

Riverwatch

RIVERWATCH AQUARIUM AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Riverwatch offers schools, community groups, families and visiting tourists a unique experience through our visitor centre and outreach programmes. We are both an educational resource and a tourist attraction. Last year we welcomed 28,864 visitors either to our visitor centre or at events. Our education programmes were delivered to 128 groups throughout the year covering topics such as anatomy, pollution, biodiversity, geography, etc.



The objectives for Riverwatch are

1. To develop and deliver formal learning programmes which compliment the curriculum for education and to support and promote conservation of local species and habitats.
2. To develop and deliver informal learning programmes which engage wider participation and involvement in learning and which focus on the local environment and promotes the conservation of local species and habitats.

3. To provide an exciting, engaging and informative visitor attraction and arrange/attend events that showcase Riverwatch and the local environment.



In our formal learning programmes with schools we offer a range of educational programmes targeted at primary and post primary schools including workshops on fish dissection, biodegradation, biodiversity, seaweed, mapping, river invertebrates, trout in the classroom, habitat studies (freshwater and marine) and environmental careers talks. Our informal programme uses a range of activities such as angling, sailing, surfing, kayaking and canoeing to educate participants about the local environment, local species and habitats.



We also host and attend a series of events throughout the year to raise awareness of the local environment using our marine discovery tank. We regularly collaborate and partner with a range of organisations including: NITB, Co-operation Ireland, WELB, NIEA, SEUPB,

Seagate, Titanic Belfast, W5, Magilligan Field Centre, Derry City Council, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Faughan Valley Landscape Partnership, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, RSPB, Londonderry YMCA, World of Owls, etc. to enhance our offering to visitors, particularly for events.



One of our key programmes this year is our ambassador programmes which offers under and over 18's the opportunity to engage and learn more about their local environment through participative learning covering a range of themes such as litter, protecting and conserving wildlife, tourism, recreation on the water, safety, etc through lots of skills development activities. Our Foyle Ambassador programme (14-17 year olds) offers young people the opportunity to learn more about their local waterway and provides volunteer opportunities for skills development. Our Maritime Ambassador (18+) programme is a skills development programme where participants can gain qualifications in coaching canoeing and angling as well as powerboating training.

For more information contact us on Tel: 02871 342100.

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