

# Polish bathing water quality in 2018



Poland 

June 2019

Photo: © Peter Kristensen/EEA



## Bathing Water Quality in the Season 2018

# Poland

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, Poland identified and reported **483 bathing waters**, which is 2.2% of all bathing waters in Europe. 212 bathing waters in Poland have been newly identified for the season 2018. Eight bathing waters reported in the preceding seasons have not been reported any more in 2018.

Bathing waters of Poland in the season 2018		Bathing water quality in the season 2018	
<b>Total reported</b>	483	<b>Excellent</b>	135 (28%)
Coastal	146	<b>Good</b>	26 (5.4%)
Inland	337	<b>Sufficient</b>	18 (3.7%)
		<b>Poor</b>	3 (0.6%)
<b>Total reported samples</b>	2262	<b>Not classified</b>	301 (62.3%)

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 37.1% of reported bathing waters are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified “sufficient” or better. Three bathing waters are of “poor” quality.

More detailed information on bathing waters of Poland is available at the national bathing water portal <https://sk.gis.gov.pl/>.

## 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 Poland, monitoring calendar for 2018 was not implemented at two bathing waters.

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

	Count	Share of total [%]
<b>Monitoring calendar implemented</b> A bathing water satisfies monitoring calendar conditions listed above.	481	99.60%
<b>Monitoring calendar not implemented</b> 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.	2	0.40%

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**

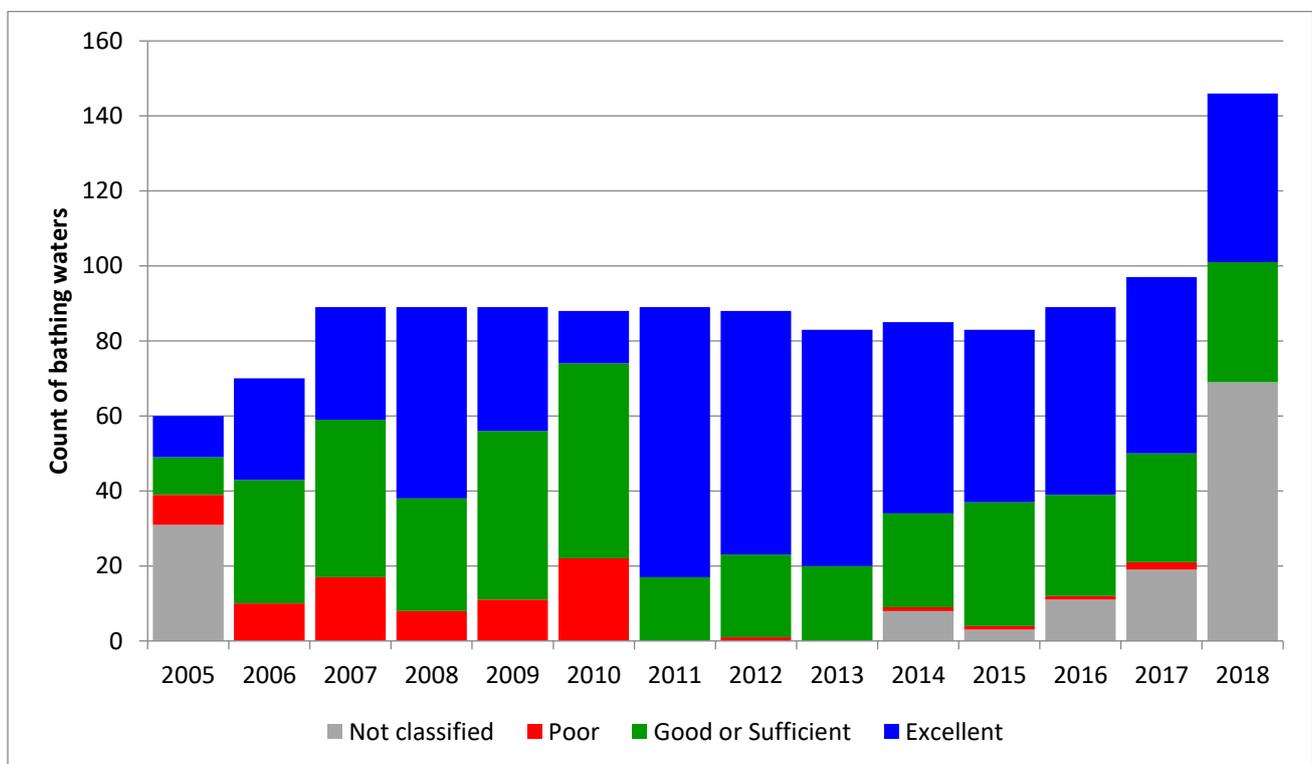
	Count	Share of total [%]
<b>Continuously monitored</b> A bathing water has been monitored in each bathing season in the last assessment period.	223	46.20%
<b>Newly identified</b> A bathing water was identified for the first time within the last assessment period. Such status is assigned until the complete four-year dataset is available, i.e. for three years after the first reporting.	229	47.40%
<b>Quality changes</b> 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.	0	0%
<b>Monitoring gap</b> A bathing water was not monitored for at least one season in the last assessment period. No quality	31	6.40%

