



**AN TAI SCE**

**BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST AWARDS 2025 PRESS RELEASE**



**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.00pm on Friday 16th of May 2025**

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A selection of photos from the awards will be released by 2.30pm on Friday  
Photos available from Maura Hickey 086 8541130

**2025 Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards Recognise Ireland's Best Beaches and Marinas  
99 Blue Flags and 70 Green Coast Awards awarded for 2025**

Today, An Taisce announced the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients for 2025. The awards were presented by James Browne TD – Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the presentation ceremony held in the Ravenport Resort in Curracloe, County Wexford this afternoon.

**Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Browne, who presented the award flags said:**

"Given that the Blue Flag programme is an internationally recognised symbol of high standards in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety, I am honoured to present a record number of awards today – 99 Blue Flags and 70 Green Coast Awards.

"We've come a long way since the beginning of Ireland's Blue Flag awards in 1988, when 19 beaches and 2 marinas were recognised.

"This didn't happen by magic. Great credit must go to local authorities, An Taisce, coastal communities and particularly all those local volunteers who have worked tirelessly around the country to keep so many of our coastal areas, beaches and marinas in pristine condition for us all to enjoy.

"Presenting these awards on a great day in Curracloe and – in the current good weather - anticipating the happy days ahead for so many families on this very beach over the summer, I am particularly proud that the beautiful beaches and marinas from around my own home county of Wexford are amongst those recognised today."

Talking at the event, Ms. Cathy Baxter, Director of Education and Community Action at An Taisce said:

"We were delighted to be back in the sunny Southeast once again, to present The Blue Flag and Green Coast Award Flags for the 2025 season. There are an unprecedented number of sites receiving awards this year. We would like to congratulate all the Local Authorities, marina operators and Clean Coasts groups responsible for managing the awarded beaches and marinas to the excellent standards required. I would also like to thank Wexford County Council for hosting us here in Curracloe today."

**Blue Flag**

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised environmental awards. 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. 2025 is the 38<sup>th</sup> year that beaches and marinas have been awarded here in Ireland, with 99 beaches and marinas being awarded for the 2025 season (89 beaches, 10 marinas).

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and eco-tourism boats around the world. The 89 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 for the duration of the bathing season.

## SUMMARY OF AWARDS

- 169 awards presented today, an increase of 5 on last year's number. 149 beaches are receiving awards along with 10 marinas.
- 10 beaches will be presented with both the Blue Flag & Green Coast Award achieving dual award status. These are Balcarrick, Donabate in Fingal; Salthill and Silver Strand in Galway City, An Trá Inis Oirr in Galway County; Fountainstown and Inchydoney Beach East in Cork; Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs) in Kerry; Bettystown in Meath and Enniscrone and Rosses Point in Sligo.
- Cork is the county with most Green Coast Awards in 2025, with 14 and has also the highest combined number of award flags with 27, including the Blue Flags awarded to Kinsale Yacht Club and The Royal Cork Yacht Club and 11 Blue Flags awarded to beaches managed by Cork County Council

### Blue Flag in numbers

- A record number of Blue Flags are being awarded today in the Republic of Ireland, 89 to beaches and 10 to marinas.
- The 89 beaches are a record number to receive Blue Flags in Ireland 4 higher than the previous record of 85.
- The 89 beaches awarded Blue Flags represent 60% of the Ireland's Identified Bathing Waters at the time of the Blue Flag application deadline (3 additional beaches have been identified as Bathing Waters ahead of the 2025 season). This is the second highest percentage of Identified Bathing Waters to receive a Blue Flag to date. In 2006, 80 beaches were awarded, this represented 62% of Bathing Waters identified at the time.
- Céibh an Spidéal in County Galway has been awarded a Blue Flag for the first time since 2012.
- Keel Beach on Achill Island in County Mayo has been awarded a Blue Flag for the 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, every year season since 1989, the beach has retained Blue Flag status each season since it was first awarded.
- 3 Other beaches have been awarded a Blue Flag in 37 non-consecutive seasons these are: Clonea in Waterford and Banna and Ballyheigue, both in County Kerry.
- Kerry is the county with most Blue Flags in 2025 with 15, 14 of these are managed by Kerry County Council and 1, Portmagee Seasonal Pontoons is managed by Kilrush Maritime Ltd.
- The Local Authorities with most Blue Flag awarded sites are Kerry County Council and Donegal County Council, both have been awarded 14 Blue Flags in 2025.

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). Over 50 Countries operate the Blue Flag programme globally and more than 5000 beaches, marinas 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.

