

Estonian bathing water quality in 2018



Estonia 

June 2019

Photo: © Peter Kristensen/EEA



Bathing Water Quality in the Season 2018

Estonia

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, Estonia identified and reported **54 bathing waters**, which is 0.2% of all bathing waters in Europe. No bathing waters in Estonia have been newly identified for the season 2018.

| Bathing waters of Estonia in the season 2018 | | Bathing water quality in the season 2018 | |
|--|-----|--|------------|
| Total reported | 54 | Excellent | 36 (66.7%) |
| Coastal | 27 | Good | 10 (18.5%) |
| Inland | 27 | Sufficient | 7 (13%) |
| | | Poor | 1 (1.9%) |
| Total reported samples | 276 | Not classified | 0 (0%) |

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 98.1% of reported bathing waters are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified “sufficient” or better. One bathing water is of “poor” quality.

More detailed information on bathing waters of Estonia is available at the national bathing water portal http://vtiav.sm.ee/index.php/?active_tab_id=SV.

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 Estonia, 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 [%] |
|---|-------|--------------------|
| Monitoring calendar implemented A bathing water satisfies monitoring calendar conditions listed above. | 52 | 96.30% |
| 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. | 2 | 3.70% |

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. | 54 | 100% |
| Newly identified 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. | 0 | 0% |
| 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. | 0 | 0% |
| 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. | | |
|---|--|--|

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 Estonia 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.

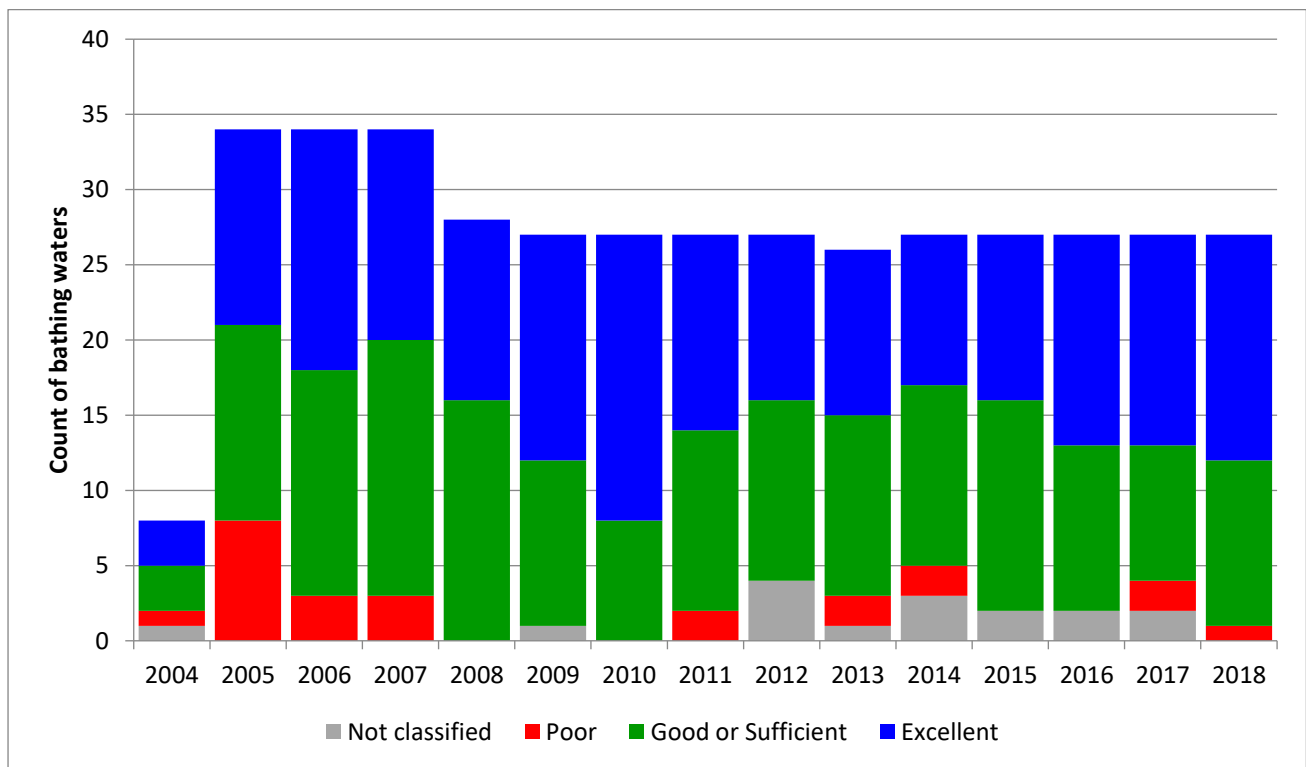


Figure 1: Trend of coastal bathing water quality in Estonia. Notes: Each column represents an absolute count of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes “good” and “sufficient” are merged for comparability with classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

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 Estonia 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.