classification is made if no samples are reported for the most recent season.

### 3. Bathing water quality

#### 3.1 Coastal bathing waters

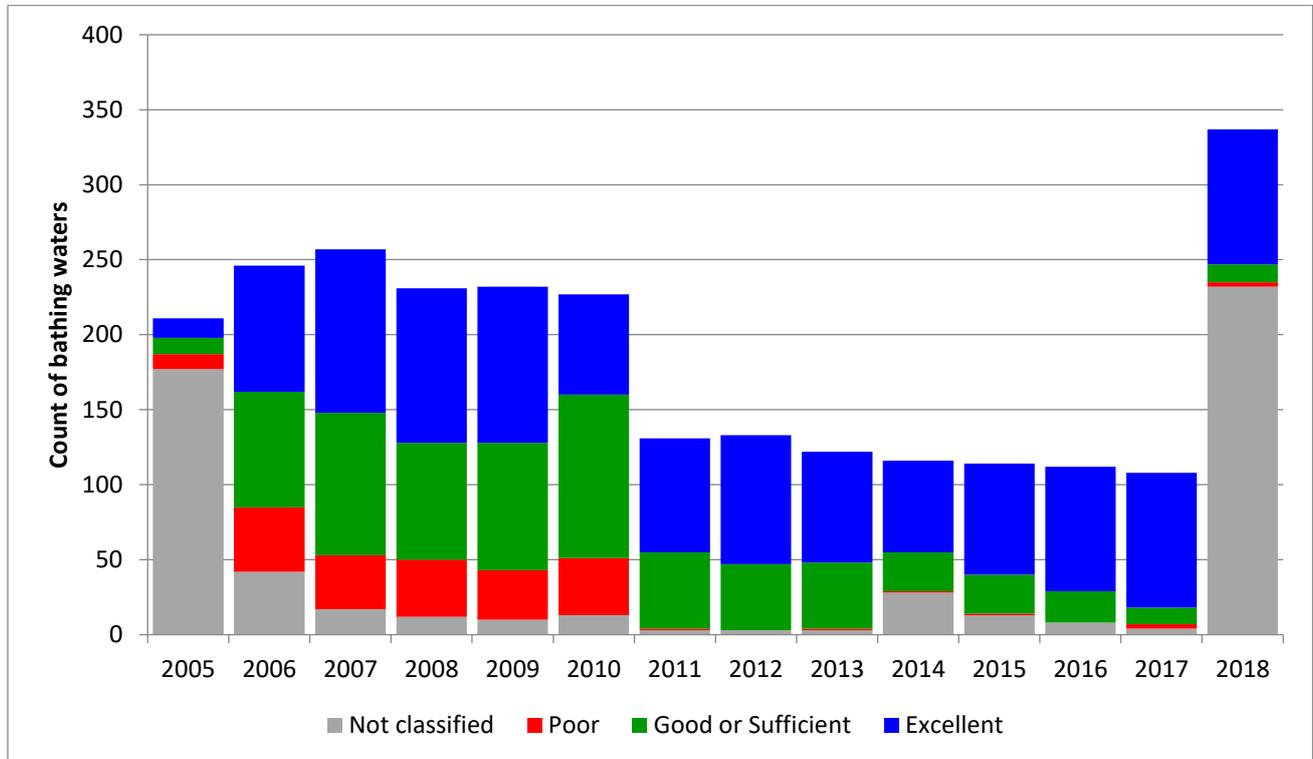
Coastal bathing waters are situated on the sea or transitional water coastline, with respective parameter thresholds defined in Annex I of the Directive. They are subject to more strict thresholds than the inland bathing waters. Quality trend in Poland for the period 1990–2018 if historical data are 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 Poland.** 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. Quality trend in Poland for the period 1990–2018 if historical data are available is shown in Figure 2. Count of bathing waters by quality class for the last assessment period 2015–2018 is given in Annex I.



