



Lough Derg Sub Aqua Club welcomes all to Diving Ireland Expo 2025, Ireland's biggest diving and watersports show, taking place at the Abbey Court Hotel in Nenagh, Co Tipperary, on Saturday and Sunday, March 29th & 30th.

There's loads to look forward to at this year's Expo, including an excellent lineup of speakers talking about topics that will be of widespread interest. Among those confirmed are Michael Loftus, key player in the creation of Ireland's first artificial reef for divers to explore following the sinking of the MV Shingle; popular Kilkee man Manuel Di Lucia, who last year published a book on his life as pioneering diver, fisherman, lifeguard, restaurant operator and Marine Rescue Centre founder; and Dr Simon Berrow of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Also joining us is NUIG marine scientist Dr. Louise Allcock, an expert in cephalopods, sponges and corals and Lieutenant (NS) Tahlia Britton, who made history when she became the Irish Navy's first female diver.

There will also be a tech space, where a series of speakers will be dealing with some fascinating intricacies of technical diving. Watch out too for the photography exhibition, where you can marvel at the new collection of images captured throughout Ireland and abroad by the Diving Ireland Underwater Photography Group, members of which will also be giving talks.

As ever, a central aspect of the Expo is the trade show and there is a first class billing of exhibitors spread between three exhibition halls. Visitors will be able to avail of great deals on gear while also finding out about the latest products on the market, as well as offerings from dive holiday providers.

The Nenagh Expo will furthermore feature a selection of local arts & crafts exhibitors with an intriguing range of creations to check out.

There is also a raffle with some truly fantastic prizes to be won - tickets are currently in circulation and can be obtained online at www.idonate.ie/raffle/DivingIrelandExpo2025.

A big thank to all our sponsors and everyone who has supported us in organising this year's Expo. Looking forward to seeing you all in Nenagh for what promises to be an unmissable show!

For further details, visit the new Expo website - divingirelandexpo.ie - and check out @diveirelandexpo on Facebook, Instagram and X.



**DIVING IRELAND
EXPO 2025**





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PROGRAMME



Saturday 29th March

Time	Main Speaker Room (sponsored by Concept Sign & Print)	South West Tech Room	Diving Ireland Room
10.30 am	Dr. Louise Allcock Marine Scientist at NUIG <i>'The Deep Ocean'</i>	Matt Jevon South West Technical Diving and Leviathan Diving <i>'Situational Awareness: The Dynamic nature of diving, teamwork, threat and opportunity'</i>	DO/TO Forum
11.30 am	Andrew Ryan Revenue Customs <i>'Drug Smuggling Maritime Domain'</i>	Andrzej Gornicki The Human Diver <i>'Human Factors in Diving: Lessons in safety and self'</i>	
12.30 pm	Karl Brady NMS - Underwater Archaeology Unit <i>'Shipwrecks: mapping and investigating shipwrecks to inform on future needs'</i>	Mike Reynolds Light & Dark Diving <i>'10 rules to live by: Shek Exleys Blueprint for survival'</i>	Break
1.30 pm	Break	Peter McCamley Gas Technologies <i>'Exploring the Philippines'</i>	Medical Forum
2.30 pm	Manuel Di Lucia Mr. Kilkee <i>'You Only Live Once'</i>	Karla Fluks Light & Dark Diving <i>'Rec to Tech to Cave: The Female Perspective'</i>	General Membership Forum Snorkelling Forum (O'Brien Suite)
3.30 pm	Lieutenant (NS) Tahlia Britton Clearance Diver - Irish Naval Service <i>'An Insight into Military Diving'</i>	Barry McGill Indepth Technical Diving <i>'Shipwreck Exploration'</i>	JustGo Club Admin Training Freediving Forum (O'Brien Suite)
4.30 pm	Cllr. Michael Loftus MV Shingle <i>'Ireland's First Artificial Reef, sinking of the MV Shingle in Killala Bay'</i>		JustGo Walk In Clinic Underwater Hockey Forum (O'Brien Suite)

