



MINISTRY for HEALTH and ACTIVE AGEING  
15, PALAZZO CASTELLANIA, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

# Bathing Water Profile

PROFILE 17 – Update 2024

MELLIEHA: Mistra Bay

San Pawl il-Bahar: Xemxija Bay



01 October 2025



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## Update to the Bathing Water Profile based on the report by the European Environment Agency issued in May 2025

Under the provisions of the Bathing Water Directive (BWD), 2006/7/EC, as transposed by Legal Notice 125 of 2008 and amended by Legal Notice 237 of 2011 87 bathing water monitoring points are monitored in the Maltese Islands. The monitoring data and other information regarding bathing water management are reported to the European Environment Agency at the end of the official monitoring season to assess and publish information on the state of the Bathing Water of the Maltese Islands. This bathing water profile is in accordance with, regulation 11, and Schedule III of the legal notice.

Bathing water profile 17 covers 5 monitoring points situated in the localities of Mellieha and San Pawl il-Bahar as per **Figure 2, 3 & 4 and Table 1**. Located along Malta's northeastern coast. Mistra Bay is accessible from the side road of Triq il-Mistra. This beach is situated at the end of the valley and is covered with pebbles and sand. In the vicinity there is 'Ix-Xaghra tal-Kortin', which comprises a mosaic of boulders, stones, dry gorges and crevices. Xemxija Bay is a rocky coastline shore with a number of small boats moored in the area. This area is surrounded by private dwellings and restaurant.

The monitoring points C16, C17, C18, C19 & C20 have been monitored for 23 weeks, by the Environmental Health Directorate. The monitoring period for the official bathing season starts on the third week of May till the third week of October. For the year 2024 the monitoring day where 13<sup>th</sup> May till 20<sup>th</sup> October.

The bathing water quality is based on two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci). These two parameters determine the classification of the bathing water quality as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor'. The symbols shown in **Figure 1** below correspond to this classification. The European Environment Agency report for the year 2024 indicated that 92% of the bathing water classified as excellent quality, see **Figure 5**. (European Environmental Agency, 2025)

Figure 1: Star Classification





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## Location and Sampling of Official Bathing Area

Table 1: Co Ordinates of Sampling Point

Bathing Water ID Numbers	Longitude	Latitude
C16 (MT0150155500000C16 <sup>1</sup> )	14.392446	35.958954
C17 (MT0150155500000C17 <sup>1</sup> )	14.389773	35.958010
C18 (MT0150155500000C18 <sup>1</sup> )	14.388972	35.951205
C19 (MT0150155500000C19 <sup>1</sup> )	14.384705	35.948515
C20 (MT0150155500000C20 <sup>1</sup> )	14.390579	35.947172

<sup>1</sup>NB this code is the site reference code used by the European Environment Agency.

