



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

# Bathing Water Profile

PROFILE 18 – Update 2024

SAN PAWL IL BAHAR: Barracudas

Tax-Xama Beach

Ghazzelien Bay

Siren's



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 18 covers 4 monitoring points situated in the locality of San Pawl il-Bahar as per **Figure 2 & 3 and Table 1**. Located along Malta's northeastern coast. C22 consists of a small sandy beach which is surrounded by boulder scree and maquis areas on one side and a concrete ramp on the opposite side. C21, C23 & C24 area is predominantly characterised by rock and coral outcrops. C24 has also a series of rock-cut bathing pools are scattered along this

stretch of coast. The area of this site is surrounded mostly by private residences and water polo clubs.

The monitoring points C21, C22, C23 & C24 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 4**. (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
C21 (MT0150155500000C21 <sup>1</sup> )	14.391724	35.947517
C22 (MT0150155500000C22 <sup>1</sup> )	14.397977	35.950042
C23 (MT0150155500000C23 <sup>1</sup> )	14.400341	35.949676
C24 (MT0150155500000C24 <sup>1</sup> )	14.391724	35.947517

<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 C21





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Figure 1: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of C22, C23 & C24

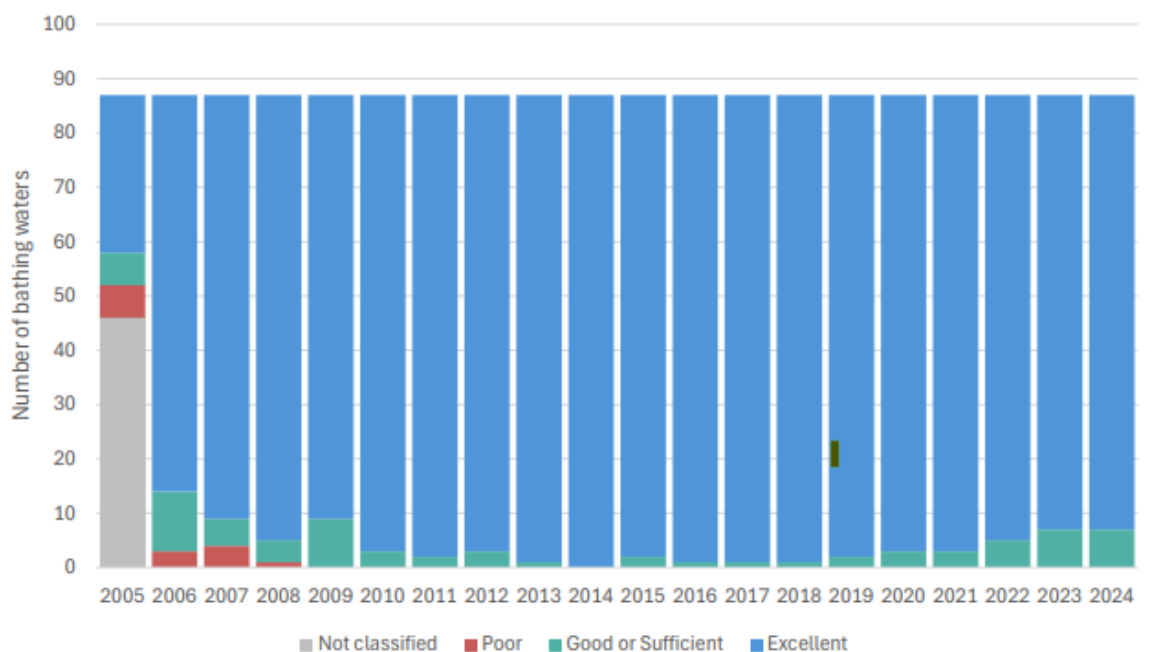




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Classification updated for the year 2024.

