

Bathing water results 2010 – Poland

1. Reporting and assessment

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Poland during the 2010 bathing season.

Poland reported all 19 parameters under the Directive 76/160/EEC (1 Total coliforms, 2 Faecal coliforms, 3 Faecal streptococci, 4 Salmonella, 5 Enteroviruses, 6 pH, 7 Colour, 8 Mineral oils, 9 Surface-active substances reacting with methylene blue, 10 Phenols (phenol indices), 11 Transparency, 12 Dissolved oxygen, 13 Tarry residues and floating materials, 14 Ammonia, 15 Nitrogen Kjeldahl, 16 Pesticides (parathion, HCH, dieldrin), 17 Heavy metals, 18 Cyanides, 19 Nitrates and phosphates).

The parameters to be taken into account for assessment according to the assessment rules of the Directive 76/160/EEC are microbiological (1 Total coliforms, 2 Faecal coliforms) and physico-chemical (8 Mineral oils, 9 Surface-active substances reacting with methylene blue, 10 Phenols (phenol indices)).

The bathing waters are classified in the following categories:

- Compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the five parameters (class CI);
- Compliant with mandatory and more stringent guide values of the Directive for the five parameters (class CG);
- Not compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the five parameters (class NC);
- Banned or closed (temporarily or throughout the season) (class B);
- Insufficiently sampled (class NF);
- Not sampled (class NS).

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

The bathing season started from 1 April to 1 July and closed from 23 August to 30 September 2010 for coastal bathing waters. Inland bathing waters opened from 1 June to 17 July 2010, except for three bathing waters opened in May. The bathing season closed from 1 August to 1 October 2010.

A total of 315 bathing waters were monitored in Poland during the 2010 bathing season, of which 88 were coastal bathing waters (86) or in estuaries (two) and 227 inland bathing waters (36 on rivers; 191 on lakes).

With 315 bathing waters Poland accounts for about 1.5 % of the reported bathing waters of the European Union.

The evolution of the reported number of bathing waters since monitoring of the water quality began under the Directive 76/160/EEC is presented in Table 1. The number of coastal bathing waters increased since the start of the reporting from 60 in 2005 to 89 in 2007 and remained the same till 2009. There was one bathing site less in 2010 due to joining of two existing bathing waters into one. The number of inland bathing waters increased from 227 in 2005 to 257 in 2007 and again decreased to 227 in 2010, when five bathing waters were de-listed compared to the previous year.

3. Bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Poland for the period 2005-2009 as reported in the past reporting years and for the bathing season of 2010 are presented in Figure 1. The previous reports are available on the European Commission's bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html; Water and Health/Bathing Water/2005-2010 reports) and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>; reports for the 2008 and 2009 bathing seasons).

The graphs show, for coastal and inland bathing waters separately:

- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the guide values (class CG, blue line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the mandatory values (class CI, green line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that do not comply with the mandatory values (class NC, red line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that are banned or closed (temporarily or throughout the season) (class B, grey line).

Table 1 shows the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages separately for coastal and inland bathing waters. The numbers and percentages of insufficiently sampled or not sampled bathing waters are also presented. Table 2 shows the bathing water quality results for the 2009 and 2010 seasons in Poland for all bathing waters.

Map 1 shows the location of the reported bathing waters in Poland. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the Polish authorities.

Coastal bathing waters

In Poland, 75 % of the coastal bathing waters met the mandatory values in 2010. This is a decrease of 12.6 % compared to the previous year. Some 15.9 % of the bathing waters met the more stringent guide values, which is a decrease of 21.2 %. The number of non-compliant bathing waters with the mandatory values increased from 11 (12.4 %) to 22 (25 %). Since 2006, no coastal bathing water had to be closed during the season.

The compliance rates with the mandatory values and the guide values increased from 2005 to 2008 (91 % and 57.3 % respectively) and decreased afterwards to 75 % and 15.9 % respectively in 2010.

Inland bathing waters

Some 77.5 % of the inland bathing waters met the mandatory values in 2010. This is a decrease of 4 % compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values was 29.5 %, which is a decrease of 15.3 %. The number of non-compliant bathing waters with the mandatory values increased from 33 (14.2 %) to 38 (16.7 %). Nine bathing waters (4 %) were closed (banned) during the season compared to six (2.6 %) in 2009.

Since 2005, there was an improvement in the compliance with the mandatory values and the guide values, but with a drop in 2010. As for the coastal bathing waters, the number of bathing waters that complied with the mandatory and guide values was low in 2005 due to the high number of insufficiently sampled bathing waters. Since 2006, six to 10 bathing waters (less than 5 %) were closed (banned) during the season, which is a decrease compared to 2005 (14.5 %).

