



Bathing water results 2011 – France

1. Reporting and assessment

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in France during the 2011 bathing season. France has reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC since 2010.

Before the necessary data set for assessment of bathing water quality under the Directive 2006/7/EC is compiled (data for three or four consecutive years) the rules for transition period assessment are applied. This means that the classification of bathing waters is defined on the basis of concentrations of intestinal enterococci and *Escherichia coli* that are reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC. The limit values for the classification are taken from the Directive 76/160/EEC. For the conversion of reported parameters under the Directive 2006/7/EC, Article 13.3 of the Directive 2006/7/EC foresees that the parameter *Escherichia coli*, reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC, is assumed to be equivalent to the parameter faecal coliforms of the Directive 76/160/EEC. The parameter intestinal enterococci reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC is assumed to be equivalent to the parameter faecal streptococci.

The results are classified in the following categories:

- **Class CI:** Compliant with the mandatory value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for *Escherichia coli* and not compliant with the guide values of the Directive 76/160/EEC for *Escherichia coli* or intestinal enterococci;
- **Class CG:** Compliant with the mandatory value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for *Escherichia coli* and the more stringent guide values for the *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci;
- **Class NC:** Not compliant with the mandatory value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for *Escherichia coli*;
- **Class B:** Banned or closed;
- **Class NF:** Insufficiently sampled;
- **Class NS:** Not sampled.

The frequency of sampling is set out in Annex IV of the Directive 2006/7/EC. Including a sample to be taken shortly before the start of the bathing season, the minimum number of samples taken per bathing season is four. However, only three samples are sufficient when the bathing season does not exceed eight weeks or the region is subject to special geographical constraints. Sampling dates are to be distributed throughout the bathing season.

Strictly speaking, there should be one pre-season sample and the interval between sampling should not exceed one month. Since a late start of monitoring and/or low frequency do not necessarily indicate unsatisfactory bathing water quality, it has been accepted that the first sample in the 2011 season could be taken shortly after the start of the season (but within 10 days after the start), and the maximum interval between two samples taken into account is 41 days. These criteria are described as less strict. In this report a compliance class under the strict rules and less strict criteria are presented.

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

The bathing season started between 15 May and 25 July 2011 and ended between 31 August and 30 September 2011 for coastal bathing waters. Inland bathing waters opened between 29 April and 19 July 2011 and closed between 24 July and 2 October 2011. In the Antilles (Guadeloupe, Martinique), French Guiana and Réunion, bathing waters were opened the whole year.

A total of 3 333 bathing waters were reported in France during the 2011 bathing season, of which 2 029 were coastal (2 012) or transitional bathing waters (17) and 1 304 were inland bathing waters (476 on rivers; 828 on lakes). Five coastal and 39 inland bathing waters were reported as de-listed (permanently closed) compared to the previous year. A total of 21 coastal and 29 inland bathing waters were added to the list.

With 3 333 reported bathing waters France accounts for about 15.8 % of the reported bathing waters of the European Union.

3. Bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in France for the period 1991-2010 as reported in the past reporting years and for the bathing season of 2011 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/ Bathing Water/ 2005-2011 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, 2009 and 2010 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 (class B, grey line).

Table 1 shows the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages for coastal, inland and all bathing waters from 2008 on. The numbers and percentages of insufficiently sampled or not sampled bathing waters are also presented. For the year 2010 results applying the less strict rules are presented if they differ from results applying the strict rules.

A map given in Appendix 1 shows the location and quality of the bathing waters.

Coastal bathing waters

In France, 85.7 % of the coastal bathing waters met the mandatory water quality in 2011. This is a decrease of 3.7 % compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values decreased from 68.4 % to 65.1 %. A total of 44 bathing waters (2.2 %) were non-compliant with the mandatory value for *Escherichia coli* compared to eight in 2010, which is an increase of 1.8 %. No bathing waters (0.0 %) had to be closed during the bathing season, the same as in 2010. A total of 247 bathing waters (12.2 %) were insufficiently sampled or not sampled compared to 205 (10.2 %) in 2010.

