

IWDG Safety Statement

Inshore Boat-Based Surveys

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group carry out boat-based surveys of cetaceans in Irish waters. These may be conducted in offshore water on the state research vessel RV Celtic Explorer or on smaller vessels <15m in inshore waters. Occasionally the IWDG 6m RIB *Muc Mhara* is used especially for photo-id studies.

The IWDG have a Marine Safety Policy (see Appendix) and this is circulated to all those service providers, sub-contractors and volunteers undertaking boat-based surveys on behalf of the IWDG. IWDG have a duty of care to the surveyor but the surveyor also has a duty of care to themselves.

Safety Statement

IWDG are Committed To Ensuring all Service Providers and Sub-Contractors Carrying Out Surveys on Behalf of the IWDG Carry out this Work in as Safe an Environment as is Practicably Possible and are Made Aware of the Possible Risks Associated.

Possible risks encountered whilst working in the field

Stranding Site

- 1) Drowning.
- 2) Hypothermia.
- 3) Physical hazards on vessel.
- 4) Sea-sickness.

Mitigation Measures

- 1) Surveyors must wear life-jackets at all times. These are provided by the IWDG and tested regularly.
- 2) Surveyors are required to wear appropriate clothing including good quality oilskins or flotation suits in winter. The latter can be provided by the IWDG
- 3) Identify potential hazards during safety brief on board vessel. Surveyors have a duty of care to themselves. Wear appropriate footwear.
- 4) The use of stugeron for one day surveys is discouraged but acceptable for long cruises. For one-day cruises surveyors will be given time to find their sea-legs

The skipper is in charge of safety on the vessel and his requests must be responded to immediately and without question.

IWDG FIELDWORK RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Exact Locations: <i>All Irish coasts</i>	Activity: <i>Boat-based surveys</i>	Date: 2011-2014	Date for Review: 1 Jan 2012
Assessors: Simon Berrow			
Information referred to: (manuals, safe work practice sheet, policies, procedures, incident stats etc)			
Number of people exposed & frequency of exposure: up to 65 people on average 2-3 times per annum			

List hazards based on the sequence of work elements/structural environment/plant & equipment etc.

Hazard No.	Description of Hazard & Associated Risks (Physical, chemical, biological, electrical, fire, human factor)	Risk Classification High – H Medium-M Low - L	Control Measure (eliminate, reduce, substitute, safe systems of work, training, health surveillance, storage, disposal, personal protective equipment)	Person Responsible	Safe Work Practice Sheet New procedure/policy required <u>Y/N?</u>
1.	Drowning	Medium	Wear life-jacket at all times	Self	No
2.	Hypothermia	Medium	Surveyors are required to wear appropriate clothing including good quality oilskins or flotation suits in winter.	Self	No
3.	Physical hazards on vessel	Medium	Identify potential hazards during safety brief on board vessel. Surveyors have a duty of care to themselves. Wear appropriate footwear.	Self	No
4.	Sea-sickness	Low	Stugeron can be taken on long cruises One day surveys: take time to get sea-legs	Self	No

Irish Whale and Dolphin Group

Marine Safety Policy

This policy should be read by all skippers, captains, boat-handlers and agents of the IWDG when carrying out activities on behalf of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG). It is important to remember that some people carrying out activities at sea on behalf of the IWDG may have limited experience of boats or of working at sea.

Responsibility

Marine safety is the responsibility of the person handling the vessel, the IWDG and the individual who goes to sea, jointly and severance. The IWDG will appoint a cruise leader for each period at sea. This person is responsible for IWDG activities and deciding the work programme at sea including when to terminate the cruise. All IWDG individuals must respect this position but any person has the right to decline to carry out any scientific task if they do not feel comfortable carrying out such a task, but everybody (including the cruise leader) must carry out any request as directed by the skipper asks in the interest of marine safety immediately and without question.

A Basic Sea Survival Course and ENGII certificate will be required for boarding certain vessels e.g. Celtic Explorer.

Licensed vessels

Only charter vessels that are licensed to carry passengers by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, and carry the appropriate safety equipment, will be chartered by the IWDG. Private vessels will not be used in IWDG activities unless prior agreement by the Directors. A copy of the current insurance policy may be requested prior to a charter being ratified.

Lifejackets

Approved lifejackets must be worn at all times on vessels while on deck. While some lifejackets will be supplied by the IWDG, it's the individual's responsibility to ensure they have access to a lifejacket before joining the vessel.

Clothing

Weather conditions at sea are changeable and usually more cold and windy than on land. It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that they are clothed appropriately and are fit to go to sea. The cruise leader may refuse to allow any person to join a cruise if they feel that the person is inadequately clothed and are unfit for duties.

Safety brief

A full safety brief should be given to all persons boarding the vessel before leaving its berth. This should include the location of lifejackets, life-raft etc. and the general behaviour expected while on the vessel. Any persons with first aid experience should make themselves known to the cruise leader.

Insurance

The IWDG have insurance cover for carrying out activities while at sea (Ref IWDG Policy No. DN. RPL 2175976, Endorsement No. Q1146). The following item reads:

It is a condition precedent to any liability of the company that, in respect of water activities, the following conditions are met; i) do not allow people into the water if they cannot swim, ii) a life jacket must be worn at all times.