

# Dutch bathing water quality in 2018



# Netherlands

June 2019

Photo: © Peter Kristensen/EEA



## Bathing Water Quality in the Season 2018

# The Netherlands

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, the Netherlands identified and reported **725 bathing waters**, which is 3.3% of all bathing waters in Europe. Seven bathing waters in the Netherlands have been newly identified for the season 2018. One bathing water reported in the preceding seasons has not been reported any more in 2018.

Bathing waters of The Netherlands in the season 2018		Bathing water quality in the season 2018	
<b>Total reported</b>	725	<b>Excellent</b>	527 (72.7%)
Coastal	91	<b>Good</b>	126 (17.4%)
Inland	634	<b>Sufficient</b>	36 (5%)
<b>Total reported samples</b>	6252	<b>Poor</b>	25 (3.4%)
		<b>Not classified</b>	11 (1.5%)

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 95% of reported bathing waters are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified “sufficient” or better. 25 bathing waters are of “poor” quality. 11 bathing waters are not quality-classified because a minimum sample dataset is not available due to different reasons, including newly identified bathing waters or temporary inaccessibility of the site.

More detailed information on bathing waters of the Netherlands is available at the national bathing water portal <http://www.zwemwater.nl>.

## 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 the Netherlands, monitoring calendar for 2018 was not fully implemented at four 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.	721	99.40%
<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.	4	0.60%

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**

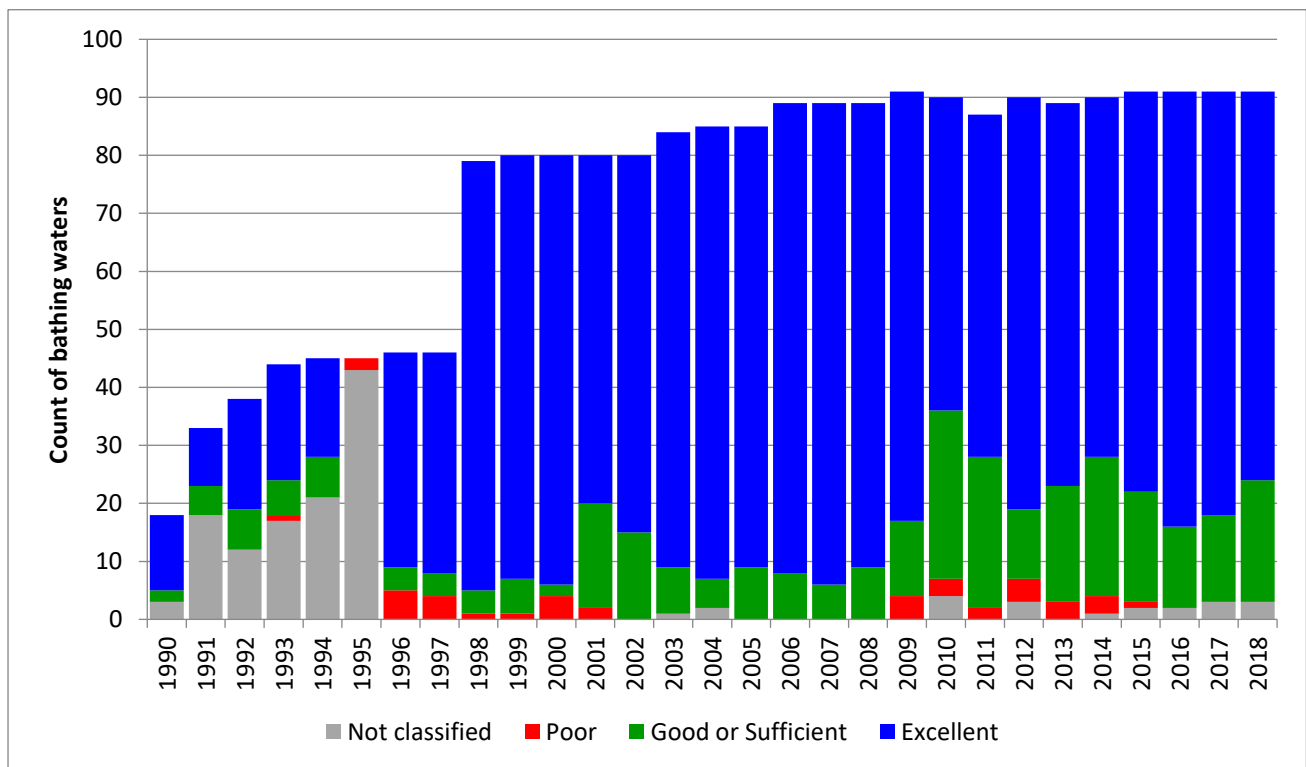
	Count	Share of total [%]
<b>Continuously monitored</b> A bathing water has been monitored in each bathing season in the last assessment period.	682	94.10%
<b>Newly identified</b> A bathing water was identified for the first time within the last assessment period. Such status is assigned until the complete four-year dataset is available, i.e. for three years after the first reporting.	30	4.10%
<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.	11	1.50%
<b>Monitoring gap</b>	2	0.30%

