

Zooplankton Monitoring I.D. Poster

The most common species found around Ireland

All images sourced from The Plankton Club and the Big Jellyfish Hunt, University College Cork.

Microscopic Jellyfish - Microscope needed to view and nearly transparent. Can cause gill damage.

Muggiaea atlantica

- Nectophore (bell) length 7mm
- Bishop hat shape
- Critical above 1 per litre
- Coastal species
- Occurs Summer - early Winter



Phialella quadrata

- Bell diameter up to 2mm
- Up to 32 marginal tentacles
- Sometimes greenish in colour
- Coastal species
- Occurs almost year-round



Obelia spp.

- Bell diameter up to 6mm
- Bell flattened with 100-200 short tentacles
- Often inside out
- 4 round/oval gonads
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - late Autumn



Solmaris corona

- Bell diameter up to 15mm
- Bell thick flat lens shaped with up to 35 tentacles
- Oceanic species
- Occurs Summer - Autumn



Aglantha digitale

- Bell diameter up to 20mm
- Bell taller than breath (twice as high as wide)
- 8 sausage shaped gonads inside
- Bell often has iridescent colour
- Oceanic species
- Year-round, more abundant Summer - Autumn



Lizzia blondina

- Bell diameter up to 2mm
- Semiglobular bell
- Short stomach with unbranched oral tentacles
- Eight marginal blubs, alternating between having 1 or 3 tentacles
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - Autumn



Big Jellyfish - Can be seen in water. Can cause gill and/or skin damage.

Compass jellyfish

- *Chrysaora hysoscella*
- Bell up to 35cm diameter
- Typically, with 16 Reddish/brown 'V's on bell
- 24 tentacles in groups of 3
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - late Autumn



Common jellyfish

- *Aurelia aurita*
- Also known as moon jellyfish
- Up to 20cm diameter
- Colourless with 100s of fine tentacles
- Coastal species
- Early Spring - Autumn



Lion's mane jellyfish

- *Cyanea capillata*
- flowered shape bell divided into 8 lobes, up to 80cm diameter
- Normally deep red/brown in colour
- 1000s of tentacles
- Extremely strong sting
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - late Autumn



Mauve, or purple, stinger

- *Pelagia noctiluca*
- Bell up to 15cm
- Adult purple/Juvenile orange
- Can be found in huge swarms
- Has caused major fish kills
- Oceanic species
- Occurs Autumn - Winter



Barrel jellyfish

- *Rhizostoma octopus*
- Bell up to 100cm
- White or cream in colour
- No tentacles but large cauliflower like oral arms
- Coastal species (Barrel jellyfish are not known to cause skin or gill damage in fish but can release large amounts of mucus which may cause irritation).



Blue jelly

- *Cyanea lamarckii*
- Blue dome ca. 30cm wide
- Strong stinging capacity
- Typically, has very vivid blue colour but can be yellow with hint of blue
- Coastal species
- Occurs late Spring - Autumn



Portuguese man of war

- *Physalia physalis*
- Pale blue - purple coloured float on sea surface ca. 20cm long
- Tentacles can be several metres long
- Very strong sting
- Oceanic species
- Occurs Summer - Autumn



By the wind sailor

- *Velella velella*
- Transparent sail on blue body
- Approximately 10cm long
- Can be found in large numbers
- Mild Stinging capacity. Oceanic species
- Oceanic species
- Occurs Summer - Autumn



Crystal jelly

- *Aequorea aequorea*
- Approximately 10 -15cm diameter
- Transparent bell with at least 60 radial white lines
- 100s of short tentacles
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - Autumn



Ctenophores or comb Jellies (not true jellyfish) - very difficult to see in the water. Can potentially clog cage nets causing hypoxia.

Pink slipper

- *Beroe cucumis*
- Ellipse shaped comb jelly
- Purple colour
- Does not sting
- Coastal species
- Occurs Mid-Summer - Autumn



Sea-gooseberry

- *Pleurobrachia pileus*
- Transparent spherical body up to 3cm diameter - has two long tentacles
- Does not sting
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - Autumn, extremely abundant



Northern comb jelly

- *Bolinopsis infundibulum*
- Transparent soft fragile lobed body
- Completely shapeless out of the water
- Coastal species
- Occurs Spring - Autumn



Siphonophores - difficult to see in the water. Can cause gill and/or skin damage.

String jelly or barbed wire jelly

- *Apolemia uvaria*
- Conspicuous animal, like fuzzy rope, possibly up to 20m long
- strong stinging capacity
- Oceanic species
- Occurs Mid-Summer - Autumn



Agalma elegans

- (no common name)
- Small animal approximately 50cm long
- Mostly transparent with red berry like structures
- Common in coastal waters
- Aseasonal, but more likely in summer months



Nanomia cara

- (also known as *Nanomia bijuga*, has no common name)
- Small animal approximately 50cm long
- Mostly transparent with red/orange berry like structures
- Common in coastal waters
- Occurs late Spring - Autumn

