Country report

Finnish bathing water quality in 2020

Finland

June 2021

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European Environment Agency

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Bathing water quality in the season of 2020

Finland

Under the provisions of the Bathing Water Directive, more than 22 000 bathing waters are monitored in Europe each season. The monitoring data and other information regarding bathing water management are reported to the European Environment Agency by 30 reporting countries in Europe, to be assessed for the annual European report and more detailed national reports.

1. BWD reporting in the season of 2020

Bathing waters in the season 2020	
Total reported	303
Coastal	78
Inland	225
First identified in 2020	2
Delisted in 2020	0
Total reported samples	1268

Bathing water quality in the season of 2020	
Excellent	269 (88.8%)
Good	20 (6.6%)
Sufficient	5 (1.7%)
Poor	4 (1.3%)
Not classified	5 (1.7%)

The bathing waters are quality classified according to the two microbiological parameters (Escherichia coli and intestinal enterococci) defined in the Bathing Water Directive. 97% of all reported bathing waters (includes those that could not be quality classified due to lack of samples) are in line with the minimum quality standards of the Directive, thus classified “sufficient” or better.

More information at the **national bathing water portal:**
http://www.valvira.fi/ymparistoterveys/terveydensuojelu/uimavesi

2. BWD monitoring

Each bathing water that is identified by the reporting country needs to have a monitoring calendar established before the bathing season. The monitoring calendar requirements can be summarised as follows: (1) a pre-season sample is to be taken shortly before the start of each bathing season; (2) no fewer than four (alternatively, three for specific cases) samples are to be taken and analysed per bathing season; and (3) an interval between sampling dates never exceeds one month.

From the reported data, the assessment also designates effective implementation of the monitoring calendar (Table 1).

Table 1: Bathing waters in 2020 according to implementation of the monitoring calendar

	Count	Share of total [%]
Monitoring calendar implemented A bathing water satisfies monitoring calendar conditions listed above.	302	99.70%
Monitoring calendar not implemented A bathing water does not satisfy monitoring calendar conditions listed above. It may be quality-classified if enough samples are available in the last assessment period.	1	0.30%

In addition to the monitoring calendar, management specifics of the last assessment period of four years are also assessed. The status primarily indicates whether the complete dataset of four seasons is available, but also points out the reasons as to why the bathing waters do not have the complete last assessment period dataset. The latter may indicate developing conditions at the site – most importantly, whether the bathing water has been newly identified within the period, or any changes have occurred that are likely to affect the classification of the bathing water.

Table 2: Management specifics in the last assessment period of 2017–2020

	Count	Share of total [%]
Continuously monitored A bathing water has been monitored in each bathing season in the last assessment period.	295	97.40%
Newly identified A bathing water was identified for the first time within the last assessment period. Such status is assigned for full four years after reported.	5	2%
Quality changes A bathing water was subject to changes described in BWD Art. 4.4 within the last assessment period. Such status is assigned for full four years after reported.	1	0.30%
Monitoring gap A bathing water was not monitored for at least one season in the last assessment period. No quality classification is made if not enough samples are reported for the most recent season.	2	0.70%

3. Bathing water quality

3.1 Coastal bathing waters

Coastal bathing waters are situated on the sea or transitional water coastline, with respective parameter thresholds defined in Annex I of the Directive. They are subject to more strict thresholds than the inland bathing waters. Quality trend for the period 1990–2020 if historical data are available is shown in Figure 1. Number of bathing waters by quality class for the last assessment period 2017–2020 is given in Annex I.

