



Bathing water results 2012 – Italy

1. Reporting and assessment

In 2012 the Italian authorities reported under Directive 2006/7/EC provisions a list of their bathing waters, start and end of bathing season for each bathing water, short term pollution events, events impacting bathing water quality and measured values of concentrations of two microbiological parameters — intestinal enterococci and *Escherichia coli* (also known as *E. coli*). This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Italy for the 2012 bathing season. Italy has reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC since 2010.

The Annex IV of the new Directive requires a sample to be taken shortly before the start of the bathing season. Sampling dates are to be distributed throughout the bathing season, with the interval between sampling dates never exceeding one month. Taking into account one pre-season sample, no fewer than four samples are to be taken and analysed per bathing season. Three samples need be taken and analysed per bathing season in the case of a bathing water that either has a bathing season not exceeding eight weeks or is situated in a region subject to special geographical constraints. The result of such monitoring is used to build up the sets of bathing water quality data. Before the necessary data set for assessment of bathing water quality under the Directive 2006/7/EC is compiled (data for 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 in 2012.

Bathing water quality in 2012 season in Italy is assessed under the transition period rules, where the new Directive monitoring frequency requirements should be fulfilled. One pre-season sample should be available and the interval between sampling dates in 2012 should never exceed 35 days, provided that the next sampling is done according to the monitoring calendar.

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.

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

The bathing season started between 1 and 15 May 2012 and ended between 15 September and 31 October 2012 for coastal bathing waters. Inland bathing waters opened between 1 May and 2 July 2012 and closed between 26 August and 30 September 2012.

A total of 5 509 bathing waters were reported in Italy during the 2012 bathing season, of which 4 880 were coastal (4 815) or transitional bathing waters (65) and 629 were inland bathing waters (10 on

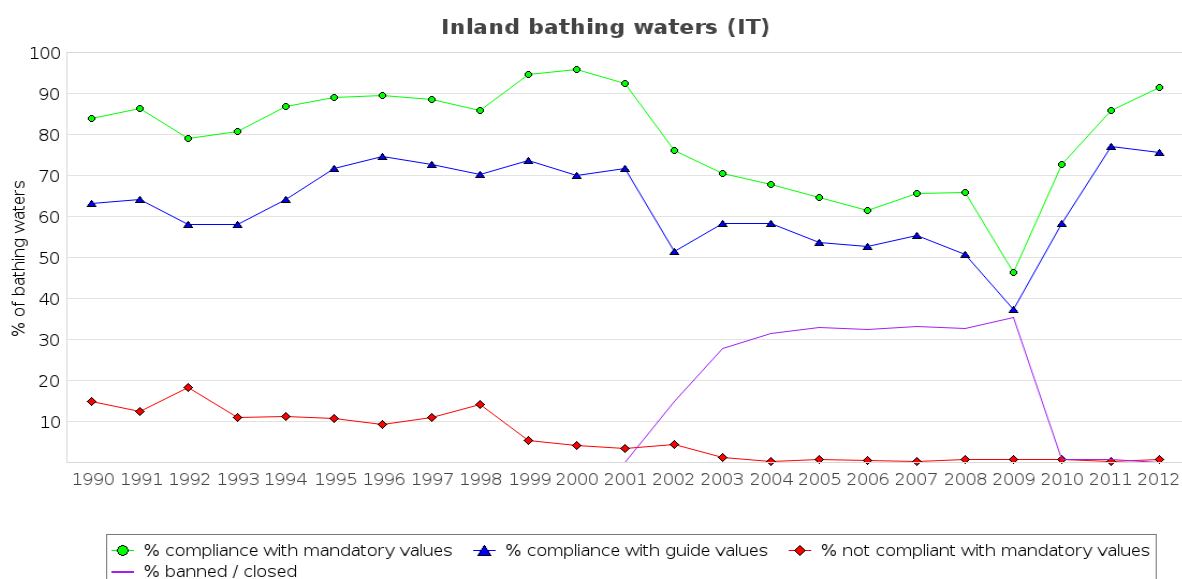
rivers; 619 on lakes). A total of 25 coastal and one inland bathing waters were reported as de-listed (permanently closed) compared to the previous year. Five coastal and 14 inland bathing waters were added to the list.

With 5 509 reported bathing waters Italy accounts for about 26.5 % of the reported bathing waters of the European Union.

