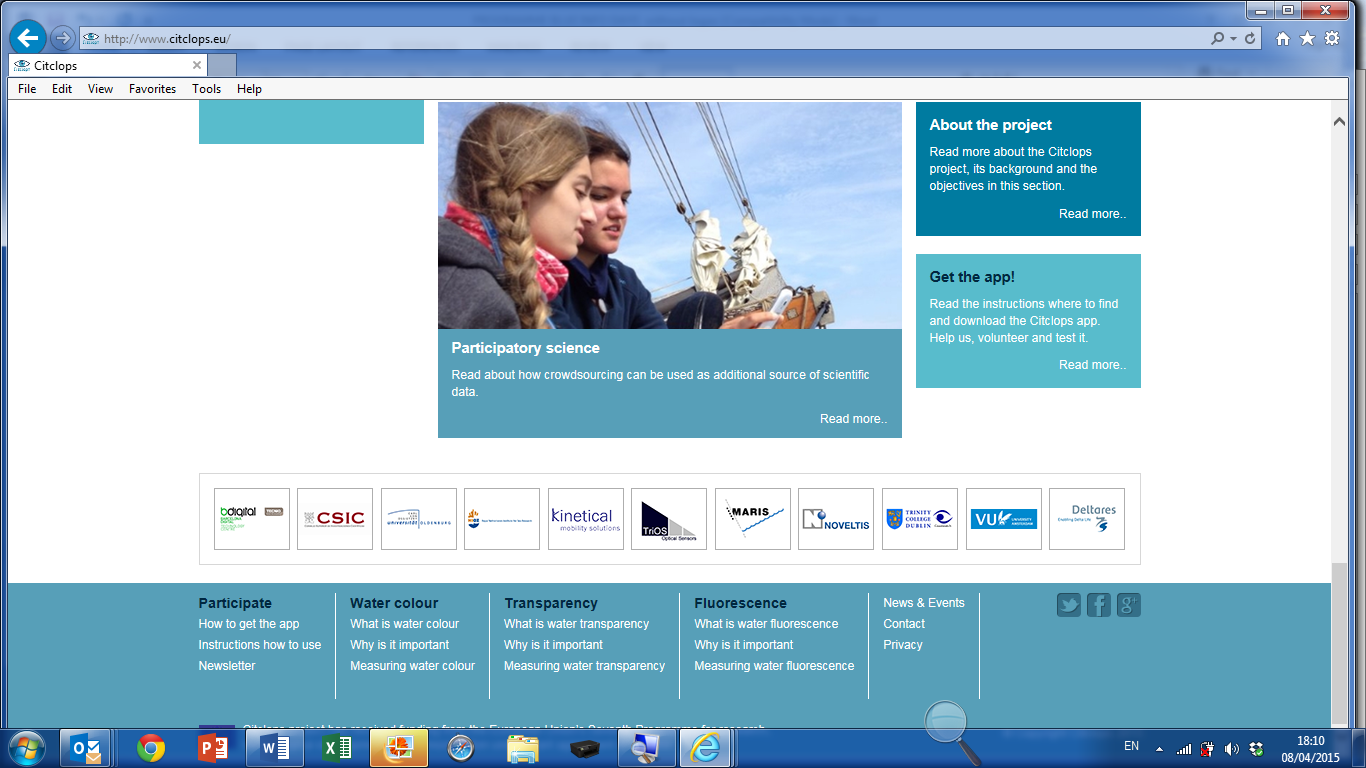
 

**Blue Info Days**

**Wexford: Sat. 25th & Sun 26th April 2015**

With International marine scientist group ‘Citclops’



Blue Info days encourage ocean literacy and wise use of marine and coastal resources. That means understanding how the sea ticks, passing on and adapting old sustainable coastal and marine resource practices, learning new methods to measure, monitor and report on the state of the sea as powerful citizen science tools.

The first ‘Blue Info Days’ weekend in Ireland will take place on 25th and 26th April 2015 in county Wexford and consist of a mix of short talks, demonstrations and hands on trials, lots of fieldwork and fun water events.

