



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

Bathing Water Profile

PROFILE 3 – Update 2024

MARSAXLOKK: Ghar Ahmar Bay

BIRZEBBUGA: St Georges Bay
Pretty Bay



23 September 2025



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

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 3 covers 7 monitoring points situated in the locality of Marsaxlokk and Birzebbuga as per **Figure 2, 3, 4 and Table 1**. A09, is Located along Malta's southern coast in the fishing village of Marsaxlokk, adjacent to Trunciera street. This bay consists of a small sandy beach that is shouldered by tracts of pebbles, cobbles, and rocky coast on either side of the beach. A10 to A15, are located along Malta's southern coast in the village of Birzebbuga form part of St George's Bay surrounded by residential premises.

A10, A11 and A13 are rocky sites with concrete platforms. A12, A14 and A15 are sandy beaches.

The monitoring points A10, A11, A12, A13, A14 and A15 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 13th May till 20th 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





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

Location and Sampling of Official Bathing Area

Table 1: Co Ordinates of Sampling Point

Bathing Water ID Numbers	Longitude	Latitude
A09 (MT130133600000A09 ¹)	14.545228	35.834404
A10 (MT130131500000A10 ¹)	14.536054	35.832666
A11 (MT130131500000A11 ¹)	14.534517	35.832169
A12 (MT130131500000A12 ¹)	14.530782	35.832328
A13 (MT130131500000A13 ¹)	14.533141	35.828246
A14 (MT130131500000A14 ¹)	14.530281	35.825441
A15 (MT130131500000A15 ¹)	14.529495	35.824189

¹NB this code is the site reference code used by the European Environment Agency.

Figure 2: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of A09





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

Figure 3: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of A10, A11 & A12



Figure 4: GIS for the Official Bathing Area of A13, A14 & A15

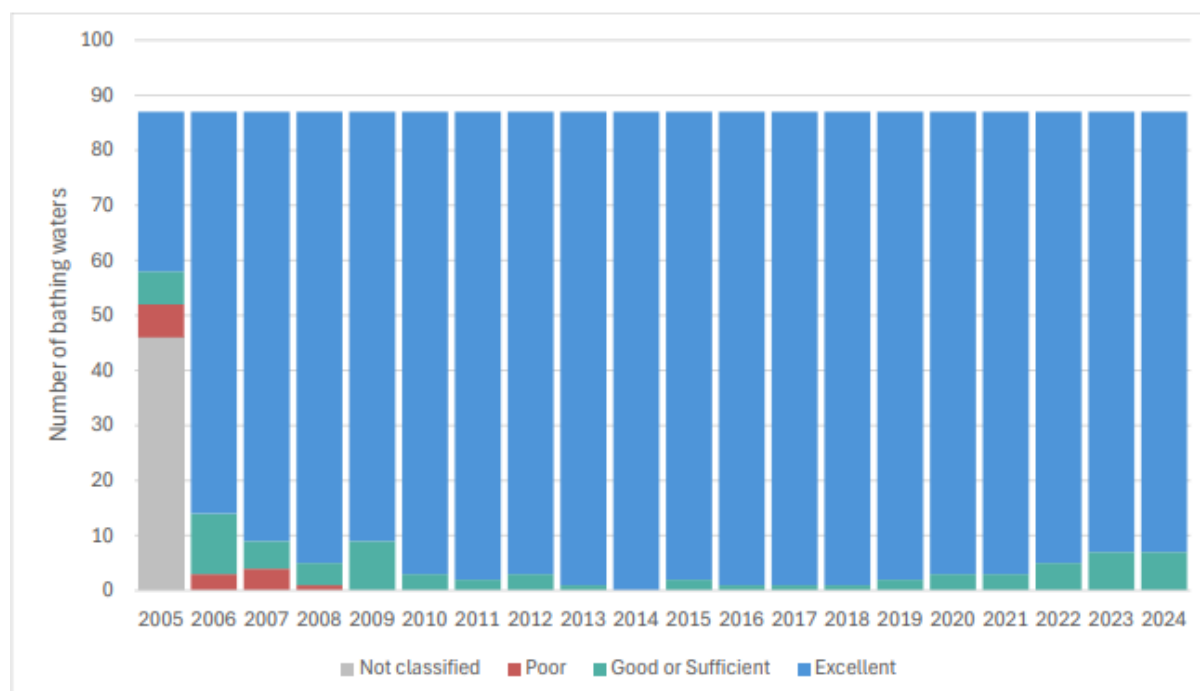




MINISTRY for HEALTH and ACTIVE AGEING
15, PALAZZO CASTELLANIA, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

