

# Compass Jellyfish

Scientific Name: *Chrysaora hysoscella*

Irish Name: Smugairle an chompáis

The Compass Jellyfish is bluish-white, with distinctive brown V-shaped markings on the top of its bell-shaped body and a "frill" of brown markings around its edge. It has 24 tentacles that are arranged in groups, as well as four very long and "frilly" mouth arms and eight sense organs.

Adult Compass Jellyfish are found floating near the surface in shallow and deep coastal waters from July to September. These can also be seen washed up on the beach. Often growing up to 30cm in diameter, the Compass Jellyfish feeds on a wide range of prey, including plankton, worms and small jellyfish.

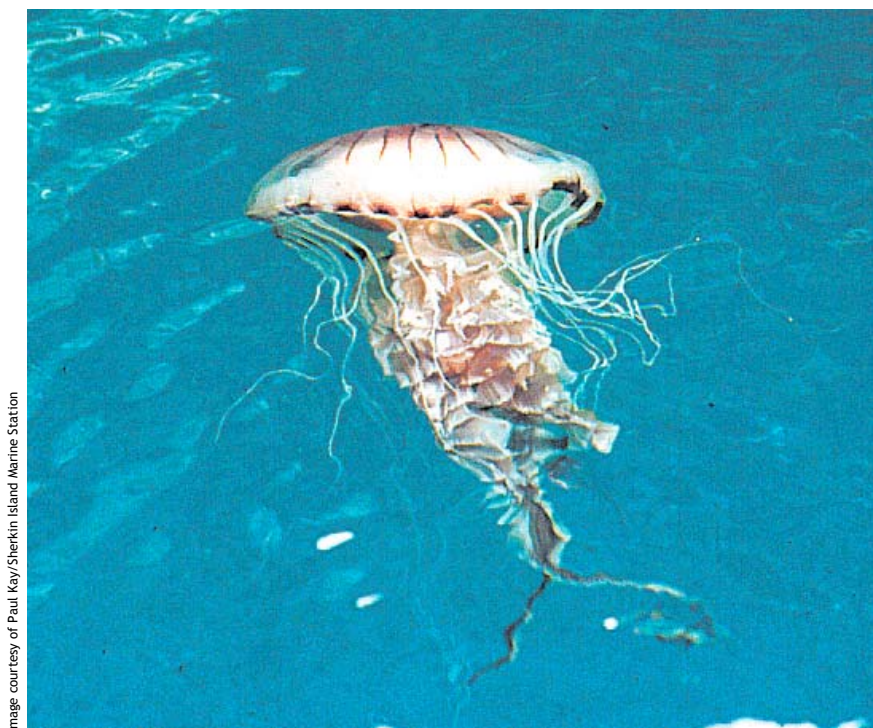


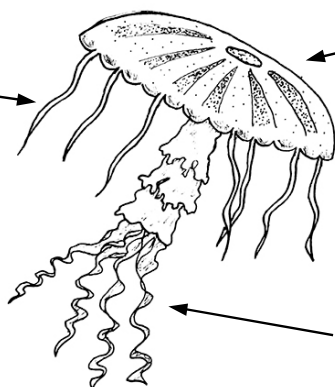
Image courtesy of Paul Kay/Sherkin Island Marine Station

Compass Jellyfish can have quite a dangerous sting.

## Jellyfish

Jellyfish have a soft bell-shaped body with tentacles underneath. These tentacles, which can have quite a dangerous sting, catch food such as plankton and small animals in the water and also help the jellyfish protect itself from attackers. Jellyfish can be identified by the colour and pattern of the markings on their body.

tentacles -  
used for  
catching  
food and for  
protection



bell-shaped body

mouth arms - a mouth,  
which hangs from the  
stomach, surrounded by  
tentacles

Sketch courtesy of Sherkin Island Marine Station

## Jelly Animals

Jellyfish and sea anemones belong to a group of animals known as cnidarians (pronounced nid-ar-ians) - the jelly animals.

Cnidarians have many tiny stinging cells on their tentacles, which they use for self-defence and to catch food.

Although some jellyfish have only a very mild sting, others can be quite dangerous so it is best not to touch any of them - just in case!



Check Jellyfish Safety on the Irish Water Safety website: <http://www.iws.ie/beach/jellyfish-safety.321.html>

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