEACHES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>LOUTH</b><br>CARLINGFORD<br>1. Templetown                                | <b>CASTLEGREGORY</b><br>38. Magherabeg   |
| <b>CLOGHERHEAD</b><br>2. Port<br>3. Clogherhead                             | <b>FENIT</b><br>39. Fenit  |
| <b>DUBLIN</b><br>FINGAL<br>4. Portmarnock                                   | <b>ARDFERT</b><br>40. Banna  |
| <b>DÚN LAOGHAIRE</b><br>RATHDOWN<br>5. Seapoint<br>6. Killiney              | <b>BALLYHEIGUE</b><br>41. Ballyheigue  |
| <b>WICKLOW</b><br>BRAY<br>7. Bray South Promenade                           | <b>BALLYBUNION</b><br>42. Ballybunion South Beach  |
| <b>GREYSTONES</b><br>8. Greystones<br>South Beach                           | <b>CLARE</b><br>KILRUSH<br>43. Cappa Pier  |
| <b>ARKLOW</b><br>9. Brittas Bay North<br>10. Brittas Bay South              | <b>KILKEE</b><br>44. Kilkee  |
| <b>WEXFORD</b><br>MORRISCASTLE<br>11. Morriscastle                          | <b>DOONBEG</b><br>45. Whitestrand  |
| <b>CURRACLOE</b><br>12. Ballinesker<br>13. Curracloe                        | <b>SPANISH POINT</b><br>46. Spanish Point  |
| <b>ROSSLARE</b><br>14. Rosslare<br>15. Carne                                | <b>MILTOWN MALBAY</b><br>47. Miltown Malbay  |
| <b>WATERFORD</b><br>DUNMORE<br>16. Counsellors' Strand<br>17. Dunmore East  | <b>LAHINCH</b><br>48. Lahinch  |
| <b>TRAMORE</b><br>18. Tramore   | <b>FANORE</b><br>49. Fanore  |
| <b>DUNGARVAN</b><br>19. Clonea  | <b>KILLALOE</b><br>50. Ballycuggeran   |
| <b>ARDMORE</b><br>20. Ardmore   | <b>MOUNTSHANNON</b><br>51. Mountshannon  |
| <b>CORK</b><br>YOUGHAL<br>21. Youghal Claycastle<br>22. Redbarn             | <b>GALWAY</b><br>PORTUMNA<br>52. Portumna  |
| <b>BALLINSPIITTE</b><br>23. Garrylucas<br>24. Garretstown                   | <b>LOUGHREA</b><br>53. Loughrea Lake   |
| <b>CLONAKILTY</b><br>25. Inchydoney East Beach<br>26. Inchydoney West Beach | <b>KINVARA</b><br>54. Traught  |
| <b>ROSSCARBERY</b><br>27. Owenahincha<br>28. Warren, Cregane Strand         | <b>GALWAY CITY</b><br>55. Salthill<br>56. Silver Strand                                      |
| <b>SKIBBEREEN</b><br>29. Tragumna   | <b>INDREABHÁN</b><br>57. Trá Mhór  |
| <b>BARLEYCOVE</b><br>30. Barleycove   | <b>AN CHEATHRÚ RUA</b><br>58. Trá an Dóilín  |
| <b>KERRY</b><br>CAHERDANIEL<br>31. Derrynane                                | <b>INIS MÓR</b><br>59. Cill Mhuirbhígh   |
| <b>BALLINSKELLIGS</b><br>32. Ballinskelligs                                 | <b>MAYO</b><br>LOUISBURGH<br>60. Carrowmore  |
| <b>CAHERCIVEEN</b><br>33. White Strand<br>34. Kells                         | <b>CLARE ISLAND</b><br>61. The Harbour   |
| <b>ROSSBEIGH</b><br>35. Rossbeigh   | <b>MULRANNY</b><br>62. Mulranny  |
| <b>INCH</b><br>36. Inch   | <b>ACHILL</b><br>63. Dooege<br>64. Keel<br>65. Keem<br>66. Dugort Beach<br>67. Golden Stranc |
| <b>VENTRY</b><br>37. Ventry   | <b>BELMULLET</b><br>68. Mullaghroe<br>69. Elly Bay   |
|   | <b>KILLALA</b><br>70. Ross   |
|   | <b>SLIGO</b><br>ROSSSES POINT<br>71. Rosses Point  |