<p>A bathing water was not monitored for at least one season in the last assessment period. No quality classification is made if no samples are reported for the most recent season.</p>		
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### 3. Bathing water quality

#### 3.1 Coastal bathing waters

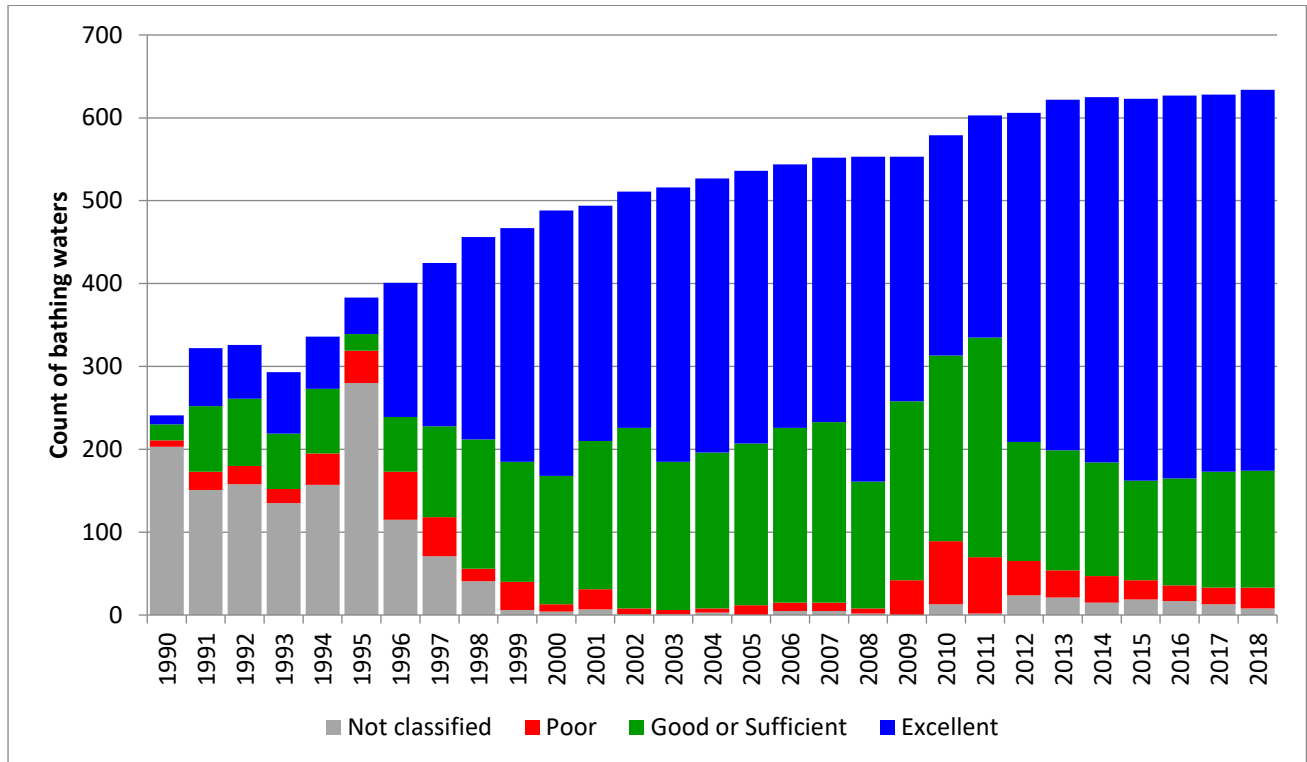
Coastal bathing waters are situated on the sea or transitional water coastline, with respective parameter thresholds defined in Annex I of the Directive. They are subject to more strict thresholds than the inland bathing waters. Quality trend in the Netherlands for the period 1990–2018 if historical 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 the Netherlands. 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 the Netherlands 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 the Netherlands.** 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 the Netherlands

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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.

Bathing water information can be accessed through the “Zwemwater” portal available at <http://www.zwemwater.nl>. Bathing water quality and bathing water locations can be viewed using the map viewer. Besides the map viewer, the portal also provides information regarding safe bathing, bathing prohibitions, health risks, bathing water profiles, etc. In 2018, several sources of pollution were reported, such as dogs, birds (including geese), human source, etc. Different management measures were taken, including conducting research into the cause of the contamination (this investigation will be continued in 2019), informing boaters that it is appreciated if the waste water tank is not emptied, working with walking dogs at irregular times (appointment with trainers for guide dogs for the blind) and screens so that visibility on potential predators is reduced, etc.

At the bathing water sites large light blue information boards are present. The boards provide general information about the bathing water: a map showing the swimming area, bathing water quality, information about available facilities and potential prohibitions. In case the bathing water does not meet required quality standards, a special plate is put under the general information board.

