

An aerial photograph of a coastal city at sunset. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the water is a deep orange color from the setting sun. A large white text box is overlaid on the image, containing the title and subtitle. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and there are some hills in the background.

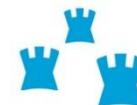
Bathing Waters Update 2024

Presentation to the SPC– March 2024

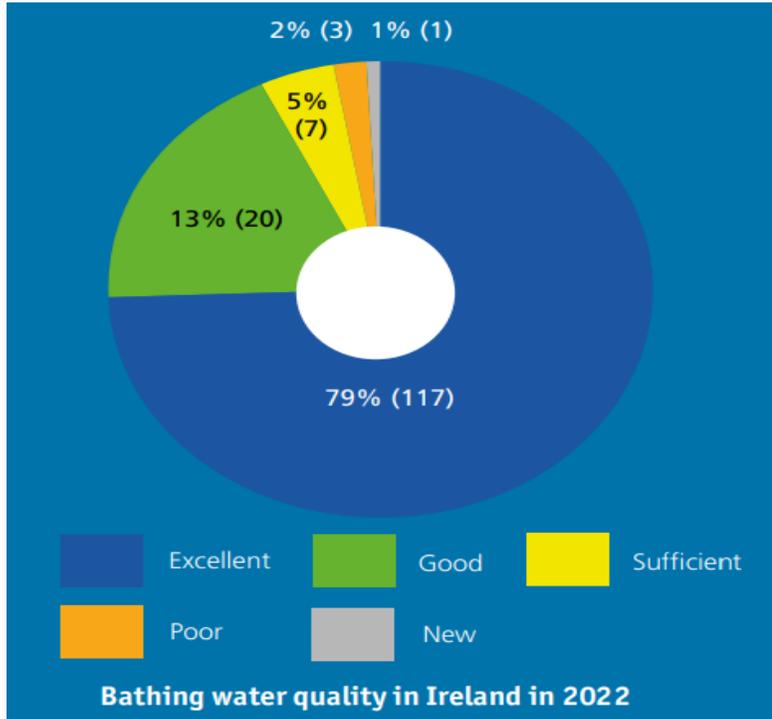
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Presentation content:

1. Irelands Bathing Waters
2. Dublin City Council Bathing Waters
3. Bathing Water Regulations 2008
4. 2023 Bathing Season
5. 2024 Bathing Season
6. Bathing Waters Task Force
7. Next Steps

