



Comhairle Chontae Dhúin na nGall
 Donegal County Council
 Marine & Water Leisure Division
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BEACH & MARITIME CRAFT: PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTE

FROM: Donegal County Council
 RE: Adoption of Beaches and Maritime Craft Bye Laws in Co. Donegal
 DATE: Monday, 9 March 2009
 CONTACT: Kevin McCloskey, Beach Manager as above.

Donegal County Council has concluded a public consultation process for the introduction of byelaws to govern the safe and enjoyable use of important tourism beaches and coastal areas in the county and, at its meeting of Monday 23 February 2009, resolved to adopt byelaws for the management of certain beach activities and maritime craft at the following locations: Bundoran Main Beach, Rossnowlagh (Belalt Strand), Murvagh Beach, Fintra Beach, Narin Beach, Carrickfin Beach, Killahoey Beach (Dunfanaghy), Tra Beg Beach (Downings), Culdaff Beach, Stroove Beach (White Bay), Marble Hill Beach, Rathmullan Beach, Portsalon Beach (Warden Stocker Strand), Lisfannon Beach, the Erne Estuary at Ballyshannon and adjacent Tullan Strand.

The following is a non-legal summary of the byelaws. Reference should be made to the full text copies of which will be available to inspect/purchase at the Council's Offices in the early part of April. The Statutory Notices to this effect will be published in the local Press at the same time.

The Bye-Laws become legally operative from the 1st of May 2009.

1. EFFECT OF BEACH BYELAWS (non-legal lay description)

The effect of the byelaws is to regulate motor vehicles, camping /overnight parking, horses, dogs, certain sports (golf / archery / paint balling / high-speed projectiles), unlicensed trading and unlicensed water sports tuition on thirteen nominated beaches and associated dune lands, i.e. Carrickfin, Culdaff, Tra Beg, Fintra, Killahoey, Lisfannon, Marble Hill, Murvagh, Narin, Rathmullan, Rossnowlagh, Stroove, Portsalon.

- **Motor Vehicles:** no mechanically propelled vehicles will be allowed on these beaches except in designated areas at Downings and Rossnowlagh.
- **Camping / Overnight Parking:** no temporary dwelling will be allowed on these beaches without consent in writing of Donegal County Council.
- **Horses:** no horses will be allowed on these beaches during June / July / August between 11am and 7pm without having obtained a licence from Donegal County Council.
- **Dogs:** During the months of June, July and August persons in charge of a dog on these beaches must keep such dog on a leash of fixed length of less than 2 metres.
- **General:** prohibits damage to dunes, games in involving high speed projectiles including golf and paint balling, sale of vehicles or other articles without a licence, tuition for money in Watersports without a licence.
- **Penalty for breach:** prosecution or payment of fixed fine at discretion of Donegal County Council.

2. EFFECT OF MARITIME CRAFT BYELAWS (non-legal lay description)

The effect of the byelaws is to regulate jet skis and recreational craft at the thirteen beaches above plus the Erne Estuary and Tullan Strand at Ballyshannon / Bundoran and the main beach at Bundoran. The beaches will be divided into 3 schedules for the purpose of variation in the degree of regulation being introduced (see below).

Schedule A Waters:

Bundoran, Carrickfin, Culdaff, Killahoey, Murvagh, Narin, Stroove.

- No jet skis or recreational craft will be allowed launch into or operate within 300 metres of the mean low water mark.

Schedule B Waters:

Erne Estuary, Fintra, Lisfannon, Marble Hill, Portsalon, Rathmullan, Rossnowlagh, Tullan.

- Recreational craft will be subject to a speed limit of 5 knots within 100 metres of any launch or landing site.
- No jet skis allowed.

Schedule C Waters:

Downings.

- Jet Skis are prohibited in the area 300 metres seaward from the mean low water mark save in the defined corridor where jet skis can be launched into and proceed seawards out for a distance of 300 metres from the mean low water mark in which part of the sea jet skis are permitted to operate. Both jet skis and recreational craft must operate subject to a speed limit of 5 knots within 100 metres of any launch or landing site.

Rest of Donegal Coastline

Following public consultation and discussions with the North West Personal Watercraft Club and the Irish Sailing Association, proposals to introduce a speed limit of 5 knots from any launch site to a distance of 300 meters out to sea for recreational craft and jet skis in the “remaining waters” around the coast of Donegal (other than those listed above) are not being implemented. The Council will work with these bodies to develop a code of practice for the operation of jet skis.

3. IMPLEMENTAION AND REVIEW OF BYELAWS

Donegal has a wonderful coastline consisting of about 80 beaches, 154 piers & harbours, large sea Loughs, numerous bays, headlands, cliffs and scenic views. It is a fragile resource sustaining all kinds of wildlife as well as human activity. The county needs to preserve this natural environment while at the same time developing it sensitively in a way that is safe and welcoming for all visitors whatever their needs and holiday preferences. Visitors and residents are asked to work with Donegal County Council to implement the new byelaws in summer 2009 after which a review will be carried out to determine what changes if any might be needed.

END