

BWD Report For the Bathing Season 2014

Albania

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 Albania.

1. BWD reporting in the season 2014

In 2014 bathing season, 73 bathing waters have been reported in Albania. For each bathing water, five groups of parameters have been delivered²:

- *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 Albania in 2014	
Total reported	73
Max season period	126 days 20 May to 30 Sep
Samples taken	702
New BWD implemented in	2012

The authorities of Albania report data according to the new BWD (2006/7/EC) since the season 2012. The data for the season 2014 were delivered to the European Commission by **6 November 2014**.

Altogether, **73 bathing waters** have been reported – 0.3% of all bathing waters in Europe. Out of all bathing waters in Albania, none have been newly identified in 2014 season. All bathing waters in Albania are of coastal type. **702 samples** were taken at bathing waters throughout the season – 10 per bathing water on average.

The bathing season period was from 20 May to 30 September, i.e. 126 days altogether. Season duration varies.

¹ Directive BWD 2006/7/EC, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>

² See the BWD Data Dictionary for detailed explanations: <http://dd.eionet.europa.eu/datasets/3151#tables>

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.

The monitoring requirements under the New Bathing Water Directive are:

- taking of a pre-season sample (taken shortly before the start of the bathing season) ³;
- a minimum of four samples per season⁴;
- a minimum of one sample per month⁵.

The conditions described above must be met for all bathing waters. If these rules are satisfied, the bathing water is categorised as 'sampling frequency satisfied'. If at least one monitoring requirement is not fulfilled the bathing water is categorised as 'sampling frequency not satisfied'. In such cases, bathing water can still be quality assessed if at least four samples per season are available and are more or less equally distributed throughout the season. None Albanian bathing waters met the described monitoring requirements set by the Directive. Table 1 shows the statistics of bathing waters according to satisfied BWD monitoring requirements.

Table 1: Bathing waters in 2014 according to compliance with BWD monitoring provisions

	Count	Share of total [%]
BWs with sampling frequency satisfied that are not banned or closed (B) in 2014 These bathing waters have been monitored according to BWD provisions (monitoring frequency satisfied and have pre-season sample. They have been quality-classified (CG, CI, NC).	0	0%
BWs with sampling frequency not satisfied and that are not banned or closed (B) in 2014. These bathing waters have not been monitored according to BWD provisions (monitoring frequency not satisfied). They may be quality-classified if there is a reasonable volume of samples available.	73	100%
BWs that are banned or closed (B) in 2014. The bathing waters that were banned or closed because of a legal dispute and could not be sampled.	0	0%
Total number of bathing waters in 2014	73	100%

Since the data series of four consecutive years has not been collected yet, the assessment of bathing waters has been done according to transitional rules. This means that only the most recent season's data have been considered, while quality classification is based on criteria of the old BWD (76/160/EEC). The results for both parameters are classified in the following three quality categories:

³ A pre-season sample is taken into account at total number of samples per season.

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

⁵ If, for any reason, it is not possible to take the sample at the scheduled date, a delay of four extra days is allowed. Thus, the interval between two samples should not exceed 31 + 4 days.

compliant with the mandatory value (CI), compliant with the guide values (CG), and not compliant with the mandatory value (NC).

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 previous reports are available on the European Commission's bathing water quality website⁶ and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website⁷.

3.1 Coastal bathing waters

In Albania, 98.6% of coastal bathing waters met the mandatory values (CI) in 2014. See Appendix 1 for numeric data.

3.2 Inland bathing waters

There are no inland bathing waters in Albania.

4. Information regarding management and other issues

No specific management measures have been described by national authorities.

5. Bathing water quality assessment presentation in online viewers

The new legislation requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information dissemination. More on the bathing and other water legislation can be found on the European Commission's website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index_en.htm.

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 21 000 coastal beaches and inland sites across Europe. The data on bathing water quality in 2014 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 bathing water's locations and achieved quality.

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html

⁷ <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>

Citizens have now access to more bathing water information than ever and are encouraged to make full use of disseminated information.

Appendix 1: Results of bathing water quality in Albania from 2011 to 2014

		Total number of bathing waters	Compliant with the guide values (CG)		Compliant with the mandatory value (CI)		Not compliant with the mandatory value (NC)		Quality classification not possible: not enough samples/banned or closed	
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Total	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2013	73	37	50.7	67	91.8	6	8.2	0	0.0
	2014	73	26	35.6	72	98.6	1	1.4	0	0.0

Appendix 2: Bathing water quality map

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2014 bathing season in Albania



Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Rivers in Western Balkan: TC Vode; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Albanian authorities