Sunday 30th March

Time	Main Speaker Room (sponsored by Concept Sign & Print)	South West Tech Room	Diving Ireland Room
10.00 am	Philip Keena Hydrone/Underwater Drones <i>'Under the Surface - Using underwater robotic ROVS/DRONES in Ireland'</i>	Dean Cullen Mevagh Diving <i>'Diving the Malin Head Wrecks: Perspectives and Experiences'</i>	Diving Ireland AGM (start @ 10.30am, registration from 9.30am)
11.00 am	Jim Warny Diver & Rescuer <i>'Adapting equipment and skills to operate in extreme environments'</i>	Matt Jevon South West Technical Diving and Leviathan Diving <i>'Iconic Wreck Dives'</i>	
12.00 pm	Connie Kelleher NMS - Underwater Archaeology Unit <i>'Ireland's Underwater Cultural Heritage: collaborating on a shared heritage'</i>	Dr Steffen G Scholz Maritime Operations Management <i>'Truly Deep Wreck Exploration and Photography'</i>	Break
1.00 pm	Dr Simon Berrow Irish Whale and Dolphin Group / Irish Basking Shark Group <i>'Charismatic Marine Megafauna in Irish Coastal Waters: A Divers Dream'</i>	Peter McCamley Gas Technologies <i>'Diving past 100m on Princess of The Orient'</i>	Search & Recovery Forum PADI Forum (PADI Room)
2.00 pm	Gerald Butler Lighthouse Keeper / Historian <i>'The Lightkeeper - Living and Working on Fastnet Lighthouse'</i>	Siobhan O'Donovan The Booby Physio <i>'Woman in Diving Special consideration for posture, body management and bras''</i>	
3.00 pm	Páraic Slattery Irish Coast Guards <i>'Irish Coast Guards - Helicopter Operations'</i>		



Prof. Louise Allcock

The Deep Ocean



Louise Allcock is a Professor of Zoology at NUI Galway. An active field scientist, Louise has led numerous research expeditions as Chief Scientist. While she has worked extensively in the Antarctic, South Atlantic

Ocean and Indian Ocean, Louise has spent time in the North Atlantic, studying the fascinating but vulnerable coral ecosystems of Irelands deep-ocean floor. Louise is chair of the North Atlantic Regional working group of the UN Ocean Decade programme 'Challenger 150', vice chair of the UN Ocean Decade action 'Marine Animal Forest of the World', and current chair of Ireland's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Advisory Group, providing expert advice to Government on MPA expansion. In 2023 she was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. Louise has co-authored two richly-illustrated books: Octopus, Squid and Cuttlefish (2018) and The Deep Ocean: Life in the Abyss (2023).

Andrew Ryan

Drug Smuggling Maritime Domain



Andrew Ryan is Maritime Operations Manager for the Revenue Commissioners having responsibility for the Revenue Customs Maritime Unit and Customs Cutters and the National Deep Rummage Function. This role entails the national

management of frontier controls in the maritime domain both routine and intelligence led. Andrew is a STCW qualified Ships Master, previously a Cutter Commander. The presentation on drug smuggling will encompass the work of Revenue Customs at the frontier and the Customs Drugs Watch programme with a specific emphasis on the diving community, risk indicators to look out for and how to report any suspicious activity to Revenue Customs.

Karl Brady

Shipwrecks: mapping and investigating shipwrecks to inform on future needs



Karl Brady is senior archaeologist with the National Monuments Service. He heads up marine planning, licensing and

the Wreck Inventory Unit and has undertaken investigations of several shipwrecks, including directing the underwater excavations of a large number of newly discovered logboats in Lough Corrib Co. Galway. Karl forms an active dive member of NMS' UAU team, for example when investigating the Spanish Armada wreck sites at Streedagh, Co. Sligo in 2015 and continues to lead on wreck research to inform the Wreck Inventory.

Cllr Michael Loftus

Ireland's First Artificial Reef, sinking of the MV Shingle in Killala Bay



Diving since 1979, Michael Loftus was a founding member of Grainne Uaile Sub Aqua Club. He also set up S&R in CFT in

2004 and was President of CFT between 2001 and 2004. Michael will tell the story behind the sinking of the MV Shingle at Killala Bay. The MV Shingle's fascinating history and current role as an artificial reef have captivated the diving community and has gained world-wide appeal. Given Michael's experience and longstanding dedication and commitment to this inspiring initiative, we are delighted that will share his invaluable insights regarding the unique story of the MV Shingle.

Lieutenant (NS) Tahlia Britton



An Insight into Military Diving

Lieutenant (NS) Tahlia Britton is an Irish Naval Service Diver and the first and only female to qualify since the birth of the unit in the 1960s. The Naval Service Diving

Section is the states primary dive team which deals with the conduct of complex diving operations, often in support of national security, maritime EOD, and search and recovery efforts.

