

# COASTWATCH Survey In 5 Steps

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**COASTWATCH EUROPE**  
Value, Protection and Management



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# Why Do We Survey?

## Invasive Alien Species

Gigas Oyster (Aquaculture)



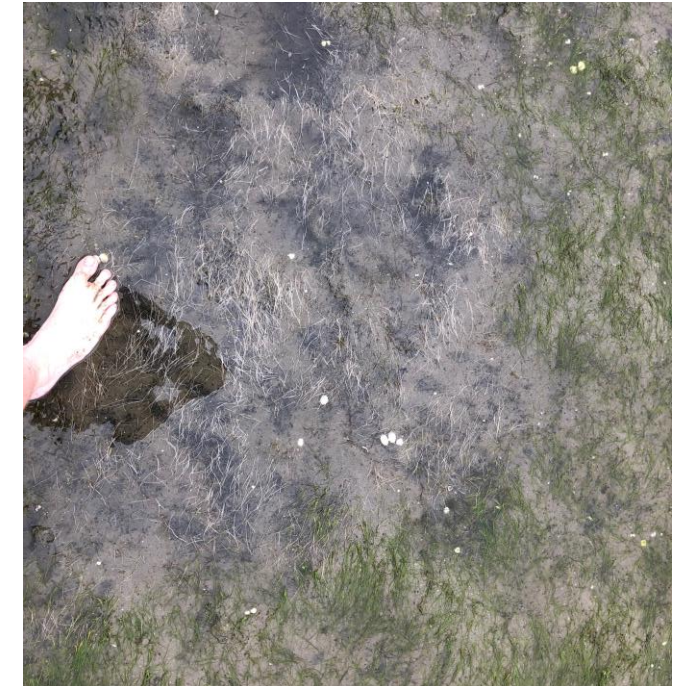
Fishing / Aquaculture and Consumer

## Marine Litter

- Get to Know your Coast
- Information

## Indicator Species

Zostera noltii (Sea grass)





# The 5 Steps for a Successful Survey

1. Where to Survey on the COASTWATCH Map
2. Materials
3. Plan your Survey
4. SURVEY
5. Data and Picture Return





# COASTWATCH SURVEY

## Booking Your Survey Unit

**Coastwatch Survey Booking**

The next survey will start booking your survey units now!

Once you have chosen your area ([see map](#)) please book using the form below. We will mark these on the Coastwatch map, so other surveyors choose different sites.

**Nitrate/Nitrite test** - If you are planning 2 or more survey units we can post water test kits to you. Please give your postal address.

You can find all the materials and info you need to do the survey [here](#).

NB - Many who have surveyed in the past have remarked that the first unit ever took quite a lot of time, but then the second 'next door' was easy and quick. So you might book two adjacent sites for one survey outing. A whole 5km 'block' of 10 survey units, or even bigger an inlet or bay make a good group project.

