

## Bathing water results 2010 – The United Kingdom

### 1. Reporting and assessment

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

The United Kingdom reported 12 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, 13 Tarry residues and floating materials).

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 ran from 15 May to 30 September 2010 in England and Wales (4.5 months) and from 1 June to 15 September 2010 in Scotland and Northern Ireland (3.5 months) with some variations depending on geographical and climatic factors. In Gibraltar, the bathing season lasted 6.5 months, from 15 April to 30 October 2010, for all coastal bathing waters, except for one that was closed on 5 October.

A total of 608 bathing waters were reported in the United Kingdom during the 2010 bathing season, of which 596 were coastal bathing waters (519; including six in Gibraltar) or in estuaries (77) and 12 inland bathing waters on lakes. The number of inland bathing waters is very low compared to the coastal bathing waters reported because there is a tradition in the UK of swimming in the sea.

With 608 reported bathing waters the United Kingdom accounts for about 2.9 % 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 437 in 1990 to 596 in 2008 and remained the same afterwards. In 2010, four bathing waters were de-listed and four were added to the list compared to the previous year. The reporting of inland bathing waters started in 1998. The number of inland bathing waters increased from nine in 1998 to 12 in 2008 and remained the same till 2010.

### 3. Bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in the United Kingdom for the period 1990-2009 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](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 the United Kingdom for all bathing waters.

Map 1 shows the locations of the reported bathing waters in the United Kingdom. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the U.K. authorities.

#### Coastal bathing waters

In the United Kingdom, the mandatory values were met for 96.8 % of the coastal bathing waters in 2010. This is a decrease of 0.3 % compared to the previous year. Some 82.2 % of the bathing waters met the more stringent guide values, which is an increase of 2.2 %. A total of 16 bathing waters (2.7 %) were non-compliant with the mandatory values compared to 14 (2.3 %) in 2009. Three coastal bathing waters (0.5 %) had to be closed during the season.

