Parameters for Assessment of Inland Waters

Parameter	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Sufficient Quality	Poor
Intestinal Enterococci (cfu/100ml)	≤200	≤400	≤330	>330
Escherichia coli (cfu/100ml)	≤500	≤1000	≤900	>900

Individual Sample results/quality are shown below. Samples are taken on a monthly basis from June to September. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day you choose to visit there may not be a problem. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influences of rain or sunshine and also the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal.

July 2023 Repeat Sample Results

Sample Date	Sample Location	E Coli MPN/100ml	Intestinal Enteroccci cfu/100ml	Visual Assessment	Water Quality
11/07/2023	Lough Muckno X283162; Y319820	780	113	green specs in water	Good
11/07/2023	Lough Muckno Black Island Point X 283409: Y 319792	320	28	green specs in water	Excellent
11/07/2023	Lough Muckno Water Sports Area X283302 ;Y319401	<10	2	green specs in water	Excellent

Algae may multiply sufficiently in lakes during the summer months to discolour the water so that it appears green . This is known as an Algal Bloom. This can happen particularly during warm conditions.
During calm weather, the algae can rise to the surface to form a Scum. Although an Algal Bloom/Scum is not always harmful, contact with the affected water can cause illness such as skin rashes, eye irritation, vomiting and diarrhoea.Do not swim or allow children to paddle if there is any visible evidence of discolouration of the water. Algal blooms and related scums can also be highly toxic to dogs and other animals. Farmers and dog owners should prevent access of their animals to affected areas and should not allow them to drink, swim or ingest any scum.