Name\*

Email\*

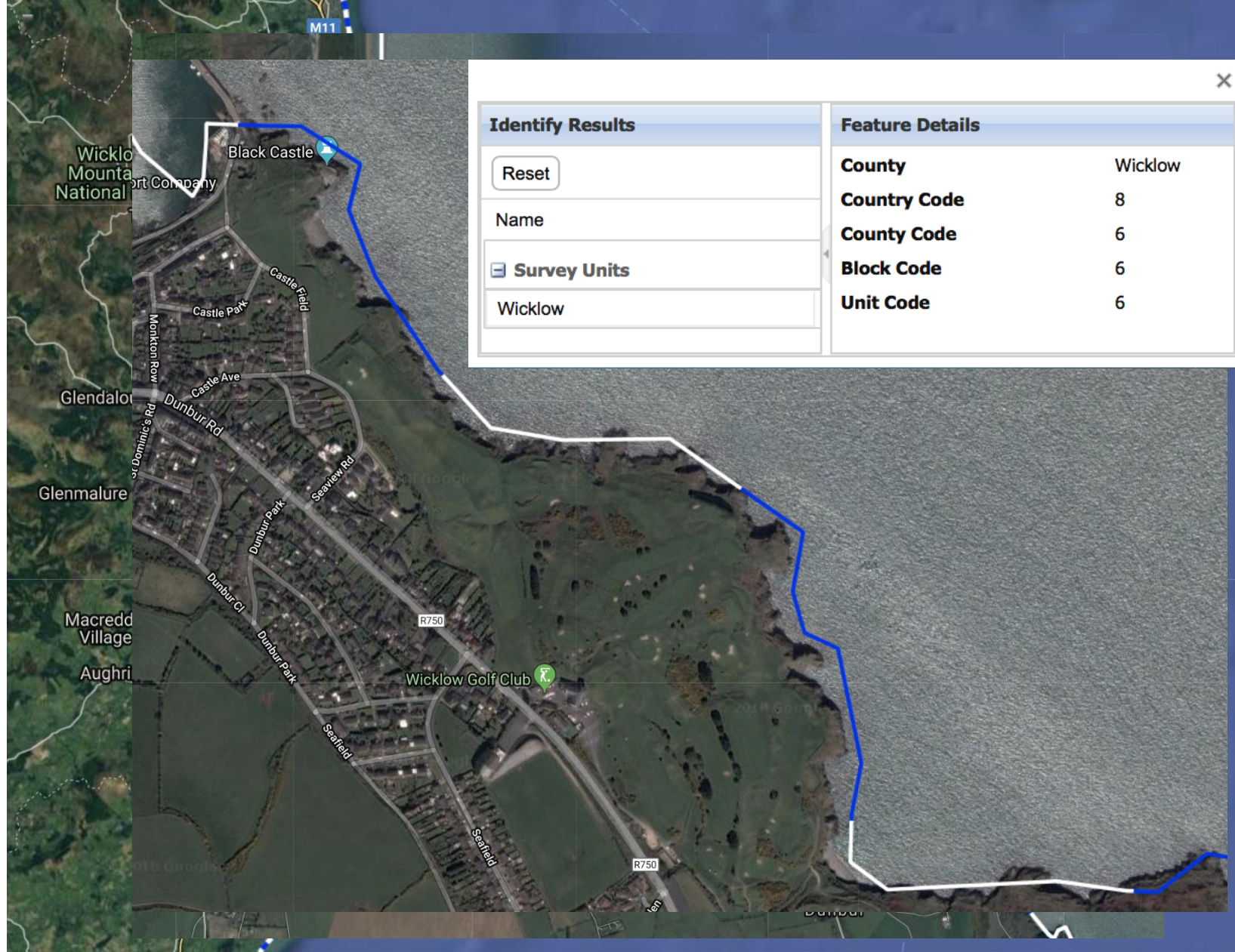
Survey unit(s) code(s) & comments\*  
E.g.- survey code can be written: Country: 8 County: 4 Block: 10 Unit: 2 or simply 8-4-10-2. For several units 8-4-10-units 1 to 6 or for a block write Block 8-4-10.

☐ I consent to having Coastwatch store my submitted information so they can respond to my inquiry and send me information about the Coastwatch Survey and other activities and events. See our privacy policy below to learn more about how we use data.

**PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION**

We would like to inform you, in accordance with EU data protection laws, that your contact details are saved in our database, and that you may receive periodic updates on Coastwatch activities and events.





The map shows a coastal area with a blue line indicating a survey boundary. Key locations labeled include Black Castle, Castle Park, Castle Ave, Dunbur Rd, Seaview Rd, Dunbur Park, Dunbur Cl, Seafield, Wicklow Golf Club, Macredd Village, Aughri, and Glenmalure. The M11 motorway is visible at the top. A popup window titled 'Identify Results' is overlaid on the map, displaying survey data for the selected area.

