

Love Your Coast



Clean Coasts Photography Competition 2026 - Terms & Conditions

1. Images that have won other competitions are not eligible.
2. All images must have been taken within the Republic of Ireland within the last 24 months (2 years).
3. The competition is open to **amateur photographers** only and not open to professionals. This means that photography is your hobby, not one of your core sources of income - no more than **20%** of your total income can come from photography sources. This clause is self-policed, entrants are asked to please respect the ethos of the competition.
4. No digitally altered images will be accepted. (No AI, cloning, adding or removing elements) .Basic post-processing adjustments are permitted (e.g. brightness, contrast, sharpening)
5. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at any stage of the creation, editing, or alteration of photographs or their subjects (outside of basic spot removal) is strictly prohibited. Where AI use is suspected, entries will be reviewed by a panel of experts to determine whether AI has been used. Any entry found to involve AI **will be automatically disqualified**.
6. In the submission form, the photographer must include technical information and settings used to capture their photo (e.g. camera, lens, exposure, speed, ISO, any specialist equipment etc).
7. Uploaded images **must** be titled using the following format:
 - **Photographer Name_Title of Photograph_Location of Photograph.jpg**
 - Example: *Joe Bloggs_Sunset at the Forty Foot_Dun Laoghaire Co Dublin.jpg*
8. Disguising or misrepresenting the origin of the image will constitute a breach of the Rules.
9. Initial digital submissions should be jpgs less than 5MB in file size. If shortlisted, entrants will then be asked for a higher resolution of their entry at a later date.

10. Entrants must comply with national legislation as regards the photographing of protected wild animals or birds (see Wildlife Act, 1976). Please review the relevant section of this legislation on the National Parks and Wildlife website. If you intend to photograph a protected wild animal on or near the breeding place of such an animal, a license is required, see [link](#) for further information. **This will be strictly enforced, and shortlisted images will be asked to present their license for images that fall under these criteria.**
11. Entrants **must not interfere** with or damage the breeding place of any wild animal or bird (see Wildlife Act, 1976). Again, please review the National Parks and Wildlife [website](#).
12. Entrants **must** adhere to the **“Code of Conduct”** for visitors to seabird breeding colonies developed by the Irish Wildlife Trust and BirdWatch Ireland. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - The Wildlife Act of 1976, as amended in 2000, (section 22 and others) prohibits the disturbance of wild birds, their nests, and their eggs. Visitors must therefore **maintain an appropriate distance from any bird**, even if it seems tame.
 - Birds that are sitting on nests **should not be approached**.
 - Nests and eggs should **not be touched or handled in any way**. Getting near a nest can result in people being dive-bombed by protective gulls, something that can result in injury to the observer.
 - Young birds should not be approached. Parent birds frequently leave their fledglings while foraging for food and so young birds are highly unlikely to have been abandoned.
 - **Do not feed birds** or leave food where it can be reached.
 - Photographers should note that while it is acceptable to take pictures of birds from an appropriate distance, birds should not be approached even if they seem tame. **It is an offence to walk among nests**, e.g. at Gannet colonies, or to seek close up shots without a zoom lens.
 - Children should be **supervised at all times**.
 - Please don't litter and follow the **‘Leave no trace’** campaign guidance.
- If we feel that entries have failed to comply with the above, they will be **automatically be disqualified**.
13. If the organisers suspect that an image has been achieved through the use of cruel or unethical practices, including the use of live bait, the entry will be disqualified and the organisers reserve the right to report the entrant to the applicable authorities.
14. Entries must be submitted digitally. Details are in the how-to enter section below.
15. Entrants confirm they are the sole author of the work and it is their original entry. They own the copyright and all other intellectual property rights to each image. They have the permission of anyone featured in the image (or in the case of under 18s, the consent of the parent or primary guardian).

16. Copyright remains with the entrant but grants permission for the images to be used by An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme for press and promotion. This may include but is not limited to:
 - Display of images on Clean Coasts website, social media, brochures, publications relating to the competition, the organiser's website or websites connected to the competition and work of An Taisce.
 - An Taisce reserves the right for the use of these images for itself and key stakeholders in the promotion of Ireland's coastline, with photographers accreditation visible.
 - Images may also be used by sponsors of the Love Your Coast photography competition, including Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment for press, promotion and departmental publications, with photographers accreditation visible.
17. The maximum number of entries per person is 5.
18. The organisers reserve the right to remove entrants that breach or contravene laws of public decency or may bring the entrant and/or competition into disrepute.
19. The above information is correct although the organisers reserve the right to change any of the above without prior notice. Any breach by the entrant of the above terms and conditions will render their entry invalid. If a breach has occurred but is discovered after the award of a prize then the organisers may request the return of the prize.
20. The closing date for entries is **midnight on Friday the 15th of May 2026**. Any entries received outside this timeframe will not be considered.

Judging

A selected panel of judges will assess all entries, and a shortlist will be announced following the closing date on the website and courtesy of our digital and print media partners. All shortlisted entrants will be contacted by telephone and requested to supply the original high-resolution file. Failure to produce this within the requested timeframe of 7 days will result in elimination from the shortlist. An Taisce cannot be held responsible for emails that do not arrive due to technical issues. All judges' decisions are final, and no discussion will be entered into on these decisions. Shortlisted entrants will also be asked to provide an extended caption.

All winners will be notified by telephone or email, and the prize presentation will be held in **July 2026**.

How to enter

- All entries must be submitted electronically.
- Entries are made via the website, if you have any issues uploading your images please email loveyourcoast@eeu.antaisce.org.

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- You will receive an acknowledgement email after your photograph has been successfully entered (please check your junk mailbox, if you did not receive the confirmation email).