Country report

Spanish bathing water quality in 2018

Spain

June 2019

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25 1994-2019
European Environment Agency

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Bathing Water Quality in the Season 2018

Spain

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, Spain identified and reported **2228 bathing waters**, which is 10.1% of all bathing waters in Europe. 24 bathing waters in Spain have been newly identified for the season 2018. 16 bathing waters reported in the preceding seasons have not been reported any more in 2018.

Bathing waters of Spain in the season 2018	
Total reported	2228
Coastal	1965
Inland	263
Total reported samples	23539

Bathing water quality in the season 2018	
Excellent	1939 (87%)
Good	168 (7.5%)
Sufficient	42 (1.9%)
Poor	50 (2.2%)
Not classified	29 (1.3%)

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 96.5% of reported bathing waters are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified “sufficient” or better. 50 bathing waters are of “poor” quality.

More detailed information on bathing waters of Spain is available at the national bathing water portal https://nayadeciudadano.msssi.es/Splayas/ciudadano/indexCiudadanoAction.do.

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 Spain, monitoring calendar for 2018 was not implemented at 29 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.	2199	98.70%
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.	29	1.30%

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.	2119	95.10%
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.	92	4.10%
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.	8	0.40%
Monitoring gap A bathing water was not monitored for at least one season in the last assessment period. No quality	9	0.40%

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 Spain 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.

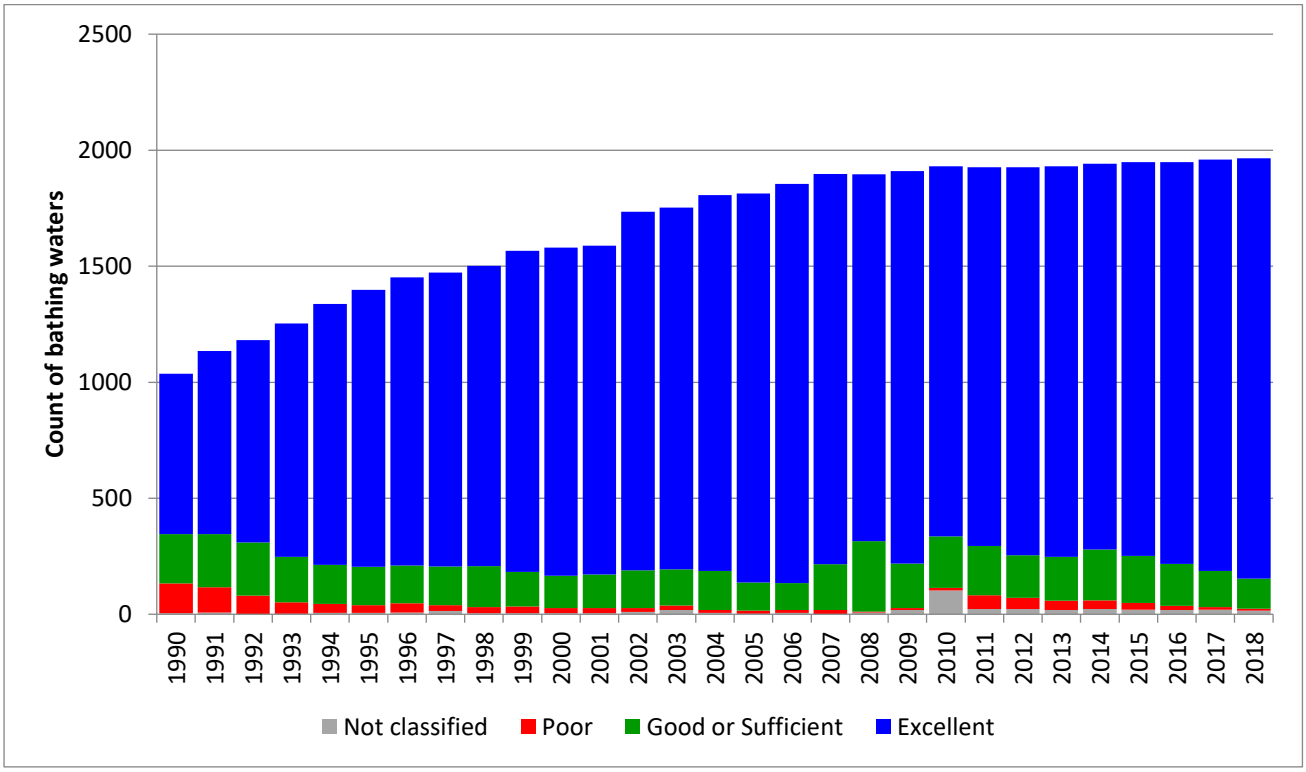

Figure 1: Trend of coastal bathing water quality in Spain. Notes: Each column represents an absolute count of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes “good” and “sufficient” are merged for comparability with classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

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 Spain 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.