Connie Kelleher

Ireland's Underwater Cultural Heritage: collaborating on a shared heritage

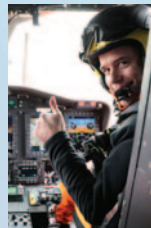


Connie Kelleher is senior archaeologist with the National Monuments Service and heads up the Underwater Archaeology Unit and is senior archaeological advisor for

the World Heritage site of Sceilg Mhichíl. Connie is currently directing underwater investigations in the River Shannon, while also leading on survey of the Armada wreck in Blasket Sound Kerry, Santa Maria de la Rosa. From 2004-2006 she undertook targeted excavation of the 1588 Armada wreck La Trinidad Valencera in Kinnagoe Bay, Co. Donegal. This work, along with the UAU's work on the Streedagh Wrecks in Sligo, is an ongoing collaborative Armada project with archaeological colleagues in Spain.

Páraic Slattery

Irish Coast Guards – Helicopter Operations



Páraic is a past member of Atlantic Diving Club and a captain with the Irish Coast Guard helicopter Rescue 115 based at Shannon. His talk will cover the role of a rescue pilot, including the interaction between the Coast Guards and the diving community.

Manuel Di Lucia

You Only Live Once



'He saved people from it, he taught generations about it, the Sea was his oyster and Kilkee his home'.

Synonymous with Kilkee Sub Aqua Club Manuel Di Lucia is renowned throughout the country as a pioneering diver, fisherman, lifeguard, restaurant operator and founder of the Kilkee Marine Rescue and Recovery Service. Last year, Manuel published his memoir— 'You Only Live Once' — about his adventurous life by the sea, with all proceeds of the book being donated to the RNLI Kilrush and the West Clare Cancer Centre. Come join us as Manuel dives deep into the past about his years working in rescue and recovery all along the Clare coastline.

Dr Simon Berrow

Charismatic Marine Megafauna in Irish Coastal Waters: A Divers Dream



Dr Simon Berrow has been working on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) in Ireland since 1987. He is founder member and current Chief Science Officer of the Irish Whale

and Dolphin Group (www.iwdg.ie), which coordinate all-Ireland long-term recording schemes. The data from these schemes supports the development of conservation policies and best practice guidelines for the conservation and management of cetaceans in Ireland. He is a founder member of the Irish Basking Shark Group, formed in 2008 primarily to seek legal protection for sharks in Ireland. He has over 200 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals to his name and sits on a number of scientific committees including the National Biodiversity Forum. He is a CMAS Leading Diver with his first logged dive at Anglesea, Wales, in 1985.

Jim Warny



Adapting equipment and skills to operate in extreme environments

Jim Warny is a Belgian cave explorer living in West Ireland. He gained international recognition as part of the elite team that helped save 12 boys and their football

coach from Thailand's Tham Luang cave in 2018. For this, Jim received the knighthood of the Léopold order from the King of Belgium. He holds the record for completing the longest traverse of a water-filled underground cave in Ireland. Jim will be talking about how he prepares for exploration of dark cave systems in Ireland. Since very early on Jim has built and modified equipment such as building rebreathers and lots of other equipment to complete specific exploration missions.



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SPEAKERS

Gerry Butler

The Lightkeeper - Living and Working on Fastnet Lighthouse



Gerald Butler was a past member of the Cork Sub Aqua Club in the 1970s. A third generation lighthouse Keeper on both sides, Gerry

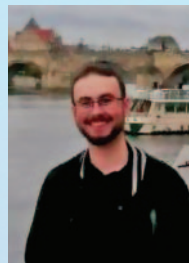
joined the Commissioners of Irish Lights in 1969. He spent most of his career as an assistant Keeper on Bull Rock, the Old Head of Kinsale, Mizen Head lighthouses and many more. Gerry had an incredible career, even serving at Fastnet Lighthouse in 1979, during the infamous yacht race disaster. While automation brought his career to a close in 1990, he is still employed as a part-time attendant lightkeeper at Galley Head lighthouse.

He lectures on the history of Irish lighthouses and was conferred with an MA in local history by University College Cork in 2017. Gerry will speak about his time living and working on Fastnet Lighthouse.

Philip Keena

Under the Surface – Using underwater robotic ROVS/DRONES in Ireland

Philip is the founder of Hydroner which provides services and training using Underwater ROV's /



Drones to carry out work in the Aquatic environment in Ireland. Philip has developed methodologies for using this equipment in aquatic environments for Surveys, Inspections and Search & Recovery for research and commercial bodies in Ireland.



**DIVING IRELAND
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Matt Jevon

Situational Awareness: The Dynamic nature of diving, teamwork, threat and opportunity & Iconic Wreck Dives



On Saturday Matt will cover considerations for technical training - decision criteria for doing entry level tech courses, when to go to CCR, Cave and Overhead environment pathways. On Sunday his talk will feature Iconic Wreck Dives.

