

Enniscrone Beach- Bathing Water Profile

Bathing Water: Enniscrone Beach

Bathing Water Code: IEWEBWC420_0000_0100

Local Authority: Sligo County Council

Monitoring Point: 128040E, 329830N



1. Profile Details:

Year of Profile: 2017

Year of Bathing Water Identification: 1992

Beach facilities and equipment

Beach lifeguard equipment (bathing season only)

AED (bathing season only)

First Aid kit (bathing season only)

Toilets

Car Parking

Disabled Access

Dogs Allowed:

Information display board

Litter bins

2. Bathing Water Details:

Bathing Water Location & Extent



Bathing Water location and extent:

Enniscrone beach is a popular sandy beach, located in west Sligo just 10 km from Ballina in Co. Mayo and 56km from Sligo town. The beach is located in Killala Bay east of the River Moy Estuary.

The beach extends westward from the promenade along the Cliff Road to the county boundary at the River Moy near Bartra Island. This is a fine sandy beach, approximately 4.5km in length, and is backed by sand dunes, a golf course and caravan park. The bathing area (i.e. that which is patrolled by lifeguards) is approximately 500m in length.

The Bellawaddy stream flows onto Enniscrone Beach with the bathing area located to the east and west of the stream. The east beach lies close to the promenade and is backed by an area known locally as the hollow. The west part of the beach is backed by a caravan park and golf course. The west beach extends westward from the Bellawaddy stream to the county boundary at the River Moy near Bartra Island.

Main features of the Bathing Water:

Type of Bathing Water: Enniscrone Beach is an exposed sandy beach, backed by sand dunes, Caravan Park and golf course.

Flora/Fauna, Riparian Zone: Reference detail on NPWS website, ref. Special Protection Area (SPA004036) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC 000458).

Tidal Range: The beach is mesotidal.

Land Use: Land use in the area immediately surrounding the bathing water is urban fabric, consisting of commercial premises, hotels, shops and restaurants, private domestic accommodation, holiday accommodation, including a large caravan park, and a golf course. The land use in the general area around Enniscrone village is predominantly rural housing and agriculture.

Sensitive Area: Enniscrone beach forms part of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA 004036) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC 000458). Part of Killala Bay, west of Bartra Island is designated as a shellfish area.

Activities available at the Bathing Water:

Enniscrone is a lively seaside resort on the shores of Killala Bay which offers a wide range of activities for all age groups. The beach is popular for running, walking and surfing. There is car parking adjacent to the beach and during the peak season, there is limited/controlled access for cars to the west beach. In the vicinity of the beach, there is a playground, grassy areas, and picnic tables. Public toilets are also available in the vicinity of the beach. Lifeguard cover is provided during the bathing season.

Other facilities in Enniscrone include shops and restaurants, seaweed baths, golf links, leisure centre, a supervised playground, amusement park, Crazy Golf, Pitch and Putt and Tennis Court, Sea and River Angling. There is plenty of holiday accommodation, including hotels, guesthouses, self-catering, camping and caravanning all in the vicinity of the beach. There is a short coastal walk north of Enniscrone pier. Activities prohibited at the beach are listed in the Beach Bye Laws, which can be viewed on Sligo County Council's website, www.sligococo.ie and locally at the beach notice board.

Contributing catchment details:

Description of the Contributing Catchment: The town of Enniscrone is directly behind the beach and beyond this the catchment is predominantly rural in nature with agriculture and rural housing being the main land uses. The town of Enniscrone is served by a secondary waste water treatment plant; this is located approximately 1.5km from the bathing area.

Contributing Catchment: The contributing catchment for Enniscrone Beach is approximately 18km², this is the catchment area associated with the Bellawaddy Stream. Consideration should also be given to the nature of the coastal area, i.e. Killala Bay, and water movements therein, given the potential impacts from surface water discharges, from the River Moy. The River Moy discharges to Killala Bay approximately 2km from the bathing area.

Water Bodies draining into the bathing area: The Bellawaddy Stream is the main freshwater input to the beach. However the River Moy drains into Killala Bay, at the western end of the beach, approximately 3km from the main bathing area. The 2010-2015 WFD status of the Bellawaddy stream near the beach is classified as moderate, while the ecological status from 2016 is classified as Q4 –good status. Microbiological monitoring carried out under the Blue Flag Programme, has shown that the stream is subject to microbiological contamination especially after heavy rainfall.

