

Bathing water results 2008 – Poland

1. Introduction

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Poland during the 2008 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 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

The bathing season started from 1 April to 8 July and closed from 26 August to 30 September 2008 for coastal bathing waters. The bathing season opened in the period between 1 June and 15 July 2008 for most freshwater bathing waters and closed in the period between 1 August and 30 September 2008.

A total of 320 bathing waters were monitored in Poland during the 2008 bathing season, of which 89 were coastal bathing waters (87) or in estuaries (2) and 231 freshwater bathing waters (37 on rivers; 194 on lakes). Four freshwater bathing waters were insufficiently sampled. The frequency of sampling was reduced for one coastal and two freshwater bathing waters.

With 320 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 2008. Similarly, the number of freshwater bathing waters increased from 227 in 1990 to 257 in 2007. There were 26 less freshwater bathing waters in 2008 than in the previous year: three new bathing waters were added to the list and 29 were de-listed.

3. Results of bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Poland for the period 2005-2007 as reported in 2008 report and for the bathing season of 2008 are presented in Figure 1.

The graphs show, for coastal and freshwater 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 (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 freshwater 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.

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Poland from 2005 to 2008

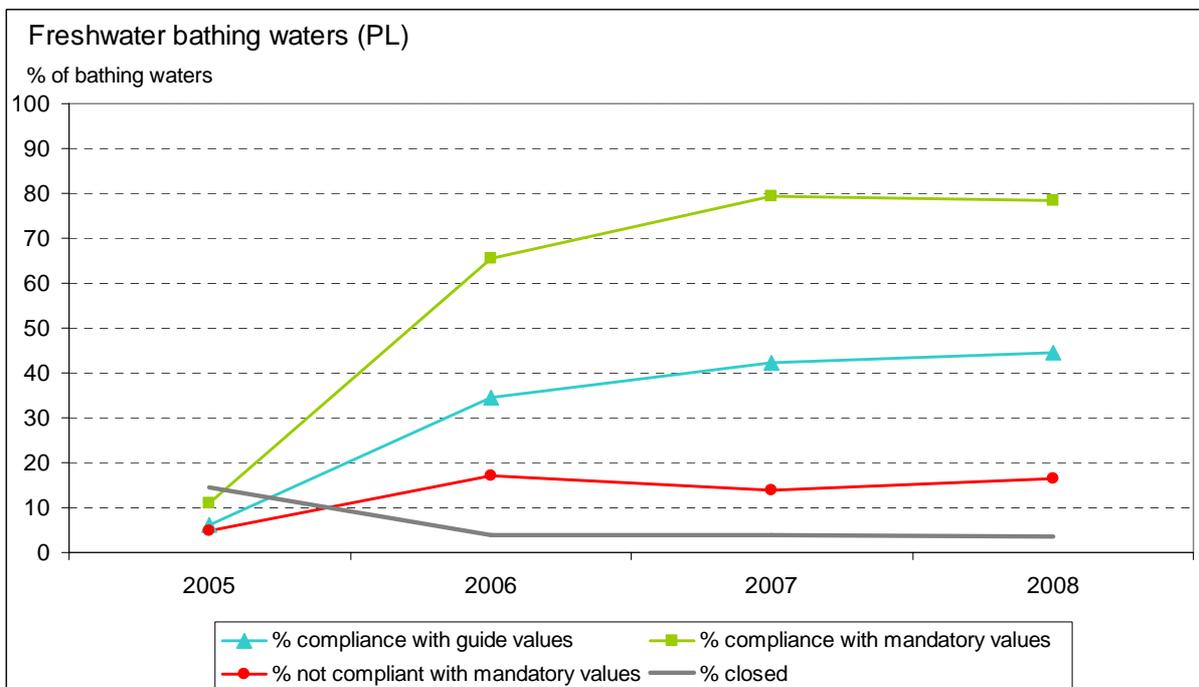
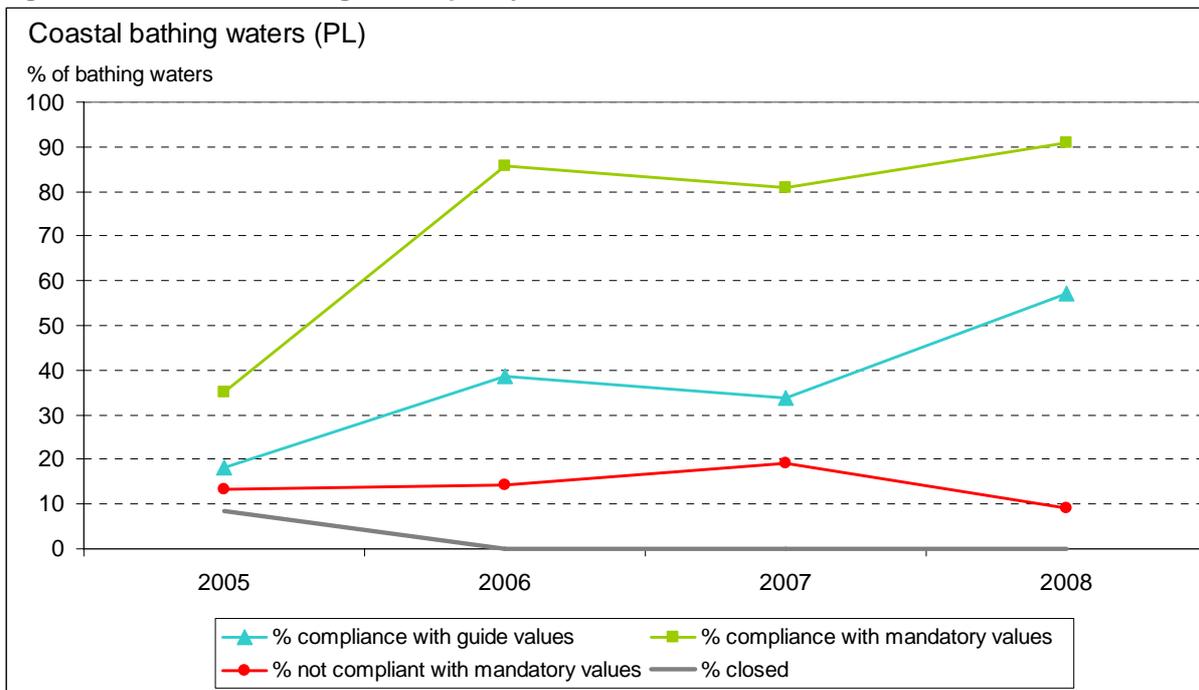


Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Poland from 2005 to 2008 as absolute numbers

	Year	Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values	Compliance with mandatory values	Not compliant	Banned/ closed throughout the season
PL						
Coastal bathing waters	2005	60	11	21	8	5
	2006	70	27	60	10	0
	2007	89	30	72	17	0
	2008	89	51	81	8	0
Fresh-water bathing waters	2005	227	14	25	11	33
	2006	253	87	166	43	10
	2007	257	109	204	36	10
	2008	231	103	181	38	8

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 Poland from 2005 to 2008 as percentages

	Year	Total number of bathing waters	% compliance with guide values	% compliance with mandatory values	% not compliant	%banned/ closed throughout the season
PL						
Coastal bathing waters	2005	60	18.3	35.0	13.3	8.3
	2006	70	38.6	85.7	14.3	0.0
	2007	89	33.7	80.9	19.1	0.0
	2008	89	57.3	91.0	9.0	0.0
Fresh-water bathing waters	2005	227	6.2	11.0	4.8	14.5
	2006	253	34.4	65.6	17.0	4.0
	2007	257	42.4	79.4	14.0	3.9
	2008	231	44.6	78.4	16.5	3.5

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%.

Table 3: Results of bathing water quality for all bathing waters in Poland in 2008

	Year	Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values	Compliance with mandatory values	Not compliant	Banned/ closed throughout the season
PL						
Bathing Waters	2008	320	155	264	48	8

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

4. Development of bathing water quality

Coastal bathing waters

In Poland, 91% of the coastal bathing waters (81) met the mandatory values in 2008. This is an increase of 10.1% compared to the previous year. 57.3% of the bathing waters (51) met the more stringent guide values, which is a significant increase (+ 23.6). The percentage of the bathing waters that met the mandatory values, however, was still quite higher as for the more stringent guide values (+ 33.7%). The percentage of not-compliant bathing waters decreased from 19.1% (17) to 9% (8 bathing waters). No coastal bathing water had to be closed during the season.

Since 2005, there was an improvement in the quality of the coastal bathing waters, both in terms of compliance with the mandatory values and the guide values.

Freshwater bathing waters

78.4% of the freshwater bathing waters (181) met the mandatory values in 2008. This is a decrease compared to the previous year (- 1%). The rate of compliance with the guide values increased by 2.2%, reaching 44.6% of the bathing waters (103). The difference between the percentage of the bathing waters that met the mandatory values and the more stringent guide values was almost the same as for the coastal bathing waters (+ 33.8%). The percentage of non-compliant bathing waters increased from 14% (36) to 16.5% (38 bathing waters). Eight bathing waters (3.5%) had to be closed during the season.

Since 2005, there was an improvement in the compliance with the mandatory values and the guide values. 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. The percentage of bathing water being closed during the season was less than 5% of the bathing waters in the last three seasons, which is a decrease compared to 2005 (14.5%).

5. General information as provided by the Polish authorities

Data on bathing water quality in Poland, like in previous years, was provided to the public on the website of Chief Sanitary Inspectorate. 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.

