



6 Jellyfish and 2 Hydrozoan 'cousins' you might find in Irish waters or swept up: All bear stinging cells in their tentacles. In 4 the poison used to catch prey is harmless to humans.



Don't touch the underside of the other 4 (left column) as these can inflict painful stings!!!!



Nasty Sting!!!



Moderate-mild Sting



Sting Harmless to Humans

Two Cyanea jellyfish with long hair like tentacles, which may not be obvious when beached.



Lions Mane *C. Capillata*

Bell diameter: up to **50 cm** (but can be > 1.5 m)

Large to huge reddish brown, umbrella-shaped bell with a mass of long, thin hair-like tentacles + short, thick, frilled, folded arms. Swimming and upside down beached gonads (showing) still stings.

Blue Jellyfish *C. lamarckii*

Bell diameter: up to **30 cm**

Blue bell through which radial lines can be seen. Long thin hair like tentacles.



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Four jellyfish with special markings to look out for:



Mauve Stinger *Pelagia noctiluca*

Bell diameter: up to **10cm**

Finger length, blue/purple deep bell with pink or mauve warts, 16 marginal lobes, 8 marginal, hair- like tentacles. 4 longer frilled arms with tiny pink spots.

Barrel Jellyfish *Rhizostoma octopus*

Bell diameter: up to **1 m**

Big heavy solid rubbery bell, white, pale pink, blue or yellow, edged with fine purple markings. No tentacles. 8 thick, frilled arms.



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Compass Jellyfish *Chrysaora hysoscella*

Bell diameter: up to **30 cm**

Colour variable, with brownish V-shaped bell markings, 32 marginal lobes, 24 long, thin tentacles, 4 long, thick, frilled arms. When stranded, jellyfish tentacles dissolve before the bell does (see dark stain of some tentacles left on mud).

Moon Jellyfish *Aurelia aurita*

Bell diameter: up to **40 cm**

Transparent, umbrella-shaped bell, edged with short 'hairs' (tentacles). 4 distinct pale blue/purple gonad rings in the bell. 4 short frilled arms.



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While each jellyfish above is 1 organism, the 2 below are colonies of animals which create amazing complex shapes designed to move not only with currents, but also to sail with the wind.



Portuguese man o' war *Physalia physalis*

Float (siphonophore): **30 cm** Tentacles: up to **30m**

Blue gas filled float with pink on the crest, long beard tentacles. Severe sting!!!

By-the-wind-sailor *Velella velella*

Length: up to **10cm**

Small colonial blue hydroid with semicircular 'sail' set on and oval 'board' made of chiton, with short tentacles hanging into the water.



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