

Bathing Water Directive report 2013

France

The report gives a general overview of information acquired from the reported data, based on provisions of the Bathing Water Directive¹. The reporting process is described below, as well as state and trends of bathing water quality in France.

1. BWD reporting in 2013 season

In 2013 bathing season, 3331 bathing waters have been reported in France. For each bathing water, five groups of parameters have been delivered:

- *basic identification data* – including name, location, geographic type of bathing water and availability to bathers;
- *seasonal data* – including season start and end, national quality classification in present season, potential management measures and changes in quality;
- *monitoring results* – disaggregated numerical values of two microbiological parameters – intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli (also known as E. coli), recorded at each water sample taken;
- *abnormal situation periods* – periods of unexpected situations that have, or could reasonably be expected to have, an adverse impact on bathing water quality and on bathers' health; reporting is optional;
- *short-term pollution periods* – identifiable events that adversely affect water quality by faecal contamination; reporting is optional;

Bathing waters of France in 2013	
Total reported	3331
Coastal	2034
Inland	1297
Season period	Year-round
Coastal	Year-round
Inland	Year-round
Samples taken	33269
Share of bathing waters with good or excellent water quality	88 %
New BWD implemented in	2010

The authorities of France initiated new BWD (2006/7/EC) reporting in 2010 season. The 2013 season data were delivered to the European Commission by **24 December 2013**, with additional delivery on 7 March 2014.

Altogether, **3331 bathing waters** have been reported – 15.1% of all bathing waters in Europe. Out of all bathing waters in France, 35 (1.05%) have been newly identified in 2013 season. 26 bathing waters have been delisted². 61% of bathing waters in France are of coastal type; the other 39% are inland. **33269 samples** were taken at bathing waters throughout the season – ten per bathing water on average.

¹ Available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>

² Bathing waters which were identified in 2012 season, but not in 2013 season

The bathing season period was year-round due to overseas territories. Season duration varies between bathing waters.

In 2013, bathing waters of France have been assessed according to rules of the BWD (2006/7/EC) for the first time. The authorities have also reported additional data for the seasons of 2010, 2011 and 2012.

42 abnormal situations have been reported at 20 bathing waters. Additionally, 87 short-term pollution events have been reported at 69 bathing waters.

Detailed information on individual bathing waters is available from national bathing water profiles at <http://baignades.sante.gouv.fr/baignades/editorial/en/accueil.html>.

2. Assessment methodology

During the bathing season, water samples are taken and analysed for two bacteria, *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci which may indicate the presence of pollution, usually originating in sewage or livestock waste. The results of the analysis are used to assess the quality of the bathing waters concerned and to provide information to the public on the quality of the water in the bathing sites concerned.

According to the BWD, the bathing water sample dataset should satisfy the following conditions:

- a minimum of one sample per month³
- a minimum of four samples per season⁴
- a minimum of 16 samples in total⁵
- four consecutive seasons⁶
- a pre-season sample⁷

The monitoring took place at 100% of total identified bathing waters, while 94% of bathing waters satisfied the described sampling frequency rules set by the Directive. Table 1 shows the share of bathing waters that did not satisfy monitoring frequency, as well as corresponding reasons.

³ The interval between two samples should not exceed 31 + 4 days, provided that the next sampling is done according to the monitoring calendar; exception applies for temporarily closed bathing waters

⁴ Three samples if the season does not exceed eight weeks or the region is subject to special geographical constraints

⁵ 12 samples if the season does not exceed eight weeks or the region is subject to special geographical constraints

⁶ The condition does not apply if the bathing water is newly identified or any changes have occurred that are likely to affect the classification

⁷ A pre-season sample is taken into account at total number of samples per season

Table 1: Number of assessed bathing waters in 2013

Total number of bathing waters in 2013	Bathing waters with sampling frequency satisfied	Bathing waters with sampling frequency not satisfied			
		Insufficiently sampled	Closed	Not sampled	Total
3331	3137	188	6	0	194

However, in pursue of maximum possible count of bathing waters to be taken into account for statistical purposes, limited number of other bathing waters have been assessed as well. This includes all bathing waters that have set of samples for a competent quality classification, but lack pre-season sample or frequency between sample dates is larger than defined in the directive. However, samples have to be equally distributed throughout the season.

Bathing waters are accordingly classified to one of the BWD quality classes:

- excellent
- good
- sufficient
- poor

The classification is based on pre-defined percentile values for microbiological enumerations, falling in the certain class given in Annex I of the Directive. This defines different limit values for coastal and inland waters.

3. Bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in France for the period of 2010–2013 as reported in the past reporting years and for the bathing season of 2013 are presented in Figure 1 (for coastal bathing waters) and Figure 2 (for inland bathing waters). The previous reports are available on the European Commission's bathing water quality website⁸ and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website⁹.

3.1 Coastal bathing waters

In France, 94.1% of coastal bathing waters met at least sufficient water quality in 2013. No coastal bathing waters had to be closed during the bathing season. See Appendix 1 for numeric data.

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html

⁹ <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>

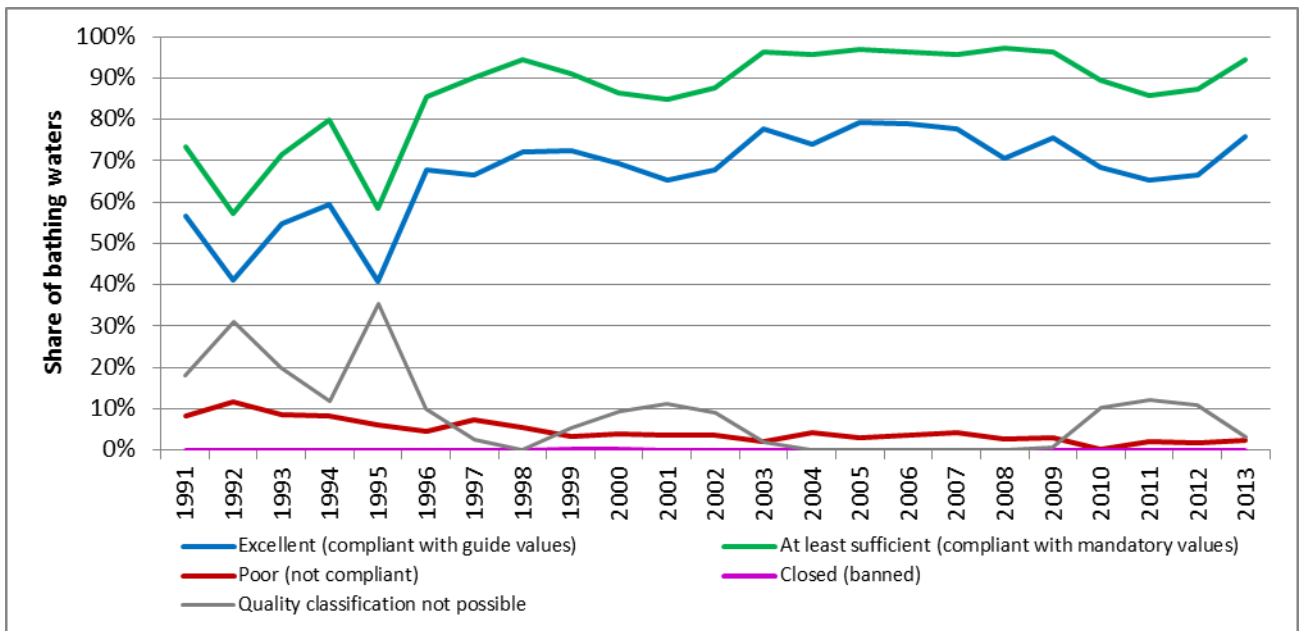


Figure 1: Coastal bathing water quality trend in France. Note: the “At least sufficient” class also includes bathing waters of “Excellent” quality class, the sum of shares is therefore not 100%.

3.2 Inland bathing waters

86.4% of the inland bathing waters met the mandatory water quality in 2013. 0.4% of bathing waters had to be closed during the bathing season. See Appendix 1 for numeric data.