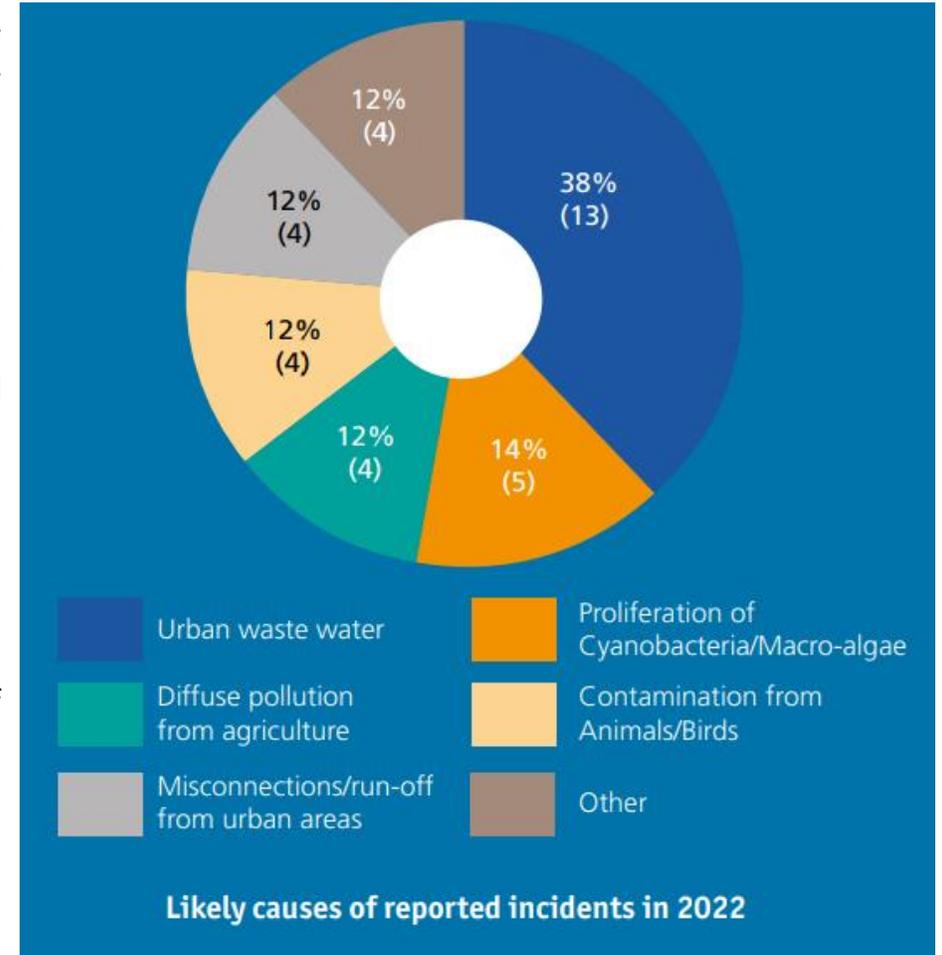


Ireland's Bathing Waters – 2022 EPA Report



Classification	Number of bathing waters in 2021	Number of bathing waters in 2022
Excellent	115	117
Good	19	20
Sufficient	10	7
Poor	2	3
New/Changes	2	1
Total	148	148

- National Bathing Water Quality improving incrementally year on year (EPA 2022 Bathing Report).
- Currently 148 identified bathing waters managed under the Bathing Water Regulations.
- Designated waters annually classified by EPA.
- 4 year statistical assessment as set out in Regulations.
- 144 (97%) met or exceeded the minimum required standard of Sufficient.
- UWW deemed likely cause of bathing water incidents in 2022.
- Next report due April/May 2024.
- Changes to classifications and designations announced.



Dublin City Council Bathing Waters



Dublin City Council Bathing Waters		
Location	Type	Anticipated 2024 Classification (2020-2023)
Dollymount Strand	Designated bathing area	Good
Sandymount Strand	Designated bathing area	Poor*
Half Moon	Other monitored water*	New*
North Bull Wall	Other monitored water	n/a
Shelly Banks	Other monitored water	n/a
Merrion Strand	Other monitored water	n/a

Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008



The screenshot shows the eISB (e-Ireland Statutory Instruments) website. The header includes the eISB logo and navigation tabs for Home, Legislation, Constitution, External Resources, and FAQ. Below the header is a search bar with fields for Title, Year(s) or range, and Type. The main content area displays the title "S.I. No. 79/2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008" and a list of 17 regulations. The list includes:

1. Citation.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application.
4. Identification of bathing waters.
5. Bathing water profile.
6. Monitoring calendar.
7. Duty of local authority to monitor bathing water.
8. Suspension of monitoring in abnormal situation.
9. Analysis of water samples.
10. Water quality data to be reported and compiled.
11. Assessment of water quality.
12. Classification of bathing water.
13. Bathing water quality status to be achieved.
14. Measures to be taken regarding "poor" bathing water.
15. Management measures in certain circumstances.
16. Management measures to be reported.
17. Public participation.

Brief overview:

