



Fastnet Structural and Improvement Works 2018-19.

This factsheet is intended to provide a brief summary of the works being carried out at Fastnet Lighthouse during 2018/19. There has been a Lighthouse on Fastnet Rock for over 160 years (see brief history below). During that time there have been many technological changes to the display of the light and additional electronic Aids to Navigation have been added. The present works are part of the continuing investment programme of maintenance, upkeep and modernisation of our coastal services to the mariner.

The **visual appearance** of Fastnet will not be altered during these works and Irish Lights strategy includes ongoing provision of lighthouses and other visual and electronic aids to navigation.

The work on Fastnet consists of **structural repairs** which are necessary to ensure the metal lantern room is properly secured to the granite tower and modernisation of the light source to an energy efficient rotating LED lantern. The LED light uses less than 30 Watts compared to the previous 1,000 watt lamps.



Following this work the **environmental footprint** of Fastnet will improve significantly with considerably reduced diesel generation requirements and removal of mercury from the station.

The **Automatic Identification System and Radar Beacon** will be replaced and a new **Rotating LED Light** will provide a clearer light and secure the reliable operation of Fastnet for the future. As recommended in the 2010 and 2015 Aids to Navigation Review the new light will have a **range of 18 nautical miles**. Fastnet is six miles from shore and the range of the new light will extend **9 miles beyond Mizen Head** to the West and **beyond Castletownshend to the East**.

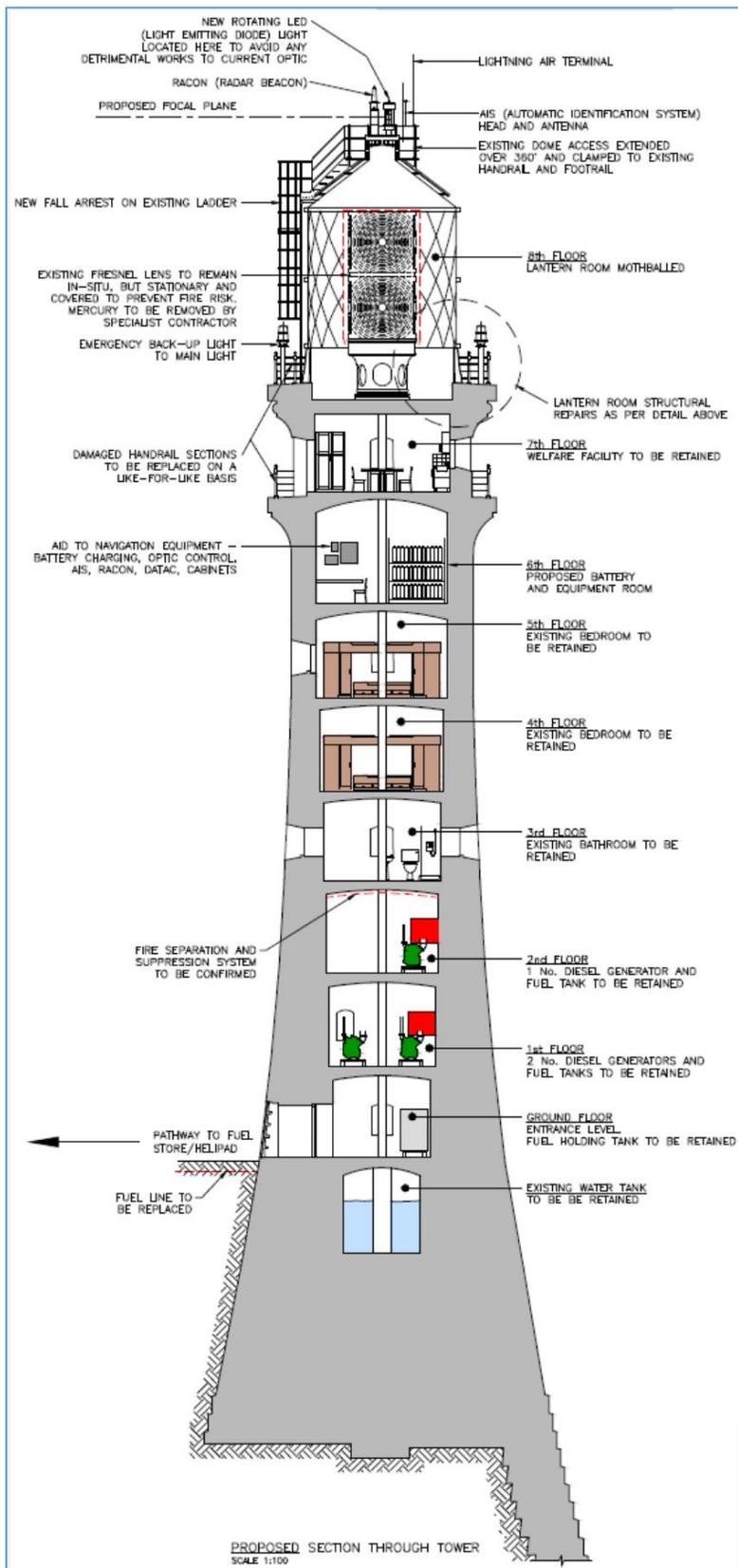
Irish Lights understands that Fastnet is important, not only as an Aid to Navigation, but as part of the **heritage** of the area and as a **tourism asset**. Following these works Fastnet will continue to be the iconic site it has been since a light first shone from the rock in 1854. Irish Lights has a proactive approach to community development of lighthouses for tourism through its Great Lighthouse of Ireland initiative see www.greatlighthouses.ie