Figure 2: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of C16 & C17



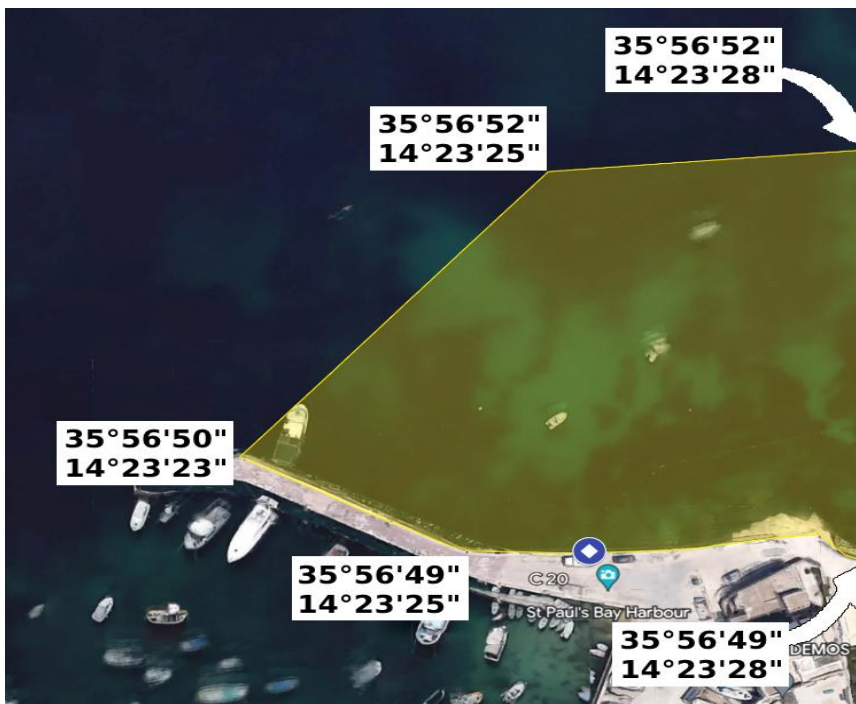


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Figure 3: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of C18 & C19



Figure 4: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of C20

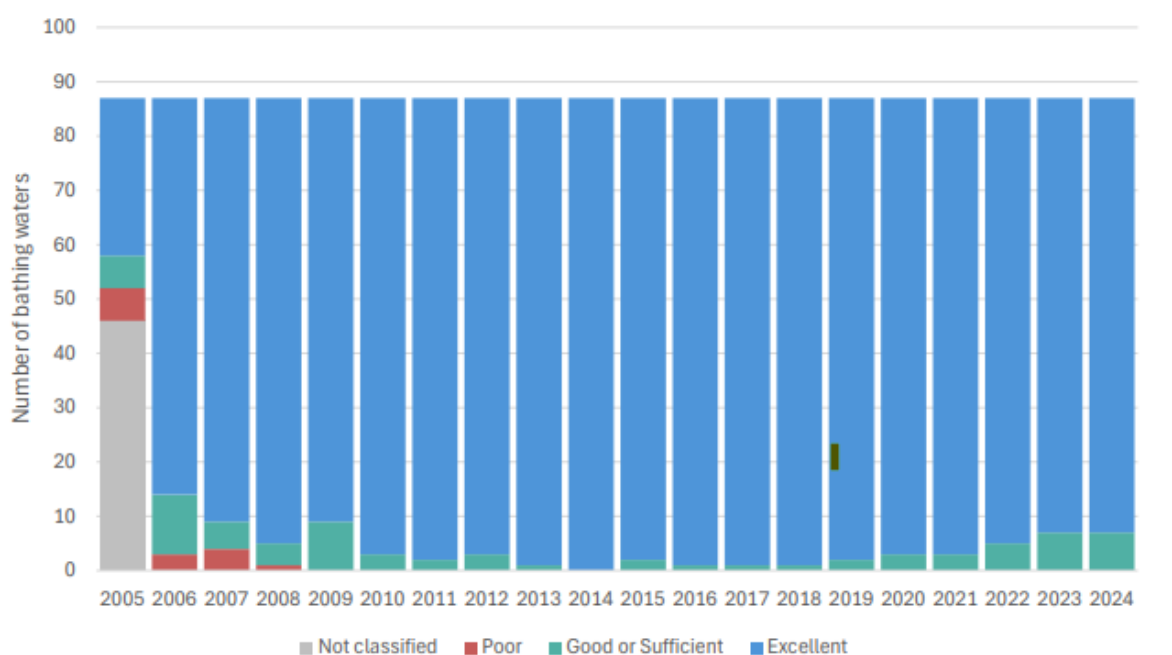




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Classification updated for the year 2024.