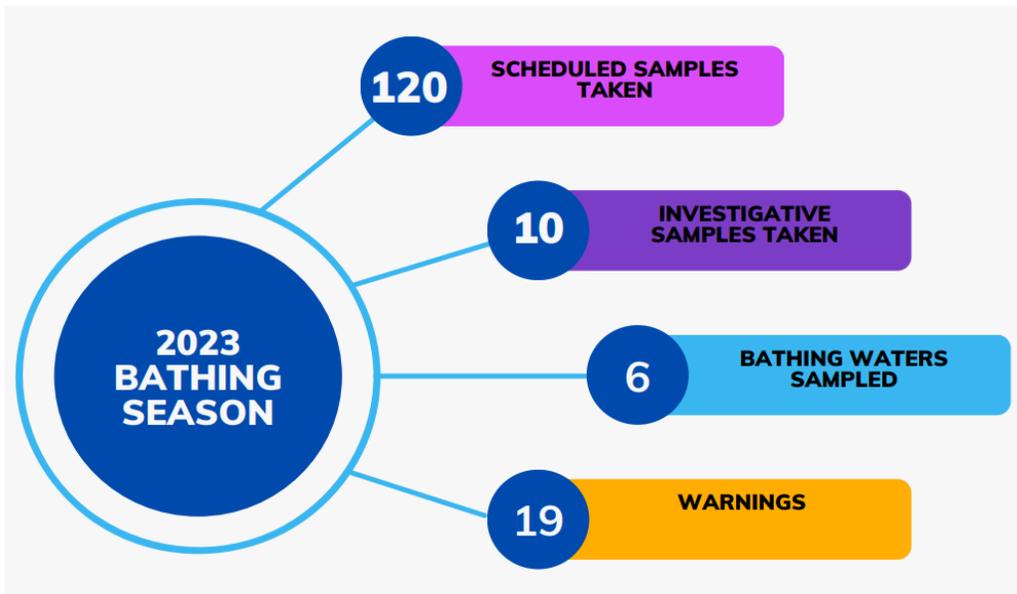
- Driven by the BWD – Protect bather health
- Designated bathing season is defined as 1st June to 15th September
- Sample frequency - 4 times (min.) per designated bathing location across the season
- Sample parameters
- Methods of analysis
- Information the public
- Incident response and reporting
- Consultation with Health Service Executive
- Annual classification by Environmental Protection Agency



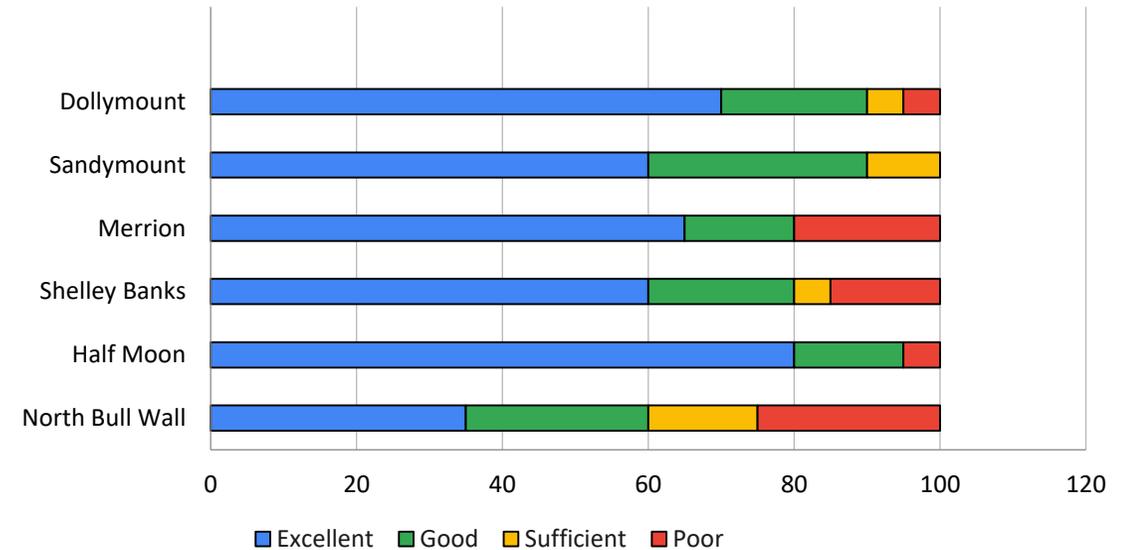
2023 Bathing Season

Brief overview:

- Of 120 scheduled samples taken across the 6 bathing locations, the following percentage of samples returned as either Excellent or Good quality;
- 95% at the Half Moon;
- 90% at Sandymount & Dollymount Strands;
- 80% at Merrion Strand and Shelley Banks;
- 60% at the North Bull Wall



Summary of 2023 results



2023 Bathing Season

Monitoring overview:

- The monitoring schedule is agreed with the EPA in advance of the season and is published online by Dublin City Council and the EPA.
- DCC monitors bathing water quality all year round, with water quality monitored on a fortnightly basis outside of the season.
- Water quality sampling is predominantly used as an effective retrospective analysis tool.