Diving since 1989, Matt is now a Course Director, Technical and Cave instructor, qualified and experienced from teaching new starters to rebreathers, through to full hypoxic mixed gas courses past 100m. Matt teaches for TDI through his own 5-star SDI TDI dive centre in Kinsale, South West Technical Diving.

Andrzej Gornicki

Human Factors in Diving: Lessons in safety and self awareness

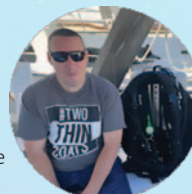


Andrzej is one of Gareth Locks' trained and authorised Human Factors instructors. There will be course spaces open post the show for those interested.

A Polish dive industry consultant with a MA in Social and Safety Psychology, Andrzej's main interests in these fields are related to human performance in extreme environments, and high-performance team building. Having a psychology background, he understood the importance of bringing Human Factors and Non-Technical skills to his team and diving community.

Mike Reynolds

10 rules to live by: Shek Exleys Blueprint for Survival

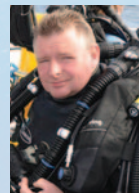


Diving isn't just a profession for Mike, it's a way of life. He loves everything about recreational sport diving, technical diving into depths and darkness and has a passion for caves, mines and wrecks. He focuses on developing new divers as much as creating experienced techies, professionals and pro-development teams.

One of the owners at Light & Dark Diving, Mike is an instructor for SDI, TDI, and First Response, and he also holds certifications with IANTD and PADI.

Peter McCamley

Exploring the Philippines & Diving past 100m on Princess of The Orient



Seasoned technical diver and instructor Peter McCamley will deliver an insightful presentation on the complexities of organising and successfully executing deep wreck dives exceeding 130 meters in a remote area of the Philippines where pirates operate openly and where Westerners have been known to be kidnapped and held for ransom. Peter will be talking about the wreck of The Princess of the Orient, a 14,000-tonne passenger ferry that sank in 1998. Peter will also be speaking about two other wrecks, The IJN Kyo Maru, a Japanese Sub Marine Hunter, which was lost in 1942, and the 1,500-tonne cargo vessel, The Coral Island, which sank in 1982.

Karla Fluks

Rec to Tech to Cave: The Female Perspective



The only female technical instructor for TDI in the Netherlands, Karla is co-owner of Light and Dark Diving and a Course Director and instructor for SDI, TDI, and First Response, along with holding certifications with GUE, IANTD and PADI. Karla possesses a natural ability to connect with divers of all ages and skill levels, and loves to develop the younger next generation of divers from 10 years old.

Barry McGill

Shipwreck Exploration
Barry McGill is a deep wreck photographer and CCR instructor trainer with Indepth Technical.



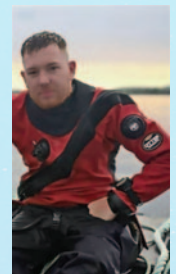
Exploring iconic shipwrecks such as the RMS Justicia, HMS Audacious and RMS

Lusitania has left a significant impression on Barry, which helped develop his desire to discover and explore shipwrecks. Barry has organised and led many deep wreck expeditions, exploring the deep wrecks off the north coast of Ireland, which included the SS Empress of Britain in 162m and SS Transylvania in 130m.

Barry aims to share his passion for shipwreck exploration by capturing images of many previously unphotographed shipwrecks including RMS Amazon, HMS Viknor and HMS D6.

Dean Cullen

Diving the Malin Head Wrecks: Perspectives and Experiences

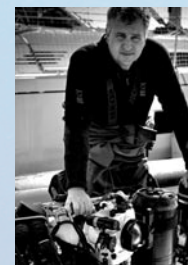


Dean now leads Mevagh Diving with his partner Ciara and is both an accomplished skipper and also an advanced rebreather diver. Mevagh Diving has been a key player in Irish diving for two decades, driven by a genuine love for the sport and a commitment to safety.

Mevagh run two boats: Laura Dean - 11m catamaran purpose-built for diving - and Mevagh 1, a 9.5m RIB.

Dr Steffen G Scholz

Truly Deep Wreck Exploration and Photography



Steffen has for many years been a sought-after international speaker, regularly captivating audiences with images from various projects. His commitment to the oceans and their treasures extends beyond his photographic work.

In the deepest regions of the ocean, far beyond the 100m mark, he creates artistic interplay of light and shadow. Steffen aims to visually narrate the stories of shipwrecks that remain hidden from most. His photographs bring to light the fascinating, often tragic histories of these underwater relics.