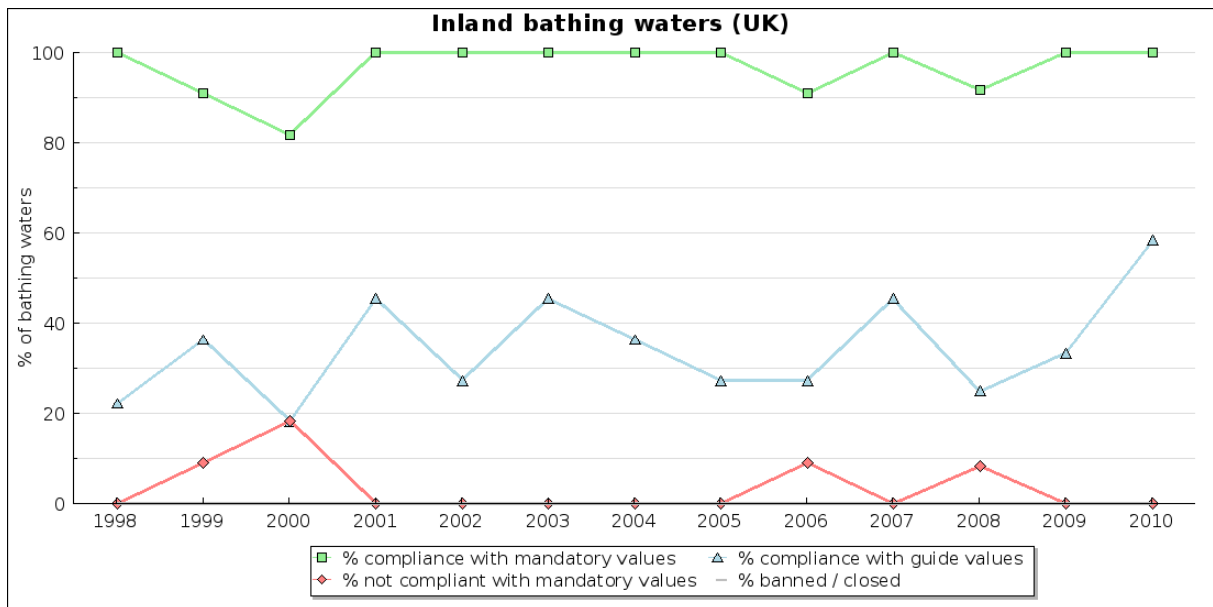
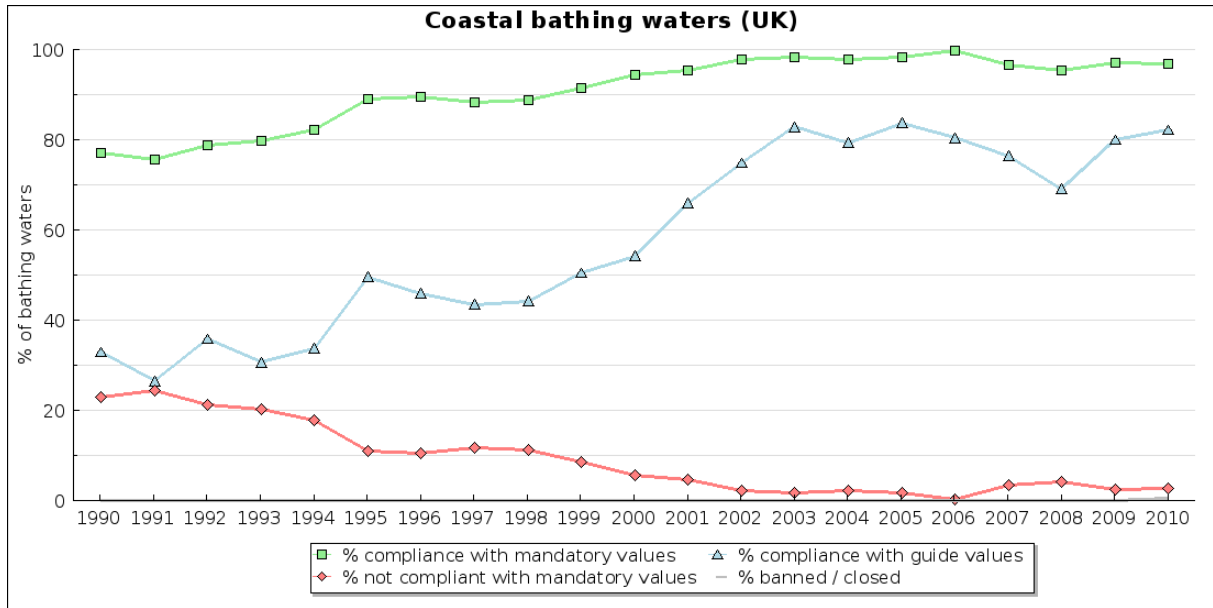
The water quality of coastal bathing waters has improved since 1990. Since 2001, the percentage of bathing waters complying with mandatory values was above 95 %. Since 1997, the percentage of bathing waters complying with the more stringent guide values has improved, with a slight drop below 80 % in 2004 and 2007 and below 70 % in 2008. In 2009 and 2010, the compliance with the guide values reached again 80 %. Since the start of reporting in 1990, no coastal bathing water had to be closed during the season, except for three bathing waters in 2010.

#### Inland bathing waters

All 12 inland bathing waters met the mandatory values in 2010, the same as in the previous year. Seven bathing waters (58.3 %) met the more stringent guide values compared to four (33.3 %) in 2009. Since the start of reporting in 1998, no inland bathing water had to be closed during the season.

Since 2001, all inland bathing waters complied with mandatory values, except in 2006 and 2008, when one bathing water was non-compliant. Since 2001, the percentages of inland bathing waters that complied with the more stringent guide values fluctuated between 25 % in 2008 and 58.3 % in 2010.

**Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in the United Kingdom from 1990 to 2010**



**Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in the United Kingdom from 1990 to 2010**

UK												
		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	1990	437	144	33.0	337	77.1	100	22.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1991	453	120	26.5	343	75.7	110	24.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1992	455	163	35.8	358	78.7	97	21.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1993	457	140	30.6	365	79.9	92	20.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1994	457	154	33.7	376	82.3	81	17.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1995	464	230	49.6	413	89.0	51	11.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1996	472	217	46.0	422	89.4	50	10.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1997	492	214	43.5	435	88.4	57	11.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1998	502	222	44.2	446	88.8	56	11.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1999	541	273	50.5	495	91.5	46	8.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2000	551	299	54.3	520	94.4	31	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2001	552	364	65.9	526	95.3	26	4.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2002	553	414	74.9	541	97.8	12	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2003	560	464	82.9	551	98.4	9	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2004	562	446	79.4	549	97.7	13	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2005	565	473	83.7	555	98.2	10	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2006	567	456	80.4	565	99.6	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2007	573	438	76.4	553	96.5	20	3.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2008	596	412	69.1	569	95.5	24	4.0	0	0.0	3	0.5
	2009	596	477	80.0	579	97.1	14	2.3	0	0.0	3	0.5
2010	596	490	82.2	577	96.8	16	2.7	3	0.5	0	0.0	
Inland bathing waters	1998	9	2	22.2	9	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1999	11	4	36.4	10	90.9	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2000	11	2	18.2	9	81.8	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2001	11	5	45.5	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2002	11	3	27.3	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2003	11	5	45.5	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2004	11	4	36.4	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2005	11	3	27.3	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2006	11	3	27.3	10	90.9	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2007	11	5	45.5	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2008	12	3	25.0	11	91.7	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2009	12	4	33.3	12	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2010	12	7	58.3	12	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	

\*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 the United Kingdom in 2009 and 2010**

UK												
		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	608	481	79.1	591	97.2	14	2.3	0	0.0	3	0.5
	2010	608	497	81.7	589	96.9	16	2.6	3	0.5	0	0.0

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

#### 4. Important information as provided by the United Kingdom authorities

##### Monitoring and analytical methods

The national mandatory limit values for the UK and Gibraltar are the mandatory values set in the Annex to the Directive. The results for the UK are usually based on a minimum of 20 samples taken at approximately weekly intervals throughout the bathing season. Sampling has been reduced at 7 bathing sites in Scotland. Samples from Gibraltar beaches are taken on a weekly basis throughout the season.

The competent authorities in the UK have used the guidelines concerning sampling and sample handling, as agreed in the Bathing Water Committee. The main microbiological parameters are analysed using Membrane Filtration methods.

##### Water quality

A substantial deterioration on the quality of the bathing water was detected at Western Beach in Gibraltar and although mandatory values have been met in 2010, in the past twelve years this beach has continuously met the more stringent guideline values. This deterioration led to extensive investigative works to establish the source of the pollution. Although the bathing water has met mandatory standards it has been closed on 5 October 2010 and continues to remain closed to the public because of the high level of contamination which remains present and which continues to increase as shown by investigative sampling.