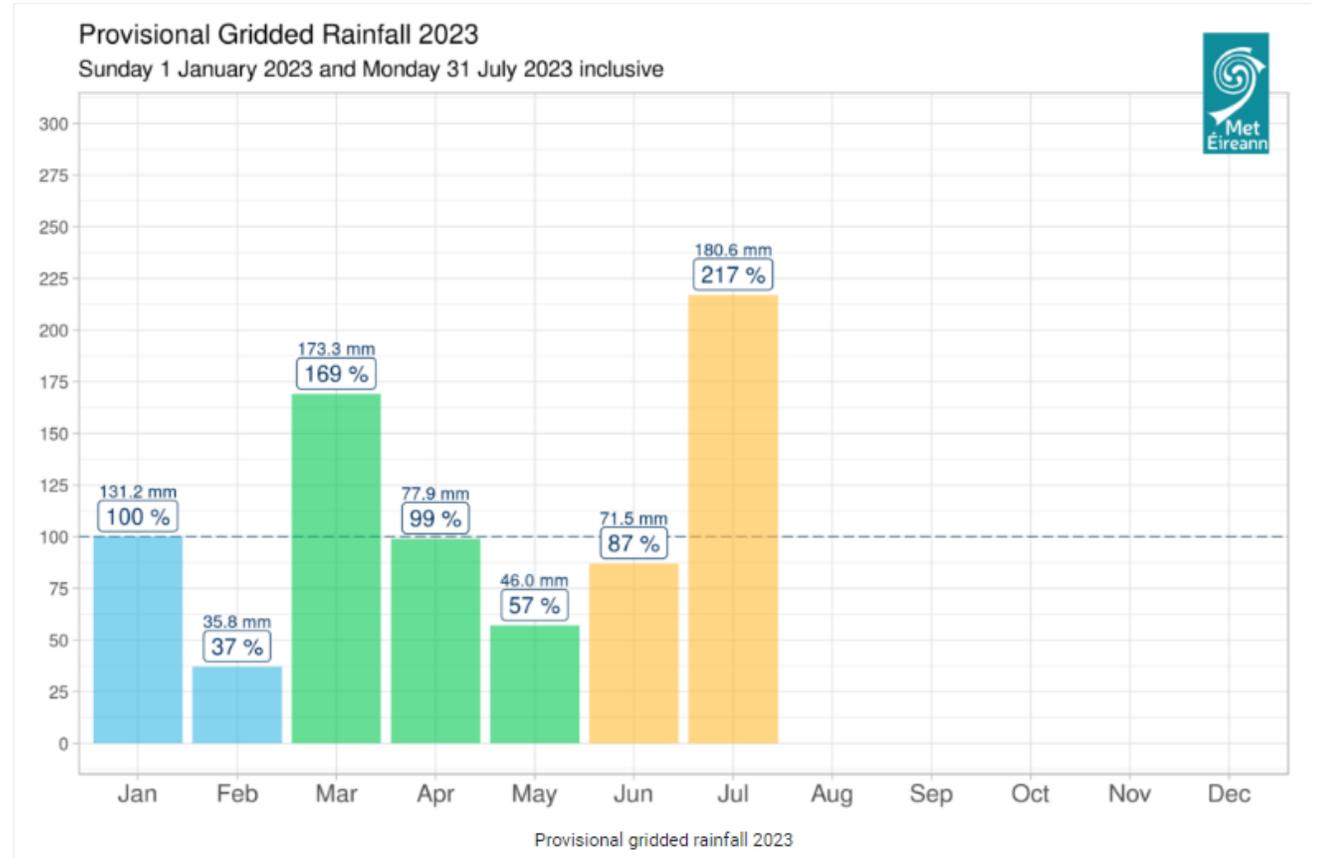
		2023 Bathing Season																												2023-2024											
DATE OF SAMPLE		02/05	16/05	22/05	06/06	12/06	13/06	15/06*	18/06	20/06*	21/06*	28/06	30/06*	03/07	12/07	13/07*	17/07	19/07*	23/07	24/07*	27/07*	31/07	01/08	08/08	14/08	15/08	20/08	22/08*	28/08	29/08	03/09	11/09	12/09*	18/09*	25/09	10/10	25/10				
Designated Bathing Areas	DOLLYMOUNT	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Orange	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Blue	Blue	Red	Green	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Red	
	SANDYMOUNT	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Blue	Blue	Red	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange
Non-Designated Bathing Areas	MERRION	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Blue	-	-	Blue	Blue	Red	Red	-	Blue	-	-	Blue	-	-	Red	Red	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	-	Red	Orange	Red	Red	
	SHELLEY BANKS	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Blue	-	-	Green	Green	Blue	Green	-	Blue	-	Blue	-	-	Red	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Red	Red	Blue	Green	-	-	Blue	Green	-	-	Blue	Green	Red
	HALF MOON	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Red	-	-	Blue	-	Blue	Green	-	Blue	-	Blue	-	-	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	-	-	Blue	Orange	Red	
	NORTH BULL WALL CAUSEWAY	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	-	Blue	-	-	Green	-	Blue	Red	-	Red	Green	Red	-	Red	Red	Green	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Green	Blue	Green	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red