**Figure 2: Trend of inland bathing water quality in Poland.** 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.

## 4. Bathing water management in Poland

---

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.

The list of bathing waters, the results of the quality classes as well as up-to-date data on the water quality in the bathing season 2018 can be found on the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate website: <https://sk.gis.gov.pl/index.php/strona/content/7>.

The quality of bathing water during the bathing season in Poland is regularly monitored and supervised by the bathing water administrator and by the state sanitary inspection.

Monitoring results on bathing water quality are made public through the national bathing service, media (primarily the local press, and occasionally local radio stations and TV) and are also published online on the competent state sanitary inspection website. Additionally, boards with bathing water quality information and flags are placed at bathing waters and there is also lifeguard supervision. In case of bathing prohibition, information concerning water quality with special symbol is put on a bathing water board.

Monitoring calendars for all bathing waters were prepared before the bathing season. Bathing water profiles were created in time. Sampling was carried out according to the bathing water monitoring calendar at least once per month and not less than 5 samples per bathing water. In some cases there was also an increase in the frequency of monitoring, where any exceeding of the national limit for parameters *Escherichia coli* or *Intestinal enterococci* occurred. Timely and adequate management measures were taken in the event of contamination to ensure the safety of bathers. Water quality problems are the most frequently related to mass proliferation of cyanobacteria due to the eutrophication of reservoirs and ponds and microbiology contamination due to wastewater discharges.

In comparison with previous season where 205 bathing waters were reported, Poland mostly doubled the number of identified bathing waters; for the 2018 season, 483 bathing waters were identified by Poland. Since not enough samples are collected yet, a great number of these “new” bathing waters cannot be quality classified yet.

