

Bathing water results 2008 – Romania

1. Introduction

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Romania during the 2008 bathing season.

Romania reported 5 parameters under the Directive 76/160/EEC (1 Total coliforms, 2 Faecal coliforms, 8 Mineral oils, 9 Surface-active substances reacting with methylene blue, 10 Phenols (phenol indices)).

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 5 parameters (class CI)
- Compliant with mandatory and more stringent guide values of the Directive for the 5 parameters (class CG)
- Not compliant with mandatory values of the Directive for the 5 parameters (class NC)
- Banned (temporarily closed) or closed throughout the season (class B)

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

For all bathing waters the bathing season lasted 4.5 months, from 1 June till 15 October 2008.

A total of 49 coastal bathing waters were monitored in Romania during the 2008 bathing season. There are no freshwater bathing waters monitored.

With 49 bathing waters Romania accounts for about 0.2% 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. There were 14 more bathing waters in 2008 as in the first year of reporting in 2007: 15 new bathing waters were added to the list compared to the previous year and one was de-listed.

3. Results of bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Romania for the 2007 bathing season as reported in 2008 report and for the bathing season of 2008 are presented in Figure 1.

The graph shows, for coastal bathing waters:

- 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 (temporarily closed) or closed throughout the season (class B, grey line)

Table 1 and Table 2 show the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages for coastal bathing waters.

Map 1 shows the locations of the reported bathing waters in Romania. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the Romanian authorities.

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Romania in 2007 and 2008

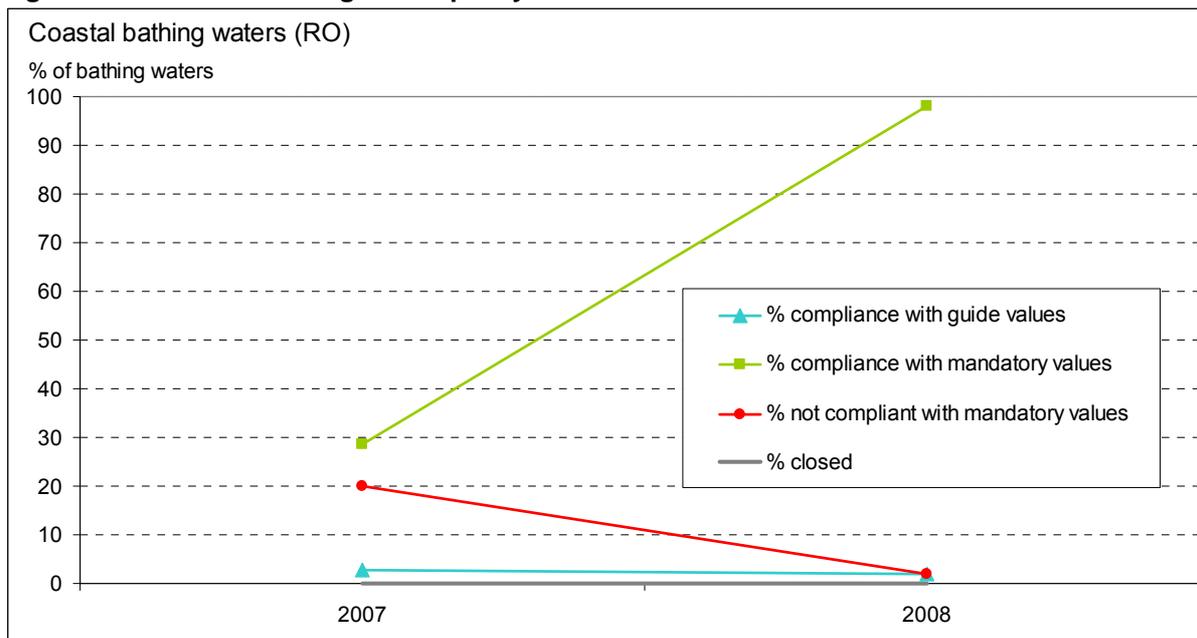


Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Romania in 2007 and 2008 as absolute numbers

		RO				
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values	Compliance with mandatory values	Not compliant	Banned/closed throughout the season
Coastal bathing water	2007	35	1	10	7	0
	2008	49	1	48	1	0

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive were not included in this table. Therefore, in some cases, the sum of the different categories will not be equal to the total number of bathing waters.

Table 2: Results of bathing water quality in Romania in 2007 and 2008 as percentages

		RO				
		Total number of bathing waters	% compliance with guide values	% compliance with mandatory values	% not compliant	% banned/closed throughout the season
Coastal bathing water	2007	35	2.9	28.6	20.0	0.0
	2008	49	2.0	98.0	2.0	0.0

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive are not included in this table. Therefore, in some cases, the sum of the percentages is not equal to 100%.

