



## PRESS RELEASE

# Water Safety Warning Ahead of June Bank Holiday Weekend

30 May 2025

The Irish Coast Guard, RNLI and Water Safety Ireland are urging the public to take extra precautions in and around water over the June bank holiday weekend. This warning is issued following a 10% increase in drownings so far this year, compared to the same period last year. With more people expected to visit beaches, lakes, and rivers over the long weekend, now is the time to prioritise safety and enjoy their time responsibly.

To stay safe, the public is advised to:

- Check the weather & tides before heading out and if walking the shoreline, be vigilant for incoming tides that can cause strandings.
- Be aware of rip currents - Strong currents can pull even the most experienced swimmers out to sea.
- Swim with others, never alone.
- Always swim within your depth and stay within your depth.
- When on the water always wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid
- Let someone ashore know of your plans and return time.

Kevin Whitney, Head of Operations Section at the Irish Coast Guard highlighted the alarming rise in drownings this year, stating:

*"In May 2025, the number of drownings has doubled compared to the same period in 2024, bringing tragic loss to families across the country. As the June bank holiday typically marks the start of summer celebrations for many, we are urging everyone to be mindful of the dangers, plan ahead, and follow the appropriate safety guidelines for your activity."*

Kevin Whitney, Head of Operations Section at the Irish Coast Guard

For further water safety advice, visit <https://watersafety.ie/>

If you see somebody in trouble on the water or along the coast or think that they are in trouble, use marine VHF radio Ch 16 or dial 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.

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