Commissioners of Irish Lights

Mission: Safe Navigation at Sea.

Vision: To protect lives, property, trade and the environment by delivering next generation maritime services at the interface of navigation, engineering, technology and data management.

Fastnet After Completion of Project

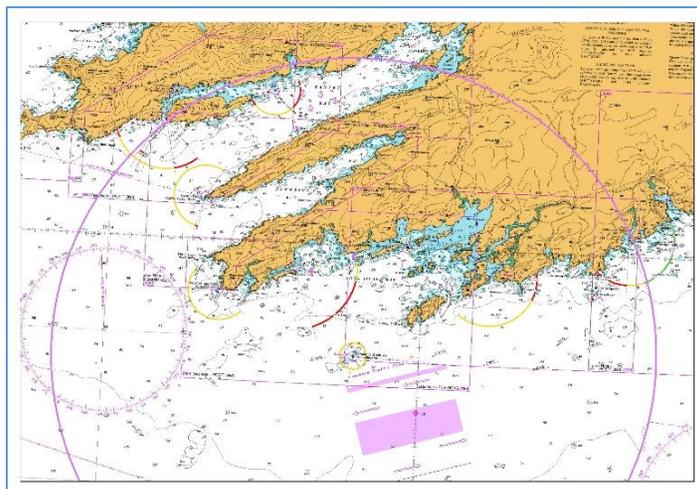


Fastnet History – Key Dates

Brief History of Fastnet.

The lighthouse on Fastnet has provided a guide for mariners and been a part of West Cork's heritage since 1854. Key dates in the history of the station are set out below.

1810	Lighthouse established on Cape Clear
1854	Original Cast Iron Lighthouse on Fastnet. Cape Clear disestablished
1881	Calf Rock Cast Iron tower destroyed
1899	Commence construction of new Fastnet
1903	Bi Form Optic delivered to station (paraffin vapour light)
1904	Present Lighthouse on Fastnet Established
1969	Electrification (paraffin vapour discontinued)
1969	Fastnet. First scheduled helicopter relief in Ireland
1970	Explosive Fog Signal replaced by Electric
1989	Lighthouse Automated
1994	Radar Beacon (RACON) established
2011	Electric Fog Signal discontinued
2011	Automatic Identification System (AIS) established
2015	MetOcean (Wind Speed) sensors established



For Further information or comment email navigation@irishlights.ie

Fastnet Lighthouse 18' Range.

© Crown Copyright and/or database rights. Reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the UK Hydrographic office