

Bathing water results 2009 – Poland

1. Introduction

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Poland during the 2009 bathing season.

Poland reported all 19 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, 12 Dissolved oxygen, 13 Tarry residues and floating materials, 14 Ammonia, 15 Nitrogen Kjeldahl, 16 Pesticides (parathion, HCH, dieldrin), 17 Heavy metals, 18 Cyanides, 19 Nitrates and phosphates).

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).

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

The bathing season started from 1 April to 1 July and closed from 26 August to 30 September 2009 for coastal bathing waters. Freshwater bathing waters opened from 1 June to 15 July 2009, except for seven bathing waters opened in May. The bathing season closed from 13 August to 30 September 2009, except for one bathing water closed on 8 July.

A total of 321 bathing waters were reported in Poland during the 2009 bathing season, of which 89 were coastal bathing waters (87) or in estuaries (two) and 232 freshwater bathing waters (43 on rivers; 189 on lakes). One freshwater bathing water was not monitored and three freshwater bathing waters were insufficiently sampled. Two freshwater bathing waters were monitored with reduced frequency according to the Directive 76/160/EEC.

With 321 bathing waters Poland accounts for about 1.5% 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 60 in 2005 to 89 in 2007 and remained the same afterwards. The number of freshwater bathing waters increased from 227 in 2005 to 257 in 2007 and decreased to 231 in 2008. In 2009, one bathing water was added to the list compared to the previous year and seven bathing waters were re-opened after a ban (closure) in the previous year.

3. Results of bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Poland for the period 2005-2008 as reported in the past reporting years and for the bathing season of 2009 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 and Health/Bathing Water/2005-2009 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 2008 bathing season).

The graphs show, for coastal and freshwater bathing waters separately:

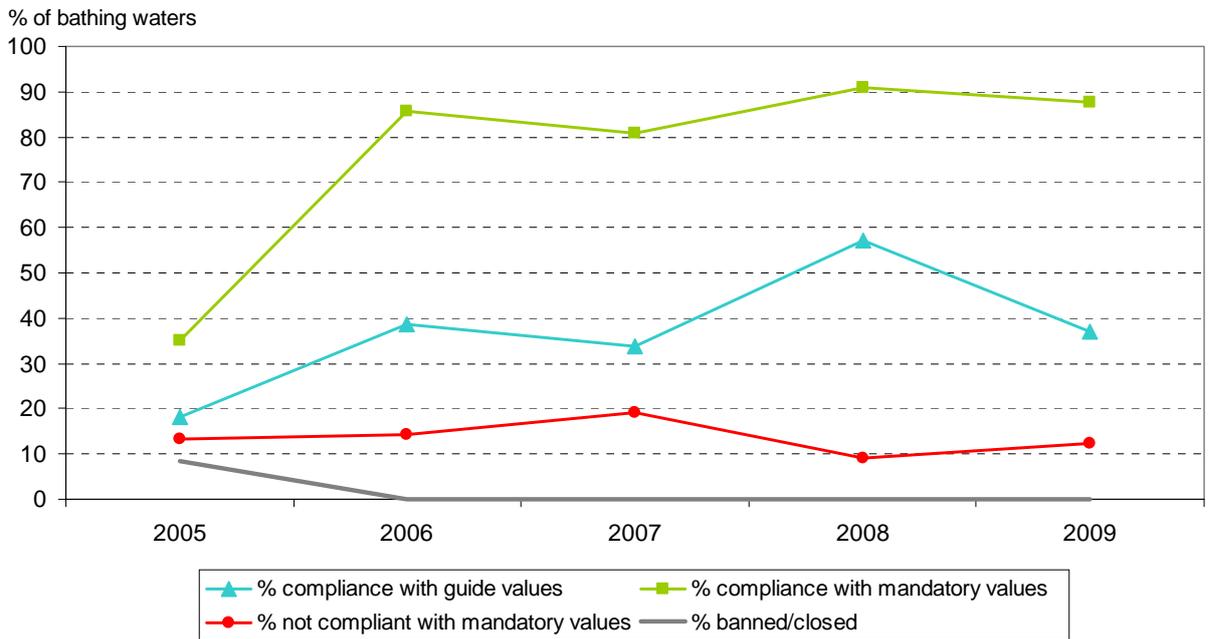
- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the guide values (class CG, blue line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the mandatory values (class CI, green line);
- The percentage of bathing waters that do not comply with the mandatory values (class NC, red line);
- The percentage 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 freshwater bathing waters. Table 2 shows the bathing water quality results for 2009 season in Poland for all bathing waters.