‘Blue Info Days’ is aimed at the general public including families and students who want to enjoy the sea and care for it, as well as those professionally engaged in the sea, monitoring and harvesting marine and coastal resources.

There is a dual focus:

**Marine Information, Research and understanding**. Here you can:-

* Learn and exchange some fascinating facts about the sea
* Use simple water tests and phone apps to check water quality, opening an opportunity to be part of a citizen alert network for early detection of pollution and harmful algal blooms.
* Meet top European and home grown water and technology experts, to exchange ideas and possible research.
* Join Eanna Ni Lamhna for a Workshop on Young Scientist projects 2015

**Wise use, Enjoyment, Culture**

* Enjoy, draw, taste, photograph coastal features and creatures in one of 10 fieldtrips
* Exchange information on ways to use and enjoy our marine resources without wrecking nature or overharvesting and learn from past mistakes.
* Meet representatives of government, EPA, Marine institute and local authorities and discuss marine law implementation, monitoring and enforcement with public participation.
* Last but not least enjoy the history, cultural and culinary riches which will be rolled out for Citclops project guests from 7 European countries and all participating in Blue Info Days.

**PROGRAMME Part 1: Wexford Town, Sat. 25th April 2015; 9.30 am - 1.30 pm**  

**Registration and Indoors Events running in parallel: Wexford County Library and Ballast Office – see detail**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TIME** | **EVENT** | **LOCATION & for who** | **Comment** |
| 9.30 - 11.30 am | Registration and sign in | Wexford County Library, Mallin Street, Wexford | Collect packs for those pre-registered |
| 9.30 and 10.20 am photo opportunity | **Cyclists set off** to collect water samples  Are YOU **colour blind**? | Wexford Library steps & Wex Hb sampling points  Library - Room A | Cyclists take off to collect & deliver water samples to Library Room A.  Chance to test how good your colour vision is |
| 10 am  - 11.00 am  Two parallel  Sessions in Wexford County Library . | **Plankton workshop**  About half the oxygen in the air we breathe is made by plankton… | County Library Room A  For public ( Children can enjoy this ( age 8+) but must be accompanied by an adult | Introducing plankton in presentations, demos and games. Looking at plankton in waters just delivered by cyclists under microscopes. Marine Inst and Citclops Scientists |
| **Bathing water workshop &** water Quality information exchange | County library Room B  Interested public, Coast care groups and life guards | Law, designation, public participation, monitoring and alert. Results of Coastwatch Bathing water survey & Life guard role. Wexford CoCo, An Taisce and Coastwatcher |
| 11.00 am | **Official Launch/Address** of Blue Info Days | County Library terrace  Registered delegates | **Mayor of Wexford Cllr George Lawlor** and Citclops Team coordinator Dr. Luigi Ceccaroni  Ribbon of seaweed to cut Refreshments |
| 11.30 am  – 1 pm  Two parallel sessions  in the  Wexford County library  Rooms A and B .  Start of Young Scientist session is 12.30 pm | **Harmful Plankton ID**  Algal blooms &  Jellyfish with hands on work ID work. | County Library Room A  Fishing, aquaculture, water sports enthusiasts and educators | Official monitoring of blooms /harmful ones, chlorophyll a, plankton sample analyses,  Impacts on nature and sea **food.** Mar inst. EPA and Citclops Scientists. |
| **Water in the Coastal zone & exchange with land.** | Wexford county library Room B.  Scouts, lifeguards, teachers, government agencies and general public | Coastwatch Sea observatories first results, Demos: Citclops colour app. Water on and from land Nitrate test Coastwatch results.  Invasive aliens competing for food/water |
| **Young Scientists –** Participation guidance | Wexford county library Room B  Teachers and Students | Eanna Ni Lamhna Radio/TV personality as former Young Scientist competition judge. Q and A (more on fieldtrip G – with Eanna.) |
| 11.30 –12.30 | **Sea water Transparency**  **and colour** as indicators. | **Ballast Office** - Crescent and outside  Teachers, harbour masters, students, scouts, divers. | Can you measure & interpret sea water colour & transparency? Secchi discs use and making one, Colour FU scale and app download help  Making your own buoy to monitor water Citclops visiting scientists, Coastwatch & EPA |
| 12.30 – 1.00 | **Marine and coastal Jobs, services & past times – &** what water info do they need | **Ballast Offices – The Crescent and shore**  General public | …stands, art, Wexford walks, sea rescue  Wexford and Waterford estuary marine and coastal enterprises, NGOs, and groups. |
| 1.00 to 1.20 pm  1.20 pm  1.30 pm | **Blue Info Fieldwork**  Go to your pre booked fieldtrip group & sign in.  Any spare places filled  **Photo shoot Departure** | Ballast Office and outside around/in water  By bike, kayak, foot, minibus and car share. | Marine sector hosts as sign posted  Light Lunch pack or tokens for destination provided for all who are pre-registered.  Those on waiting list or last minute bookings please bring picnic lunch.  Photo all taking sea photos at the Crescent |