### Green Coast Award: A record-equalling 70 Beaches receive the Green Coast Award for the 2025 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.

An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the involvement of voluntary Clean Coasts groups, who participate in community clean-ups and help manage the applicant beaches in cooperation with Local Authorities. The main purpose of the Green Coast Award programme is to foster partnerships within communities in an effort to protect and enhance local coastal environs, and to celebrate the efforts of those communities.

The first Green Coast Awards were presented to four beaches in Wexford in 2003. The award was rolled out nationally in 2008 and has gone from strength to strength ever since. The 2025 season sees a record equalling 70 beaches being awarded the Green Coast Award (the same number were awarded in 2024).

In the Republic of Ireland the Green Coast Award is operated by An Taisce with the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Fáilte Ireland.

### Green Coast Award in numbers

- 70 beaches are being presented with The Green Coast Award today, matching the record-setting total awarded in 2024.
- 10 beaches will be presented with both the Blue Flag & Green Coast Award achieving dual award status. These are Balcarrick, Donabate in Fingal; Salthill and Silver Strand in Galway City, An Trá Inis Oirr in Galway County;

Fountainstown and Inchydoney Beach East in Cork; Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs) in Kerry; Bettystown in Meath and Enniscrone and Rosses Point in Sligo.

- Oysterhaven in Cork has been awarded a Green Coast Award in 2025, there was no application for the beach in 2024.
- Port Arthur in Donegal has been awarded for the first time since 2018, due in part to improved water quality over the past few years.
- Golden Strand on Achill Island has been awarded a Green Coast Award for the first time in 2025
- Cork is the county with most Green Coast Awards in 2025, with 14 and has also the highest combined number of award flags with 27, including the Blue Flags awarded to Kinsale Yacht Club and The Royal Cork Yacht Club
- Wexford has been awarded the second most with 10 Green Coast Award beaches and Mayo third most with 9

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**Note to Editors: Please see also lists and map of Blue Flag awarded beaches and marinas and the list and map of Green Coast Award beaches in the accompanying documents**

### **Blue Flag Beaches Awarded for the 2025 Bathing Season**

	<b>Beach/Marina</b>	<b>Local Authority/ Marina Operator</b>	<b>Beach/ Marina Name</b>	Notes
<b>1</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	White Strand Doonbeg	
<b>2</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Ballycuggeran	
<b>3</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Cappagh Pier	Not awarded since 2013. Improved annual water quality rating, now excellent.
<b>4</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Fanore	
<b>5</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Kilkee	
<b>6</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Lahinch	
<b>7</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Mountshannon, Lough Derg	
<b>8</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	Spanish Point	
<b>9</b>	Beach	Clare County Council	White Strand Miltown Malbay	
<b>10</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Barley Cove	
<b>11</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Garretstown	
<b>12</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Inchydoney East Beach	
<b>13</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Owenahinch, Little Island Strand	
<b>14</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Youghal Front Strand	
<b>15</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Fountainstown	
<b>16</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Garrylucas, White Strand	
<b>17</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Inchydoney West Beach	
<b>18</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Redbarn Beach	
<b>19</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Tragumna	
<b>20</b>	Beach	Cork County Council	Youghal, Claycastle	
<b>21</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Bundoran	

<b>22</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Carrickfinn	
<b>23</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Culdaff	
<b>24</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Downings	
<b>25</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Fintra	
<b>26</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Killahoey	
<b>27</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Marble Hill	
<b>28</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Murvagh	
<b>29</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Narin	
<b>30</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Portsalon	
<b>31</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Rossnowlagh	
<b>32</b>	Beach	Donegal County Council	Stroove	
<b>33</b>	Beach	DLR County Council	Killiney	
<b>34</b>	Beach	DLR County Council	Seapoint	
<b>35</b>	Beach	Fingal County Council	Donabate, Balcarrick Beach	
<b>36</b>	Beach	Fingal County Council	Velvet Strand, Portmarnock	
<b>37</b>	Beach	Galway City Council	Salthill Beach	
<b>38</b>	Beach	Galway City Council	Silverstrand Beach	
<b>39</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	An Trá Mór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán	
<b>40</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór	
<b>41</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Bathing Place at Portumna	
<b>42</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Loughrea Lake	
<b>43</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Trá an Dóilín, An Ceathrú Rua	
<b>44</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Trá Inis Oírr	
<b>45</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Traught Kinvara	
<b>46</b>	Beach	Galway County Council	Céibh an Spidéal	Awarded in 2025. Did not apply, and was not awarded between 2014 and 2024
<b>47</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)	
<b>48</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Ballybunion North	
<b>49</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Ballybunion South	
<b>50</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Ballyheigue	
<b>51</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)	
<b>52</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Banna Strand	

<b>53</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Fenit	
<b>54</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Fionntrá (Ventry)	
<b>55</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Inch	
<b>56</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Kells	
<b>57</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Maharabeg	
<b>58</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	Rossbeigh	
<b>59</b>	Beach	Kerry County Council	White Strand, Caherciveen	
<b>60</b>	Beach	Louth County Council	Clogherhead	
<b>61</b>	Beach	Louth County Council	Port, Lurganboy	
<b>62</b>	Beach	Louth County Council	Templetown	
<b>63</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Bertra Beach, Murrisk	
<b>64</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Clare Island, Louisburgh	
<b>65</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Elly Bay, Belmullet	
<b>66</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Dooega Beach, Achill Island	
<b>67</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Dugort Beach, Achill Island	
<b>68</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Keel Beach, Achill Island	
<b>69</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Keem Beach, Achill Island	
<b>70</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Mullaghroe Beach, Belmullet	
<b>71</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Mulranny Beach	
<b>72</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Old Head	
<b>73</b>	Beach	Mayo County Council	Ross Beach, Killala	
<b>74</b>	Beach	Meath County Council	Bettystown	
<b>75</b>	Beach	Sligo County Council	Enniscrone	
<b>76</b>	Beach	Sligo County Council	Rosses Point Beach	
<b>77</b>	Beach	Waterford City and County Council	Ardmore Beach	
<b>78</b>	Beach	Waterford City and County Council	Clonea Beach	
<b>79</b>	Beach	Waterford City and County Council	Counsellors' Strand, Dunmore East	Improved annual water quality rating, now excellent.
<b>80</b>	Beach	Waterford City and County Council	Tramore Beach	Improved annual water quality rating, now excellent.
<b>81</b>	Beach	Wexford County Council	Carne	
<b>82</b>	Beach	Wexford County Council	Curraclloe	
<b>83</b>	Beach	Wexford County Council	Morriscastle Beach	
<b>84</b>	Beach	Wexford County Council	Rosslare Strand	
<b>85</b>	Beach	Wexford County Council	Ballinesker Beach	
<b>86</b>	Beach	Wexford County Council	Ballymoney, North Beach	Improved annual water quality rating, now excellent.
<b>87</b>	Beach	Wicklow County Council	Brittas Bay North Beach	

<b>88</b>	Beach	Wicklow County Council	Brittas Bay South Beach	
<b>89</b>	Beach	Wicklow County Council	Greystones South Beach	

### Marinas awarded the Blue Flag for the 2025 season

<b>1</b>	<b>Marina</b>	<b>Donegal County Council</b>	<b>Rathmullan</b>	
<b>2</b>	Marina	Donegal County Council	Greencastle	Did not apply in 2024, withdrawn in 2023 due to closure of the facility necessitated by construction activity.
<b>3</b>	Marina	Kerry County Council	Fenit	
<b>4</b>	Marina	Kilrush Maritime	Kilrush	
<b>5</b>	Marina	Kilrush Maritime	Portmagee	
<b>6</b>	Marina	Kinsale Yacht Club	KYC	
<b>7</b>	Marina	Quigleys Marina	Quigleys, Killinure Point	
<b>8</b>	Marina	Royal Cork Yacht Club	RCYC	
<b>9</b>	Marina	Wexford County Council	Kilmore Quay	
<b>10</b>	Marina	Wexford County Council	New Ross Marina	

### [Map of Ireland's Blue Flag Beaches and Marinas 2025](#)

### Green Coast Award Beaches 2025

	<b>County</b>	<b>GCA Name</b>	<b>Detail</b>
1	Clare County Council	Carrigaholt Beach	Cork County Council are awarded the most GCAs once again this year with 14.
2	Clare County Council	Ballyallia Lake	
3	Clare County Council	Seafield	
4	Clare County Council	Quilty Beach	
5	Clare County Council	Bishops Quarter	
6	Cork County Council	Ring	
7	Cork County Council	Ardnahinch, Shanagarry	
8	Cork County Council	Ballynamona Beach	
9	Cork County Council	Oysterhaven	
10	<b>Cork County Council</b>	<b>Fountainstown Beach</b>	<b>Dual Award Beach</b>
11	Cork County Council	Rocky Bay	
12	<b>Cork County Council</b>	<b>Inchydoney East</b>	<b>Dual Award Beach</b>
13	Cork County Council	Red Strand	
14	Cork County Council	Silver Strand Beach, Sherkin Island	
15	Cork County Council	Cadogan's Strand	
16	Cork County Council	Ballyrisode	
17	Cork County Council	Galley Cove	
18	Cork County Council	Dooneen Pier	
19	Cork County Council	Garnish Beach, Lehanmore	
20	Donegal County Council	Dooley Beach	
21	Donegal County Council	Magheroarty Beach	
22	Donegal County Council	Drumnatinney	