Detailed table available to download from the PWBO website and www.beaches.ie

2023 Bathing Season

Brief overview:

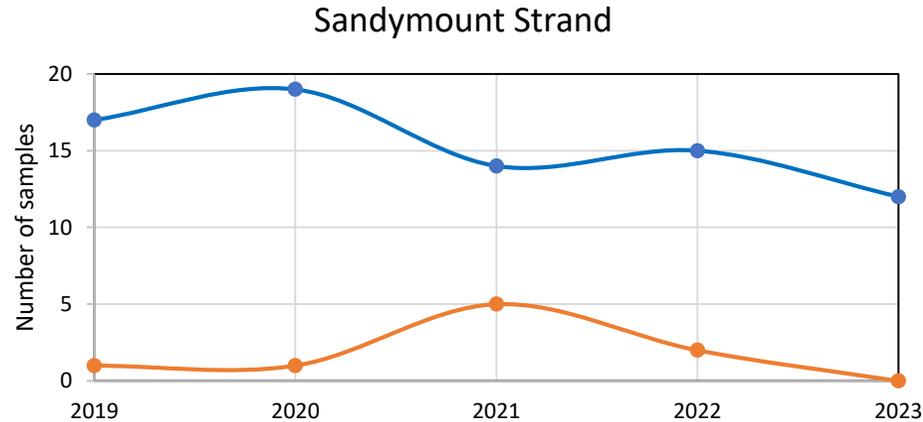
- July 2023 **wettest** on record. Ireland had 217 % of its 1981-2010 Long term Average (LTA) rainfall in July 2023.
- July 2023 had more than **4 times** the amount of rain observed in July 2022 and more than **twice** that observed in July 2021.
- Poor weather prompted **4 bathing restrictions** at Sandymount in July in order to protect bather health.
- EPA observed **significant increase** in warnings raised nationally during 2023 bathing season.
- All warnings raised and removed in **consultation** with HSE
- EPA **notified** of relevant incidents – www.beaches.ie



2024 Bathing Season

Changes to expect in 2024:

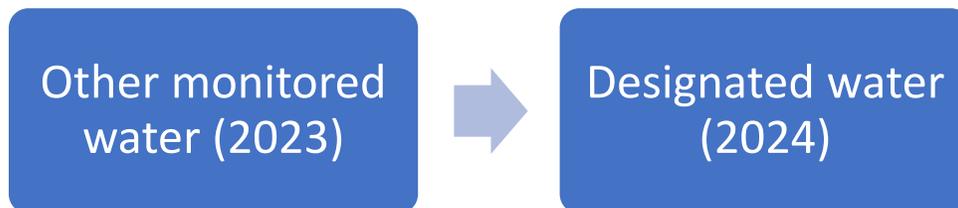
Sandymount Strand
Anticipated 2024 classification



Sandymount Strand BW Analysis Results				
Year	Excellent	Good	Sufficient	Poor
2019	17	2	0	1
2020	19	0	0	1
2021	14	0	1	5
2022	15	3	0	2
2023	12	6	2	0

2023	2022	2021	2020
None	Sufficient Quality	Sufficient Quality	Sufficient Quality

Half Moon Bathing location
Anticipated 2024 designation



Bathing Water Task Force



BWTF was established in 2019.

Agencies:

- Dublin City Council
- Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council
- Uisce Éireann
- Dept. Housing, Local Government & Heritage (WAU)
- Fingal County Council (2022)

Relevant Legislative remit:

- Bathing Water Regulations 2008;
- Water Pollution Act 1977, as amended;
- EU Water Framework Directive 2000, and;
- EU Recast Urban Wastewater Directive (Draft)

Goal:

Return Merrion Strand to a Sufficient BW Status, as per all designated bathing areas.

Oversight:

HSE (Public Health) EPA (Regulator) Dept (Policy)



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Comhairle Contae
Fine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Bathing Water Task Force - Activities

Key areas of activity:

7.1	Baseline understanding	KPI to measure impacts over time	Water quality trends
7.2	Understanding of Impacts from Wastewater discharges	UV light at RWWTP outfall	Dublin Bay tidal flows
7.3	Scientific Support	Advisory services from Central Laboratory	
7.4	Engage in scientific assessments	Collaborate with Third level Institutes	
7.5	Public Engagement	Review ongoing public engagement records and procedures. Address common issues, E.g. Ectocarpus & Real time BW quality information	
7.6	Communications	Consistent messaging and channels across BWTF agencies – Awareness campaign	
7.7	Elm Park Stream	Specific study and onsite investigations	
7.8	Beach activity	Review sampling practices and data collection requirements	
7.9	Wildlife	Assess impacts from wildlife/biosphere on bathing waters - Ectocarpus	
7.10	Support Innovation	Support and/or validate third party innovations – Smart Signage	
7.11	Reporting	Ensure regular progress reporting and inform NBWEG	
7.12	Consideration of applicable legislation	Consider legislative requirements, and effectiveness (EU BW Directive).	
7.13	Acclimatize Project	Using research to preserve and enhance the marine and coastal environment in Dublin Bay	