Map 1 shows the location of the reported bathing waters in Poland. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the Polish authorities.

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Poland from 2005 to 2009

Coastal bathing waters (PL)



Freshwater bathing waters (PL)

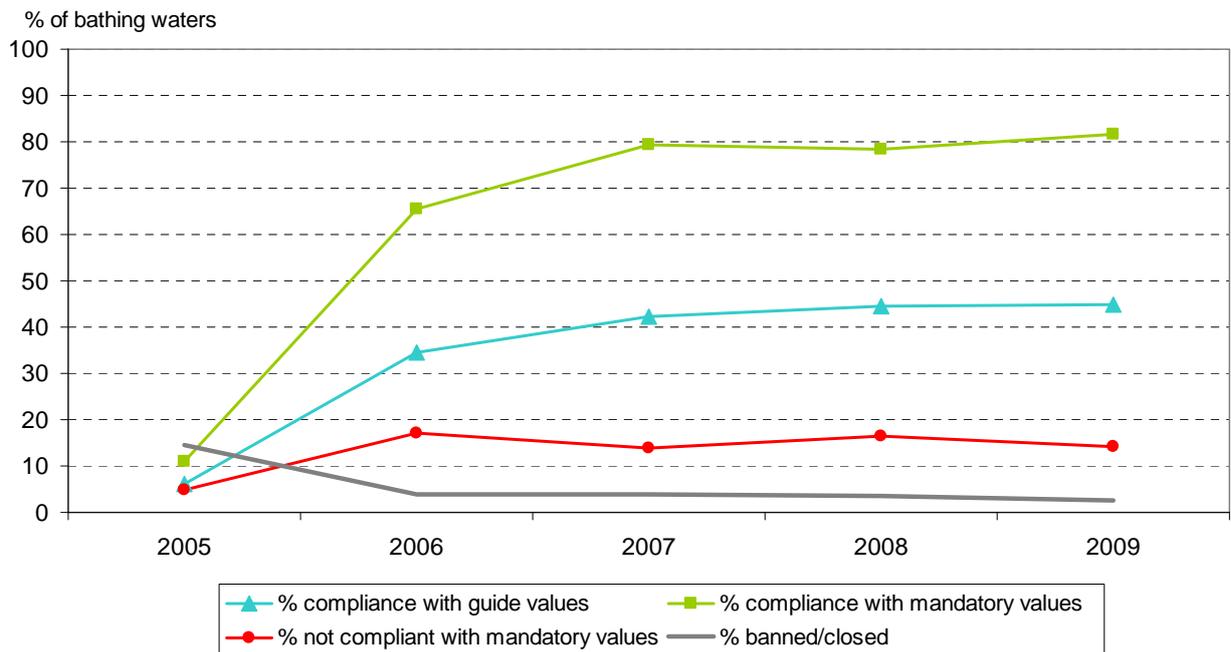


Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Poland from 2005 to 2009

PL										
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Banned/closed temporarily or throughout the season	
			Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Coastal bathing waters	2005	60	11	18.3	21	35.0	8	13.3	5	8.3
	2006	70	27	38.6	60	85.7	10	14.3	0	0.0
	2007	89	30	33.7	72	80.9	17	19.1	0	0.0
	2008	89	51	57.3	81	91.0	8	9.0	0	0.0
	2009	89	33	37.1	78	87.6	11	12.4	0	0.0
Freshwater bathing waters	2005	227	14	6.2	25	11.0	11	4.8	33	14.5
	2006	253	87	34.4	166	65.6	43	17.0	10	4.0
	2007	257	109	42.4	204	79.4	36	14.0	10	3.9
	2008	231	103	44.6	181	78.4	38	16.5	8	3.5
	2009	232	104	44.8	189	81.5	33	14.2	6	2.6

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive were not included in this table. Therefore, in some cases, the sum of the different categories will not be equal to the total number of bathing waters. 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 Poland in 2009

PL										
		Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values		Compliance with mandatory values		Not compliant		Banned/closed temporarily or throughout the season	
			Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bathing waters	2009	321	137	42.7	267	83.2	44	13.7	6	1.9

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive were not included in this table. Therefore the sum of the different categories is not equal to the total number of bathing waters. Bathing waters which were compliant with the guide values were also compliant with the mandatory values.