**Part II - FIELDTRIPS Saturday 25th April 2015 Blue Info Days**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Times on site (**All depart Wex ~ **1.30 pm)** | **Theme (**NB all fieldtrips will incl. some water measurements**)** | **Location, travel, highlights** | **Lead and contacts** | **Suitable for & Comment** |
| **2.00 – 5.30 pm return to Wexford town ~ 6.20 pm**  **Max 12** | **A** – **Once plankton and eating plankton.**  Meet and record/draw creatures who spend part of their lives as plankton, | Bus: **Hook Head Light h.** Then rocky shore walk up Waterford estuary. Return via **Duncannon** by bus. Seals, incl large Sabellaria biogenic reef | Hook Center Tourism and Coastwatch | General public.  Hook lighthouse Centre indoor option in poor weather |
| **2.00 – 4.00 pm return to Wexford town ~ 4.50 pm** | **B** – **Underwater Life and water transparency**  Dive to see local riches and use of Citclops method to record water transparency. | Car sharing to **Hook Head dive club**  Rich marine reef life especially sponges, caves  Interphase of diff. waters | Hook Diving Club  Dearbhla Walsh | Divers. (spare gear for 3 divers) with club members around Hook Head) When finished may join fieldtrip A by arrangement ( for bus places) |
| **2.00 – 5.30**  **Return 6 pm**  **Max 12** | **C** – **Fast current to quiet muds:** Habitats and species Bannow Bay Natura 2000 & Ramsar site. Coastal walk sea and saltmarsh life, bay & hinterland uses/ impacts. | Bus to/from **Bannow Bay**  Sea grasses, sea level rise & rare saltmarsh plant squeeze. Fish & birds. Min. impact bait digging & shore angling | Liam Ryan ornithologist and farmer; Alan Walshe CW /angling | General public.  Boots or trousers you can roll up to go into water,  Spade and rods provided.  Picnic lunch. |
| **2.00 – 5.30**  **Return 6.00**  **Max 12** | **D** – **Wetland habitat (incl lagoon) coast riches.** Find & ID sea life inl N 2000 sites. | Bus to Kilmore Quay then **Kilmore - Tacumshin lake** & back | Jim Hurley  Ecologist | Interested public and artists |
| **1.30 - 5.00**  **Return 5.15**  **Minibus, return by bike ` 5.30**  Max 14 | **E** - **Water History & Heritage R. Slaney estuary**  1.30 pm the shore as seen from a Kayak  3.00 pm in the Heritage Park, incl water measurements old and new | **Wexford kayak safaris** from the Crescent via 1 stop Wexford Boat Club to National Heritage Park A range of waters to test.  Return by bike or bus | Kayak: Shane Carberry,  Nat.Heritage Park: Maura  Citclops Scientist | General public with some canoe/boat kayak experience  15 yrs + .  Bring change of clothes, life vest provided . Swop places at Boat club if not up to full kayak trip possible. |
| **2.00 – 5.30**  **Return 6pm Max 10 (6 rent bikes )** | **F**  **All About Colour.**  3.00 Slaney water, life in it. 4.00 grounds of artists Peter & Phil Pearson. Seeing and portraying colour in art. | Bikes to Heritage Park for light meal and quick look. Kayak across Inner Slaney estuary to The Deeps old riparian woodland for artists insights to colour.  Return by kayak &/or bus | Peter & Phil Pearson Shane Carberry, Wexford Kayak Safaris | General public with interest in art. Some canoe/boat kayak experience for kayak part and age 15+. Take change of clothes. Arrange taxi or car share for art without kayak. |
| **2.00 - 4.30**  **Return 5.20**  **By foot**  **Max 20** | **G** - Wexford harbour Natura 2000 & slobs. Discover life in ponds, canals and harbour. Discuss Young scientist project ideas, nutrients and water colour conservation, Climate change implications | Car sharing – arrange own Wexford **N slobs.**  **Inc visit of NPWS centre.**  Option to walk back to Wexford along low water on return | Eanna Ni Lamhna and NPWS N Slobs centre | General public v suitable for budding young scientists  Need boots |
| **2.00 - 4.00**  **Max 12** | **H** – Dunes riches of Curracloe to the Raven & tackling Invasive Alien species  Incl Sea buckthorn | Minibus to **Curracloe** beach and return from the Raven carpark |  | General public  (easy access) |