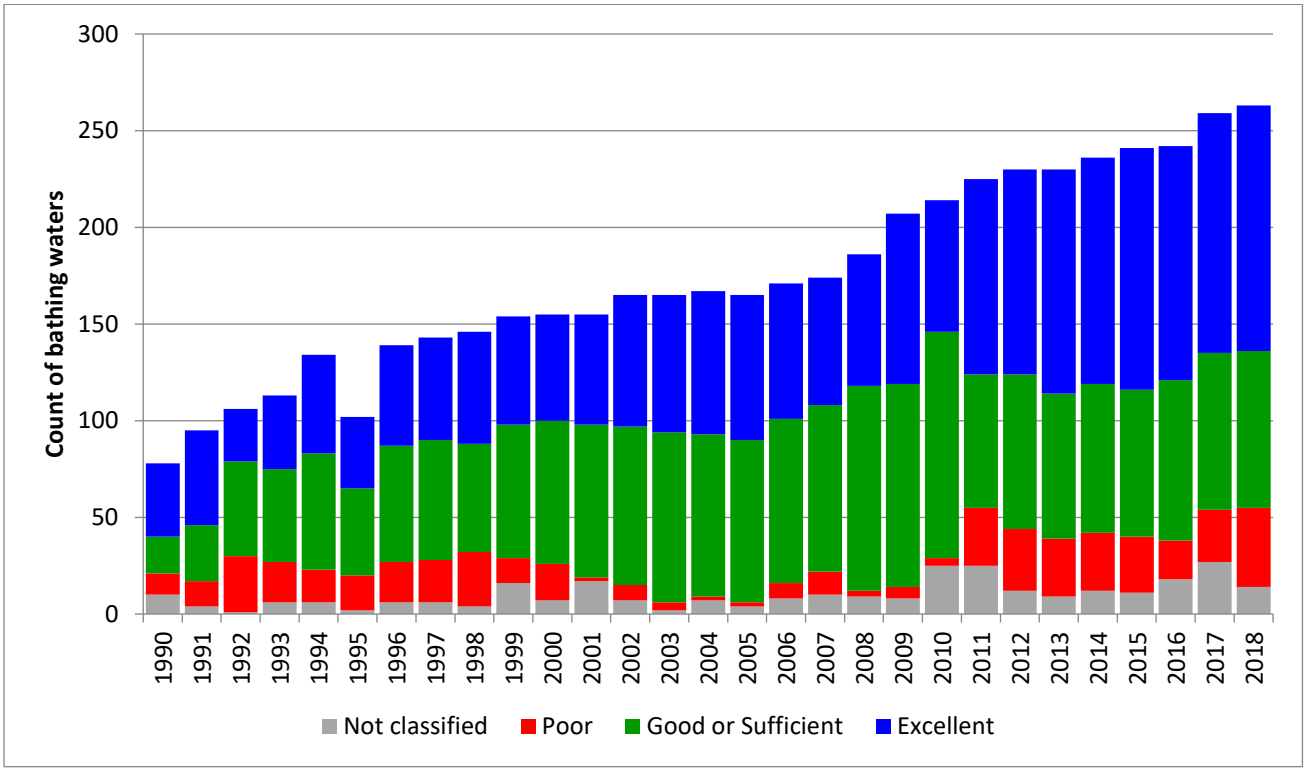

Figure 2: Trend of inland bathing water quality in Spain. Notes: Each column represents an absolute count of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes “good” and “sufficient” are merged for comparability with classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

4. Bathing water management in Spain

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 the season 2018, there were 194 short-term pollutions in Spain, at 103 different bathing waters; and 10 abnormal situations reported. Due to elevated values of observed microbiological parameters, these bathing waters have been temporarily closed during the bathing season. Proliferation of cyanobacteria occurred on at six bathing waters. Public has been informed, additional bathing advices have been provided (not swallowing weather, ensure that microalgae are not retained in the bathing suits). Temporal bathing ban or advice against bathing has been imposed when necessary. Due to the drought and water shortage in the lagoon, bathing and monitoring was not possible at one bathing water.

General information including information on quality, legislation, bathing water quality per province or municipality is available on the following webpage: https://mst.dk/natur-vand/vandmiljoe/badevand

There were waste water treatment infrastructure developments in recent years. The waste water treatment plant in the north of the Ría de Ares and south of the Ría de Ferrol has started operating In July 2014; another waste water treatment plant has started operating in the area of San Ciprian in May 2015. Other specific management measures in Spain include repairs of wells in the sewer system; completion of works to improve the drainage of the Río Canedo in May 2015. In some cases the bathing waters remained closed as the maintenance work in the the infrastructure nearby (e.g. Playa guios-los gigantes (argel) pm3).

Annex I Bathing water quality in Spain 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	1948	1696	87.1	154	7.9	49	2.5	29	1.5	20	1.0
	2016	1949	1732	88.9	135	6.9	45	2.3	19	1.0	18	0.9
	2017	1960	1773	90.5	119	6.1	37	1.9	11	0.6	20	1.0
	2018	1965	1812	92.2	100	5.1	29	1.5	9	0.5	15	0.8
Inland	2015	241	125	51.9	53	22.0	23	9.5	29	12.0	11	4.6
	2016	242	121	50.0	57	23.6	26	10.7	20	8.3	18	7.4
	2017	259	124	47.9	59	22.8	22	8.5	27	10.4	27	10.4
	2018	263	127	48.3	68	25.9	13	4.9	41	15.6	14	5.3
Total	**2015**	2189	1821	83.2	207	9.5	72	3.3	58	2.6	31	1.4
	2016	2191	1853	84.6	192	8.8	71	3.2	39	1.8	36	1.6
	2017	2219	1897	85.5	178	8.0	59	2.7	38	1.7	47	2.1
	2018	2228	1939	87.0	168	7.5	42	1.9	50	2.2	29	1.3

Annex II Bathing water quality map

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

Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Spanish authorities; Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM): EEA.