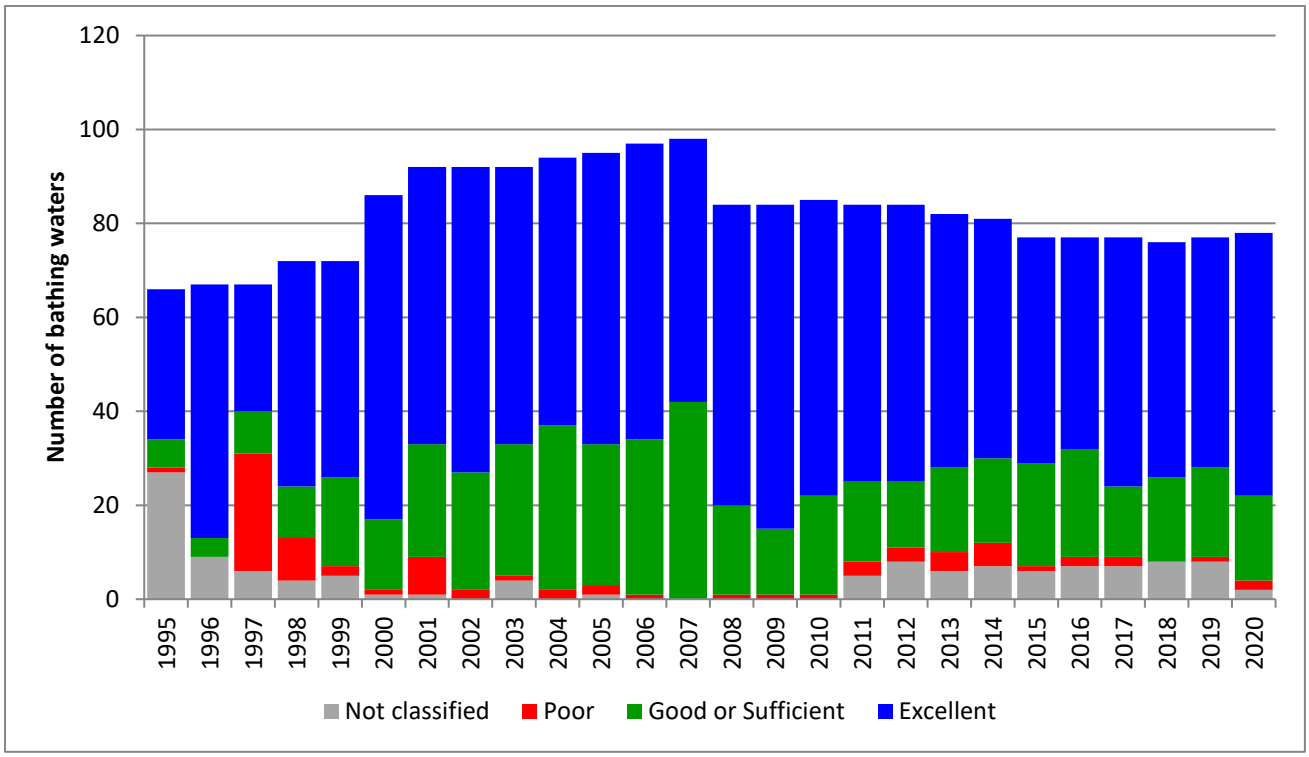


Figure 1: Trend of coastal bathing water quality. Notes: Each column represents an absolute number of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes "good" and "sufficient" are merged for comparability with the classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

3.2 Inland bathing waters

Inland bathing waters are situated at rivers and lakes, featuring fresh water and with respective parameter thresholds defined in Annex I of the Directive. Quality trend for the period 1990–2020 if historical data are available is shown in Figure 2. Number of bathing waters by quality class for the last assessment period 2017–2020 is given in Annex I.