#### MARINAS

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>WEXFORD</b><br>KILMORE QUAY<br>1. Kilmore Quay Marina | <b>KERRY</b><br>PORTMAGEE<br>5. Portmagee Seasonal Visitors Pontoons | <b>DONEGAL</b><br>RATHMULLAN<br>9. Rathmullan Marina |
| <b>NEW ROSS</b><br>2. New Ross 'Three Sisters' Marina    | <b>FENIT</b><br>6. Fenit Marina                                      | <b>GREENCASTLE</b><br>10. Greencastle Marina         |
| <b>CORK</b><br>CROSSHAVEN<br>3. Royal Cork Yacht Club    | <b>CLARE</b><br>KILRUSH<br>7. Kilrush Marina                         |  |
| <b>KINSALE</b><br>4. Kinsale Yacht Club                  | <b>WESTMEATH</b><br>GLASSON<br>8. Quigley's Marina, Killinure Point  |  |



#### KEY

- Blue Flag Beach
- Blue Flag Marina

COUNTY  
NEAREST TOWN  
00. Beach/Marina Name

The Blue Flag programme in Ireland is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage





# Green Coast Award



# GREEN COAST AWARD BEACHES 2021 IN IRELAND

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

- Louth**  
1. Seapoint Beach, Termonfeckin
- Dublin**  
2. South Beach, Rush  
3. Velvet Strand, Portmarnock  
4. Burrow Beach, Sutton

- Wexford**  
5. Cahore Point Beach  
6. Old Bawn Beach  
7. Culleton's Gap  
8. St. Helen's Bay  
9. Ballyhealy  
10. Cullenstown Strand  
11. Baginbun Beach  
12. Booley Bay  
13. Grange

- Waterford**  
14. Guillamene Cove  
15. Newtown Cove, Tramore  
16. Annestown  
17. Ballyquin  
18. Curragh  
19. Goat Island Beach

- Cork**  
20. Ring  
21. Ardnahinch, Shanagarry  
22. Inch Strand  
23. Fountainstown Beach  
24. Rocky Bay  
25. Inchydoney East  
26. Red Strand  
27. Sherkin Island, Silver Strand  
28. Cadogan's Strand,  
29. Ballyrisode  
30. Galley Cove  
31. Dooneen Pier  
32. Garnish Beach, Lehanmore

- Kerry**  
33. Waterville  
34. Ballinskelligs  
35. Béal Bán  
36. Castlegregory  
37. Littor

