

Bathing Water Profile

PROFILE 20 – Update 2014

IL-BAJJA TA' RAS IL-QAWRA (FRA BEN) & IL-BAJJA TAS-SALINA F'SAN PAWL IL- BAĦAR



JUNE 2014



Ministry for Energy and Health



Direttorat ghas-Sahha Ambjentali
Environmental Health Directorate

Update to the Bathing Water Profile based on the report by the European Environment Agency issued on 27th May 2014

This is one of a series of 29 profiles that cover all 87 identified bathing waters of the Maltese Islands. Bathing water profiles are established in accordance with Directive 2006/7/EC Article 6, regulation 11, and Schedule III of the Regulations as transposed by Legal Notice 125 of 2008 and amended by Legal Notice 237 of 2011. These regulations concern the management of bathing water in relation to the reduction of gastroenteritis and other waterborne health risks originating from faecal sources and other routes of pollution.

In essence, bathing water quality is monitored for 23 weeks each year in different bathing areas in the Maltese Islands by the Environmental Health

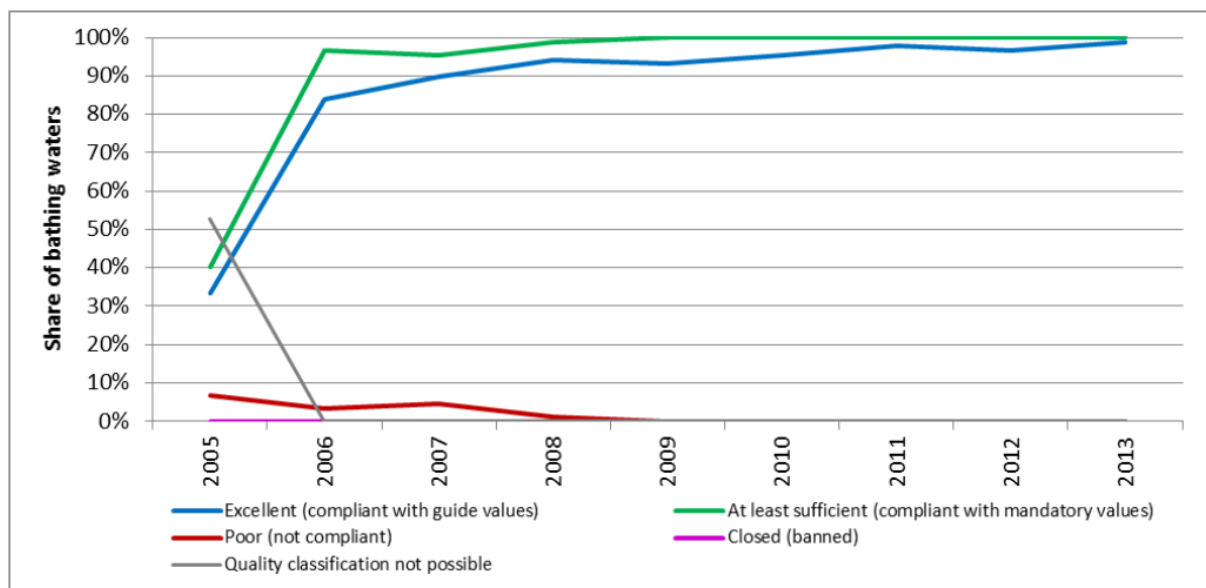
Directorate. The monitoring period corresponds with the official bathing season that traditionally opens on the third week of May and closes in the third week of October (National Statistics Office, 2004).

Bathing water quality is classified according to Directive 2006/7/EC as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor' using the symbols shown in **Figure 1** below. Water quality data from the European Commission was last updated in 2013 (**Figure 2**); the latest figures classify 98.9% of the Maltese Island's bathing waters as of excellent quality, with a very slight decline when compared to the previous year (European Environmental Agency, 2013).

Figure 1: Bathing water star classification from left to right: 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' and 'poor'.



Figure 2: Results of bathing water quality in Malta from 2005 to 2013



(European Environment Agency, 2014)

Table 1: Classification of Bathing Waters

| | 2006/7/EC Classification | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------------|
| | Based on four years data | | | | | |
| Escherichia coli (cfu/100 ml) | < 250 | Excellent quality | < 500 | Good quality | > 500 | Sufficient quality |
| Intestinal Enterococci (cfu/100 ml) | < 100 | Excellent quality | < 200 | Good quality | > 200 | Sufficient quality |

Table 2: Water quality classification at the monitoring points (2010-2013)



| | | 2006/7/EC Classification | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | <i>Based on four years data</i> | | |
| Bathing Water ID numbers | Year | Escherichia coli | Intestinal Enterococci | Overall Classification |
| | 2013 | | | |
| C28 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C29 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C30 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C31 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C32 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| | 2012 | | | |
| C28 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C29 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C30 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C31 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C32 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| | 2011 | | | |
| C28 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C29 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C30 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C31 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C32 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| | 2010 | | | |
| C28 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C29 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C30 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C31 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |
| C32 | | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |

Note that 'C28' is a direct reference to MT0150155500000C28; 'C29' refers to MT0150155500000C29, 'C30' refers to MT0150155500000C30, 'C31' refers to MT0150155500000C31 and 'C32' refers to MT0150155500000C32. The data tabulated above and further information is available at the Environmental Health Directorate website (https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/public_health/environmental-health/health_inspectorate/env_hlt_risk_management/envhealth_bathingwater09.aspx).

What should one do if a pollution incident is noticed?

If one sees a water pollution incident, you should immediately contact the Environmental Health Directorate through the Automated Telephone System, which is operated 24 hours. **Phone: 21827146**

Or by calling the Environmental Health Directorate during Office Hours:

Phone: 21337333

Or After Office Hours / Weekends / Public Holidays:

Malta – 79509918 Gozo – 79509919

When a pollution incident is reported or pollution is found to be affecting the water

quality of official bathing areas, an immediate investigation is instigated by the Environmental Health Officers. All possible sources of pollution within the area are checked together with the relevant Competent Authorities. In addition, a resample will be collected to monitor whether the beach is still polluted.

Bathing waters may be closed by the Environmental Health Directorate in accordance with the provisions of Legal Notice 125 of 2008, Regulation 7, until the water quality has improved and levels of bacteria are within mandatory standards in accordance to the provisions of Regulation 8 of the same legal notice.

General Contact Details:

Address:



Environmental Health Directorate
Health Inspectorate Services
Continental Business Centre
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Santa Venera, SVR 9018
Malta.

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Email: complaints.ph@gov.mt
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URL: https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/public_health/environmental-health/health_inspectorate/env_hlt_risk_management/envhealth_bathingwater09.aspx

References:

European Environment Agency (2014). *Bathing water results 2013– Malta*
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water/country-reports-2013-bathing-season/malta-2013-bathing-water-report/view>

Environmental Health Directorate – Available:

(https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/public_health/environmental-health/health_inspectorate/env_hlt_risk_management/envhealth_bathingwater09.aspx)

| Version Control | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Version number: | Date: | Next review due: | Comments: |
| 20.1 | June 2013 | | |
| 20.2 | June 2014 | | Annual data for 2013 added |
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