##### De-listing and closing of bathing waters

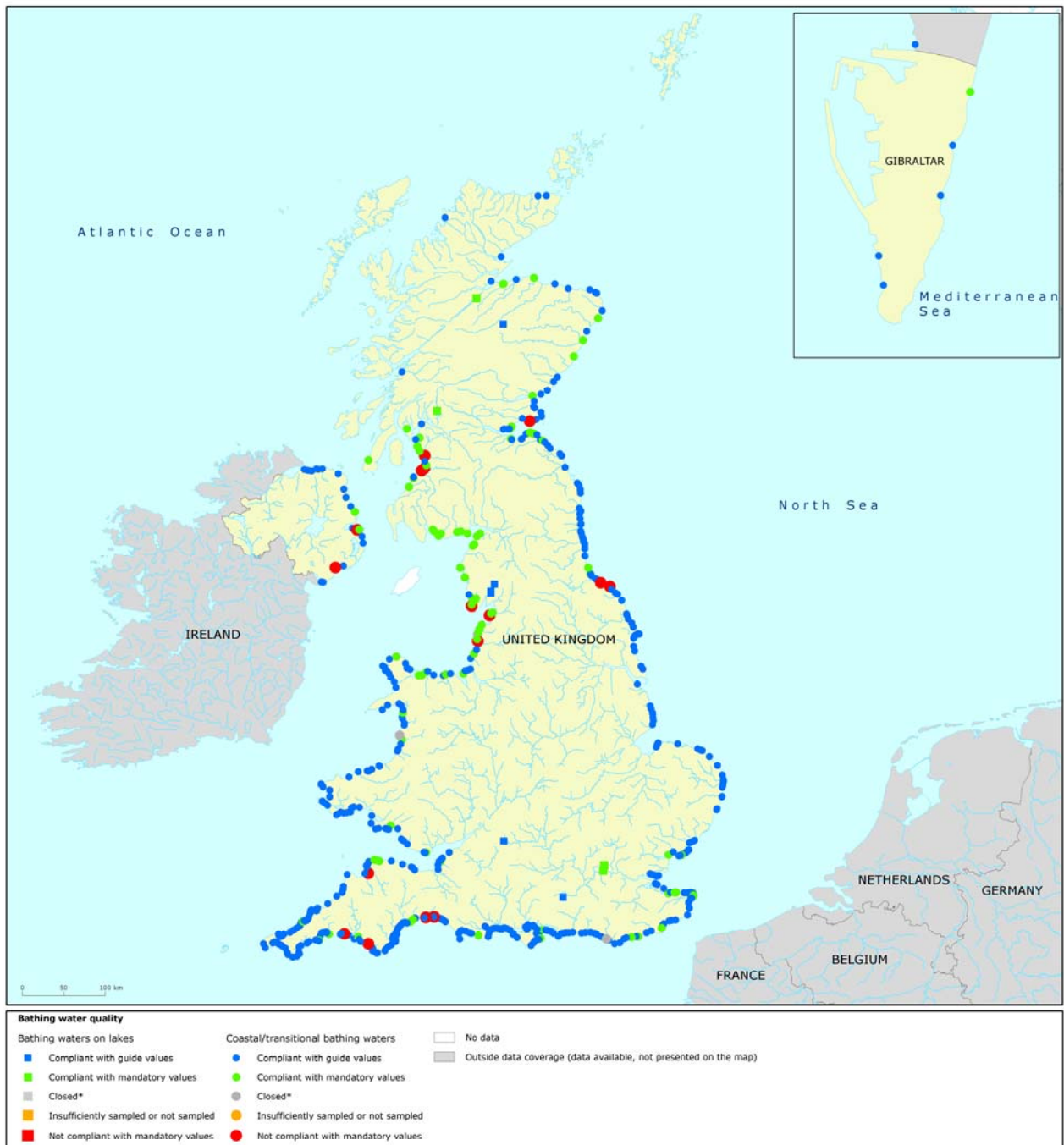
Four bathing waters were de-listed because of low usage as follows:

Name: <b>Aldingham</b> Code: UKD1203 Region: North West Province: Cumbria Commune: South Lakeland	Name: <b>Bardsea</b> Code: UKD1203 Region: North West Province: Cumbria Commune: South Lakeland	Name: <b>Barmston</b> Code: UKE1200 Region: North East Province: East Riding of Yorkshire Commune:	Name: <b>Newbiggin</b> Code: UKD1203 Region: North West Province: Cumbria Commune: South Lakeland
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Three bathing waters were closed during the 2010 bathing season (they were not sampled and not accessible to bathers) as follows:

Name: <b>Blackpool North</b> Code: UKD4200 Region: North West Province: Lancashire Commune: Blackpool	Name: <b>Newhaven</b> Code: UKJ2203 Region: Southern Province: East Sussex Commune: Lewes	Name: <b>Tywyn</b> Code: UKL1200 Region: Wales Province: Gwynedd Commune:
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**Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2009 bathing season in the United Kingdom**



## **Bathing water profiles**

The United Kingdom authorities provided the links to profiles for the UK bathing waters:

- England and Wales: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/127626.aspx>
- Scotland: [http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing\\_waters/bathing\\_water\\_profiles.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing_waters/bathing_water_profiles.aspx)
- Northern Ireland: [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/quality/bathingqualityni/bathing\\_water\\_profiles.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/quality/bathingqualityni/bathing_water_profiles.htm)
- Gibraltar: <http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/environment/environment#publications>.