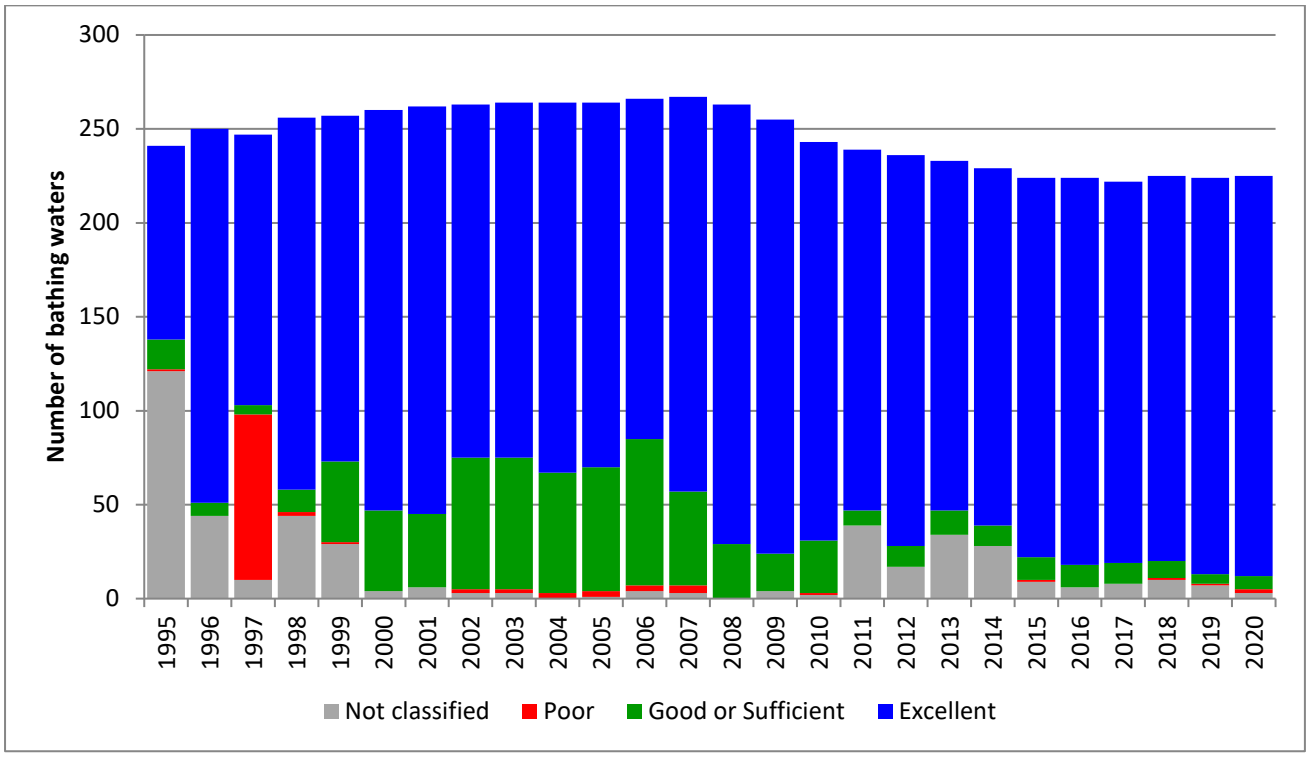


Figure 2: Trend of inland bathing water quality. Notes: Each column represents an absolute number of bathing waters in the season. Quality classes "good" and "sufficient" are merged for comparability with the classification of the preceding Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC.