Figure 5: Results of bathing water quality in Malta from 2005 to 2024



**Trend of coastal bathing water quality in Malta.** Notes: Each column represents an absolute number of bathing waters in the season. The 'good' and 'sufficient' quality classes are merged for comparability with the classifications under the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

(European Environment Agency, 2025)

Table 2: 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/100ml)	< 100	Excellent quality	< 200	Good quality	> 200	Sufficient quality



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Table 3: Bathing water quality classification at (2021 - 2024)

2006/7/EC Classification based on four years data					2006/7/EC Classification based on four years data				
Bathing Water ID Numbers	Y E A R	Escherichia coli	Intestinal Enterococci	Overall Classification	Bathing Water ID Numbers	Y E A R	Escherichia coli	Intestinal Enterococci	Overall Classification
C16	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C16	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C17	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C17	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C18	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C18	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C19	4	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C19	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C20		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C20	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C16	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C16	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C17	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C17	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C18	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C18	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C19	3	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C19	1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C20		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	C20	1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent



Further information on bathing water results is available on the Environmental Health Directorate website [www.bathingwater.gov.mt](http://www.bathingwater.gov.mt)

2024

Excellent Quality



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## Identification and assessment of causes of pollution that might affect bathing waters and impair bathers' health;

The risk factor for C16, C17, C18 & C20 monitoring sites is low risk and for C19 is medium risk. The risk factor was calculated on possible sources of contamination and the risk of occurrence. These include rainwater culverts and surface water runoff that discharge directly into the official bathing site, if there any sewage pumping station or main sewers in the vicinity, if currently there is a construction activity ongoing and if in the past four years there were reports of short-term pollution and or a bathing prohibition period.

The probability of temporarily closing the monitoring site C16, C17, C18 & C20 is very low and C19 is low. This was calculated on the number of health warnings issued for the last four years.

### Temporary closing of bathing water sites during bathing season 2024

No sites covered by this Bathing Water Profile were not temporarily closed during the bathing season of 2024.

### What should one do if a pollution incident is noticed?

If a risk of bathing water pollution (on-shore or off-shore) is noted, the Environmental Health Directorate is to be immediately notified by calling.

**21337333** during Office Hours:

or

**23343223 (Malta)/22156500 (Gozo)** after Office Hours / Weekends / Public Holidays:

Or sending an email on: [wrau.ehd@gov.mt](mailto:wrau.ehd@gov.mt)

When a complaint is received the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) will investigate accordingly and if necessary, elevate samples. During the period of any short-term pollution and or bathing prohibition, the EHOs will elevate samples from the bathing site on a daily basis to monitor its quality.

Once the nuisance is resolved and the results of three consecutive bathing water samples conform to the parameters stipulated in the Legal Notice 125 of 2008, indicated that there is no risk to bathers, the warning will be lifted.



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## General Contact Details:

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[wrau.ehd@gov.mt](mailto:wrau.ehd@gov.mt)

**URL:** <https://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/en/ehs/wrau/bathing-water-programme/>

### References:

European Environment Agency (2025). *Bathing water results 2024 – Malta:*

[https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/bathing-water/state-of-bathing-water/bathing-water-country-factsheets-2024/malta\\_bathing\\_water\\_2024.pdf](https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/bathing-water/state-of-bathing-water/bathing-water-country-factsheets-2024/malta_bathing_water_2024.pdf)

European Commission: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/european-bathing-water-quality-in-2024>

Environmental Health Directorate: <https://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/en/ehs/wrau/bathing-water-programme/>



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Version Control			
Version number:	Date:	Next review due:	Comments:
17.1	June 2013		
17.2	June 2014		Annual data for 2013 added
17.3	May 2015		Annual data for 2014 added
17.4	June 2016		Annual data for 2015 added
17.5	May 2017		Annual data for 2016 added
17.6	June 2018		Annual data for 2017 added
17.7	June 2019		Annual data for 2018 added
17.8	June 2020		Annual data for 2019 added
17.9	July 2021		Annual data for 2020 added
17.10	October 2022		Annual data for 2021 added
17.11	July 2023		Annual data for 2022 added
17.12	June 2024		Annual data for 2023 added and other information on the bathing site
17.13	July 2025		Annual data for 2024 added