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Poland from 2005 to 2010

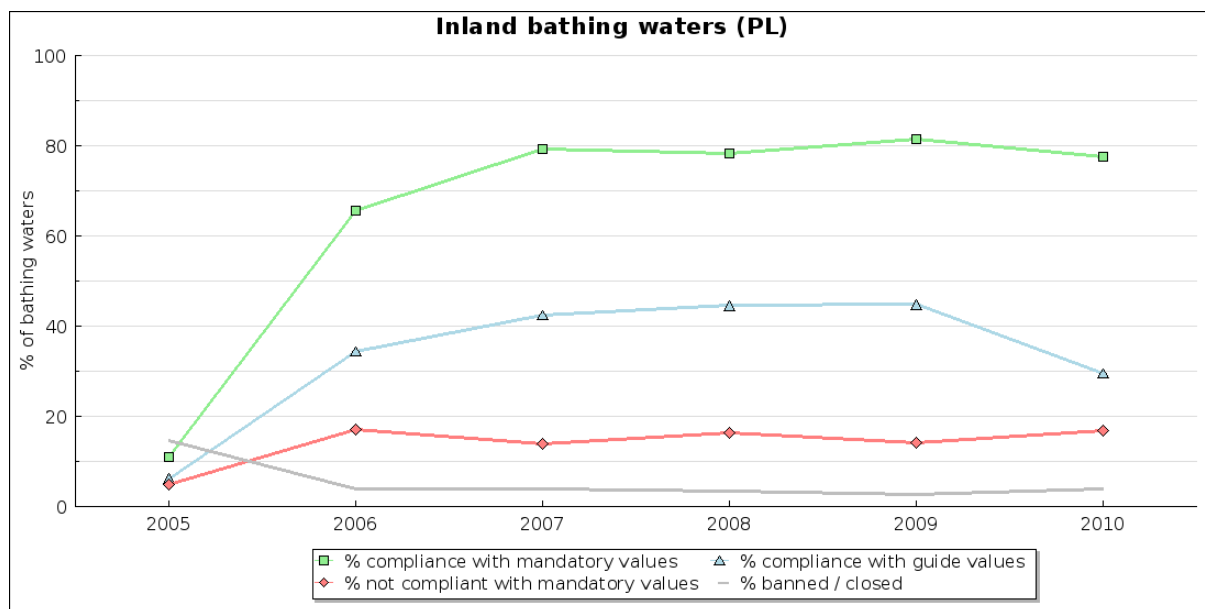
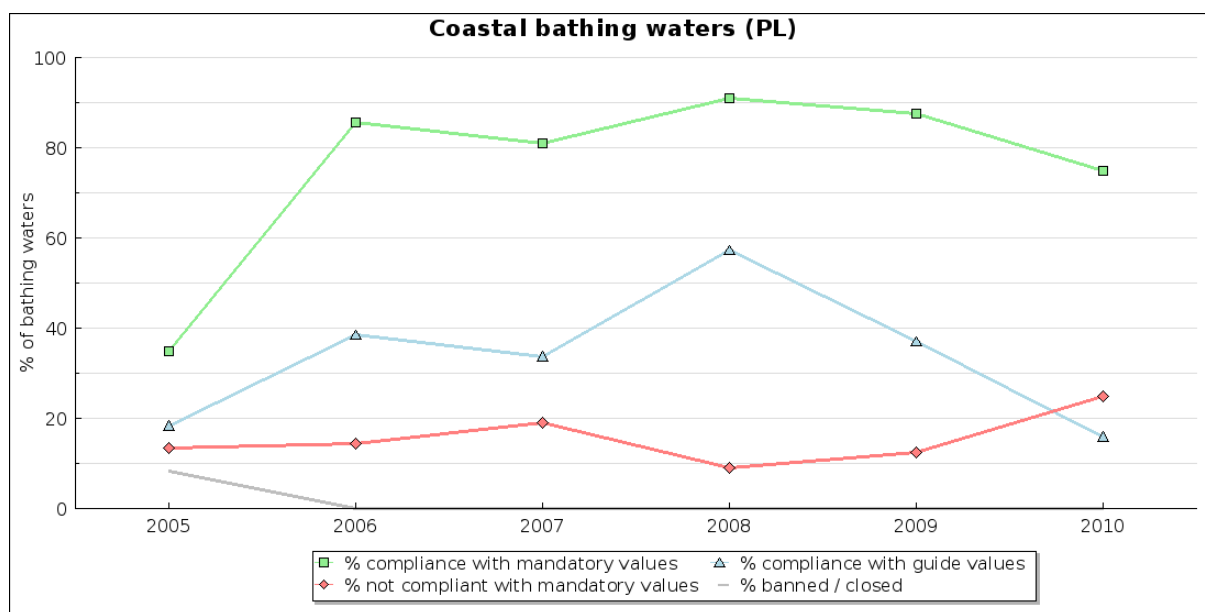


Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Poland from 2005 to 2010

PL												
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide and mandatory values*		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Banned/closed temporarily or throughout the season		Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
			number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Coastal bathing waters	2005	60	11	18.3	21	35.0	8	13.3	5	8.3	26	43.3
	2006	70	27	38.6	60	85.7	10	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2007	89	30	33.7	72	80.9	17	19.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2008	89	51	57.3	81	91.0	8	9.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2009	89	33	37.1	78	87.6	11	12.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2010	88	14	15.9	66	75.0	22	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Inland bathing waters	2005	227	14	6.2	25	11.0	11	4.8	33	14.5	158	69.6
	2006	253	87	34.4	166	65.6	43	17.0	10	4.0	34	13.4
	2007	257	109	42.4	204	79.4	36	14.0	10	3.9	7	2.7
	2008	231	103	44.6	181	78.4	38	16.5	8	3.5	4	1.7
	2009	232	104	44.8	189	81.5	33	14.2	6	2.6	4	1.7
	2010	227	67	29.5	176	77.5	38	16.7	9	4.0	4	1.8

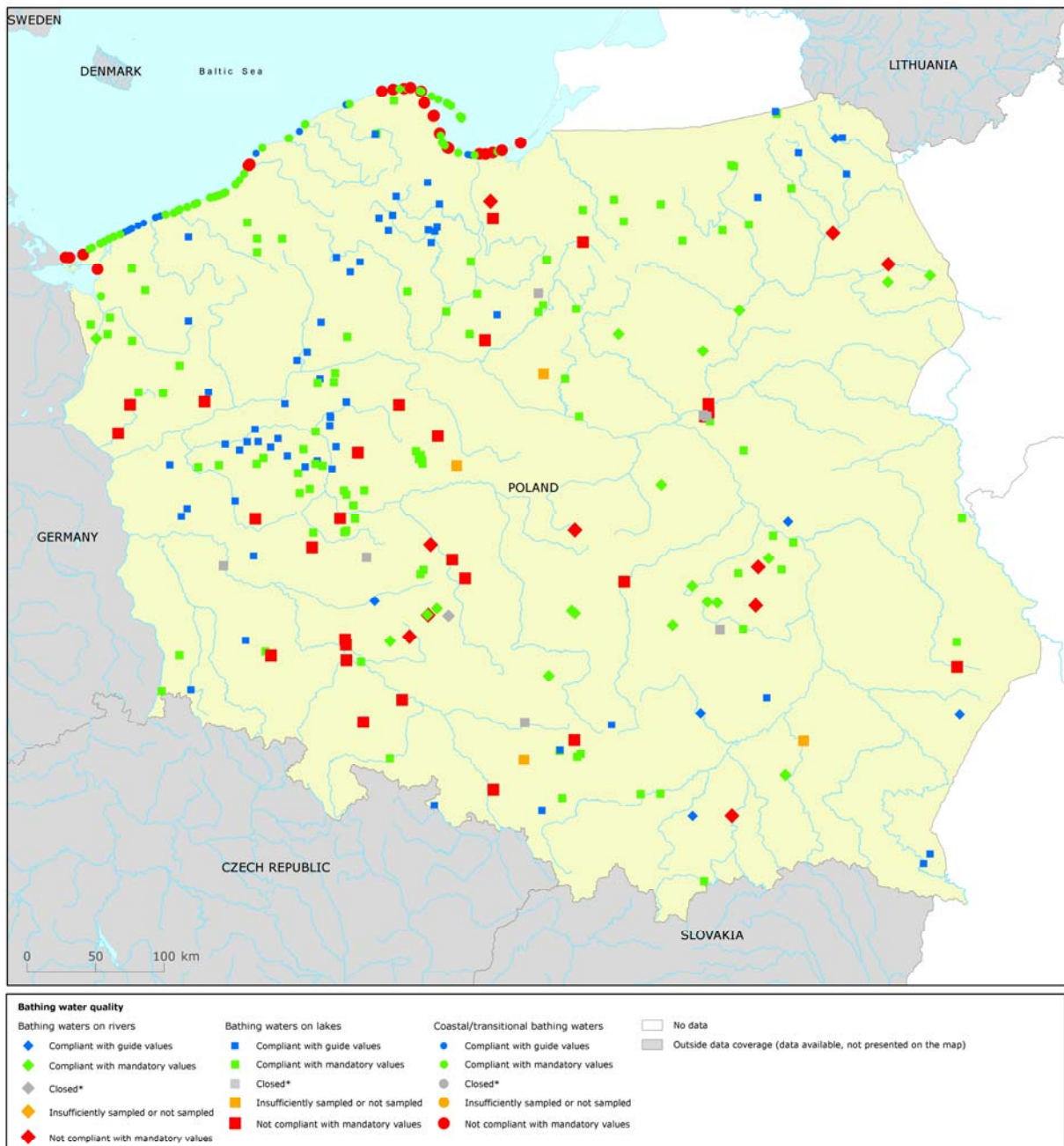
*Bathing waters which were compliant with the guide values were also compliant with the mandatory values.