SPEAKERS

Underwater Photography Room

Siobhán O'Donovan

Woman in Diving Special consideration for posture, body management and bras



A chartered physiotherapist specialising in musculoskeletal physiotherapy, particularly in sport and exercise injury prevention and management, Siobhán's focus has been to help people function and perform better every day. She is a former camogie player and Irish international scrum-half, and also a trained cavern and sidemount diver.

Be enlightened by The Booby Physio (yep, really!) in an area that you likely have never given any consideration to in terms of your diving.

Derek Bolton



Diving for over 24 years, Derek started in commercial dive centres before joining Cork Sub Aqua Club where he certified as an Instructor (Mon1), SAR and Advanced Nitrox. Ireland has provided so many adventures from historic wrecks to snorkelling with Blue Sharks and allowed him to give back a little with assisting in Marine Surveys and SAR events.

He is curator for the Diving Ireland Underwater Photography Exhibition that travels Ireland each year promoting Diving Ireland and Irish marine life. Derek will be delivering a presentation in the Underwater Photography Room on Saturday, March 29, from 10am to 11.30am.

Tony O'Callaghan



Tony says: "I've been doing my best to stay damp since I moved to Galway in the '70s, with a mix of kayaking, surfing, sailing and diving." When he started diving, Tony found he was fascinated by the variety of marine life and fell into the rabbit warren of trying to identify what he was seeing. With Seasearch Ireland, he is involved in organising courses and workshops on marine identification. Tony will be giving his presentation on 'The Salt Lake in Clifden' in the Underwater Photography Room at the Expo on Saturday, March 29, from 12-1pm.

Sam Moran



Sam has always been interested in biodiversity and environmental protection and conservation. Over the last two years, Sam has become particularly interested in seagrass protection and conservation. This has led to him joining Coastwatch Ireland and acting as a regional co-ordinator for Sligo, completing a Seasearch observer course, and searching for and gathering data on seagrass beds.

Catch Sam's talk on Seagrass in the Underwater Photography Room at the Expo on Saturday, March 29, 3-4pm.

Diving Ireland Expo raffle tickets are available with some awesome prizes to be won, thanks to our amazing supporters!

DIVING IRELAND EXPO 2025
In association with



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No: _____

**TICKETS €2 EACH
OR 3 FOR €5**

DIVING IRELAND EXPO 2025
In association with
Lough Derg Sub Aqua Club

Prize Raffle

1st Prize: €1250 voucher for an O'Three drysuit (T&Cs apply), or €800 cash.

2nd Prize: ½ day cruise on the Ku-ee-tu on Lough Derg (9-53 people).

3rd Prize: 2 nights B&B for 2 in Harbour House Guest House Castlegregory + 4 boat dives in Waterworld Dive Centre.

4th Prize: Bog Oak Sculpture (donated by Paradzai Havatitye €500).

5th Prize: 10 dives including tanks and weights at Safari Diving Lanzarote.

6th Prize: 6 dives with own equipment at Manta Diving Lanzarote.

7th Prize: €100 meat voucher for Sullivan's Butchers Nenagh.

And numerous other prizes

Draw will take place on Sunday 30th March 2025 in The Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh at Diving Ireland Expo 2025

In addition to the seven listed on the ticket, there are:

- 8th Prize: 2 night B&B for 2 people in Abbey Court Hotel Nenagh
- 9th Prize: 6 dives with own equipment at Manta Diving Lanzarote (separate to Prize 6 on ticket)
- 10th Prize: Mares EOS 10RW Video Set - Cork Dive Centre
- 11th Prize: Ultrapure products Hamper (donated by Darren Cross Haulage Company)
- 12th Prize: 1 night B&B for 2 in Café Dromineer.
- 13th Prize: A full valet in Ballysimon Car Wash and Valet Centres
- 14th Prize: €100 voucher for Texas Steakhouse Limerick (Donated by Darren Cross Haulage Company)
- 15th Prize: €100 voucher for Lakeside Sauna.

- 16th Prize: Dive Torch (donated by Gas Technologies)
- 17th Prize: Dive Torch (donated by Anchor Dive Lights)
- 18th Prize: Family boat trip to Holy Island (donated by Ger Madden)

- and other prizes donated by -

The Pantry Nenagh, Roots Dive Holidays, Flagship Scuba Diving Ltd, SuperValu and Lana restaurant, Nenagh.

Tickets available at Dive Show, from Lough Derg SAC members and online via <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/DivingIrelandExpo2025>

See you all at the Dive Show