

The ABCDEF of jellyfish sightings

We are interested in any sightings of jellyfish! Simple observations such as the location and depth can be very informative. To make reporting such observations easier we have developed the ABCDEF of jellyfish sightings. Then simply report on www.jellyfish.ie

A) Aggregations of jellyfish? Have you seen an aggregation (bloom/swarm) of jellyfish? If so, what was the jellyfish species, how many jellyfish were in the swarm (10s, 100s, 1000s, or greater), did the aggregation form a discrete layer at certain depth or was it throughout the water column)?

B) Barrel jellyfish? Have you seen a barrel jellyfish? If so, where did you see it and what size was it (saucer, dinner plate, dustbin lid size)?

C) Cyanea jellyfish? Have you seen the Lion's Mane Jellyfish (Latin name is *Cyanea capillata*)? If so, where did you see it and what depth did you see it at?

D) Dead jellyfish? Have you seen dead (or alive) jellyfish on the seabed? If so, what species was it and was there more than one jellyfish?

E) Eaten alive? Have you seen any animal eating a jellyfish? For example, have you ever seen a sea anemone or a crab eating a jellyfish?

F) Fish and jellyfish? Have you seen fish swimming with jellyfish? If yes, how many fish were with the jellyfish (0, 1, 2, 3-5, 6-10, 11-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30+), where did you make this observation and time of day/night?

For all jellyfish sightings important things to report include: the species of jellyfish, the size of the jellyfish (saucer, dinner plate, dustbin lid size), the water depth of observation, the water temperature, the location of sighting (500m east of Dalkey Island), the date and time of sighting.

And remember that photographs are worth their weight in gold! Indeed, the best jellyfish photo will **win** a Voucher for '**Free trip for a car and 2 persons to Britain or Ireland**' with Irish Ferries.

So be a jellyfish nerd and test your dive buddies – do you know the Jellyfish Code (ABC..)?!

Images from top down: Michelle Cronin, Tom Doyle, Patricia Byrne, Oliver Buckley, Amy Dale and Oliver Buckley

