

Albanian bathing water quality in 2018



Albania 

June 2019

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Bathing Water Quality in the Season 2018

Albania

Under the provisions of the [Bathing Water Directive](#), more than 21 000 bathing waters are monitored in Europe each season. The monitoring data and other information regarding bathing water management are reported to the European Environment Agency by 30 reporting countries in Europe, to be assessed for the annual European report and more detailed national reports.

1. BWD reporting in the season 2018

In the season 2018, Albania identified and reported **108 bathing waters**, which is 0.5% of all bathing waters in Europe. Six bathing waters in Albania have been newly identified for the season 2018.

Bathing waters of Albania in the season 2018		Bathing water quality in the season 2018	
Total reported	108	Excellent	67 (62%)
Coastal	102	Good	20 (18.5%)
Inland	6	Sufficient	5 (4.6%)
Total reported samples	972	Poor	10 (9.3%)
		Not classified	6 (5.6%)

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 85.2% of reported bathing waters are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified “sufficient” or better. 10 bathing waters are of “poor” quality.

More detailed information on bathing waters of Albania is available at the national bathing water portal <http://www.akm.gov.al/>.

2. BWD monitoring

Each bathing water that is identified by the reporting country needs to have a monitoring calendar established before the bathing season. The monitoring calendar requirements can be summarised as follows: (1) a pre-season sample is to be taken shortly before the start of each bathing season; (2) no fewer than four (alternatively, three for specific cases) samples are to be taken and analysed per bathing season; and (3) an interval between sampling dates never exceeds one month.

From the reported data, the assessment also designates effective implementation of the monitoring calendar. In Albania, monitoring calendar for 2018 was implemented at all bathing waters.

Table 1: Bathing waters in 2018 according to implementation of the monitoring calendar

	Count	Share of total [%]
Monitoring calendar implemented A bathing water satisfies monitoring calendar conditions listed above.	108	100%
Monitoring calendar not implemented A bathing water does not satisfy monitoring calendar conditions listed above. They may be quality-classified if enough samples are available in the last assessment period.	0	0%

In addition to the monitoring calendar, management specifics of the last assessment period of four years are also assessed. The status primarily indicates whether the complete dataset of four seasons is available, but also points out the reasons as to why the bathing waters do not have the complete last assessment period dataset. The latter may indicate developing conditions at the site – most importantly, whether the bathing water has been newly identified within the period, or any changes have occurred that are likely to affect the classification of the bathing water.

Table 2: Management specifics in the last assessment period of 2015–2018

	Count	Share of total [%]
Continuously monitored A bathing water has been monitored in each bathing season in the last assessment period.	75	69.40%
Newly identified A bathing water was identified until the complete four-year dataset is available, i.e. for three years after the first reporting.. Such status is assigned for full four years after reported.	30	27.80%
Quality changes A bathing water was subject to changes described in BWD Art. 4.4 within the last assessment period. Such status is assigned until the complete four-year dataset of samples taken after changes took effect is available.	3	2.80%
Monitoring gap A bathing water was not monitored for at least one season in the last assessment period. No quality	0	0%

classification is made if no samples are reported for the most recent season.		
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3. Bathing water quality

3.1 Coastal bathing waters

Coastal bathing waters are situated on the sea or transitional water coastline, with respective parameter thresholds defined in Annex I of the Directive. They are subject to more strict thresholds than the inland bathing waters. Quality trend in Albania for the period 1990–2018 if historical data are available is shown in Figure 1. Count of bathing waters by quality class for the last assessment period 2015–2018 is given in Annex I.