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



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

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

2006/7/EC Classification based on four years data				
Bathing Water ID Numbers	YEARS	Escherichia coli	Intestinal Enterococci	Overall Classification
A09	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A10	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A11	2	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
A12	4	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A13		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A14		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A15		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A09	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A10	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A11	2	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
A12	3	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A13		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A14		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A15		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

2006/7/EC Classification based on four years data				
Bathing Water ID Numbers	YEARS	Escherichia coli	Intestinal Enterococci	Overall Classification
A09	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A10	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A11	2	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
A12	2	Good	Excellent	Excellent
A13		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A14		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A15		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A09	2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A10	0	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A11	2	Sufficient	Excellent	Sufficient
A12	1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A13		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
A14		Excellent	Good	Excellent
A15		Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Further information on bathing water results is available on the Environmental Health Directorate website www.bathingwater.gov.mt



2024
A09, A10, A12, A13, A14, A15
Excellent Quality



2024
A 11 Sufficient Quality



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

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

The risk factor for A09, A10, A13, A14 & A15 monitoring site is low risk and A11 & A12 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 temporally closing the monitoring site A09, A10, A13, A14 & A15 is very low and A11 & A12 is low. This was calculated on the number of health warnings issued for the last four years.

The probability of temporally closing the monitoring site A09, A10, A13, A14 & A15 is 0% and A11 & A12 25%. The probability was calculated if the a warning for bathing site that is not recommended for bathing was issued at least once in a year for the last four years.

Temporary closing of bathing water sites during bathing season 2024

Sites A09, A10, A11, A13, A14 & A15 covered by this Bathing Water Profile were not temporarily closed during the bathing season of 2024. A12 was temporarily closed during the bathing season of 2024

Official bathing site A12 was temporarily closed during the bathing season of 2024 as per short term pollution report available on https://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/A12_Short_Term_Pollution_Report.pdf and [https://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Short_Term_Pollution_Report - A12_July_2024.pdf](https://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Short_Term_Pollution_Report_-_A12_July_2024.pdf)



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

AVVIŻ MID-DIRETTORAT GHAS-SAĦĦA AMBJENTALI
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE NOTICE

BATHING NOT RECOMMENDED



MINFABBA ĊIRKOSTANZI MHUX TAS-SOLTU, HUWA RAKKOMANDAT LI GĦALISSA MA JSIRX GĦAWM F'DAWN L-INNAWI. 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 UMSTÄNDE IST DAS BADEN HIER VORÜBERGEHEND NICHT EMPFOHLEN. WIR BEDAUERN ALLE HIERAUS ENTSTEHENDEN UNANNEHMlichkeiten.

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

 24hr Information Service
During Office Hours (7:00 till 15:00)
After Office Hours / Week-ends / Public Holidays
bathingwater.gov.mt

+356 21327140
+356 21337333
+356 79569918 (Malta)
+356 79569918 (Gozo)
www.ehd.gov.mt

 **Direttorat għas-Saħħa Ambjentali**
Environmental Health Directorate



Figure 6: Signs placed on site for temporary closing of A12.



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

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

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.



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

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
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://environmentalhealth.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/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/>



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

Version Control			
Version number:	Date:	Next review due:	Comments:
3.1	June 2013		
3.2	June 2014		Annual data for 2013 added
3.3	May 2015		Annual data for 2014 added
3.4	June 2016		Annual data for 2015 added
3.5	May 2017		Annual data for 2016 added
3.6	June 2018		Annual data for 2017 added
3.7	June 2019		Annual data for 2018 added
3.8	June 2020		Annual data for 2019 added
3.9	July 2021		Annual data for 2020 added
3.10	October 2022		Annual data for 2021 added
3.11	July 2023		Annual data for 2022 added
3.12	June 2024		Annual data for 2023 added and other information on the bathing site
3.13	July 2025		Annual data for 2024 added