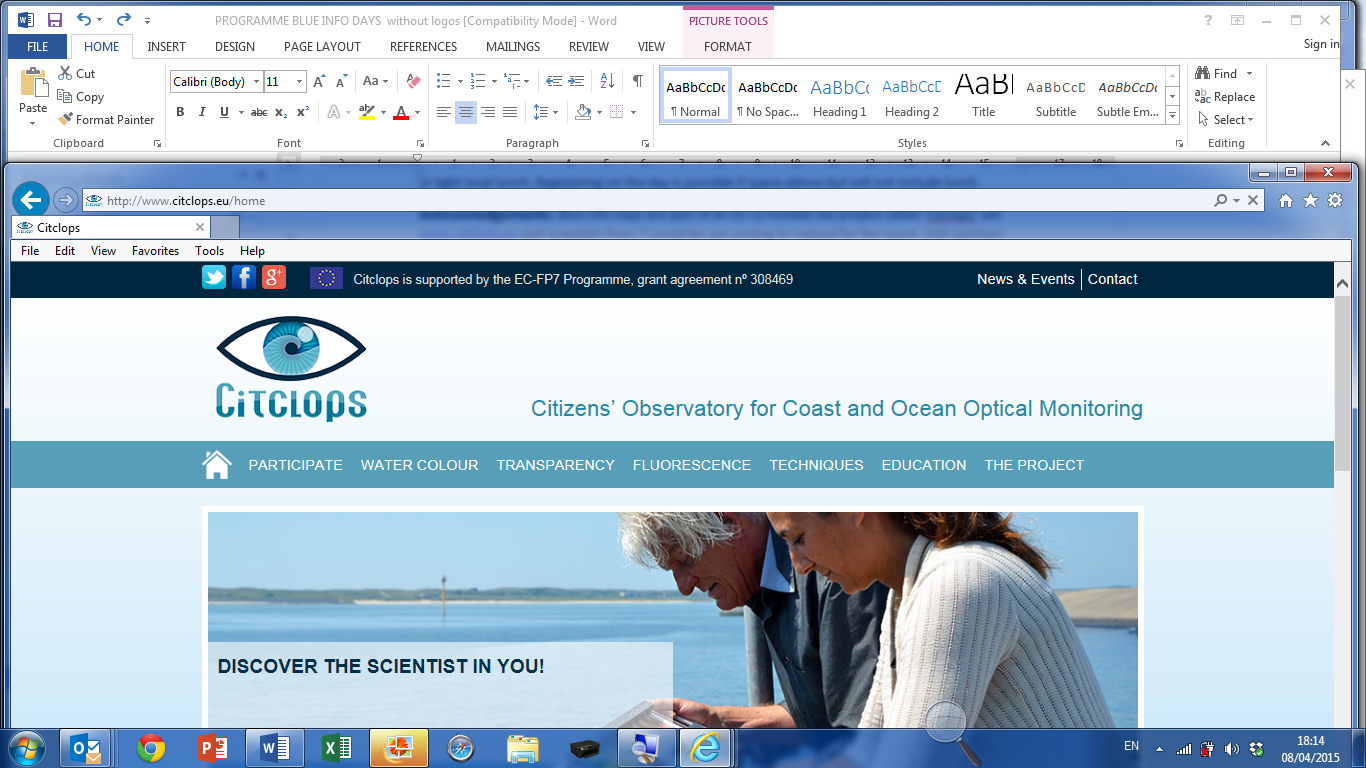
**7.30 pm - Party and fieldtrip highlights Wexford** (Cost 20 euro, booking essential)