4. Development of bathing water quality

Coastal bathing waters

In Poland, 87.6% of the coastal bathing waters met the mandatory values in 2009. This is a decrease of 3.4% compared to the previous year. 37.1% of the bathing waters met the more stringent guide values, which is a significant decrease of 20.2%. The number of non-compliant bathing waters with the mandatory values increased from eight (9%) to 11 (12.4%). Since 2006, no coastal bathing water had to be closed during the season.

Since 2005, there was an improvement in the quality of the coastal bathing waters, both in terms of compliance with the mandatory values and the guide values. The highest rates of compliance were reached in 2008.

Freshwater bathing waters

81.5% of the freshwater bathing waters met the mandatory values in 2009. This is an increase of 3.1% compared to the previous year. The rate of compliance with the guide values was 44.8%, which is approximately the same as in 2008 (+ 0.2%). The number of non-compliant bathing waters with the mandatory values decreased from 38 (16.5%) to 33 (14.2%). Six bathing waters (2.6%) were closed (banned) during the season compared to eight (3.5%) in 2008.

Since 2005, there was an improvement in the compliance with the mandatory values and the guide values. As for the coastal bathing waters, the number of bathing waters that complied with the mandatory and guide values was low in 2005 due to the high number of insufficiently sampled bathing waters. Since 2006, six to 10 bathing waters (less than 5%) were closed (banned) during the season, which is a decrease compared to 2005 (14.5%).

5. General information as provided by the Polish authorities

Report on Polish Bathing Sites in 2009 was prepared according to Directive 76/160/EEC. In this season, one new bathing area from Poland was added to the list of bathing sites. None of 320 areas from 2008 report was removed from the official list. Six bathing sites were closed for entire bathing season. The closure was not caused by bathing water quality. Nevertheless, some measurements of water quality have been done on these bathing sites.

Kap. Przemkow (PL5121605402000014), Dzika Plaza (PL1260803214000008) and Zalew Szydłowiec (PL1243005314000021) were closed due to owner decision.

Kap. U.M.IG Skepe (PL6120807404000005) was closed due to necessary improvement actions.

Gow W Radgoszczy-Narozniki Poreby (PL2110406212000003) was closed because it was not rebuilt after flood damages.

Bagry (PL2136104912000004) was closed because of lack of funds for running it during the season by the owner.

Data on bathing water quality in Poland, like in previous years, was provided to the public on the website of Chief Sanitary Inspectorate. Data on local bathing water quality was also available on the websites of public health services in all the provinces and in press. Press announcements were particularly useful for warning people against bathing in case of short-time water pollution. Bathers were also informed on water quality by posters placed in the vicinity of bathing areas.

In order to improve bathing water quality, the construction and modernization of sewage systems and sewage treatment plants is necessary, which is already being realized.