3. Bathing water quality

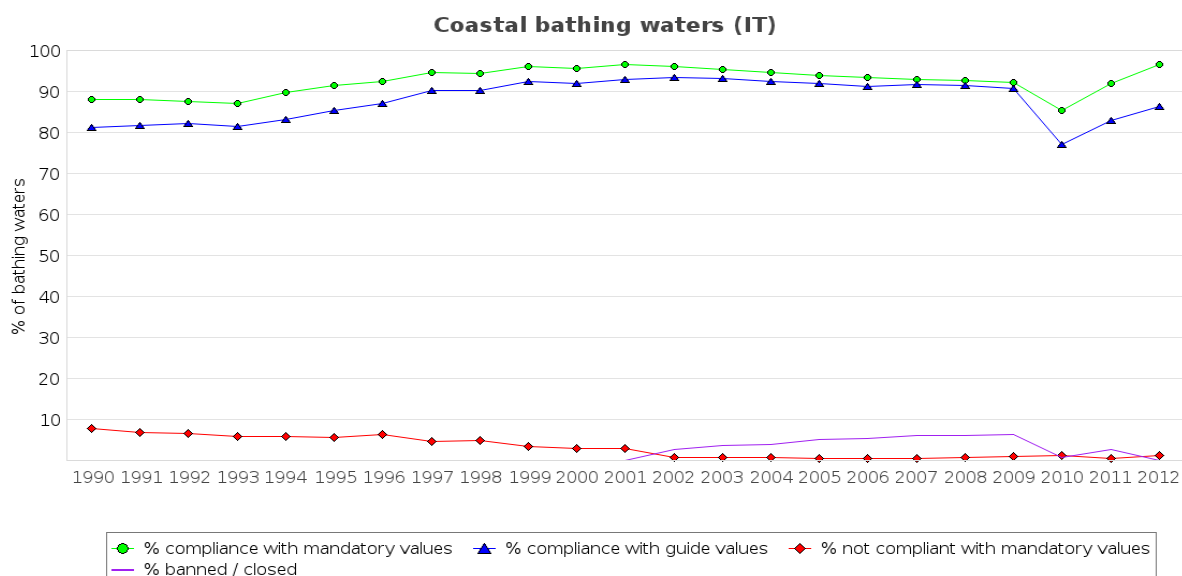
The results of the bathing water quality in Italy for the period 1990-2012 are presented in Figure 1¹. The previous reports are available on the European Commission's bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html) and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>).

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Italy from 1990 to 2012.



¹ 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, violet line).



Note: Data until 2008 are available in the previous reports at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html.

Table 1 shows the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages separately for inland and coastal and all bathing waters from 2008 on. The numbers and percentages of insufficiently sampled or not sampled bathing waters are also presented. A map given in Appendix 1 shows the location and quality of the bathing waters.

Coastal bathing waters

In Italy, 96.6 % of the coastal bathing waters met the mandatory water quality in 2012. This is an increase of 4.7 % compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values increased from 83.0 % to 86.3 %. A total of 61 bathing waters (1.3 %) were non-compliant with the mandatory value for *Escherichia coli* compared to 21 in 2011, which is an increase of 0.9 %. One bathing water was classified as closed during the 2012 bathing season. In 2011 there were 133 (2.7 %) closed bathing waters.

Inland bathing waters

Some 91.6 % of the inland bathing waters met the mandatory water quality in 2012. This is an increase of 5.8 % compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values decreased from 77.1 % to 75.5 %. Four bathing waters (0.6 %) were non-compliant with the mandatory value for *Escherichia coli* compared to two in 2011. No bathing waters were classified as closed during the bathing season compared to four (0.6 %) in 2011.

Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Italy from 2008 to 2012

IT												
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide and mandatory values*		Compliance with mandatory value		Not compliant		Banned/closed		Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
			number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Coastal bathing waters	2008	4917	4496	91.4	4563	92.8	42	0.9	302	6.1	10	0.2
	2009	4921	4467	90.8	4536	92.2	51	1.0	310	6.3	24	0.5
	2010	4896	3779	77.2	4174	85.3	57	1.2	33	0.7	632	12.9
	2011	4902	4069	83.0	4506	91.9	21	0.4	133	2.7	242	4.9
	2012	4880	4213	86.3	4712	96.6	61	1.3	1	0.0	106	2.2
Inland bathing waters	2008	767	390	50.8	505	65.8	5	0.7	251	32.7	6	0.8
	2009	770	287	37.3	357	46.4	5	0.6	273	35.5	135	17.5
	2010	596	348	58.4	433	72.7	4	0.7	5	0.8	154	25.8
	2011	647	499	77.1	555	85.8	2	0.3	4	0.6	86	13.3
	2012	629	475	75.5	576	91.6	4	0.6	0	0.0	49	7.8
All bathing waters	2008	5684	4886	86.0	5068	89.2	47	0.8	553	9.7	16	0.3
	2009	5691	4754	83.5	4893	86.0	56	1.0	583	10.2	159	2.8
	2010	5492	4127	75.1	4607	83.9	61	1.1	38	0.7	786	14.3
	2011	5549	4568	82.3	5061	91.2	23	0.4	137	2.5	328	5.9
	2012	5509	4688	85.1	5288	96.0	65	1.2	1	0.0	155	2.8

*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 or the mandatory value for *Escherichia coli*.

4. Important information as provided by the Italian authorities

185 bathing waters have had management measures due pollution imposed in 2012. Most of them were closures and information to public about health risks of swimming in the water.

Table 2 presents all bathing waters that were classified as not compliant with mandatory values in 2012. Some of them were also temporarily closed.

Table 2: Bathing waters not compliant with mandatory values in 2012.

Unique identification code (BWID)	Name	2012 comment
IT003013225002	TORR.BOLVEDRO (SP.MILA)	Temporarily closed
IT003016086001	LOC. BERSAGLIO	Temporarily closed
IT003097023001	LAGHETTO PIONA	Temporarily closed
IT003097023002	LIDO DI COLICO	Temporarily closed
IT006031012001	MARINA NOVA-CAMPING PANZANO LIDO	Temporarily closed
IT006031012002	MARINA JULIA-CONCESSIONI DEMANIALI	
IT007010025014	RIO VERNAZZA	
IT009049013005	SPIAGGIA LA ROSSA	
IT009053009006	NORD OVEST GORA	
IT011043042001	100 M SUD FOCE FIUME MUSONE	
IT013067001004	100 MT A SUD FOCE F. VIBRATA	Temporarily closed
IT013067037007	300 MT A SUD FOCE F. TORDINO	
IT013067047006	100 MT ANORD FOCE F. VIBRATA	Temporarily closed
IT013068028004	ZONA ANTISTANTE VIA BALILLA	
IT013068028006	300 MT NORD MOLO F. PESCARA	
IT013069035005	ZONA ANT.TE F.SSO S. LORENZO	Temporarily closed
IT013069058007	200 MT A SUD FOCE F. ARIELLI	
IT013069058008	350 MT A NORD FOCE F. FORO	
IT013069058009	350 MT A SUD FOCE F. FORO	
IT013069058010	400 MT A NORD FOCE F. ARIELLI	
IT013069058013	200 MT. A NORD FOCE FOSSO PETICCIO	
IT013069058014	200 MT. A SUD FOCE FOSSO PETICCIO	
IT013069086002	100 MT A NORD FOCE F. FELTRINO	
IT013069086003	50 MT. A SUD FOSSO CINTIONI	
IT013069091004	200 MT A SUD FOCE F. SANGRO	
IT013069099008	ZONA ANT.TE F.SSO DELLA PAUROSOSA	Temporarily closed
IT013069099009	200 MT A NORD F.SSO LEBBA	
IT013069099010	300 MT A SUD F.SSO LEBBA	
IT015063024002	EX CARTIERA	
IT015063024003	VILLA COMUNALE	
IT015063024004	ARENILE PENNELLA	
IT015063034003	PINETA DI LICOLA SUD	
IT015063034004	VIA SQUALO	
IT015063038003	FUNDERA	

