

## ***'Marbh Chrios'(Dead Zone)***



### **PRESS RELEASE**

***Ever wondered what's really happening in the sea....A unique sound composition, created by computer software programmes.... with data supplied from The Marine Institute of Ireland, Met Éireann and Aquafact Ltd.... sonifying and vocalising data related to Dead Zones.... played live in concert with the Donegal Youth Orchestra, the Softday Céilí Band and St Catherine's Marching Band Killybegs ...***

The **Lovely Weather Donegal Artists Residencies**, a ground breaking art & science project will examine the issues of climate change in County Donegal, Ireland. In 2008, Virginia Institute of Marine Science Professor Robert Diaz showed that the number of “dead zones”—areas of seafloor with too little oxygen for most marine life—had increased by a third between 1995 and 2007. Diaz and collaborator Rutger Rosenberg of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden found that dead zones are now “the key stressor on marine ecosystems” and “rank with over-fishing, habitat loss, and harmful algal blooms as global environmental problems.” The study, which appeared in the August 15, 2008 issue of the journal *Science*, tallied 405 dead zones in coastal waters worldwide, affecting an area of 95,000 square miles, about the size of New Zealand.

It is currently estimated that there are 20 such ‘dead zones’ in Ireland and two ‘contested dead zones’ were identified in the study at both Killybeg’s Harbour (1999) and Donegal Bay (2000). With a number of unique and purpose designed statistical algorithms and heuristics, **Softday** (visual artist Sean Taylor and Mikael Fernström) have translated the scientific/environmental data of the Dead Zones into abstract ‘live’ sound sonifications and vocalisations. On **Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2010, at 7pm**, **Softday** will stage the world premiere of **'Marbh Chrios (Dead Zone)**, a live performance of a unique multimedia sound art work, in **Mooney’s Boatyard, Killybegs**, County Donegal. The computer generated music composition that the Donegal Youth Orchestra and the Softday Céilí Band will perform, is constructed utilising eight years of related marine data. **Admission to the event is free**, please contact **Terre Duffy at the Regional Culture Centre, Letterkenny** for further information: [terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie), mobile: 087 2508373

This project was made possible with the support of the Regional Cultural Centre / Donegal County Council Public Art Office in partnership with Leonardo/Olats, Met Éireann, Marine Institute of Ireland, Aquafact International Services Ltd, County Donegal VEC, Donegal Music Education Partnership, Killybegs and District Chamber of Commerce Ltd, the Killybegs Fishermen’s Organisation Ltd, Mooney’s Boatyard, and the Marine & Heritage Centre Killybegs. Further project information from: Softday at: [www.softday.ie](http://www.softday.ie)



Killybegs and District Chamber of Commerce Ltd.