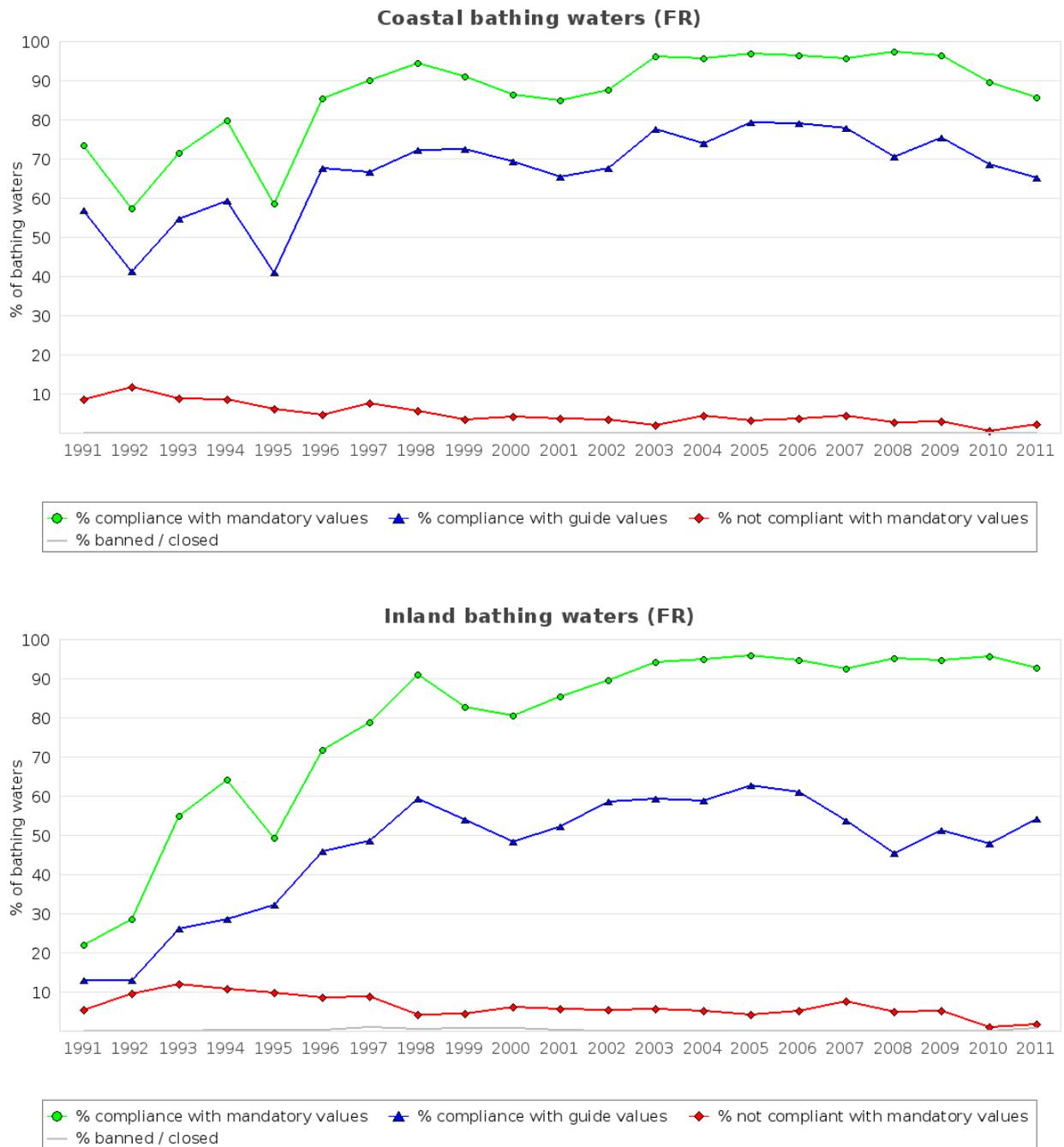
For comparison since the start of the reporting please see Figure 1.

Inland bathing waters

Some 92.8 % of the inland bathing waters met the mandatory water quality in 2011. This is a decrease of 2.9 % compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values increased from 47.7 % to 54.1 %. A total of 23 bathing waters (1.8 %) were non-compliant with the mandatory value for *Escherichia coli* compared to 13 in 2010, which is an increase of 0.8 %. A total of 11 bathing waters (0.8 %) had to be closed during the bathing season compared to none (0.0 %) in 2010. A total of 60 bathing waters (4.6 %) were insufficiently sampled or not sampled compared to 44 (3.3 %) in 2010.

For comparison since the start of the reporting please see Figure 1.

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in France from 1991 to 2011



Note: Data until 2008 is available in the previous reports at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html; Water/Bathing Water/ 2005-2011 reports.

Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in France from 2008 to 2011

FR												
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide and mandatory values*		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Banned/closed		Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
			number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Coastal bathing waters	2008**	1968	1387	70.5	1913	97.2	53	2.7	0	0.0	2	0.1
	2009**	2005	1513	75.5	1932	96.4	61	3.0	0	0.0	12	0.6
	2010	2012	1377	68.4	1799	89.4	8	0.4	0	0.0	205	10.2
	2011	2029	1321	65.1	1738	85.7	44	2.2	0	0.0	247	12.2
	2011 ^(s)	2029	1318	65.0	1735	85.5	44	2.2	0	0.0	250	12.3
Inland bathing waters	2008**	1344	609	45.3	1278	95.1	65	4.8	0	0.0	1	0.1
	2009**	1343	688	51.2	1271	94.6	68	5.1	0	0.0	4	0.3
	2010	1314	627	47.7	1257	95.7	13	1.0	0	0.0	44	3.3
	2011	1304	705	54.1	1210	92.8	23	1.8	11	0.8	60	4.6
	2011 ^(s)	1304	704	54.0	1208	92.6	23	1.8	11	0.8	62	4.8
All bathing waters	2008**	3312	1996	60.3	3191	96.3	118	3.6	0	0.0	3	0.1
	2009**	3348	2201	65.7	3203	95.7	129	3.9	0	0.0	16	0.5
	2010	3326	2004	60.3	3056	91.9	21	0.6	0	0.0	249	7.5
	2011	3333	2026	60.8	2948	88.4	67	2.0	11	0.3	307	9.2
	2011 ^(s)	3333	2022	60.7	2943	88.3	67	2.0	11	0.3	312	9.4

*Bathing waters which were compliant with the guide values were also compliant with the mandatory values for five parameters under the Directive 76/160/EEC (2008-2009) or the mandatory value for *Escherichia coli* (2010-2011).

**Considering class A and class B from national classification (class A = class CG, class B = class CI).

^(s)Strict rules applied (see Chapter 1 of this report).

4. Important information as provided by the French authorities

The French authorities have reported for some bathing waters also reasons for changes (Table 2).

Further information is available on national website <http://baignades.sante.gouv.fr>

Table 2: Reasons for changes for the 2011 season as reported by the French authorities

Unique Identification Code of Bathing Water	Bathing Water Name	Bathing Water Category	Management Measures	Reason for closure
FR210203073D077010	LES FORESTIERES DU LAC	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison financière
FR221201053D010260	LASSICOURT - C.P.A.M.	lake	Permanently closed	trou à pêche
FR221203219D010404	VERPILLIÈRES SUR OURCE	river	Permanently closed	arrêté d'interdiction définitif
FR224204022D028005	PARC AQUATIQUE DU PERCHE	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison sanitaire + zone non fréquentée
FR224502094D041040	ETANG DE LA COUDRAIE	lake	Permanently closed	zone non fréquentée
FR230101114D059012	ETANG DU PONT ROUGE	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison sanitaire
FR230203022M062210	DANNES CENTRE PLAGE	coastal	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR241203219D055060	BAIGNADE AU CAMPING LES PAQUIS (MEUSE)	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR243103045D025215	PETITE PLAGE DU LAC REMORAY	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR243300000D070457	BAIGNADE DE L'ETANG DE FALLON	lake	Permanently closed	site privé - le propriétaire ne souhaite plus l'ouvrir au public
FR243302303D070425	BAIGNADE DU LAC - BASE DE VOILE	lake	Permanently closed	plan d'eau traité, ne correspondant pas à la définition de la directive 2006/7/CE
FR251503015M085215	LE PETIT PONT	coastal	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR252203030M029058	KERARMEL	coastal	Permanently closed	zone non fréquentée
FR252203030M029061	TRAON NEVEZ (FACE RUISSEAU)	coastal	Permanently closed	zone non fréquentée