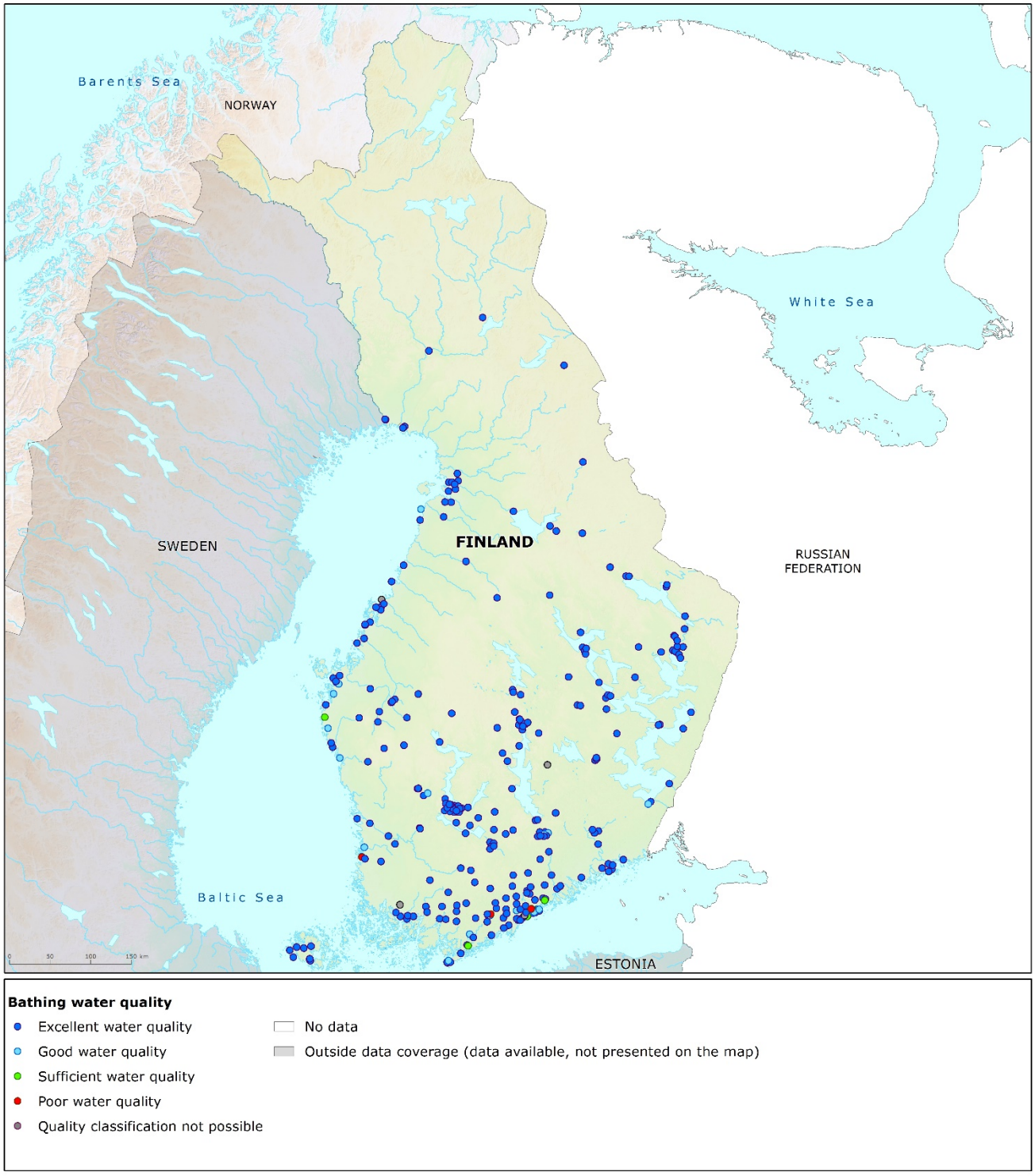
Annex I Bathing water quality in 2017–2020

Table 3: Bathing water quality by water category and season

		Total number of bathing waters	Excellent		Good		Sufficient		Poor		Not classified	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Coastal	2017	77	53	68.8%	11	14.3%	4	5.2%	2	2.6%	7	9.1%
	2018	76	50	65.8%	12	15.8%	6	7.9%	0	0.0%	8	10.5%
	2019	77	49	63.6%	12	15.6%	7	9.1%	1	1.3%	8	10.4%
	2020	78	56	71.8%	14	17.9%	4	5.1%	2	2.6%	2	2.6%
Inland	2017	222	203	91.4%	10	4.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	8	3.6%
	2018	225	205	91.1%	8	3.6%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	10	4.4%
	2019	224	211	94.2%	4	1.8%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	7	3.1%
	2020	225	213	94.7%	6	2.7%	1	0.4%	2	0.9%	3	1.3%
Total	**2017**	**299**	**256**	**85.6%**	**21**	**7.0%**	**5**	**1.7%**	**2**	**0.7%**	**15**	**5.0%**
	2018	**301**	**255**	**84.7%**	**20**	**6.6%**	**7**	**2.3%**	**1**	**0.3%**	**18**	**6.0%**
	2019	**301**	**260**	**86.4%**	**16**	**5.3%**	**8**	**2.7%**	**2**	**0.7%**	**15**	**5.0%**
	2020	**303**	**269**	**88.8%**	**20**	**6.6%**	**5**	**1.7%**	**4**	**1.3%**	**5**	**1.7%**

Annex II Bathing water quality map

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2020 bathing season in Finland



Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Finnish authorities; Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM): EEA.