Figure 4: 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



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



2006/7/EC Classification based on four years data				
Bathing Water ID Numbers	Year	Escherichia coli	Intestinal Enterococci	Overall Classification
<b>2024</b>				
C21	2024	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C22		Sufficient	Excellent	Good
C23		Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
C24		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>2023</b>				
C21	2023	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C22		Sufficient	Excellent	Good
C23		Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
C24		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
<b>2022</b>				
C21	2022	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C22		Sufficient	Excellent	Good
C23		Sufficient	Excellent	Good
C24		Good	Excellent	Excellent
<b>2021</b>				
C21	2021	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
C22		Sufficient	Excellent	Excellent
C23		Sufficient	Good	Excellent
C24		Sufficient	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)



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

The risk factor for monitoring sites is C21 & C24 is low risk while, C23 medium risk and C22 high 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 temporally closing the monitoring site C21 & C24 is very low and C22 & C23 is medium. 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

Sites C21, C22 & C24 covered by this Bathing Water Profile were not temporarily closed during the bathing season of 2024.

Official bathing site C23 were temporarily closed during the bathing season of 2024 as per short term pollution report available on <https://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Report-for-the-Bathing-Prohibition-Period-C23.pdf>

The sign is a red rectangular notice with white text. At the top, it reads 'AVVIŻ MID-DIRETTORAT GĦAS-SAĦHA AMBJENTALI' and 'ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE NOTICE'. Below this, in large white letters on a red background, is 'BATHING NOT RECOMMENDED'. The main body of the sign features a large red 'X' over a white background with a skull and crossbones, indicating a health hazard. To the left of the text are the flags of Malta, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, and France. The text is provided in five languages: Maltese, English, Italian, German, and French. At the bottom left, there is a 24-hour information service contact number and website. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and the logo of the Environmental Health Directorate.

AVVIŻ MID-DIRETTORAT GĦAS-SAĦHA AMBJENTALI  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE NOTICE

**BATHING NOT RECOMMENDED**

MINFABBA ĊIRKOSTANZI MHUX TAS-SOLTU, HUWA RAKKOMANDAT LI GĦALISSA MA JSIRX GĦAWM F'DAWN L-INĦAWI. JIDDISPJACINA GĦAL DAN L-INKONVENJENT.

DUE TO EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, BATHING IN THIS AREA IS TEMPORARILY NOT RECOMMENDED. ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED IS REGRETTED.

A CAUSA DI CIRCOSTANZE IMPREVISTE, LA BALNEAZIONE IN QUESTA ZONA E' TEMPORANEAMENTE SCONSIGLIATA. CI SCUSIAMO DELL' INCONVENIENTE.

AUFGRUND BESONDERER UMSÄNDE IST DAS BADEN HIER VORÜBERGEHEND NICHT EMPFOHLEN. WIR BEDAUERN ALLE HIERAUS ENTSTEHENDEN UNANNEHMlichkeiten.

EN RAISON DE CIRCONSTANCES EXCEPTIONNELLES, LA BAIGNADE EST TEMPORAIREMENT DÉCONSEILLÉE DANS CETTE ZONE. NOUS REGRETTONS LES DESAGREMENTS OCCASIONNES.

24H Information Service  
During Office Hours 17:00 till 15:00  
After Office Hours / Week-ends / Public Holidays  
bathingwater.gov.mt

+356 21827448  
+356 21337333  
+356 79098915 (Malta)  
+356 79568915 (Gozo)  
www.ehd.gov.mt

Direttorat għas-Saħħa Ambjentali  
Environmental Health Directorate

Figure 5: Signs placed on site for temporary closing of C23.



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## 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:

### Address:



Direttorat ghas-Sahha Ambjentali  
Environmental Health Directorate

Environmental Health Directorate  
Health Inspectorate Services  
Continental Business Centre  
Triq il-Ferrovija,  
Santa Venera, SVR 9018  
Malta.

**Telephone:** +35621337333

**Email:** [complaints.ehd@gov.mt](mailto:complaints.ehd@gov.mt)  
[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:
18.1	June 2013		
18.2	June 2014		Annual data for 2013 added
18.3	May 2015		Annual data for 2014 added
18.4	June 2016		Annual data for 2015 added
18.5	May 2017		Annual data for 2016 added
18.6	June 2018		Annual data for 2017 added
18.7	June 2019		Annual data for 2018 added
18.8	June 2020		Annual data for 2019 added
18.9	July 2021		Annual data for 2020 added
18.10	October 2022		Annual data for 2021 added
18.11	July 2023		Annual data for 2022 added
18.12	June 2024		Annual data for 2023 added and other information on the bathing site
18.13	July 2025		Annual data for 2024 added