Unique Identification Code of Bathing Water	Bathing Water Name	Bathing Water Category	Management Measures	Reason for closure
FR252403091D056062	ETANG DE KERNEVY	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison financière
FR253101088D016148	LA FITOUSE	river	Permanently closed	raison financière
FR253101116D016206	CAMPING MUNICIPAL " LE CHAMPION"	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR253101211D016378	LES FORGES	river	Permanently closed	zone peu fréquentée + site privé
FR253102008D016120	SAINT SEURIN	lake	Permanently closed	raison financière
FR253102010D016032	PETITE FURNE	river	Permanently closed	raison financière + zone peu fréquentée
FR253102018D016058	PLAGE DES GRAVIERS	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité + zone peu fréquentée
FR253102038D016153	ILE MADAME	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité + zone peu fréquentée
FR253102056D016002	LE VIEUX BOURG	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison financière + zone peu fréquentée
FR253102095D016402	LE PETIT PONT	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR253103007D016038	LE MOULIN GUITARD	river	Permanently closed	raison financière
FR253203005M017046	PLAGE DU LOIRON	coastal	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR253401078D086085	ST SAUVEUR - LES PETITES MINAUDIERES	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison financière
FR253402008D086010	AVAILLES LIMOUZINE - CAMPING (LA VIENNE)	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison financière
FR253402025D086023	CHATEAU GARNIER - ETANG COMMUNAL	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour raison financière
FR262802019D082340	PLAGE AVAL MOULIN	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR263102031D019070	ETANG DE TAYSSE	lake	Permanently closed	vente de la propriété
FR263102094D019170	LE GIBANEL	lake	Permanently closed	zone non fréquentée
FR263103026D019095	CHABRAT	lake	Permanently closed	fermeture pour raison financière
FR272301008D043175	ALLIER - RIVE GAUCHE PONT DE AUZON	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR272301051D043090	ALLIER_RIVE_GAUCHE_CAMPING	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR272301065D043095	LA SENOUIRE - FRIDIÈRE	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR272302006D043035	LOIRE AMONT DU BOURG	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR272302051D043145	LES PLANCHAS .	lake	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR272303003D043130	LOIRE RIVE GAUCHE: PORT BUISSON	river	Permanently closed	zone non fréquentée - attractivité d'un autre site
FR281201041D030645	LE CARTAU	river	Permanently closed	zone non fréquentée
FR281201098D030656	LES TUILLIERES	river	Permanently closed	absence d'eau
FR281502031D066050	PLAN D'EAU D.F.C.I. ET TOURISTIQUE	lake	Permanently closed	plan d'eau traité, ne correspondant pas à la définition de la directive 2006/7/CE
FR282501057D083199	LE GOUR	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR282603018D084095	GORGES DE L'OUVEZE	river	Permanently closed	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR224101013D018024	ETANG DE BADINEAU	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR224602091D045065	L'ILE CHARLEMAGNE N°2 ZONE EST	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	interdiction pour motif de sécurité
FR226201043D058055	COLONIE DE VACANCES CCAS	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	site fermé: interdiction pour motif de sécurité - baignade non surveillée
FR226302042D071204	ETANG DE BONDILLY	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	fermeture pour travaux
FR243202310D039050	PLAGE DE SURCHAUFFANT (LAC DE VOUGLANS)	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	interdiction pour motif de sécurité - sécheresse
FR253401005D086005	ARCHIGNY - PLAN D'EAU COMMUNAL	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	fermeture pour travaux

Unique Identification Code of Bathing Water	Bathing Water Name	Bathing Water Category	Management Measures	Reason for closure
FR253402062D086058	PAYRE - LES ILES DE PAYRE (LA DIVE DE COUHE)	river	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	sécheresse
FR271401057D038010	CORPS - LAC DU SAUTET - CAMPING	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	manque de prélèvements
FR272202023D015015	LA SIAUVE	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	sécheresse
FR272302057D043125	PLAN D'EAU DU MOULIN DE SAVIN	lake	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	fermeture pour travaux
FR281203065D030319	BAIGNADE DE SAUMANE	river	Bathing water closed for the entire season.	fermeture pour travaux

5. More information on bathing water quality in Europe

Of the more than 21 000 bathing areas monitored throughout the European Union in 2011, two thirds were in coastal waters and the rest in rivers and lakes. The largest numbers of coastal bathing waters can be found in Italy, Greece, France and Spain, while Germany and France have the highest numbers of inland bathing waters.

During recent years, including the 2011 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. Austria, Belgium - Walloon Region, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia reported under the new directive for the first time in 2010, while Belgium - Flemish Region, Bulgaria, Ireland and Poland reported under this Directive for the first time in 2011. Historical data of two microbiological parameters, *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci were sent by Sweden (2005-2007), Luxembourg (2006), Malta (2006-2008), Belgium - Walloon Region (2007-2009), Belgium - Flemish Region (2008-2010), Greece (2007-2009), Hungary (2007) and Portugal (2007-2009).

Three non-EU countries, Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland have reported monitoring results under the new directive. Croatia and Switzerland started to report in 2009, while Montenegro reported for the first time in 2010. Switzerland sent data on *Escherichia coli* for all bathing waters but only for some data on intestinal enterococci.

For the 2011 season, bathing water quality has been assessed under the new bathing water directive in 16 European countries. This is 13 more than for 2010 bathing season. Only three countries - the Czech Republic, Romania and the United Kingdom - are still assessed under the old bathing water directive. Eleven countries are assessed under the transition period rules.

Overall in 2011, 92.1 % of bathing waters in the EU met the minimum water quality standards set by the bathing water directives. Bathing water quality increased at 0.6 % of sites in 2011 compared to 2010. The proportion of bathing waters with excellent quality (or complying with the more stringent guide values) increased by 3.5 percentage points compared to 2010, reaching 77.1 %. The share of non-compliant bathing waters was 1.8 %, which was a 0.1 percentage point increase from 2010. In 2011, 207 bathing waters were banned or closed (1 %), which was 57 more than in the 2010 bathing season.

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 (IWRS), 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 bathing water quality at more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland 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 visualising 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 inland 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 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 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 added by users. For historical data Water Watch uses a simplified index of bathing water quality data. The Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland (one municipality), Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, England and Wales were also sending near real time information on bathing water quality to the Eye on Earth application. The bathing water quality for Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Scotland and Northern Ireland was also presented on the 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>.

Appendix 1

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2011 bathing season in France

