**Rising sea levels are threating Irish communities!**

Ireland is at major risk facing rising sea levels and flooding. Parts of Dublin could be at serious risk if drastic action is not taken. What will this mean for our beloved coastal areas such as Sandymount? The recent Irish Ocean Climate and Ecosystem status report 2023 outlines the urgent action needed regarding Irelands marine territory. The continued rate of rise is between 3mm (about 0.12 in) and 10mm (about 0.39 in) per year. This has been observed in both Dublin and Cork, with rates being twice the global average.

These rising sea levels can lead to ‘Coastal Vulnerability’ as most erosion due to these rates will occur in beaches. This can affect coastal communities as climate impacts can drown neighborhoods while putting people's lives at risk. This is an ongoing threat not just in Ireland but also globally. The Paris Agreements goal of reducing carbon emissions and limit global average temperature to 1.5°C can solve this issue if we can work together and adapt.

According to the Irish Examiner, In an Irish context, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Wexford, Dublin and parts of Claire and Kerry look set to undergo the most substantial changes. Dublin will be the most exposed to rising sea levels along with several Cork towns and villages. These include Kinsale and Bally Cotton. It is estimated that by 2050, the River Lee will have expanded considerably. This leaves most of the city, the Marina, and the Docklands coloured red. What does this mean for Cork?

Coastal erosion, as stated in The Journal, means many historic monuments and heritage sites cannot be saved from falling into the sea. Sites such as Glass Carrig matte in Wexford which is valuable to Irish history as it is one of the first Norman fortifications built in Ireland. It is actively being eroded by the sea. How can we stand by and watch this happen? This ongoing damage can also mount unsustainable pressure on government resources.

In conclusion, it is evident that the rising sea levels are affecting our Irish communities by potential risk to historic landmarks and coastal erosion. This will impact our beautiful beaches and our precious small towns which are situated on the coast. We are gifted with these beautiful monuments, yet we are still standing by and watching them perish. The time to act has passed. We now need to collectively act and help persuade our government to solve this issue, we need to stand together!