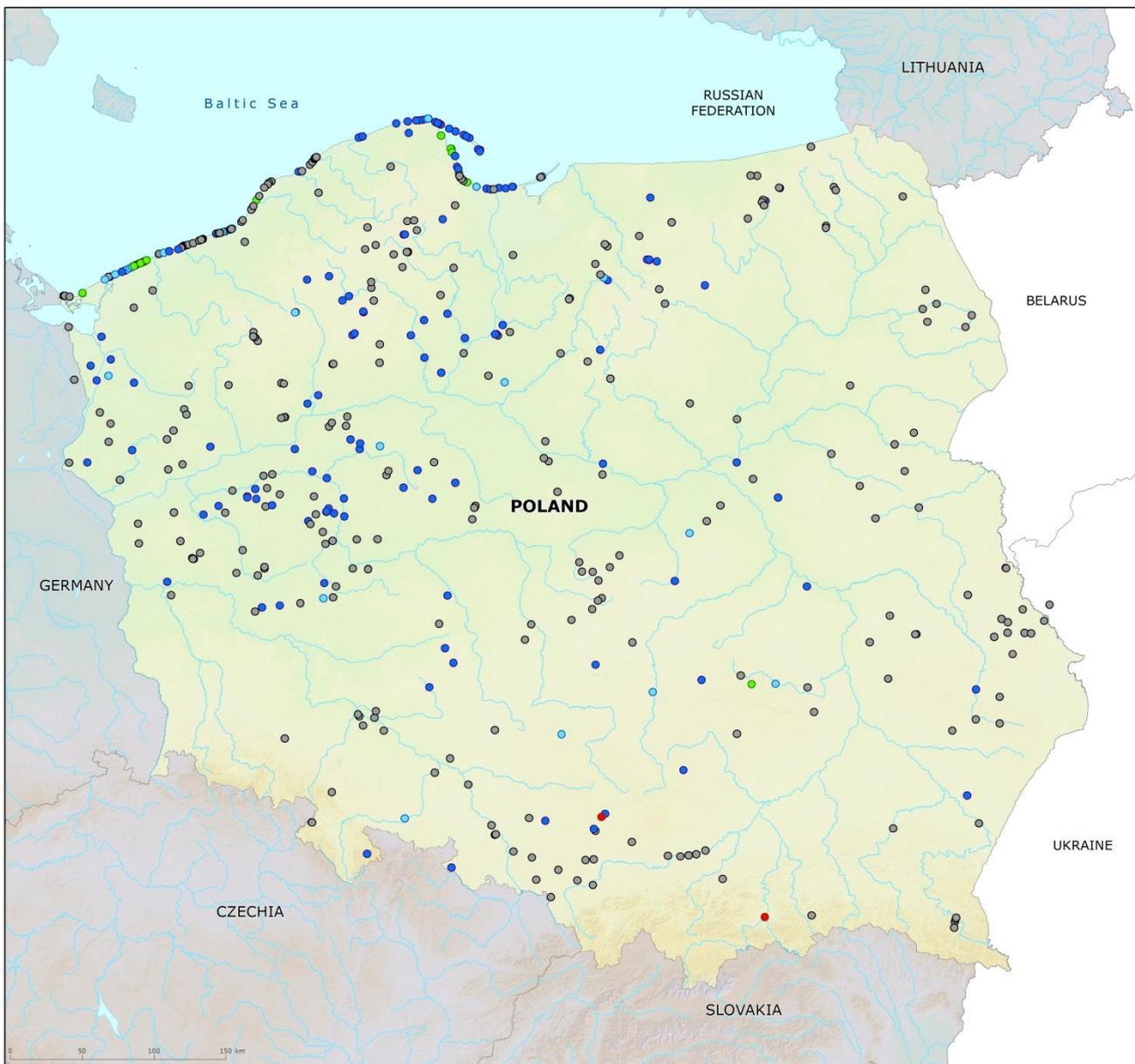
## Annex I Bathing water quality in Poland in 2015–2018

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	83	46	55.4	24	28.9	9	10.8	1	1.2	3	3.6
	2016	89	50	56.2	22	24.7	5	5.6	1	1.1	11	12.4
	2017	97	47	48.5	18	18.6	11	11.3	2	2.1	19	19.6
	2018	146	45	30.8	15	10.3	17	11.6	0	0.0	69	47.3
Inland	2015	114	74	64.9	19	16.7	7	6.1	1	0.9	13	11.4
	2016	112	83	74.1	10	8.9	11	9.8	0	0.0	8	7.1
	2017	108	90	83.3	8	7.4	3	2.8	3	2.8	4	3.7
	2018	337	90	26.7	11	3.3	1	0.3	3	0.9	232	68.8
Total	2015	197	120	60.9	43	21.8	16	8.1	2	1.0	16	8.1
	2016	201	133	66.2	32	15.9	16	8.0	1	0.5	19	9.5
	2017	205	137	66.8	26	12.7	14	6.8	5	2.4	23	11.2
	2018	483	135	28.0	26	5.4	18	3.7	3	0.6	301	62.3

## Annex II Bathing water quality map

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



**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; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Polish authorities; Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM): EEA.