



Clean Coasts  
Observer



Let's Go Explore!



Galway  
Atlantaquaria®

## Galway Atlantaquaria

Galway Atlantaquaria is Ireland's largest native-species aquarium. Located in Salthill and overlooking Galway Bay on the Wild Atlantic Way, we care for many native marine and freshwater animals from Ireland's rivers, lakes, canals, and ocean.

For over 25 years, Galway Atlantaquaria has combined culture, history, and a deep connection to the water - all reflected in our Aquarium presentation and community work.

Conservation and education are at the heart of everything we do. Our programmes now reach local, national, and global audiences.

At Galway Atlantaquaria, the National Aquarium of Ireland, visitors can explore the wonders of the aquatic world through interactive exhibits, live talks, and expert guidance, discovering Ireland's diverse marine and freshwater species and habitats.

Welcome to Galway Atlantaquaria. Our goal is to Engage, Educate, and Inspire.

## Clean Coasts Observer and Explore Your Shore!

### Looking for a new adventure? Become a marine citizen scientist today!

Clean Coasts Observer is teaming up with the National Biodiversity Data Centre's Explore Your Shore! project to empower volunteers to become citizen scientists and encourage local marine guardianship.

This means that Clean Coasts Observers will have a better understanding of the biodiversity that live in our coastal habitats and learn how to protect them.



### EXPLORE YOUR SHORE!

Ireland's Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Platform

Explore Your Shore! is building our knowledge of the occurrence of marine species around the Irish coast, and what they tell us about climate change and water quality.

Learn more: <https://exploreyourshore.ie/>

**Image.** Dave Wall of the National Biodiversity Data Centre with other Explore Your Shore! hubs across Ireland.

### About this guide?

This guide deals with general information about health & safety along the shore, links to guides featuring some of the species you can discover, and a survey for evaluating the Clean Coasts Observer Experience.

### Are you ready to Explore The Shore!

## Health & Safety

Given the nature and type of environment where Clean Coasts Observer takes place **IT IS NOT FREE** from **RISK**.

However, we can mitigate this risk by observing some very simple steps.



## Risk Assessment

	Insignificant 1.	Minor 2.	Significant 3.	Major 4.	Severe 5.
Almost certain 5.	Yellow	Orange	Dark Red	Red	Dark Red
Likely 4.	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Dark Red	Red
Moderate 3.	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Dark Red
Unlikely 2.	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
Rare	Green	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow



### Detailed Risk Assessment:

<https://nationalaquarium.ie/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/RISK-ASSESSMENT-Outdoor-Experiences-low-res.pdf>

### WHY Explore The Shore!

Outdoor activities & experiences take place in natural environments where uneven terrain, changing weather, wildlife, and reduced light levels may present inherent risks.

While every reasonable precaution is taken by the Aquarium to assess conditions, provide safety briefings, and supervise participants, some level of risk is unavoidable in outdoor settings.

However, the benefits of outdoor learning and nature-based experiences are significant.

**Time spent outdoors supports physical health, mental wellbeing, environmental awareness, confidence, and curiosity.**

**Engaging directly with coastal and nocturnal ecosystems fosters a deeper understanding of biodiversity and encourages responsible stewardship of our natural environment.**

**By participating, individuals acknowledge these natural conditions while benefiting from safe, structured, and educational outdoor experiences.**

## WHAT CAN BE DISCOVERED DURING AN EXPLORE YOUR SHORE EXPERIENCE?

This is where the magic of Explore Your Shore! & Clean Coasts Observation comes to the fore! We have no idea of what we will discover, as the tide can bring in new species all the time. No experience is the same, however we have made a GOOGLE FORM that will show some of the basic species that can be discovered.

Scan the QR Code to access this file.



Scan this QR Code to see posters and images of species that can be found on the shore.





We are always trying to improve the experiences on the shore and seek your help to complete a short survey. It is confidential and really helps make them better.

Scan the QR Code to help make these experiences better.



**This Survey Helps!**