4. Development of bathing water quality

In Romania, 98% of the coastal bathing waters (48) met the mandatory values in 2008. Only one bathing water was not-compliant. This is a very significant increase compared to the previous year, when 28.6% of the bathing waters met the mandatory values. In 2007, the compliance rate was low because a large percentage of the bathing waters (51%) was insufficiently sampled and could not be taken into account in the quality assessment. Only one bathing water (2%) met the more stringent guide value, the same as in 2007. The rate of the compliance with the guide values decreased by 0.8% because the total number of bathing waters increased. There is a large difference between the compliance with the mandatory and guide values. No coastal bathing had to be closed during the season, the same as in 2007.

5. General information as provided by Romanian authorities

Public communication during the summer season 2008

The public communication was achieved through direct communication (with informational panels, folders, posters, various activities), communication via media and online communication with web-site and other online tools

Direct communication:

- We had the full support of the environment NGOs, the National Administration Romanian Waters (NARW), the Ministry of Public Health (MoH), which offered a real support and awareness raising for the public.
- We have collaborated efficiently with the Constanta Prefecture, by sending a unitary message, in order to inform the tourists.
- The awareness campaigns had a positive public feedback. They must be continued, at a more extensive and complex level.

Communication through mass media:

- press conferences (together with the MoH, the Prefecture and other public institutions, in collaboration with NGOs), press visits on the beach, press releases, (regarding the cleaning aspect, inspections, informing campaigns), interviews.
- the workshop „Let`s keep the waters clean”, organised in Mangalia. 40 journalists from the local press were involved.

Informing and public awareness campaigns:

- “Respect the beach” - organised during the summer season. The public awareness campaign „Respect the Beach” was part of a Romanian – Dutch project „Implementation New Beach Management Policy of Black Sea Coast” – Pilot Area Mangalia ;
- “Let`s keep the waters clean” - national campaign initiated by NARW
- Clean Sea coast - campaign lead by the Water Directorate Dobrogea-Litoral (WDDL) together with the NGO Mare Nostrum;
- Youth Festival - Action developed in August, on which NARW and WDDL were partners, bringing their support through different promotional materials.
- Public Health Authority Constanta: a) Public information panels on the beach with 2 weeks bathing water quality results for each bathing water sampling point; b) Web site of the public Authority Constanta – with monitoring results published on the web; c) Mass-media: press releases, interviews in magazines, newspapers, radio, TV (local /national television); d) Weekly « Sea Side Bulletin » sent to the Ministry of Public Health, Constanta Prefecture, Sanitary States Inspectorate Constanta; e) Joint written information issued by Water Directorate Dobrogea Litoral Constanța, Public Health Authority Constanța and sent to the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Administration Romanian Waters, Constanța Municipality and mass-media.

Public participation in the establishment of the list of bathing waters for season 2008 in Romania

According to the national legislation in force, bathing zones are attributed for exploitation through auction, insuring a transparent public participation according to the Governmental Decision no. 241 from 16 February 2006 regarding the approval of hiring out Black Sea beaches, public states properties, that are in the administration of the National Administration „Romanian Waters”.

There was a public auction in April 2008 organized by the National Administration „Romanian Waters” – Water Directorate Dobrogea Litoral. The public announcement can be found on the web page : www.waterct.ro.

Starting with 2009 bathing season, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development proposed to involve the public in the establishment of the annual list of bathing waters by means of the existing mechanisms used within the framework of the Hydrographic Basin Committees. The bathing waters will be included in the management plans of the Hydrographic Basins and public participation will ve developed according to the Water Framework Directive requirements.

Public information in summer season 2008 was done by the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, directly or through their subordinated local units.

Measures for nont compliant bathing water

In the bathing season 2008 there was one exceedence of the mandatory values for microbiological parameter. In this case the following measures were taken:

- Weekly joint inter-institutional meetings with the I.N.C.D.M. Grigore Antipa; Water Direction Dobrogea Litoral Constanta (D.A.D.L Constanta) and Public Health Authority Constanta, regarding the bathing water quality and beaches for the selected bathing areas. Information forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Administration Romanian Waters, Ministry of Public Health, Prefecture of Constanta, Environmental Protection Agency Constanta, local mass media
- Inspection of the specific bathing areas performed by the Sanitary States Inspectorate Constanta and Environmental Guard Constanta
- Evaluating the values exceeding the norms by taking into account the total number of analyzed samples and frequency
- Actions were taken to hygienize the beeches, collect the algae which were present in a grater quantity in the bathing season 2008 and waste by D.A.D.L. Constanta
- The beach operators were informed and they were asked to respect the contractual obligations regarding the hygienic condition of the beach areas
- D.A.D.L. Constanta monitored the local waste water treatment plants

6. More information on bathing water quality in the European Union

More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the reports for 27 Member States and the EU summary report, can be found on the bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html).

By 2015, Member States will have to comply with the stricter and more ambitious requirements laid out in the new Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC). This Directive requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information. More information on the new Directive can be found on the bathing water quality website and on <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>.

Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden started to report according to more stringent new requirements in 2008 bathing season, while Luxembourg already started in 2007 bathing season.

WISE - Water Information System for Europe (www.water.europa.eu) is a gateway to all water related information. Among other water related data, information on individual bathing water quality can be found in the WISE Map viewer and WISE Data viewer through interactive maps and graphs (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>).

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2008 bathing season in Romania

