Luxembourgish bathing water quality in 2018

Luxembourg 🇱🇺

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European Environment Agency

Bathing Water Quality in the Season 2018

Luxembourg

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, Luxembourg identified and reported **15 bathing waters**, which is 0.1% of all bathing waters in Europe. Three bathing waters in Luxembourg have been newly identified for the season 2018.

Bathing waters of Luxembourg in the season 2018	
Total reported	15
Coastal	0
Inland	15
Total reported samples	90

Bathing water quality in the season 2018	
Excellent	11 (73.3%)
Good	0 (0%)
Sufficient	0 (0%)
Poor	0 (0%)
Not classified	4 (26.7%)

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 73.3% of reported bathing waters are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified "sufficient" or better. The rest of the bathing waters have been newly identified, with no quality classification available yet.

More detailed information on bathing waters of Luxembourg is available at the national bathing water portal https://eau.public.lu/actualites/2011/03/Profil_baignade/.

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 Luxembourg, 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.	15	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.

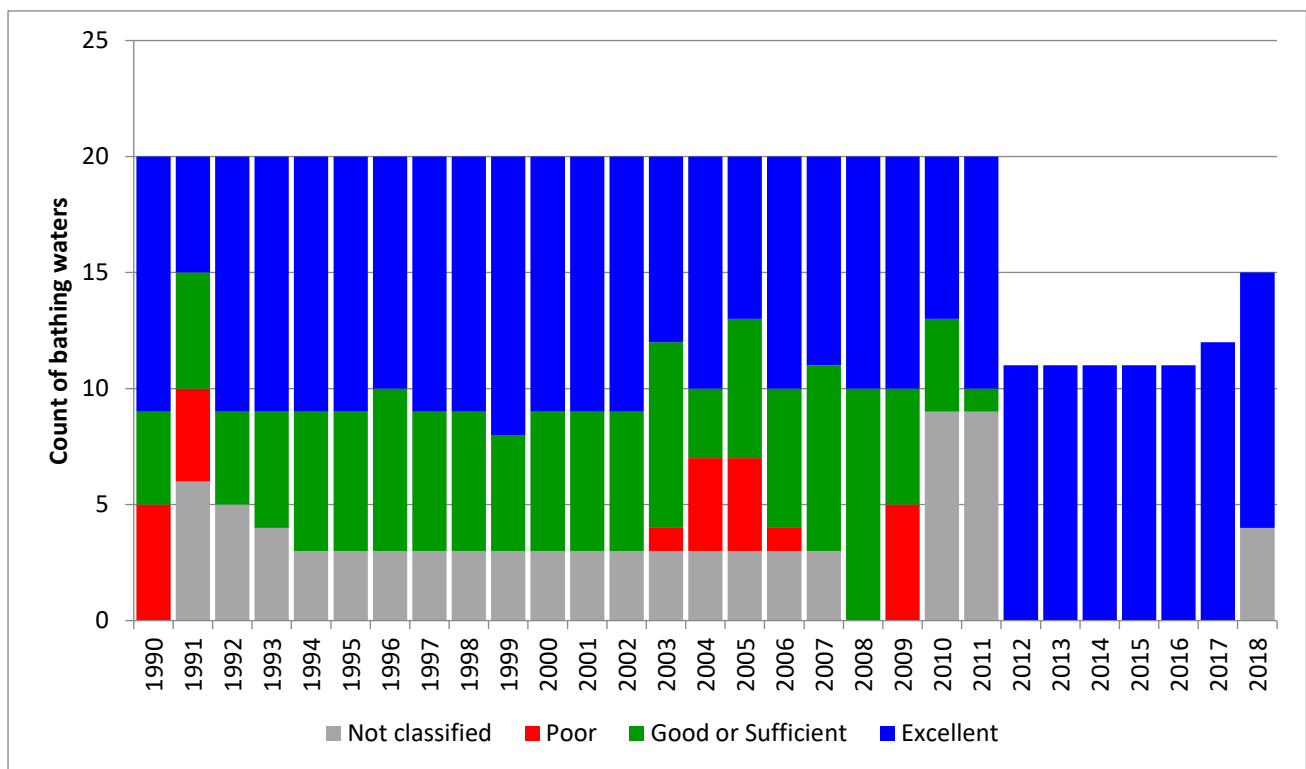**Table 2: Management specifics in the last assessment period of 2015–2018**

	Count	Share of total [%]
Continuously monitored A bathing water has been monitored in each bathing season in the last assessment period.	11	73.30%
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.	4	26.70%
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 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 Luxembourg 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 inland bathing water quality in Luxembourg. 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 Luxembourg

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.

Since the 2011 bathing season, the bathing water profiles are published for each bathing water determining the special protection measures and monitoring programmes the state of bathing water.
Bathing water profile contains:

- A description of the physical, geographical and hydrological characteristics of the bathing water that could be a source of pollution;
- Identification and evaluation of sources of pollution that might affect bathers' health;
- Evaluation of the potential for proliferation of cyanobacteria and macroalgae;
- The location of the monitoring point.

If the bathing water profile identified a source of pollution, it should also inform about:

- The nature, frequency and duration of anticipated pollution which can be expected;
- The details of any remaining causes of pollution, including management measures taken and the timetable for their elimination;
- The management measures taken during the pollution and the identity and contact details of bodies responsible for these measures.

During the season 2018, 2 bathing waters ("Lac de la Haute-Sdre" and "Lac de Weiswampach") had to be temporarily closed due to cyanobacteria bloom. The "Lac de la Haute-Sire" has been closed from 25" July 2018 until the end of the season and the "Lac de Weiswampach" has been closed from 30" July 2018, also until the end of the season. The public was informed by press release, information on the website of the Administration of Water Management https://eau.public.lu/ and by information signs placed on the beaches. Nevertheless, the bathing waters were monitored during the whole season, so that quality assessment for these bathing waters is possible for.

Three new bathing waters have been established on the lake d'Echternach and monitored for the first time. Swimming in this bathing will be prohibited until bathing water quality data from three seasons are available for the assessment, construction works are completed and bathing water profiles are established.

Annex I   Bathing water quality in Luxembourg 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	%
Total	2015	11	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2016	11	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2017	12	12	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	2018	15	11	73.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	26.7

Annex II   Bathing water quality map

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

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)