**Part III FIELDTRIPS North Wexford Blue Info Days Sunday 26th April 2015**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Times on site (**All depart Wex **1.30)** | **Theme** | **Location, travel, highlights** | **Lead and contacts** | **Suitable for & Comment** |
| 9 am leave Whites Hotel 9.30 am Kilmuckridge  10.15 am Cahore  Boat waiting in Cahore | **I** *-* North Wexford soft coast Natura 2000 sites and their waters. Natural dune/wetland complex & climate change.  Testing different waters  **Underwater:**  Homemade Water viewers to peep into kelp beds. | Soft coast systems, erosion and waters.  Nitrate pollution risk & reduction measures. Role of reeds and willows.  Old Cahore crab game  Secchi disc water tests  Boat to Courtown with more tests & sea angling . | Karin Dubsky  Trish Murphy, Citclops scientists do water tests with delegates | **General public including anyone interested in minimizing sewage/slurry pollution risk**  **Meet on site**  Limited minibus space from Wexford. Bus is later bringing foreign scientists to the airport **Boat -** weather permitting |
| 11.30 am Courtown Hb & short boat trips to try apps and gadgets  12.00 noon | **J** – Courtown Harbour session (weather permitting): **Water quality Indicators** i**nterpretation** – its fine or polluted? An algal bloom?Courtown on boat and pier.  Official close picture on Blue Bells carpet ( FU 1!) in old wooded dune | On shore at RNLI pier and boat (takes 8 at a time).  Citizen science, identify signs, simple ways to sample and report.  Walk to wooded dune | Joe & Billy Byrne The Puffin angling boat  Karin Dubsky | Life guards, sailors, canoeists and sea anglers  Boat use of techniques just learnt if weather allows  Continue walk along the shore to Ballymoney for the fast fit (weather permitting) or bus. |
| 12.30 – 2pm lunch with tastings... | Lunch includes tastings of Irish Food Treasures incl seaweeds, shellfish and fine Irish farm products | Ballymoney (by invite) | Paul Dubsky and team | Invite for organisers, fieldtrip & session hosts, Citclops partners.  Bus leave 2 pm sharp for Dublin airport |
| Fieldtrips subject to change. Programme on [www.coastwatch.org](http://www.coastwatch.org) Ask organisers especially in poor weather. | | | | |

**Costs:** A **10 euro** nonrefundable registration fee applies to **fieldtrip bookings** and 20 euro towards the Saturday party incl light meal. For those registering by April 21st the fieldtrip will include picnic or light local lunch. Registering on the day is possible if space allows but will not include lunch.

**Acknowledgements:** Blue Info Days are part of an EU co-funded sea project called ‘Citclops’ see [www.citclops.eu](http://www.citclops.eu) and scientists from 7 countries are coming to Ireland for the event. Irish partners Trinity College Dublin/Coastwatch are responsible for local organisation in cooperation with Wexford County Council. A host of local bodies and individuals are giving their time, facilities and expertise gratis so lectures, demos are gratis and only a nominal registration fee is due for fieldtrips.

**Register** on [www.coastwatch.org](http://www.coastwatch.org) or [www.Citclops.eu](http://www.Citclops.eu) **or send booking form and registration fee for fieldtrip by April 21st to:**  Karin Dubsky, Coastwatch, Civil and Env. Eng. TCD, Dublin 2. Ireland

**Contact:** [kdubsky@coastwatch.org](mailto:kdubsky@coastwatch.org) phone TCD 353 (0)1 896 2599. Mob. + 353 (0) 86 8111 684 or Ashley Shak [SHAKA@tcd.ie](mailto:SHAKA@tcd.ie) mob + 353 (0) 87 636 0919