Table 2: Results of bathing water quality for all bathing waters in Poland in 2009 and 2010

PL												
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide and mandatory values*		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Banned/closed temporarily or throughout the season		Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
			number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
All bathing waters	2009	321	137	42.7	267	83.2	44	13.7	6	1.9	4	1.2
	2010	315	81	25.7	242	76.8	60	19.0	9	2.9	4	1.3

*Bathing waters which were compliant with the guide values were also compliant with the mandatory values.

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2010 bathing season in Poland



4. Important information as provided by the Polish authorities

The Polish authorities reported reasons for de-listing of bathing waters as follows:

Bathing water identification code	Bathing water name	Commune	Reasons for change
PL5110809202000003	Lewin	Lewin Kłodzki	Bathing site was converted into a swimming pool.
PL5110810402000005	Międzylesie	Międzylesie	Bathing site was closed permanently, in the near future it will be converted into a swimming pool.
PL5121605402000014	kap. Przemków	Przemków	Bathing site was closed permanently.
PL2110406212000003	GÓW w Radgoszczy-Naróżniki Poręby	Radgoszcz	Bathing site was closed permanently after being severely damaged by the flood.
PL3210304218000001	kap. Jałowce	Dębica	Bathing site was closed permanently after being severely damaged by the flood.

In addition, two bathing sites were de-listed from the list of bathing waters since a “new” bathing site (PL63364011220000219 - Łazienki Południowe-Karlikowo) was created from a join of these two bathing sites (PL6336401122000018 - Łazienki Południowe-Karlikowo and PL6336401122000019 - Karlikowo).

The Polish authorities also reported reasons for closing of bathing waters that were closed for entire bathing season due to decisions made by their organizers (three bathing sites were banned because of poor bathing water quality):

Bathing water identification number	Bathing water name	Commune	Reasons for change
PL1260803214000009	U PIRATA	NIEPORET	The organizer did not open the bathing site in 2010 season.
PL1260803214000036	EMPER YACHT	NIEPORET	The organizer resigned from opening bathing site in 2010 season.
PL1260804514000006	ZEGRZE WARSZAWSKA	NIEPORET	The organizer resigned from opening bathing site in 2010 season.
PL2260701124000005	KOKOTEK	LUBLINIEC	Bathing site was not opened during all season due to very low water level.
PL3301005426000003	SUCHEDNIOW	SUCHEDNIOW	Bathing site was not opened during all season due to poor quality of the bathing site water caused by nearby road construction.
PL4130406530000005	GLUCHOW	POGORZELA	Bathing site was not opened during all season due to decision of the organizer based on poor quality of the bathing site water.
PL4130803530000008	MIKORZYN	KEPNO	Bathing site was not opened during all season due to decision of the organizer based on poor quality of the bathing site water.
PL4320401108000008	KOSERZ	NOWA SOL	The organizer did not open the bathing site in 2010 season.
PL6211204228000010	STOWARZYSZENIE	KURZETNIK	Bathing site was not opened during season due to the changes of organizer.

Data on bathing water quality in Poland, like in previous years, was provided to the public on the website of Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (<http://www.pis.gov.pl/?dep=456>). Data on local bathing water quality was also available on the websites of public health services in all the provinces and in press. Press announcements were particularly useful for warning people against bathing in case of short-time water pollution. Bathers were also informed on water quality by posters placed in the vicinity of bathing areas.

In order to improve bathing water quality, the construction and modernization of sewage systems and sewage treatment plants is necessary, which is already being realized.