6. More information on bathing water quality in the European Union

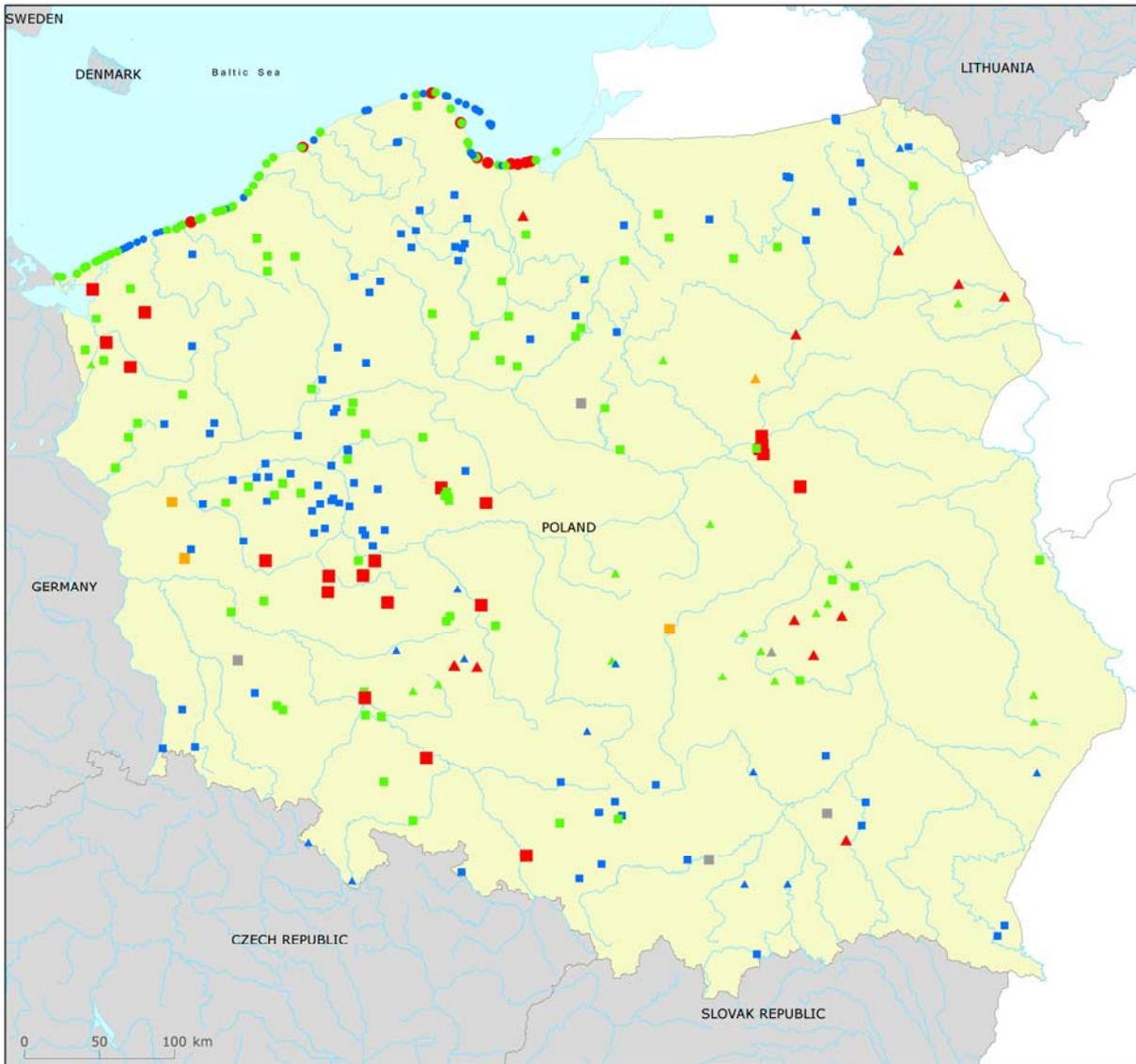
More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the EU summary report, the reports for 27 Member States, Croatia and Switzerland, can be found on the European Commission's bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html) and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>). The reports for the bathing seasons of 2008 and 2009 have been produced by the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IWRS), a partner in the EEA European Topic Centre on Water (ETC/W). Countries have collaborated in the assessment of bathing water quality and supplied additional information when needed.

By 2015, Member States will have to comply with the stricter and more ambitious requirements laid out in the New Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC). This Directive requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information. More information on the new Directive can be found on the bathing water quality website and on <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>.

Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden started to report according to more stringent new requirements in 2008 bathing season. Malta and the Netherlands started to report in 2009 bathing season under the new requirements. Sweden and Malta also sent data for three previous bathing seasons under the new requirements. Luxembourg started to monitor under the new requirements in 2006 bathing season, while reported for the first time in 2007 bathing season.

WISE - Water Information System for Europe (www.water.europa.eu) is a gateway to all water related information. Among other water related data, information on individual bathing water quality can be found in the WISE map viewer and WISE Bathing Water Quality data viewer through interactive maps and graphs (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>).

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2009 bathing season in Poland



Bathing water quality			No data
Bathing waters on rivers	Bathing waters on lakes	Coastal/transitional bathing waters	□ No data
▲ Compliant with guide values	■ Compliant with guide values	● Compliant with guide values	■ Outside data coverage (data available, not presented on the map)
▲ Compliant with mandatory values	■ Compliant with mandatory values	● Compliant with mandatory values	
▲ Closed*	■ Closed*	● Closed*	
▲ Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	■ Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	● Insufficiently sampled or not sampled	
▲ Not compliant with mandatory values	■ Not compliant with mandatory values	● Not compliant with mandatory values	

Note: * banned or closed (temporarily or throughout the season)
 More data on bathing water quality on: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/mapviewers/bathing>
Source: National boundaries: GISCO, Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3, Bathing waters data and coordinates: Polish authorities