



**13** Don't be a hazard to swimmers.



**14** If you need assistance – stay with your craft. Slowly and repeatedly raise and lower arms outstretched to each side. Consider carrying a visible distress signal.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Irish Canoe Union  
House of Sport  
Longmile Road  
Walkinstown  
Dublin 12  
Tel: (01) 4509838  
(01) 4501633  
Fax: (01) 4502805

Further advice on safety and training is available from the Irish Canoe Union which is the governing body for the sport and recreation of canoeing. We have a network of registered instructors, clubs and approved outdoor education centres committed to encouraging safe and enjoyable canoeing through involvement in our scheme of training courses and accreditation.

## WHO WE ARE:

Department of  
Communications, Marine and  
Natural Resources  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 6782000

Marin Survey Office  
26-27 Eden Quay  
Dublin 1  
Tel: (01) 8744900

Irish Coast Guard  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 6782324  
Emergency Tel: Ring 999  
and ask for Marine  
Emergency

National Safety Council  
4 Northbrook Road  
Ranelagh  
Dublin 6  
Tel: (01) 4963422

Irish Sailing Association  
3 Park Road  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin  
Tel: (01) 2800239

Royal National Lifeboat  
Institution  
15 Windsor Terrace  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin  
Tel: (01) 2845050  
Registered charity no.  
CHY 2678

## WHAT WE DO:

We are the Government Department responsible for the safety of life at sea and the prevention of pollution from ships.

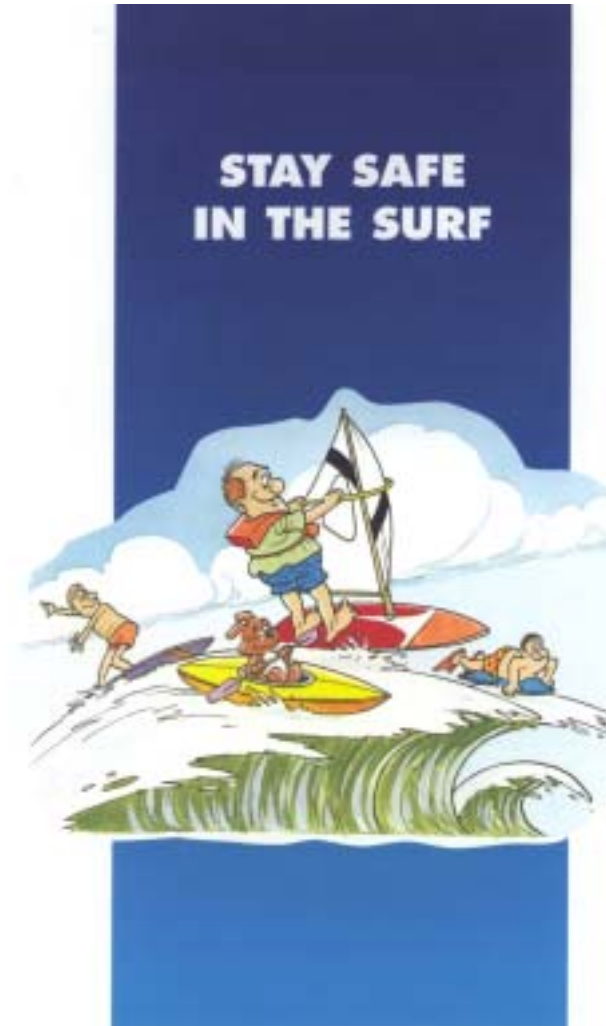
We are the Division of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources responsible for the enforcement of national and international legislation relating to all aspects of Marine Safety and pollution prevention. This includes all approvals, surveys and inspection of ships and certification of crews.

We are the Division/Service of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources responsible for search and rescue, intervention in shipwreck and casualty and response to pollution at sea. We provide commercial marine communications and maintain 50 coastal rescue stations manned by volunteers available to respond to marine emergencies.

We as a statutory body have a responsibility to promote through education a nationwide water safety awareness.

We are the governing body representing sailing, windsurfing, powerboating and personal watercraft in Ireland. We can advise on all aspects of boating safety. We have a network of clubs and recognised teaching establishments that operate training courses for all types of leisure craft.

We are a registered charity that saves lives at sea. We provide, on call, the 24-hour service necessary to cover search and rescue requirements to 50 miles out from the coast of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and a beach rescue service on 43 beaches in the south west of England. The RNLI depends entirely on voluntary contributions and legacies for its income.



# SAFETY ON THE WATER

Department of  
Communications,  
Marine and  
Natural Resources



Lifeboats



## FOREWORD

This leaflet has been produced by the Marine Safety Working Group which has representatives from the following Government Departments and National Institutions:

Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources  
Department of Education  
Department of the Environment  
Department of Enterprise and Employment  
Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht  
Irish Coast Guard  
National Safety Council  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution  
Irish Sailing Association.

It provides useful basic safety guidelines and information you should be aware of before going afloat.

Unless you are experienced, we urge you to obtain additional information as detailed in this booklet.

Further copies are available from any of the organisations/agencies mentioned above.

Ireland has many excellent surf beaches around its coast suitable for surfing activities which are enjoyed by a great number of people.

Surfers, windsurfers, surf canoeists, body boarders and other surf users should be competent within the sport and be very aware of the dangers involved with white water surf conditions.

Irish Surfing Association  
Easkey House  
Easkey  
Co Sligo  
Tel: 096 49428  
Fax: 096 49020  
Email: isasurf@iol.ie

The Irish Surfing Association is the National Governing Body for the sport of surfing in Ireland representing the following disciplines, surfing, longboard, kneeboard, bodyboard, bodysurf and skimboard. The Irish Surfing Association is involved in the promotion and administration of the sport, protection of the surfing environment, organisation of competitions and social event and the promotion of safety. There are ten affiliated clubs and approximately 2500 members. The Irish Surfing Association approves clubs, schools and adventure centres offering surfing lessons to ensure the safe and enjoyable participation by the public. If you are planning to take up the sport of surfing attend an Irish Surfing Association approved surf school. For further information on approved surf schools and other activities please do not hesitate to contact Irish Surfing Association.



**1** Be able to swim.



**4** Study the surf and beach and only go out if you are capable in the conditions which prevail. Do not be over confident.



**7** Wear proper protective clothing, highly visible with reflective tape and consider using a safety helmet.



**10** Check the weather forecast and tides. Will you be able to land where you launch at high water?



**2** Get proper training. Join a Club or Association.



**5** Identify rip currents, reefs and offshore winds and understand their associated dangers. Check information notices and access points and observe local bye-laws.



**8** Check your equipment before you go out. Is it in good condition and suitable for intended use?



**11** Advise someone ashore where you are going and when you will be back.



**3** Check local knowledge with lifeguards, experienced surfers and surf shops.



**6** Never go out at night when darkness is approaching.



**9** Never go out in the surf alone.



**12** Have respect for other surf users and don't be afraid to ask for advice.