Bathing Water Task Force - Activities

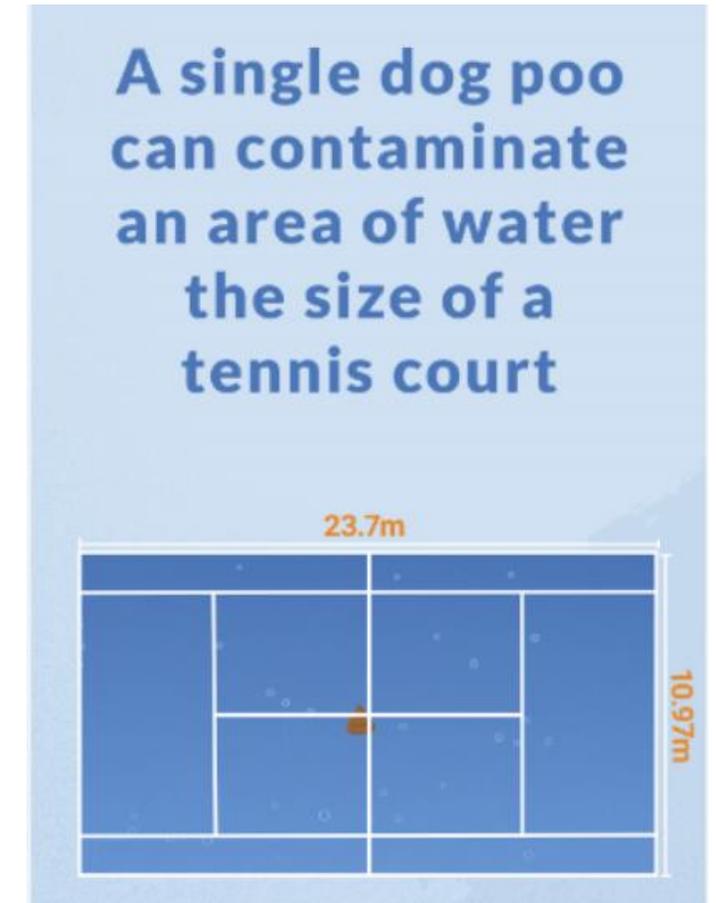
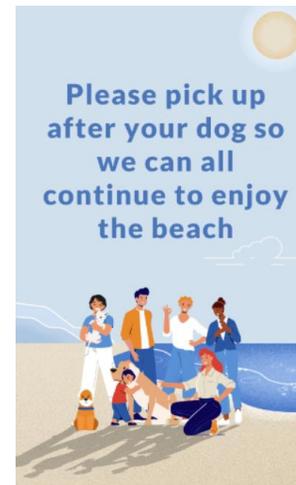
Collaborations:

7.13 the Acclimatize Project and proposed continuation

Objective: examining the concerns and circumstances relating to faecal contamination of rivers and bathing waters as well as assessing the impact of climate change driven effects on water.

...specifically *Merrion Strand, Sandymount Strand and Dollymount Strand*

Microbial Source Tracing (MST) analysis: identify known markers to identify prominent source of bacteria in water samples; Human, dog, gull or ruminant