Identify Results		Feature Details	
<input type="button" value="Reset"/>		<b>County</b>	Wicklow
Name		<b>Country Code</b>	8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey Units		<b>County Code</b>	6
Wicklow		<b>Block Code</b>	6
		<b>Unit Code</b>	6

## Things to have for your survey

1. Questionnaire/ online version
2. Clip board and Biro
3. Nitrate Test Kits and Colour Chart if there is an inflow
4. Map of Survey Unit
5. Small bucket to collect interesting things
6. Boots / Wellies
7. Rain Gear and Layers
8. Phone with pictures of Bio ID Posters
9. Micro Litter App + others on your mobile device (or online version)

## The Plan

1. Read questionnaire and prepare materials complete question A1
2. Check weather forecast and low tide time
3. Plan meet time before LOW TIDE ideally start surveying 1 hour before Low Tide
4. Allow 1 – 1.5 hours per S.U. (Seasoned surveyors can survey a simple shore in 20 minutes)
5. Where are you going to meet?
6. How are you getting TO AND FROM the S.U. car, cycle, bus?
7. For schools, split up into groups of 2 to 6 and assign parts questionnaire to each group
8. Tell someone where you are going (Health and Safety)

# FINALLY SURVEYING

1. Start at one end of the survey unit
2. Walk in a zig-zag pattern from hinterland to low water
3. Test inflows (streams, pipes) for quality indicators including nitrate concentration and Invasive Alien Species (Giant Hogweed)



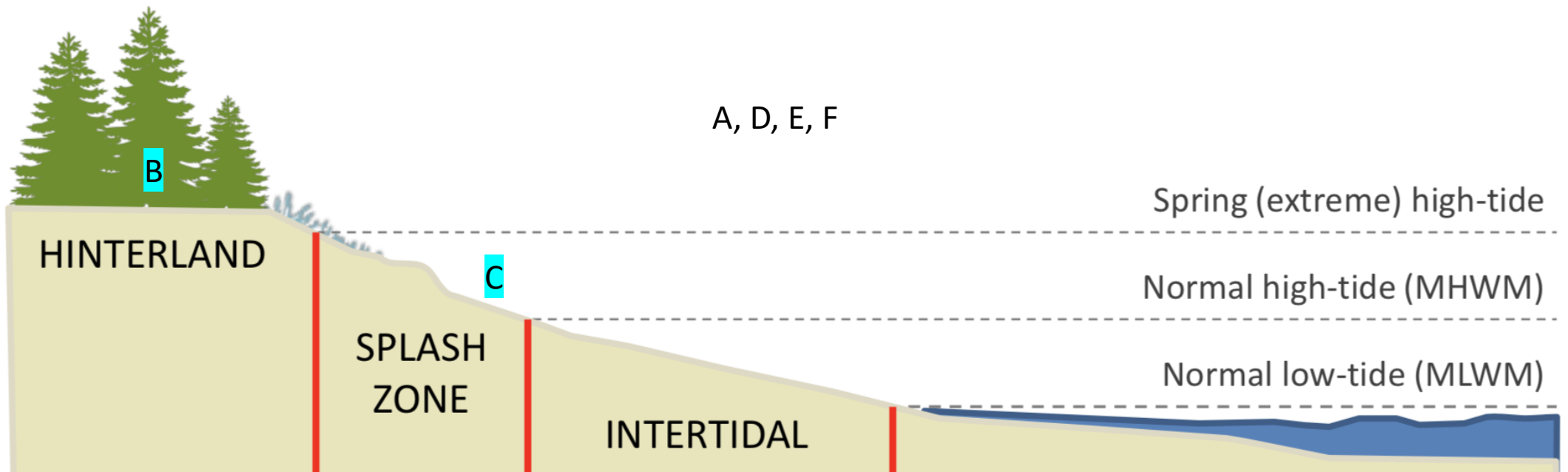
Picture 8: Inflows testing; Paul Leahy





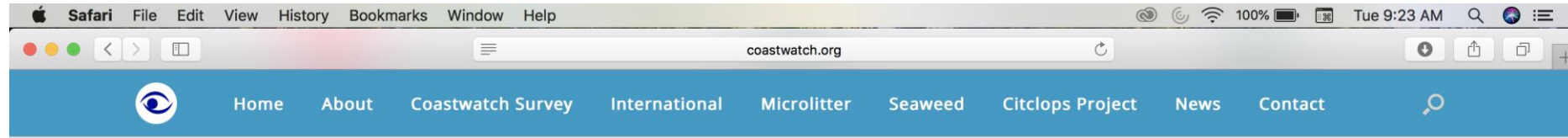
## THIS SURVEY FORM IS ORGANISED IN THEMATIC SECTIONS