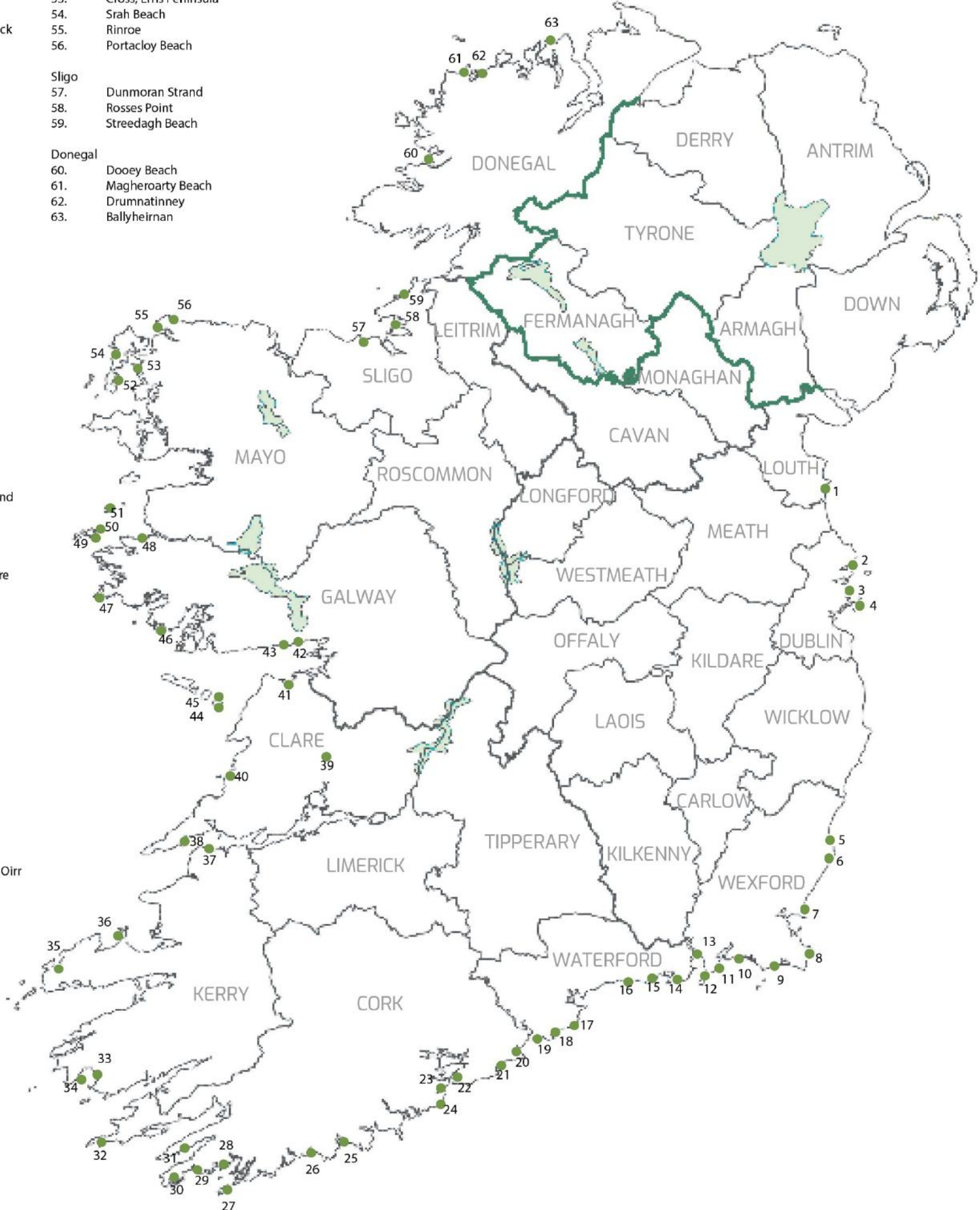
- Clare**  
38. Carrigaholt Beach  
39. Ballyallia Lake  
40. Seafield  
41. Bishops Quarter

- Galway**  
42. Salthill  
43. Silver Strand  
44. An Trá, Inis Oirr  
45. Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oirr  
46. Goirtín, Cloch na Rón  
47. Aillebrack/Silver Hill  
48. Renvyle Beach  
(The Whitestrand)  
49. Dumhach Beach  
50. East End Bay, Inisbofin

- Mayo**  
51. Tránaun, Inishturk  
52. Termon Beach  
53. Cross, Erris Peninsula  
54. Srah Beach  
55. Rinroe  
56. Portacloy Beach

- Sligo**  
57. Dunmoran Strand  
58. Rosses Point  
59. Streedagh Beach

- Donegal**  
60. Dooney Beach  
61. Magheroarty Beach  
62. Drumnatiney  
63. Ballyheirnan



The Green Coast Award is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Fáilte Ireland

The Clean Coasts Programme and Green Coast Awards are operated by An Taisce



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Aitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority