

# Weather Conditions & Warnings

## MET ÉIREANN FORECASTS ON MET.IE

- Irish Coastal Waters and Irish Sea
- Islands around Ireland
- Sea temperatures
- Wind strength/direction for Ireland and Atlantic
- Wave heights in coastal waters
- Inland lakes



**Small Craft Warnings:**  
Beaufort Force  
6 or 7 winds



**Yellow Marine Gale Warnings:**  
Gale Force 8 or  
Strong Gale Force 9 winds



**Orange Marine Storm Warnings:**  
Storm Force  
10 winds

## SUNSHINE / UV INDEX

- Peak sunburn time between 11am and 3pm
- Water and sand reflect UV light
- You can get UV damage even in cloudy weather or in shade

## THUNDERSTORMS / LIGHTNING

- Get out of open water/get off the beach
- Lightning can spread out over water and can hit boats nearby
- Sudden heavy downpours can lead to poor visibility/squally winds/flash flooding

**Always check the weather for your location before going afloat. If in doubt, don't go out.**

## TIDES

Incoming tides can quickly cut you off from shore. Ensure to check tide times to avoid being stranded. See [sailing.ie/Tides](http://sailing.ie/Tides)



**Met Éireann App:**  
Sign up for land and marine warning notifications on your smartphone.

# Safety Information

In case of emergency call 112/999 or use VHF Channel 16 and ask for the Coast Guard.

## ALWAYS WEAR A LIFEJACKET OR PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD)

If you get into difficulty in the water, don't struggle, follow these steps:

- Remain calm
- Float in the water
- Do not fight the waves or current

## STRANDINGS

Strandings are a regular occurrence at beaches all over Ireland. When the tide goes out, walkers can be tempted to explore the elevated sandbanks that are revealed along a beach. However, when the tide turns, these sandbanks are quickly surrounded, cutting people off from shore in deepening water. Be aware of your surroundings and the tide's direction.

## INFLATABLE TOYS

Inflatable toys such as Li-Los can be swept out to sea endangering those onboard or others trying to assist. Never use these toys on rivers, lakes or beaches.

# Be Summer-Ready

## THINK WATER SAFETY

### PLAN AND PREPARE



[gov.ie/summerready](http://gov.ie/summerready)  
[watersafety.ie](http://watersafety.ie)  
[safetyonthewater.gov.ie](http://safetyonthewater.gov.ie)  
[met.ie](http://met.ie)

@emergencyIE  
@IWSie  
@IrishCoastGuard  
@MetEireann

OEP Phone:  
01-237 3800  
E-mail:  
[oep@defence.ie](mailto:oep@defence.ie)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

The Be Summer-Ready public information campaign is a "Whole of Government" initiative to provide information on a wide range of topics. Information from Government Departments and Agencies on how to be ready for summer is contained on our website [gov.ie/summerready](http://gov.ie/summerready)

## Coastal Water Safety

### STAY AFLOAT - STAY IN CONTACT

When going in, on or near water for any activity including all types of fishing, jet skiing, water skiing, sailing, windsurfing, paddle boarding, kayaking or canoeing always wear a **Personal Flotation Device (PFD)/ Lifejacket**. Ensure it is the correct size, properly fitted, serviced and that you understand how to operate it. This will give you the confidence to enjoy your activity and enable you to survive the shock of entering the water and be rescued by colleagues or rescue services.

Before you go in, on or near the water, make a plan, and if you change your plan then let someone ashore know.

Please refer to **Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft**.

Before you go on or near the water make a plan. Make sure you let somebody ashore know where you are going, when to expect you back and that you have a means of communicating e.g. vhf radio, fully charged mobile phone, flares, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), EPIRB, etc.

### RIP CURRENTS

Details on rip currents at: [watersafety.ie/rip-currents/](http://watersafety.ie/rip-currents/)



## Shore Angling & Coastal Walking

Before you go fishing or coastal walking make sure you have a plan. You need to consider location, weather, tides and any potential hazards on your trip.

When angling on the beach or on rocks, be aware of the dangers posed by wind, changing tides and rough or large seas. Avoid exposed areas where large waves are likely. Wave conditions can change as the tide changes. Know whether the tide is rising or falling and what direction the tide is flowing. If the wind is against the tide this will generally cause rougher seas.

Spend some time observing the area before you start fishing. Waves and swell tend to have cycles, so allowing a little time ensures you can gauge the conditions that are likely over a full cycle.

If waves or a swell are threatening your fishing spot, leave immediately before it gets too bad.

Lakes can be dangerous places. If on a lake, always have a **PFD/Lifejacket**, know the weather conditions, and ensure safe boat handling at all times.



All anglers should wear a suitable PFD/Lifejacket.



If out walking or angling, ensure your mobile phone is fully charged and stored in a watertight container.



## Open Water Swimming

Avoid cold water shock by entering the water slowly and keep swims short in duration to reduce the risk of hypothermia.

- Swim at lifeguarded waterways listed at [watersafety.ie/lifeguards/](http://watersafety.ie/lifeguards/)
- Swim within your depth, stay within your depth
- If the area is not lifeguarded, check locally that it is safe to swim and ring-buoys are present
- Quarries are hazardous and should be avoided
- Water temperature in rivers, canals, and lakes can be much colder
- Make sure you can be seen. Wear a brightly coloured swimming cap and bring a brightly coloured tow float (see above). See guide at [watersafety.ie/open-water-swimming/](http://watersafety.ie/open-water-swimming/)
- Never swim alone
- Never drink alcohol before swimming
- If you suspect someone is in difficulty call 112/999 and ask for the Coast Guard

### CHILDREN

Children must have adult supervision at all times around water.

Create barriers to prevent children accessing rivers, streams, slurry pits or drains.

An adult should always supervise playtime in paddling pools which should be emptied immediately after use.