IT015063049013	S GIOVANNI A TEDUCCIO	
IT015063049014	PIETRARSA	
IT015063060001	LIDO DI LICOLA	
IT015063060002	STABILIMENTO BALNEARE	
IT015063060004	EFFL. NORD DEPURATORE DI CUMA	
IT015063064001	EX BAGNO RISORGIMENTO	
IT015063064002	LA FAVORITA	
IT015063071002	PUNTA SAN FRANCESCO	
IT015063080003	SORRENTO	
IT015063080006	MARINA GRANDE - LATO OVEST	
IT015063083004	NORD FOCE SARNO	
IT015065002002	TESTENE	
IT015065011001	SPIAGGIA DI ATRANI	
IT015065099006	LA PICCIOLA	
IT015065116001	EST FIUME IRNO	
IT015065116008	SP. LIBERA TRA IL FUORNI E IL PICENTINO	
IT015065157003	MARINA DI VIETRI SECONDO TRATTO	
IT015065157004	MARINA DI VIETRI PRIMO TRATTO	
IT018080007001	LOC.MELAROSA	Temporarily closed
IT018080014004	PONTILE	
IT018080063002	CATONA - BAR REITANO	
IT018080063003	GALLICO - LIMONETO	
IT018080063023	500 M N TOTT. ANNUNZIATA	
IT018080085002	DEPURATORE	
IT018080096006	300 M PUNTO 031	
IT018102003002	LA ROCCHETTA	Temporarily closed
IT018102025008	200 MT A DX F. MESIMA	
IT018102047004	300 MT NORD TORRENTE S.ANNA	
IT020104009012	100 MT. NORD STAGNO AGRUSTOS	Temporarily closed
IT020104009013	100 MT. SUD STAGNO AGRUSTOS	Temporarily closed
IT020104023013	CALA PURGATORIO	

5. General information on bathing water quality in Europe in 2012

Out of more than 22 000 bathing areas monitored throughout Europe in 2012, around two thirds were in coastal waters and the rest were in rivers and lakes. In the 2012 bathing season, the monitoring of bathing sites has been adjusted to the provisions in the EU's new bathing water directive (Directive 2006/7/EC). The sampling of water quality in most of the bathing water sites meets the frequency

standards (this involves a pre-season sample of the water quality, followed up by monthly samples thereafter). As regards assessment, the provisions in the new bathing water directive have been applied in 19 European countries (Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Spain, Sweden). This involved taking data from four years of monitoring to make the 2012 assessment. For the remaining ten countries, the 2012 assessment has been carried out under a set of transitional rules that do not yet meet all the requirements of the new directive using the results from the 2012 monitoring.

In 2012, the quality of 94 % of all bathing waters met at least the minimum 'mandatory' level (corresponding to a rating of sufficient quality under the new directive). Bathing water quality improved at 1.8 % of sites in 2012 compared with 2011, and at 2.5 % of sites compared with 2010. There has also been a marked decline compared with 2011 in the number of bathing waters that were closed or that prohibited bathing.

In 2012, 95.3 % of coastal bathing waters in the EU-27 achieved the minimum quality standards requested by the EU directives — an increase of 2.0 % compared with 2011. The share of coastal bathing waters with excellent quality (or complying with the guide values) in 2012 reached 81.2 % (an increase of 0.9 % from 2011).

The percentage of inland bathing waters with excellent quality is 72 % in 2012, a 1.6 % increase from 2011. In 2012, 91 % of inland bathing waters in the European Union had good or sufficient quality. This is a 1.0 % point increase from 2011. Only 2.3 % of inland bathing waters in the EU did not satisfy the minimum quality level. This is 0.1 % decrease from the previous year, continuing the slow but steady reduction in the percentage of poor quality bathing waters.

The "European bathing water quality in 2012" report presents the results and trends in bathing water quality in 2012 in Europe (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>). More information on bathing water quality as prepared for all reporting countries can be found on the European Environment Agency's bathing water website. The reports for the 2012 season have been produced by TC Vode, European Topic Center ICM Waters partner with support of the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IWRS). Countries have collaborated in the assessment of bathing water quality and supplied additional information when needed.

6. Interactive information on bathing water quality in Europe

The bathing water section of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), which is accessible at the EEA bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>), 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, download data for a selected country or region, and make comparisons with previous years.

The Eye on Earth — Water Watch application (<http://eyeonearth.org/map/WaterWatch/>) allows users to zoom in on a section of coast, riverbank or lake, both in street map or, where available, bird's eye viewing formats.

The data on bathing water quality in 2012 and previous years can also be viewed in WISE bathing water data viewer, an application prepared by TC Vode (<http://bwd.eea.europa.eu/>).

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 site. Websites generally include a map search function and public access to the monitoring results both in real time and for previous seasons. Citizens now have access to more bathing water information than ever, giving them the tools to become more actively involved in protecting the environment and helping to improve Europe's bathing areas.

Appendix 1

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2012 bathing season in Italy



Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Italian authorities