Section	Covering	Page
A	Surveyors, Area Designation & Access to the Shore	1
B	Hinterland, Inflows (water draining from land) and Sewage Pollution	2
C, D	Splash zone, Intertidal, Animals and Plants	3
E	Litter and micro litter (+ litter app option) Oil and Tar	4
F	Overall shore looks, shore cleaning, Notes and Threats	5
Extra: Biodiversity & Use	Biodiversity and shore use specific for your country or region	6



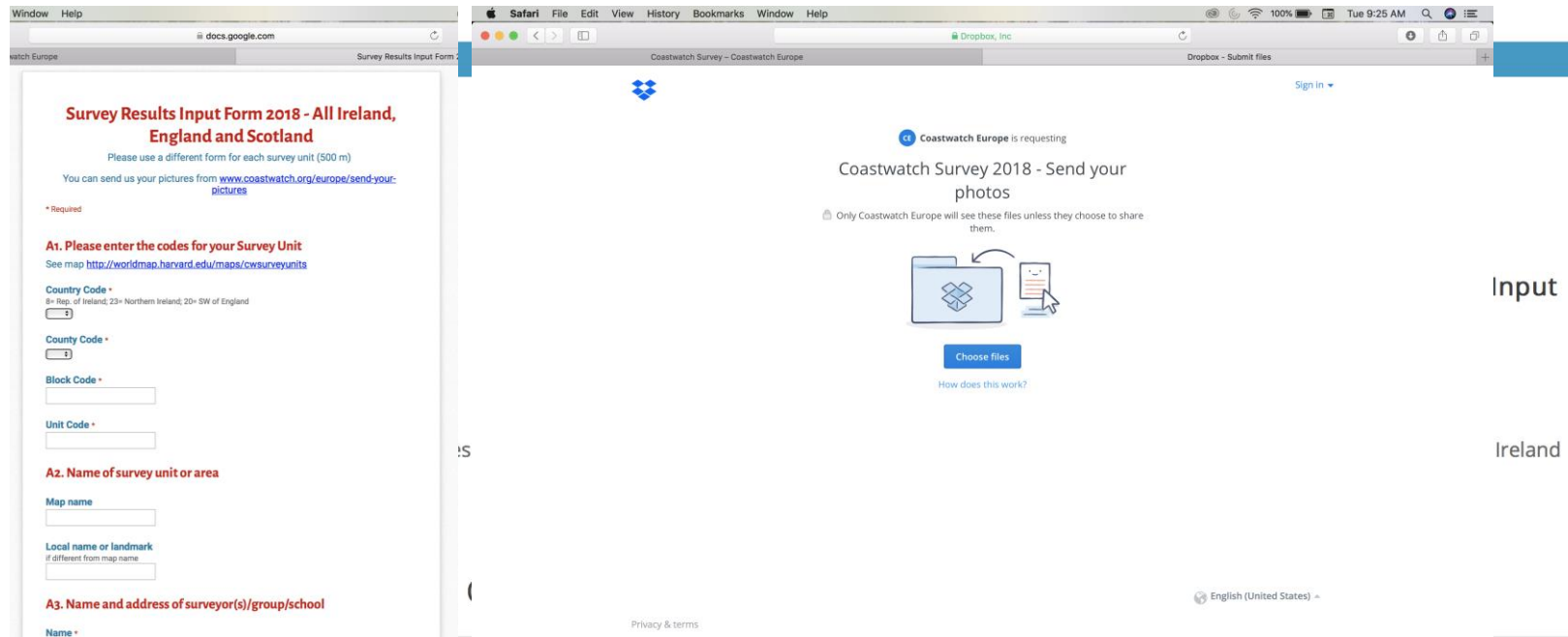


# COASTWATCH SURVEY



## Inputting your Data

\*You can also see other apps we use at <http://coastwatch.org/europe/apps-we-use/>



Input

Ireland

The data collected by the hundreds of volunteers participating every year in the Coastwatch Survey, giving their time and energy for free, is published openly under a Creative Commons license ([CC BY-NC-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)).

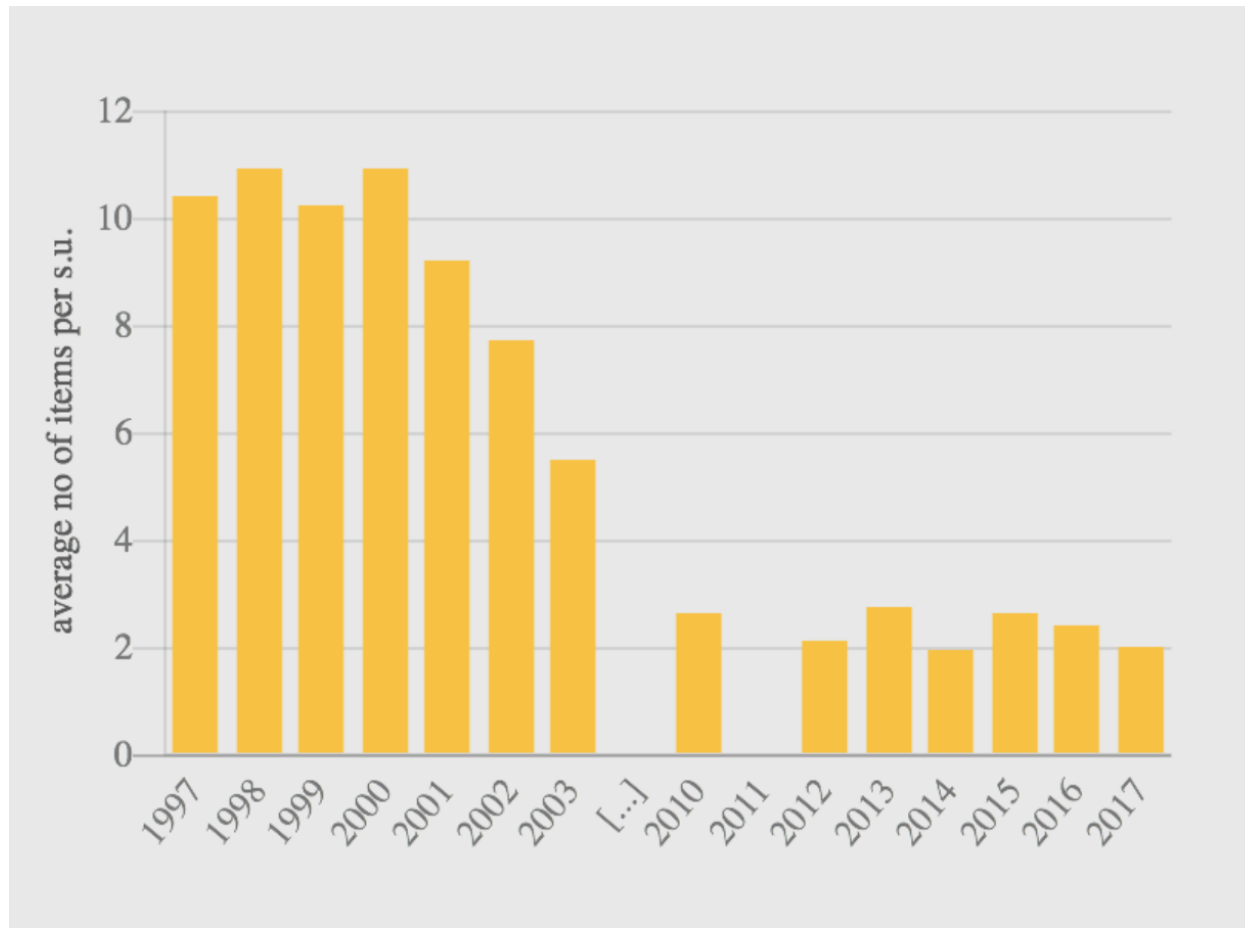
Coastwatch Survey Data 2012 - 2018

All Ireland historical data (1987 - 2017)



## What Happens with Data

Plastic Bag Counts/ S.U.  
Before and After Tax



Nitrate Concentration in Inflows Tested  
2017 Survey by Region

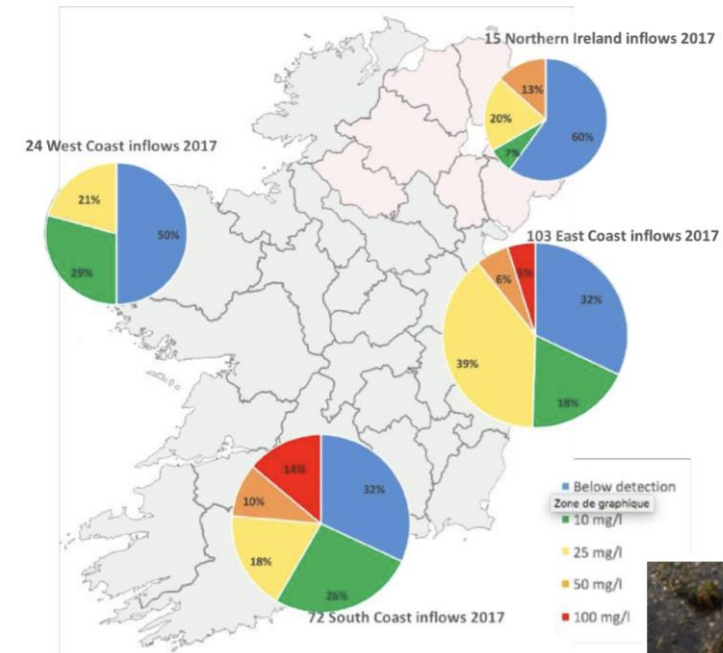


Figure 5 Inflow nitrate levels pooled by region where they were taken



Picture 8: Inflows testing; Paul Leahy



## Man Made - Hard and Soft Erosion Control

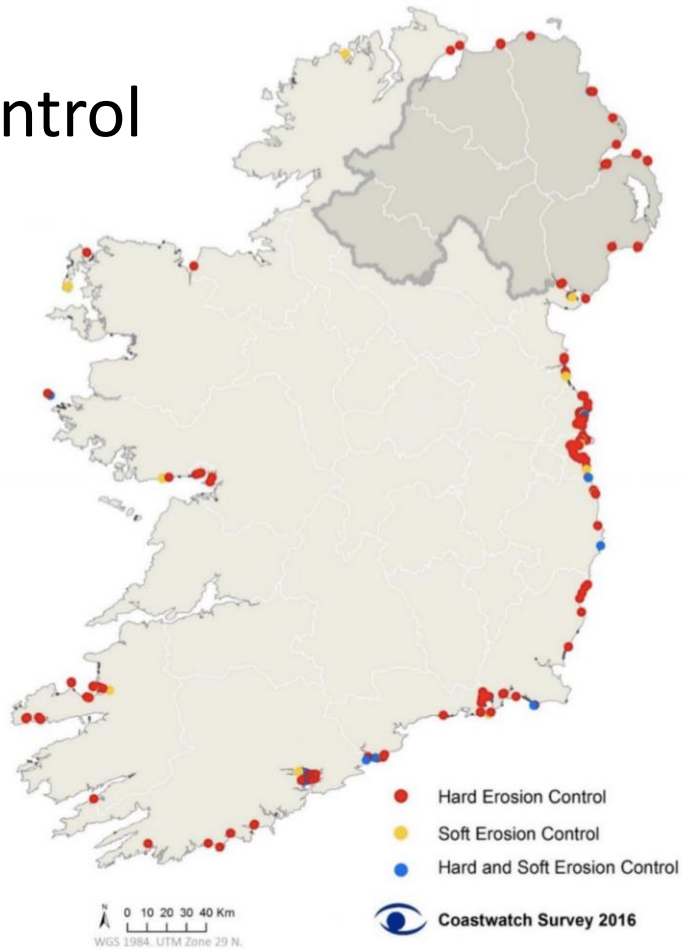


Figure 2. 9 Sites where surveyors reported seeing hard and/or soft erosion control (where 'hard' was defined as wall, rock armour, or gabions and 'soft' as earth banks, marram grass planting, or similar)



Thank you for your Attention

Special Thank You to Deirdre Burns & Pat O'Suilleabhain  
For being our Wicklow County Regional Coordinators  
& Wicklow County Council for including Coastwatch in this event.

Questions?