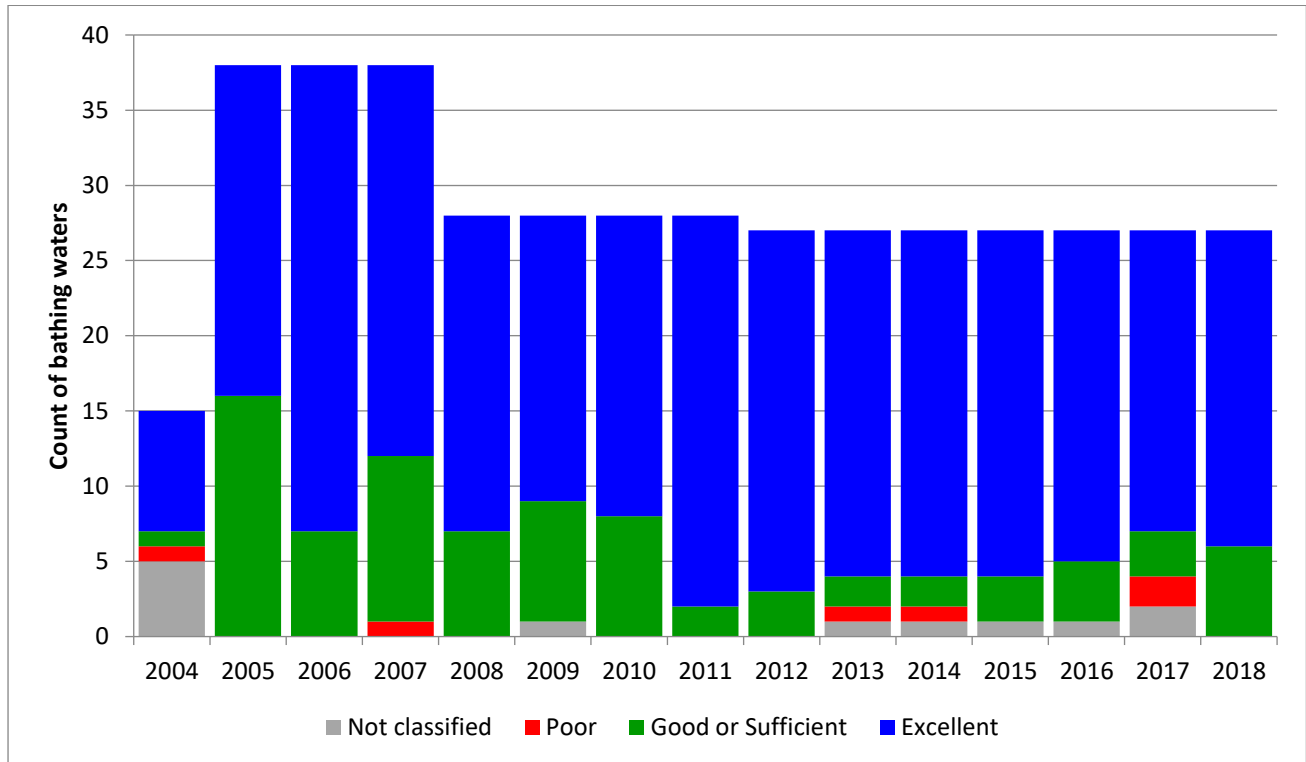


Figure 2: Trend of inland bathing water quality in Estonia. Notes: Each column represents an absolute count of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes “good” and “sufficient” are merged for comparability with classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

4. Bathing water management in Estonia

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 requirements of Directive 2006/7/EC are promulgated in Estonian law in the Public Health Act, the Water Act, and regulation implementing them. Bathing waters have been under surveillance of the Health Board of Estonia.

Quality and control requirements for bathing water are laid down in the Decree of the Government No. 74 from 3rd April 2008 “Requirements to bathing waters and bathing sites”. The regulation establishes requirements for bathing places, bathing water quality, monitoring, classification, quality management and reference methods, also establishes the provision of information to the public. Private or public bodies owning the bathing place are the subject of the regulation. In accordance to legislation, the Health Board is responsible for arranging bathing water monitoring and doing state supervision, collecting and processing the data on the bathing water quality, advising bathing place owners, informing public and establishing bathing water profiles.

Typical management measures implemented on bathing waters include: a monitoring calendar; bathing water quality monitoring; information about quality of bathing water made available on the website of Health Board (http://vtiav.sm.ee/index.php/?active_tab_id=SV), at the bathing place, central newspapers and occasionally on TV or radio; bathing water quality assessment during the season and after the season; bathing water profile made available online.

During the 2018 season, proliferation of cyanobacteria occurred on five bathing waters. Public has been informed and advice against bathing has been imposed. Bathing was not recommended especially for children, people with allergies, elders and people with health problems.