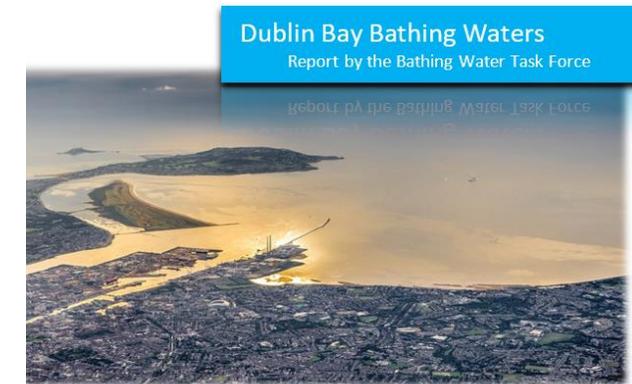
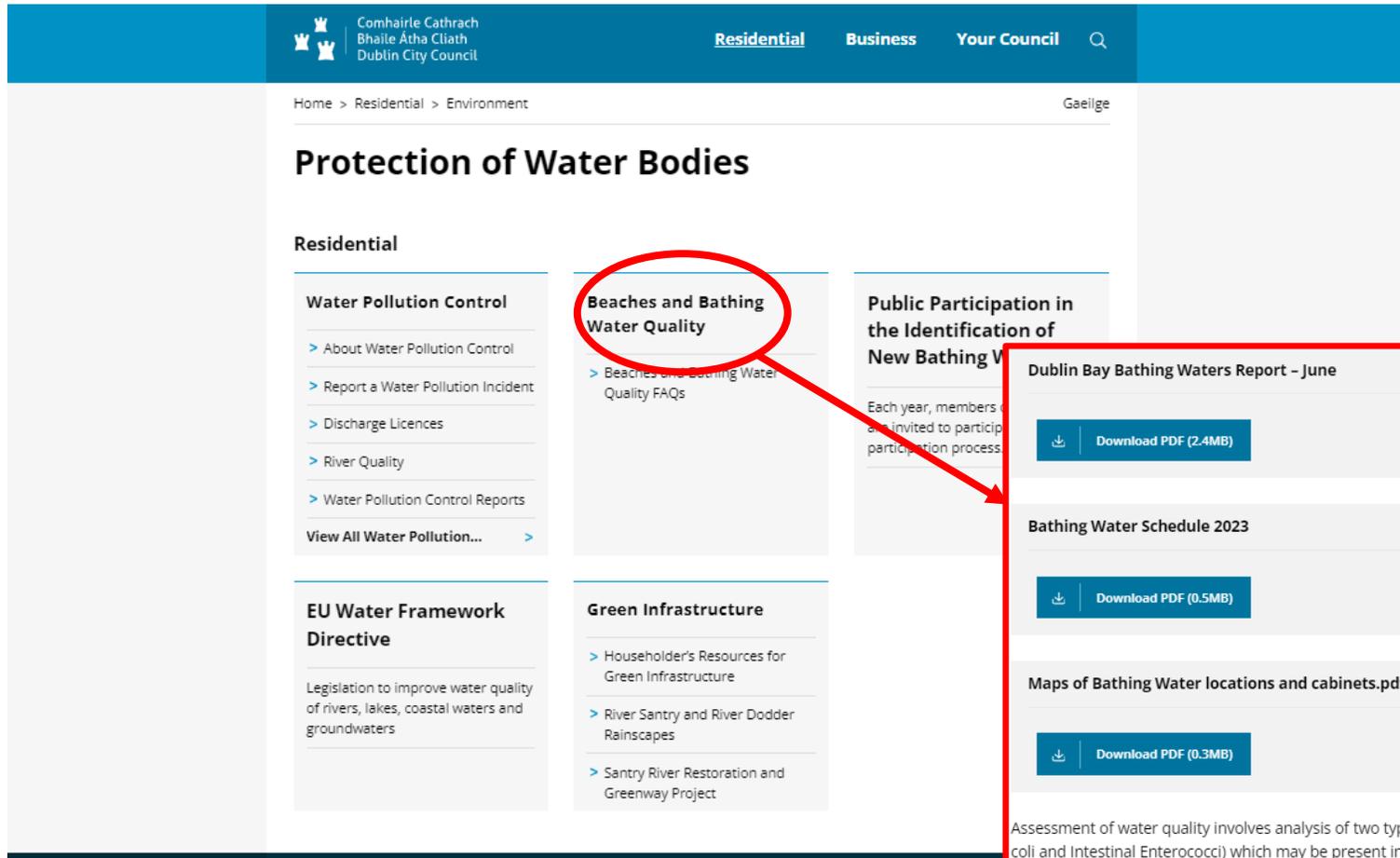
Next Steps

- **Activities identified;** BWTF Report - https://www.dublincity.ie/sites/default/files/2023-10/BWTF%20Report%202023%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf.
- **Integrated Catchment Management** planning in line with Recast Urban Waste Water Directive (DRAFT)
- **SUDS – Nature Based Solutions**
- **Communications;** Consistent and concise messaging to the public
- The **water quality monitoring** programmes will continue on an all year around basis and are available to view on the council’s website and the EPA’s beaches.ie.
- **Collaboration with the UCD Acclimatize project** concluded in June 2023 and the BWTF is keen to continue to support their essential insights into near shore pollution sources which inform LA activities
- **Pollution investigations** – misconnections, unauthorized discharge, trade effluent.
- **Agency collaboration;** As the BWTF continues to meet on a monthly basis, with an aim to deliver a homogeneous public service along County Dublin’s coastline to those who wish to enjoy it



Available reports:

- 2019 - 2023 BWTF Report
- 2023 Bathing Season
- Bathing Water sampling schedule
- Sandymount Strand Management Plan for Improving Water Quality
- Latest Bathing Water sampling results
- BW Location maps
- Statutory Notifications
- FAQ's and more



Address - <https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/environment/protection-water-bodies>



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

PWBO Water Framework Directive section @ wfd@dublincity.ie

PWBO Water Pollution Control section @ waterpollution@dublincity.ie



Thank you

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Roy O'Connor – Senior Engineer, Head of the Protection of Water Bodies Office
Emma Finlay, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Pollution Control section