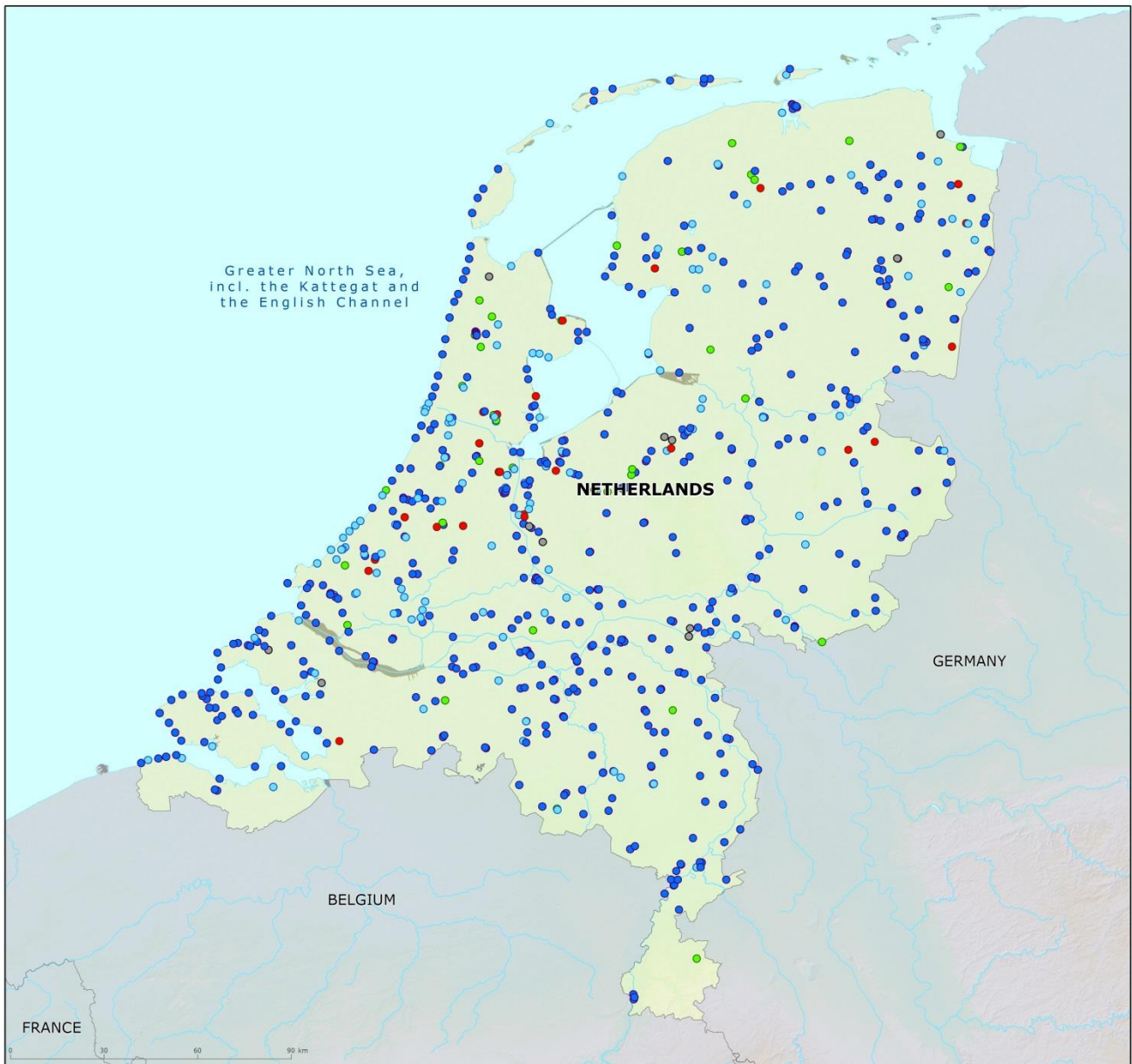
## Annex I Bathing water quality in the Netherlands in 2015–2018

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	91	69	75.8	17	18.7	2	2.2	1	1.1	2	2.2
	2016	91	75	82.4	13	14.3	1	1.1	0	0.0	2	2.2
	2017	91	73	80.2	13	14.3	2	2.2	0	0.0	3	3.3
	2018	91	67	73.6	19	20.9	2	2.2	0	0.0	3	3.3
Inland	2015	623	461	74.0	93	14.9	27	4.3	23	3.7	19	3.0
	2016	627	462	73.7	103	16.4	26	4.1	19	3.0	17	2.7
	2017	628	455	72.5	109	17.4	31	4.9	20	3.2	13	2.1
	2018	634	460	72.6	107	16.9	34	5.4	25	3.9	8	1.3
Total	2015	714	530	74.2	110	15.4	29	4.1	24	3.4	21	2.9
	2016	718	537	74.8	116	16.2	27	3.8	19	2.6	19	2.6
	2017	719	528	73.4	122	17.0	33	4.6	20	2.8	16	2.2
	2018	725	527	72.7	126	17.4	36	5.0	25	3.4	11	1.5

## Annex II Bathing water quality map

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



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