23	Donegal County Council	Ballyheirnan	
24	Donegal County Council	Port Arthur	
25	<b>Fingal County Council</b>	<b>Balcarrick, Donabate</b>	
26	<b>Galway County Council</b>	<b>Trá Inis Oirr</b>	<b>Dual Award beach</b>
27	Galway County Council	Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oirr	
28	Galway County Council	Aillebrack, Silver Hill	
29	Galway County Council	Renvyle Beach (The Whitestrand)	
30	Galway County Council	Dumhach Beach	
31	Galway County Council	East End Bay, Inisbofin	
32	<b>Galway City Council</b>	<b>Salthill Beach</b>	<b>Dual Award beach</b>
33	<b>Galway City Council</b>	<b>Silverstrand Beach</b>	<b>Dual Award beach</b>
34	Kerry County Council	Waterville	
35	<b>Kerry County Council</b>	<b>Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)</b>	<b>Dual award beach</b>
36	Kerry County Council	Béal Bán	
37	Kerry County Council	Castlegregory	
38	Kerry County Council	Littor	
39	Louth County Council	Seapoint Beach, Termonfeckin	
40	Mayo County Council	Tránaun, Inishturk	
41	Mayo County Council	Cross, Louisburgh	
42	Mayo County Council	Carrowniskey Beach	
43	Mayo County Council	Srah Beach	
44	Mayo County Council	Termon Beach	
45	Mayo County Council	Cross, Erris Peninsula	
46	Mayo County Council	Rinroe	
47	Mayo County Council	Golden Strand, Achill Island	
48	Mayo County Council	Portacloy	
49	Meath County Council	Mornington	
50	<b>Meath County Council</b>	<b>Bettystown</b>	<b>Dual award beach</b>
51	Sligo County Council	Enniscrone Beach	
52	Sligo County Council	Dunmorán Strand	
53	Sligo County Council	Rosses Point	
54	Sligo County Council	Streedagh Beach	
55	Waterford City and County Council	Newtown Cove	
56	Waterford City and County Council	Guillamene Cove	
57	Waterford City and County Council	Kilfarrassey	
58	Waterford City and County Council	Ballyquin	
59	Waterford City and County Council	Curragh	
60	Waterford City and County Council	Goat Island Beach	
61	Wexford County Council	Cahore Point Beach	Only Cork have been awarded more than the 10 Wexford
62	Wexford County Council	Old Bawn Beach	
63	Wexford County Council	Culleton's Gap	

64	Wexford County Council	Rosslare Harbour Beach	beaches to be awarded the Green Coast Award for the 2025 season
65	Wexford County Council	St. Helen's Bay	
66	Wexford County Council	Ballyhealy	
67	Wexford County Council	Cullenstown Strand	
68	Wexford County Council	Grange	
69	Wexford County Council	Baginbun Beach	
70	Wexford County Council	Booley Bay	

### [Map of Green Coast Award Beaches for the 2025 Bathing Season](#)

#### Summary of Awards by Local Authority

County	Local Authority	GCAs	BF
Clare	Clare County Council	5	9
Cork	Cork County Council	14	11
Donegal	Donegal County Council	5	14
County	Local Authority	GCAs	BF
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	DLR	0	2
Fingal	Fingal County Council	1	2
Galway City	Galway City Council	2	2
Galway County	Galway County Council	6	8
Kerry	Kerry County Council	5	14
Louth	Louth County Council	1	3
Mayo	Mayo County Council	9	11



Meath	Meath County Council	2	1
Sligo	Sligo County Council	4	2
Waterford	Waterford City and County Council	6	4
Wexford	Wexford County Council	10	8
Wicklow	Wicklow	0	3

**Privately Operated Marinas awarded The Blue Flag for 2025 Season**

Kilrush Marina Ltd	Kilrush Marina Ltd + Portmagee Seasonal Pontoons
Kinsale Yacht Club	Kinsale Yacht Club
Royal Cork Yacht Club	The Royal Cork Yacht Club
Quigleys Marina	Quigleys Marina, Killinure Point