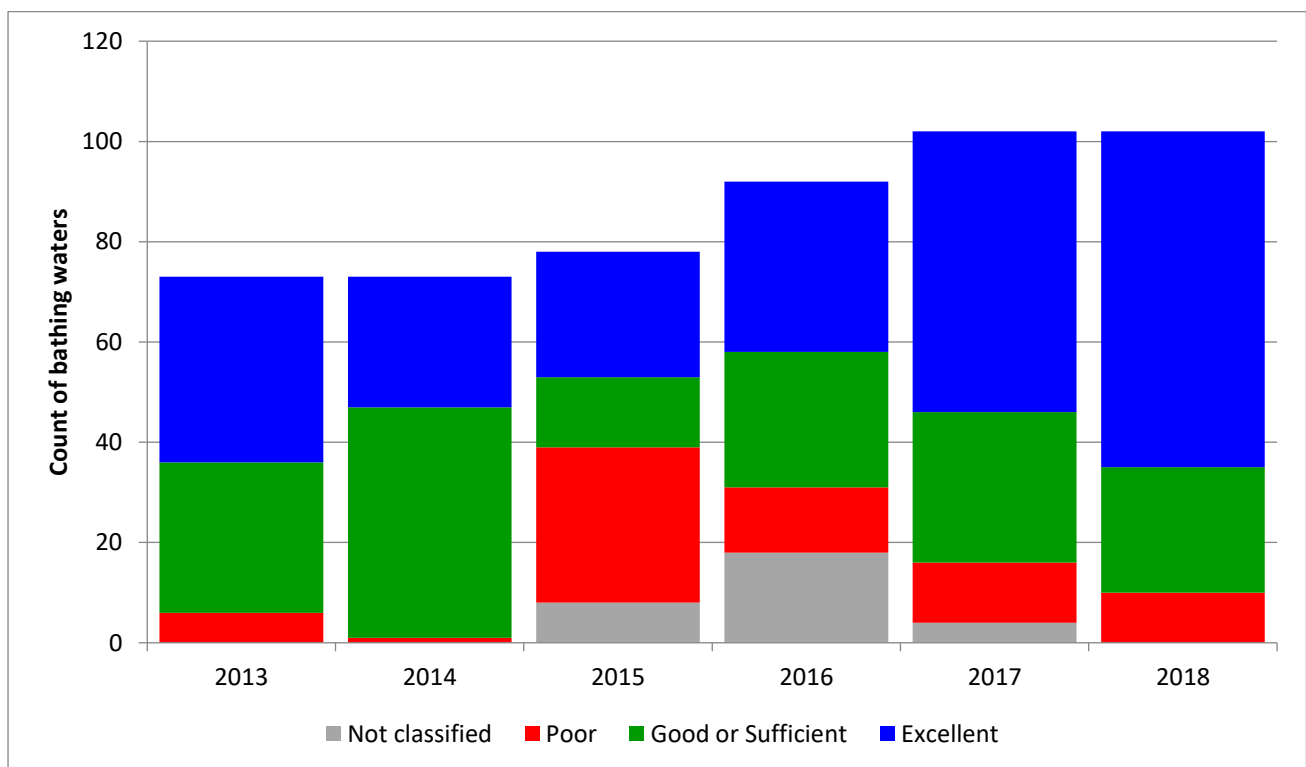


Figure 1: Trend of coastal bathing water quality in Albania. Notes: Each column represents an absolute count of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes “good” and “sufficient” are merged for comparability with classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

3.2 Inland bathing waters

Inland bathing waters are situated at rivers and lakes, featuring fresh water and with respective parameter thresholds defined in Annex I of the Directive. There are six bathing waters newly identified for the season 2018 that are still to be quality classified.

4. Bathing water management in Albania

In addition to monitoring data, reporting countries also provide information on bathing water management in the country. The information is used to exchange good practices, discuss issues on the European level, and understand the specifics of implementation of the Directive.

In Albania, 10 bathing water sites (or 9.3 %) were classified as poor, which is 2.5 percentage points less than in 2017. Since 2015, when 31 bathing water sites (or 39.1 %) were quality assessed as 'poor', the number of bathing water sites classified as poor has decreased significantly. This improvement can be associated with the five wastewater treatment plants constructed in recent years, which provide wastewater treatment for almost half a million residents and contribute to better bathing and overall water quality.

The treatment plants and their characteristics are:

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kavaja with capacity of 4.500 m³/day provides treatment for 25 000 residents.
2. Wastewater Treatment Plant in Durres, co-financed by European Bank and European Commission, with capacity of 60 000 m³/day; it provides a treatment for 250 000 residents.
3. Wastewater treatment plant in Saranda, co-financed by European Bank and European Commission; it provides treatment for 60 000 residents, with a capacity of 12 240 m³/day.
4. Shengjini wastewater treatment plant, co-financed by European Bank and European Commission, provides treatment for 60 000 residents; its capacity is 12 240 m³/day.
5. Wastewater Treatment Plant in Velipoje has capacity of 15 800 m³/day; it provides treatment for almost 50 000 residents; it was donated by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme.

In 2018, six new inland bathing waters have been identified on the Ohrid Lake. These bathing waters cannot be quality classified since not enough samples have been collected yet.