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

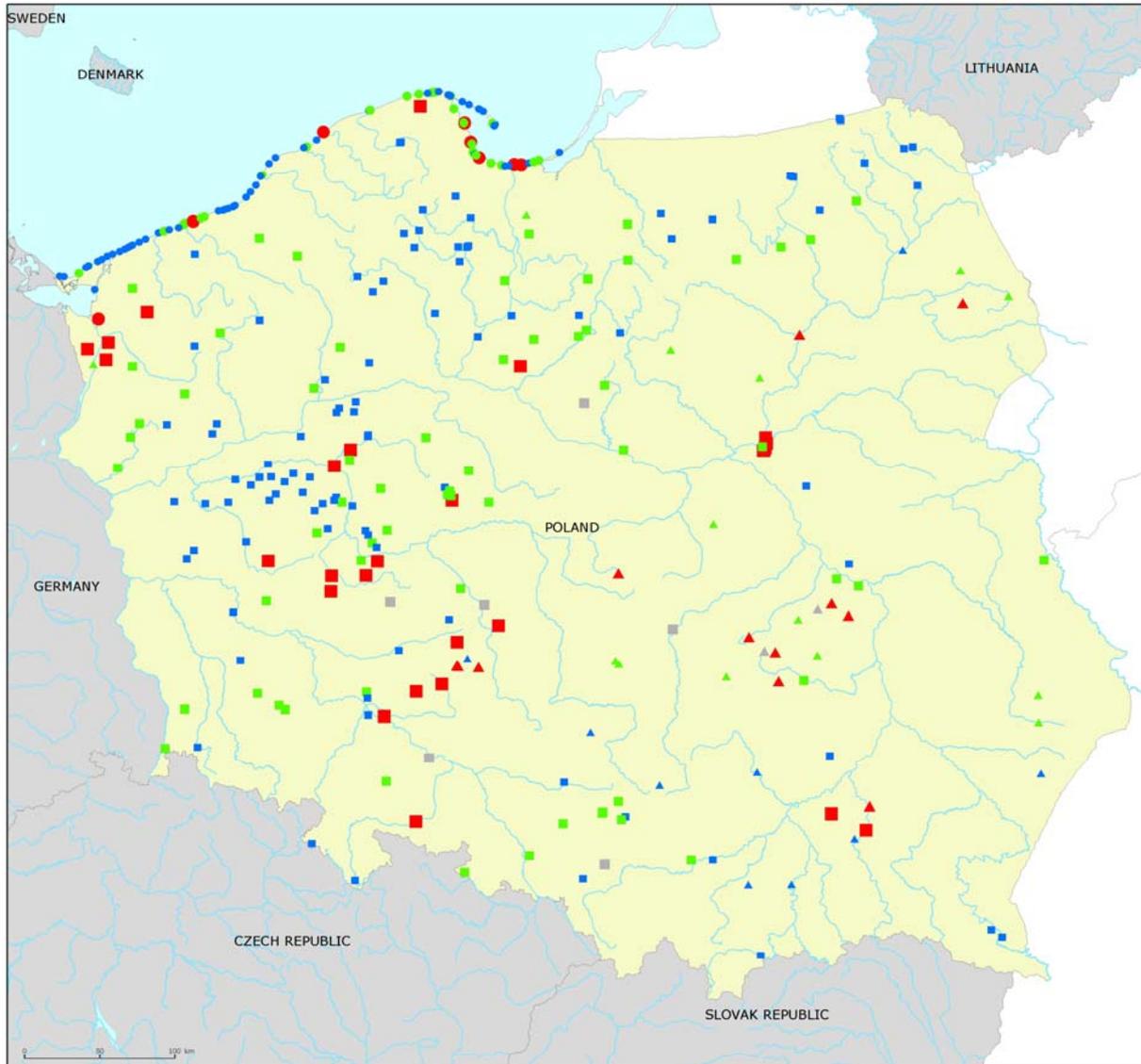
More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the reports for 27 Member States and the EU summary report, can be found on the bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html).

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 Poland



Bathing water quality			No data
Bathing waters on rivers	Bathing waters on lakes	Coastal/transitional bathing waters	☐ No data
▲ Compliant with guide values	■ Compliant with guide values	● Compliant with guide values	■ Outside data coverage (data available, not presented on the map)
▲ Compliant with mandatory values	■ Compliant with mandatory values	● Compliant with mandatory values	
▲ Closed*	■ Closed*	● Closed*	
▲ Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	■ Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	● Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
▲ Not compliant with mandatory values	■ Not compliant with mandatory values	● Not compliant with mandatory values	

Note: * banned (temporarily closed) or closed throughout the season
 More data on bathing water quality on: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/mapviewers/bathing>
Source: National boundaries: GISCO
 Large rivers and lakes: ESA, WFD Article 3
 Bathing waters data and coordinates: Polish authorities