

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Inland Fisheries Ireland's Education & Outreach Programme

Under the remit of promoting and supporting inland fisheries, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) engages in fisheries and angling education and outreach services with children and young people. Here are some of these activities:

'SOMETHING FISHY' PROGRAMME

IFI works with over 100 schools through a number of education centres nationally in delivering the 'Something Fishy' education programme which aims to promote interest and understanding in fish and their habitats. Eight different fisheries themed lessons are delivered by primary school teachers in the classroom and this is followed up with a lesson provided by members of IFI staff who introduce 'river life and its surrounds'.

YOUTH ANGLING INITIATIVES

These initiatives aim to promote, develop and improve angling among young people in target communities. Children and young people can take part in the initiative through their schools, youth groups or community projects. Participants in the programme engage in a number of angling related activities such as taking fishing lessons, travelling on fishing trips and competing in competitions and enjoying family fishing days. As part of the programme participants receive environmental talks and lessons on conservation, water quality and fisheries protection. Fishing presentations and tours provide an insight into fish, their habitat, conservation measures and education regarding local fishing areas.

Inland Fisheries Ireland recognises that it has an important responsibility in the safeguarding of children and young people who avail of its education and outreach activities, and indeed those it interacts with outside the 'relevant services' it offers. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support a child safe organisation.

2. Guiding Principles

Inland Fisheries Ireland shall observe this set of guiding principles in keeping children safe from harm while availing of our services. We believe that:

- the welfare and safety of children and young people who avail of our education services is paramount
- our guiding principles and procedures safeguarding children and young people reflect national policy and legislation as set out in the Children First Act 2015
- we are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who participates in our education programmes, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm
- rigorous child safeguarding involves having procedures in place for responding to a report (disclosure) or child abuse concern, and also about preventing abuse and situations where it may occur
- our education and outreach programmes provide positive and healthy experiences for participants
- we conduct ourselves in a way that reflects the high ethical standards of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

3. Designated Liaison Person

In accordance with Children First guidance, IFI has nominated a member of staff as the **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**. The DLP is responsible for leading the development of IFI's Guiding Principles and child safeguarding procedures and for ensuring that policies and procedures are consistent with best practice. The DLP is also the **'relevant person'** as the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement. There are no 'mandated persons' within the organisation and the DLP is responsible for reporting to a mandated person (social worker) in Túsla when a welfare concern arises. A procedure is in place to maintaining a list of mandated persons should this be required in the future.

All staff of Inland Fisheries Ireland will be made aware of their child safeguarding responsibilities and who the Designated Liaison Person/Deputy Designated Liaison Person is upon induction into the organisation and by way of annual reminder of same.

INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

4. Risk Assessment

IFI has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child or young person while availing of our Education & Outreach services.

Risk Title & Description	Measures taken to mitigate the risk
Organisation Culture	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure - we provide induction and refresher training to IFI workers delivering E&O programmes on this policy & procedure - it is mandatory for IFI workers delivering E&O programmes to complete Túsła's online training module - we have appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) who is available to IFI workers for any queries regarding child safeguarding whatsoever
Risk of harm (as defined by the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter - we provide induction and refresher training to IFI workers delivering E&O programmes on this policy & procedure - we observe IFI worker:youth participant ratios
Risk of harm (as defined by the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter - we provide induction and refresher training to seasonal and permanent IFI workers - we observe IFI worker:youth participant ratios - we address non-participating individuals and request appropriate distance is maintained during events
Risk of harm (as defined by the CFA 2015) of a child at IFI E&O events by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter - we provide induction and refresher training to seasonal and permanent IFI workers - we observe IFI worker:youth participant ratios - event leader(s) liaise with authorities/service providers to confirm site arrangements - we conduct regular youth participant head counts
Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/volunteer/peer	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter - we provide induction and refresher training to seasonal and permanent IFI workers - we observe IFI worker:youth participant ratios - event leader(s) liaise with authorities/service providers to confirm site arrangements
Risk of harm (as defined by the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter - we provide induction and refresher training to IFI workers delivering E&O programmes on this policy & procedure - we provide regular reminders to staff on this risk during all E&O Committee meetings
Risk of harm (as defined by the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access	- we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter - we provide induction and refresher training to IFI workers delivering E&O programmes on this policy & procedure - we observe IFI worker:youth participant ratios - we provide regular reminders to staff on this risk during all Education & Outreach meetings
Risk of Non-reporting of welfare concerns	- we ensure that all staff who come into contact with children particularly are made aware of their responsibility to report their concerns to the Designated Liaison Person (E. Fortune) - we have a Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedure which addresses this matter
Recruitment & Selection	- we have a robust Garda vetting process in place as per our Garda Vetting Policy & Procedure - all IFI workers are Garda vetted on rotational basis by IFI's appointed Garda Vetting Liaison Persons

5. Procedures supporting a child-safe organisation

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements under the Child First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Túsła's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to our procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are participating in our education programmes:

- o Procedure for the **management of allegations** of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers;
- o Procedure for the **safe recruitment and selection** of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- o Procedure for the provision of and **access to child safeguarding training and information**, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- o Procedure for **reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Túsła**;
- o Procedure for maintaining a list of persons who are **mandated persons**, should the need arise;
- o Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All the procedures listed are contained in IFI's Child Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and are available to members of the public upon request to the **Relevant Person**.

6. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in our education and outreach programmes. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in January **2026** or as soon as is practicable following a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Signed:  (Relevant person)

Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin D24 CK66

For enquiries please contact **Emma Fortune, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015**