

**PRESS RELEASE
IRISH WATER SAFETY**

21st May 2015

Floating Killers are not suitable for Irish Waters

Irish Water Safety is warning the public not to purchase the floating killers that will go on sale over the next few weeks.

Every year in the past decade or so at around this time of the year the retailers normally bring in aquatic sport and leisure equipment to sell at affordable prices. Very often these inflatable canoes and boats are merely toys and will carry a CE mark which indicates that, however they are not suited to use on our waters as they do not meet the requirements of the Recreational Craft Directive which clearly lays down the requirements for leisure craft in Europe.

These floating killers have caused the deaths of a number of people over the years and a good number of call out's by the Coast Guard who have co-ordinated rescue by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Community Rescue Boats and the Coast Guard Rescue Boats.

Our island nation with a temperate climate giving changeable and at times strong offshore winds, together with our strong semi-diurnal tidal range creates a lethal combination. Our foreign nationals who are used to calmer continental weather and diurnal tides are at greatest risk.

Do not purchase these toys and never use them on our exposed waters.

Those boating should ensure that their family and friends wear a lifejacket at all times, it is essential that they wear a lifejacket and that the lifejacket has a crotch strap to avoid the possibility of the child slipping out through it.

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