Topography: Low lying catchment.

Landuse: Landuse in the surrounding area is predominantly agriculture and rural housing.

Soils, Subsoil and Bedrock: Bedrock in this area comprises limestones and shales. Soils are predominantly deep well drained mineral soils, with subsoils comprising of limestone tills.

Monitoring point details:

The XY Co-ordinates for the nominal bathing water monitoring point are 128040, 329830. The precise location of the bathing water monitoring point can vary as referred to below depending on tides and weather influences.

Reason for selection of the monitoring point:

The monitoring point is located with the main bathing area at the beach. The bathing water monitoring point is always located within the designated bathing area, i.e. the area patrolled by the lifeguards and marked by flags.

Water quality assessment:

For the 2017 bathing season, Enniscrone Beach achieved good water quality status and complied with the EU guide and mandatory values.

3. Identified Pressures:



3.1 Potential pressures in the catchment assessed as posing no risk:

Description:	There are a number of small farms located in the contributing catchment
Source:	Agriculture
Type:	Run off from agricultural land

Description:	There are a number of individual houses located in the contributing catchment, all with some form of on-site effluent treatment system.
Source:	On-site waste water treatment plants
Type:	Septic Tank

Description:	There is one municipal waste water treatment plant in the catchment area which serves the village of Enniscrone
Source:	Enniscrone Waste Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Network
Type:	Waste Water Treatment plant

3.2 Potential pressures in the catchment assessed as posing risk:

Description:	Following heavy rainfall there may be a threat of short term water pollution at this beach.
Source:	Rainfall
Type:	Rainwater discharges
Nature:	Moderate Risk
Frequency:	Dependent on weather
Duration:	< 72 hours
Risk Assessment Methodology	Water quality at the beach appears to change following prolonged or extreme rainfall events. The bathing area is impacted by increased flows in the Moy River and Bellawaddy Stream, especially after heavy rainfall and in strong onshore winds.
Risk Assessment Results:	Changes in water quality are sometimes noted after extreme rainfall, these changes include increased bacterial counts, increased colour and reduced salinity.
Details:	The bathing area is impacted by increased flows in the Moy River and Bellawaddy Stream, especially after heavy rainfall and in strong onshore winds.
Management Measures:	Increased catchment management and cross county co-operation where resources permit.

Description:	There are a number of licensed discharges in the contributing catchment for Enniscrone Beach.
Source:	Licensed Discharges
Type:	Industrial discharges
Nature:	Low Risk
Frequency:	low to none
Duration:	< 72 hours
Risk Assessment Methodology	All licenced discharges except for one discharge to the sewer.
Risk Assessment Results:	The main risk with these licences is fats oils and greases, which could result in sewer blockages. The one premises licensed to discharge directly to the sea, will have no impact in terms of bathing water standards.

Details:	Sewer blockages could result in overflow to the bathing water via storm drains
Management Measures:	Enforcement of licence conditions and education of licencees on how to manage the issue of fats oils and greases.

3.3 Other Risks:

Assessment of the potential for proliferation of cyanobacteria:	Monitoring of this beach over the past number of years indicates that there is no significant potential for proliferation of cyanobacteria at this beach.
Proposed management measures for cyanobacteria	N/A
Assessment of the potential for proliferation of macroalgae:	Monitoring of this beach over the past number of years indicates that there is no significant potential for proliferation of macroalgae on this beach.
Proposed management measures for macroalgae:	In the event of large accumulations of macro algae on this beach, Sligo County Council will assess the situation and consult with the HSE and other relevant authorities if this is considered necessary. Actions if required will include provision of advice and information to the general public, removal of excessive accumulations of macroalgae from the beach. Assessment of risk to workers involved in removal of macroalgae from the beach will also be considered.
Assessment of the potential for proliferation of marine phytoplankton:	No significant potential for proliferation of marine phytoplankton at this beach.
Proposed management measures for marine phytoplankton:	N/A

4. Bathing Water Status from Previous Sampling Years:

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Enniscrone Beach	Good	Good	Good	Good