5. More information on bathing water quality in Europe

Of the more than 21 000 bathing areas monitored throughout the European Union in 2010, two-thirds were in coastal waters and the rest in rivers and lakes. The largest number of coastal bathing waters can be found in Italy, Greece, France, Spain and Denmark, while Germany and France have the highest number of inland bathing waters.

During recent years, including the 2010 bathing season, majority of Member States have adjusted their monitoring programmes to meet the requirements of the new bathing water directive (2006/7/EC). Luxembourg was the first country to report under this Directive in 2007. Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden started to report under the new directive in 2008. Malta and the Netherlands started to report in 2009, while Austria, Belgium - Walloon Region, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia reported under this Directive for the first time in 2010. Historical data of two microbiological parameters, *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci were sent by Sweden (since 2005), Luxembourg and Malta (since 2006), Belgium - Walloon Region, Greece, Hungary and Portugal (since 2007), and France (since 2009). To conclude, 20 Member States and the Walloon Region of Belgium monitored and reported under the new directive (Directive 2006/7/EC) in 2010.

Assessment of the status of all bathing waters in 2010 under the rules of the new directive (Directive 2006/7/EC) is made for Luxembourg, Malta and Hungary. Assessment of the bathing water quality on a country level for the other countries that reported under the new directive has been done using transition rules. Bathing water quality for individual bathing waters having four year set of data can be seen on the interactive maps and data viewer that are described below.

Three non-EU countries, Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland have reported monitoring results under the new directive. Switzerland sent data on *Escherichia coli* for all bathing waters but only for some data on intestinal enterococci.

Overall in 2010, 92.1 % of Europe's coastal bathing waters and 90.2 % of inland bathing waters met the minimum water quality standards set by the bathing water directives. During recent years there has been deterioration in bathing water quality but still more than nine in ten bathing waters meet the minimum quality standards. The share of non compliant bathing waters was 1.2 % for coastal bathing waters and 2.8 % for inland bathing waters. The decrease reflects in part year to year variation but also indicates that further work is necessary to ensure that the quality of bathing waters is constantly improved and maintained.

More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the EU summary report, the reports for 27 Member States, Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland, can be found on the European Commission's bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html) and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>). The Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IWSR), a partner in the EEA European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC/ICM) has produced the reports for the bathing seasons from the 2008 bathing season on. Countries have collaborated in the assessment of bathing water quality and supplied additional information when needed.

Interactive information on bathing water quality

The bathing water section of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), which is accessible at the EEA bathing water website, allows users to view the quality of the bathing water at more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland bathing sites across Europe. Users can check bathing water quality on an interactive map or can download data for a selected country or region and make comparisons with previous years.

The WISE map viewer (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/interactive/bathing>) is an online map viewer for visualisation of European spatial water data. It includes a lot of interactive layers, allowing water themes to be visualised at different scales. Broad resolutions display the aggregated data by Member State. At finer resolutions the locations of monitoring stations are displayed.

The WISE Bathing Water Quality data viewer (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/bathing-water-data-viewer>) combines text and graphical visualisation, providing a quick check on locations and statistics on the quality of coastal and freshwater bathing waters. It also documents how bathing waters have changed throughout Europe in recent years and provides a full summary of Europe's bathing water quality. Users can search information at three spatial levels - country, region and province - and observe specific bathing water locations on the Google Earth, Google maps or Bing maps.

The Eye On Earth - Water Watch application (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/explore-interactive-maps/eye-on-earth>) allows users to zoom in on a given section of the coast, riverbank or lake, both in street map or, where available, bird's eye viewing formats. A 'traffic-light' indicator (red, amber, green) of bathing water quality, based on the official bathing water data, is put alongside the ratings of people who have visited the bathing site, including any comments users wish to make. For historical data Water Watch uses a simplified index of bathing water quality data. The Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland (one municipality), Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway (one municipality), Slovenia, Slovakia and England and Wales were also sending near real time information on bathing water quality to the Eye On Earth application. The bathing water quality from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Scotland and Northern Ireland was also presented on Eye on Earth Water Watch.

National and local information on bathing water quality

In order to make information to the public more effective, all EU countries have national or local web portals with detailed information for each bathing water. Websites generally include a map search function and public access to the monitoring results both in real time and for previous seasons.

Information on EU bathing water legislation

EU Member States will have to comply with the stricter and more ambitious requirements laid out in Directive 2006/7/EC by 2015 at the latest. The new legislation requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information dissemination. By March 2011 Member States have to have established bathing water profiles. More on the new legislation can be found on the European Commission's websites and on <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>.