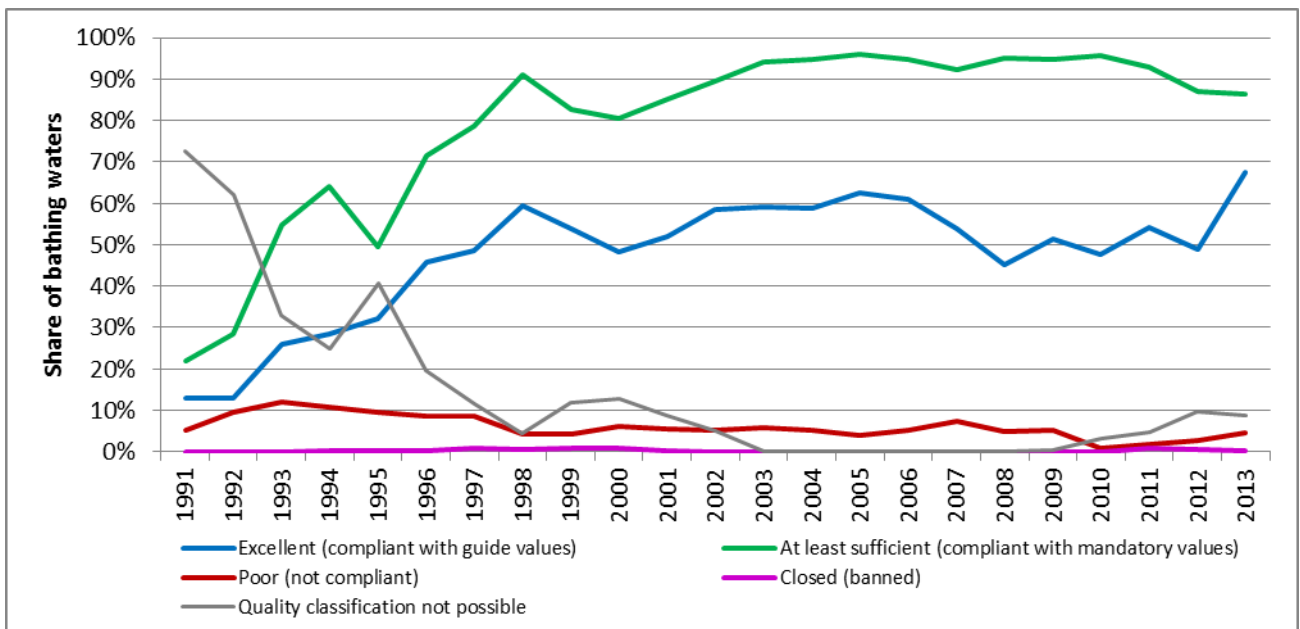


Figure 2: Inland bathing water quality trend in France. Note: the “At least sufficient” class also includes bathing waters of “Excellent” quality class, the sum of shares is therefore not 100%.

4. Information regarding management and other issues

No specific management measures have been described by national authorities.

5. Interactive information on bathing water quality in Europe

The bathing water section of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), which is accessible at the EEA bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/interactive/bathing/state-of-bathing-waters>), allows users to view the bathing water quality at more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland sites across Europe. Data is aggregated and visualized on national and station level. Detailed information regarding specific bathing site are given in pop-up windows (can be activated with a click on a selected bathing location) and bathing water profiles which can be opened through hyperlinks in pop-up windows.

The data on bathing water quality in 2013 and previous years can also be viewed in WISE bathing water data viewer, an application prepared by TC Vode (<http://bwd.eea.europa.eu/>). The WISE bathing water quality data viewer combines text and graphical visualisation, providing a quick overview of the locations of coastal and inland bathing waters, as well as statistics on their quality. Specific bathing water locations can be observed on Google Earth, Google maps or Bing maps.

Appendix 1: Results of bathing water quality in France from 2010 to 2013

		Total	Excellent (compliant with guide values)		At least sufficient (compliant with mandatory values)		Poor (not compliant)		Closed (banned)		Quality classification not possible*	
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Coastal	2010	0	0	0	1799	89.4	8	0.4	0	0.0	205	10.2
	2011	0	0	0	1738	85.7	44	2.2	0	0.0	247	12.2
	2012	0	0	0	1772	87.1	40	2.0	1	0.0	221	10.9
	2013	2034	1535	75.5	1914	94.1	57	2.8	1	0.0	62	3.0
Inland	2010	1314	627	47.7	1257	95.7	13	1.0	0	0.0	44	3.3
	2011	1304	705	54.1	1210	92.8	23	1.8	11	0.8	60	4.6
	2012	1288	631	49.0	1122	87.1	34	2.6	6	0.5	126	9.8
	2013	1297	876	67.5	1121	86.4	59	4.5	5	0.4	112	8.6
Total	2010	3326	2004	60.3	3056	91.9	21	0.6	0	0.0	249	7.5
	2011	3333	2026	60.8	2948	88.4	67	2.0	11	0.3	307	9.2
	2012	3322	1979	59.6	2894	87.1	74	2.2	7	0.2	347	10.4
	2013	3331	2411	72.4	3035	91.1	116	3.5	6	0.2	174	5.2

Note: the "At least sufficient" class also includes bathing waters which are of excellent quality, the sum of shares is therefore not 100%. * This includes new bathing waters, bathing waters with changes that affect or could have affected bathing water quality, and bathing waters that do not have enough samples.

Appendix 2: Bathing water quality map

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2013 bathing season in France



Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Bathing waters data and coordinates: French authorities