



PRIOR WARNING



Water users and the general public are advised that the Portuguese Man O' War jellyfish has recently been sighted at Cross Beach, Belmullet. Sightings have also been confirmed at Keel and Keem Beach in Achill. There is a possibility that they may present at other beaches along Mayo's coastline. The public are advised that the jellyfish can be present on the shore and in the water. **These jellyfish can inflict severe stings. Therefore contact should be avoided.**

First aid treatment for jellyfish stings is as follows:

- **Ensure you don't get stung yourself when aiding others.**
- **Remove any attached tentacles with a gloved hand, stick or towel. (none of these available use the tips of your fingers)**
- **Do not rub the affected area, this may result in further venom release.**
- **Rinse the affected area with sea-water (do not use fresh water, vinegar or urine)**
- **Apply a "dry cold pack" to the area (i.e place a cold pack or ice inside a plastic bag & then wrap this package in a t-shirt or other piece of cloth).**
- **Seek medical attention if there is anything other than minor discomfort** (Please note: The sting can cause anaphylactic shock, if you are feeling unwell go to A&E for treatment).



Photo: Portuguese Man O'War Jellyfish

The above guidance is taken from the Irish Water Safety website. Further information can be found at <http://www.iws.ie/beach/jellyfish-safety.321.html>

EXPECTED DURATION: Unknown

ACTIONS TAKEN/PROPOSED: EPA, IWS and HSE have been notified. Warning notices have been placed at Cross Beach Belmullet, and at Keel and Keem Beach in Achill.