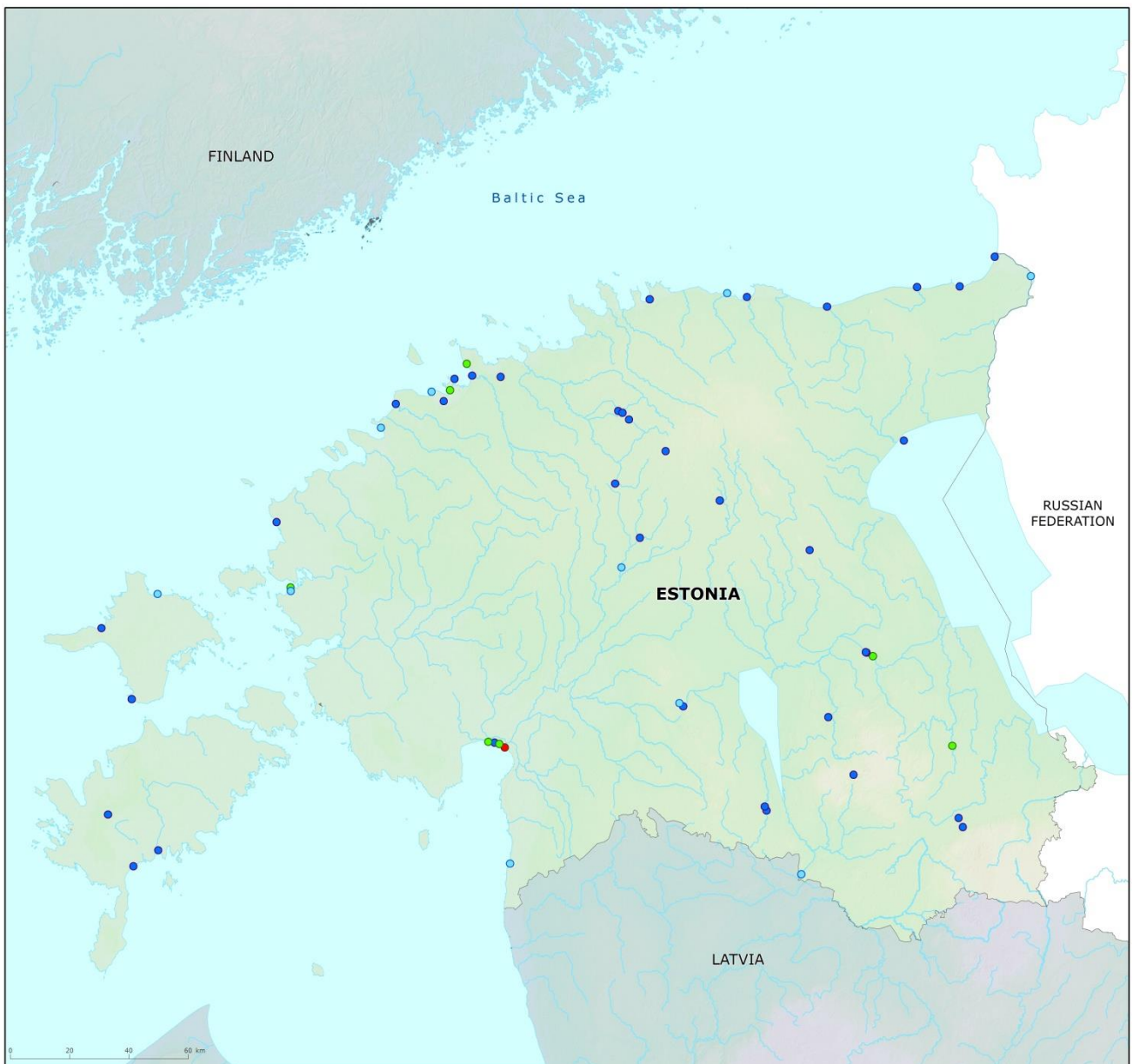
Annex I Bathing water quality in Estonia in 2015–2018

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 | 27 | 11 | 40.7 | 9 | 33.3 | 5 | 18.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 7.4 |
| | 2016 | 27 | 14 | 51.9 | 6 | 22.2 | 5 | 18.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 7.4 |
| | 2017 | 27 | 14 | 51.9 | 6 | 22.2 | 3 | 11.1 | 2 | 7.4 | 2 | 7.4 |
| | 2018 | 27 | 15 | 55.6 | 6 | 22.2 | 5 | 18.5 | 1 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Inland | 2015 | 27 | 23 | 85.2 | 2 | 7.4 | 1 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.7 |
| | 2016 | 27 | 22 | 81.5 | 3 | 11.1 | 1 | 3.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 3.7 |
| | 2017 | 27 | 20 | 74.1 | 3 | 11.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 7.4 | 2 | 7.4 |
| | 2018 | 27 | 21 | 77.8 | 4 | 14.8 | 2 | 7.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 2015 | 54 | 34 | 63.0 | 11 | 20.4 | 6 | 11.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 5.6 |
| | 2016 | 54 | 36 | 66.7 | 9 | 16.7 | 6 | 11.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 5.6 |
| | 2017 | 54 | 34 | 63.0 | 9 | 16.7 | 3 | 5.6 | 4 | 7.4 | 4 | 7.4 |
| | 2018 | 54 | 36 | 66.7 | 10 | 18.5 | 7 | 13.0 | 1 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 |

Annex II Bathing water quality map

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



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: Estonian authorities; Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM): EEA.