## **Information to the public**

Bathing water quality information in the UK can be accessed through a wide range of sources, including the traditional poster scheme, which is operated at many UK bathing waters, and the internet, where up-to-date results of samples taken in 2010 were posted on the websites of the Environment Agency for bathing waters in England and Wales ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency for Scotland ([www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)) and in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: ([www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/quality/bathingqualityni.htm](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/quality/bathingqualityni.htm)).

Monitoring information is also available to the public on registers held by the competent authorities and detailed summaries are published annually.

A proactive bathing water management system, including the use of electronic signage for real-time bathing water quality predictions and a text messaging service, has continued at several locations in Scotland in 2010.

## **Treatment of wastewater**

In England and Wales, the water industry has now completed the programme of investigations and investment into the sewage treatment works and sewerage system funded for Asset Management Plan 4 (2005-2010) (AMP4). The industry is now implementing solutions to meet the requirements of the revised Bathing Water Directive during the AMP5 period (2010-2015). This will see a further £220m of capital investment, focusing on investigations at 32 bathing waters and capital enhancement projects at 102 assets impacting on bathing waters, as a direct consequence of the Bathing Water Directive or the revised Bathing Water Directive. There may also be additional benefit to bathing water quality from schemes funded under other Directives such as the Shellfish Waters Directive. The programme of funded enhancements includes some schemes to take bathing waters beyond the minimum requirements of the revised Bathing Water Directive to ensure that water industry assets do not prevent bathing water from obtaining "excellent" classification.

In Northern Ireland, the Strategic Business Plan programme running from 2007 to 2010 has resulted in a significant infrastructure investment to ensure compliance with the bathing water standards. This included two major projects to improve wastewater discharges impacting on 7 of Northern Ireland's 24 identified bathing waters.

In Scotland, the investment programme 'Quality and Standards 3' runs from 2006-14 and takes account of infrastructure investment requirements to ensure compliance with bathing water standards.

## **Treatment of sources of diffuse pollution**

Tackling diffuse water pollution from agriculture is a major part of UK water quality policy and a key element of achieving the objectives of the Bathing Water Directive and Water Framework Directive. UK authorities are working with farmers and others to develop measures to reduce diffuse water pollution from agricultural and urban sources, and to provide information and advice on how to achieve this.

One such programme is the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI), which operates in 50 catchments across England and which includes a number of catchments with identified bathing sites. These catchments were identified as priority areas for action to improve farm practices and reduce water pollution from agriculture. Since April 2007 the Initiative has been complemented by a limited capital grants scheme providing support for farmers investing in farm infrastructure items, such as fencing, that restrict the entry of faecal indicator organisms (FIOs) to water. From 2010 the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) became the source of funding of the Capital Grants and

contracted advice elements of the Initiative, and advice services will therefore be available on a wider scale rather than being restricted to the 50 priority catchments. The Capital Grant Scheme will remain relatively unchanged for the duration of the Initiative until March 2011, when a revised Scheme is planned.

In Wales the agro-environment schemes are being revised, with a new scheme, Glastir, being introduced in 2012. The basic level scheme is eligible across Wales and includes resource management planning to identify actions required to safeguard soil and water quality, plus templates for soil nutrient and manure management planning. The higher tier scheme is a part farm scheme intended to deliver significant improvements to the environmental status of a range of habitats, species, soils and water that might also require changes to current agricultural practices. Separately the Welsh Assembly Government is running the Catchment Sensitive Farming Grant Scheme under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Plan 2007-13 to mitigate diffuse agricultural pollution. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage investment in farm infrastructure and changes in farm practices so as to reduce emissions of pollutants to water bodies within NVZs. These objectives will be achieved by a combination of advice and grant aid aimed at tackling pollution at source and intercepting/mitigating pollution pathways.