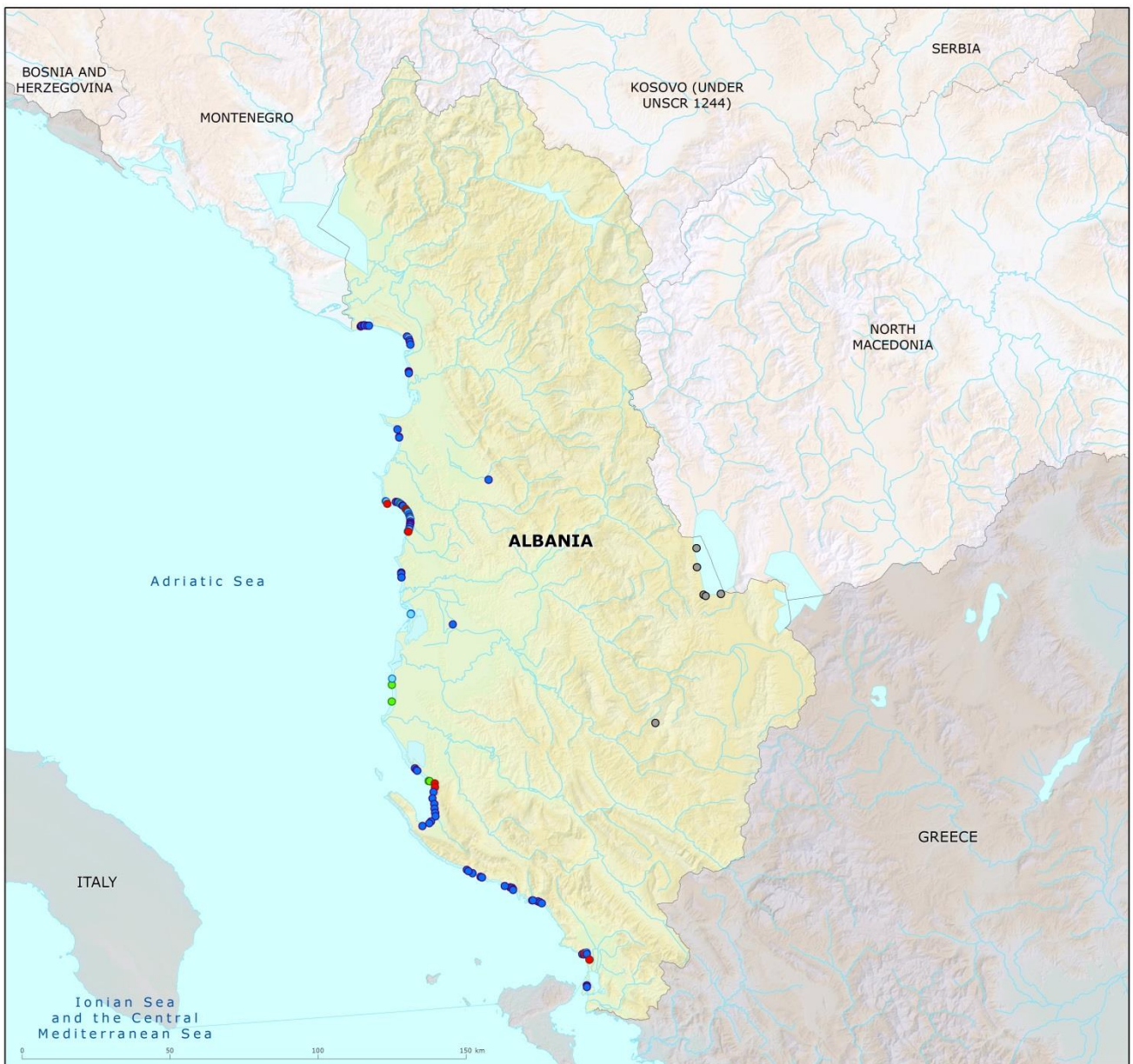
Annex I Bathing water quality in Albania in 2015–2018

Table 3: Bathing water quality by water category and season

		Total count of bathing waters	Excellent		Good		Sufficient		Poor		Not classified	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Coastal	2015	78	25	32.1	12	15.4	2	2.6	31	39.7	8	10.3
	2016	92	34	37.0	22	23.9	5	5.4	13	14.1	18	19.6
	2017	102	56	54.9	21	20.6	9	8.8	12	11.8	4	3.9
	2018	102	67	65.7	20	19.6	5	4.9	10	9.8	0	0.0
Inland	2015	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2016	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2017	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2018	6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	100.0
Total	2015	78	25	32.1	12	15.4	2	2.6	31	39.7	8	10.3
	2016	92	34	37.0	22	23.9	5	5.4	13	14.1	18	19.6
	2017	102	56	54.9	21	20.6	9	8.8	12	11.8	4	3.9
	2018	108	67	62.0	20	18.5	5	4.6	10	9.3	6	5.6

Annex II Bathing water quality map

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2018 bathing season in Albania



Bathing water quality

- Excellent water quality
- Good water quality
- Sufficient water quality
- Poor water quality
- Quality classification not possible
- No data
- Outside data coverage (data available, not presented on the map)

Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Rivers in Western Balkan: TC Vode; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Albanian authorities; Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM): EEA.