The UK is continuing and enhancing its implementation of the EC Nitrates Directive, which aims to reduce pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources. New Regulations came into force from 1 January 2009 in England, Scotland and Wales establishing revised NVZs and a tougher Action Programme. A revised Action Programme covering the total territory of Northern Ireland and applicable to all farmers has been operational from 1 January 2007. The mandatory measures within the Action Programmes control the use and management of chemical nitrogen fertiliser and organic manures on farms located within the NVZs and across Northern Ireland. Studies have shown that these measures, although specifically designed to tackle nitrate pollution, will also reduce losses of faecal indicator organisms to water.

In order to develop appropriate policy interventions Defra funds significant research into understanding the relationships between agriculture, diffuse pollution and water quality, and evaluating the cost-effectiveness of different measures. Within this programme the Demonstration Test Catchments (DTC) Project has been set up in three catchments in England: the Eden (Cumbria); Wensum, (Norfolk); and Hampshire Avon. The project will provide evidence to support the implementation of agricultural land use measures to improve water quality at the scale of river catchments. DTC is establishing a 'platform' which will host future research activities on agricultural and catchment science. The work is also scoping improved decision-making approaches that could operate at local levels to influence farm practices. The project will investigate the impacts of pollution both on ecosystems and on sustainable production, and will provide information to better predict and control diffuse pollution from agriculture.

Scotland introduced the Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 in 2008 and is actively working with stakeholders to mitigate rural diffuse pollution through a major national campaign of awareness raising, guidance and training. Fourteen priority catchments have been selected for detailed characterisation and remedial action to reduce diffuse pollution by 2015. These catchments have been selected using a risk based approach for action, which includes the potential impact on bathing waters. Through partnership working the aim is to create a robust framework for the delivery of rural diffuse pollution mitigation actions. Raising awareness involves a national and a targeted approach within the priority catchments. A "national letter" has been sent to 22 000 farmers across Scotland, and the 4 000 farmers within the priority catchments have also been written to, advising them that catchment walks will be undertaken to map pollution sources and non-compliance with the diffuse pollution regulations, as well as good practice. The next step involves engagement with stakeholders at a local level to raise awareness of the findings and to discuss actions that could be taken to protect and improve water quality. A third phase will involve meeting individual farmers within the catchments on a one-to-one basis to carry out a detailed farm audit inspection focused on identifying sources and potential solutions. The Scotland Rural Development Programme, introduced in 2008, also offers funding to land managers towards the cost of certain measures to reduce diffuse pollution.

In Northern Ireland, in support of the revised Action Programme, the Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 came into operation, limiting the use of chemical phosphorus fertiliser to crop requirement. Agro-environment schemes providing for farm nutrient and pollution controls support agricultural methods to protect water quality. By the close of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2000-2006 some 13 000 farmers were participants, with approximately 455 000 hectares of land under management. As with England and Scotland, there is



ongoing development of similar policy projects to tackle non-agricultural diffuse water pollution within Northern Ireland.

In England and Wales policy projects to tackle non-agricultural diffuse water pollution include increasing the uptake of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) through new legislation which will require SUDS for new developments and will clarify the responsibility for ownership and maintenance of SUDS. In Scotland it is already required by legislation that, in most circumstances, new developments must include SUDS to control surface water drainage

In Wales, the Environment Strategy for Wales sets the commitment to tackle diffuse pollution. The specific outcome of the strategy is that diffuse pollution is better understood and action is being taken to reduce and manage diffuse pollution. The Environment Agency Wales is currently producing a plan to tackle diffuse pollution in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

## 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](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 quality of the bathing water at more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland bathing waters 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>