

SUMMARY OF 2005 TO 2008 PROJECTED COMPLIANCE OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S BATHING WATERS WITH REVISED BATHING WATER DIRECTIVE (2006/7/EC)

BACKGROUND

In 2006 a revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) was agreed. This Directive contains a number of changes including parameters monitored and the assessment of the microbiological monitoring results. In accordance with Article 5, the first Bathing Water classification must be completed by the end of the 2015 bathing season.

Bathing water quality assessments {Article 4:2 (d)} will be carried out on a set of bathing water quality data compiled in relation to that bathing season and the three preceding bathing seasons, i.e. on 4 years of data. In addition the numerical limits are much stricter than the 1976 Directive. In the first year using the new assessment, it may be perceived that bathing water quality has changed, however this may be due to the new standards and not to a change in water quality. As compliance is based on 4 years data, monitoring must begin in 2012.

UK Agencies are at present projecting bathing water compliance in accordance with the numerical limits of the revised bathing water directive. It is only possible to project compliance as discussions between the UK Agencies and the Commission continue in order to achieve a unified approach.

SUMMARY OF TEMPORAL TREND BATHING WATER DATA

A projected assessment and classification of Northern Ireland's bathing waters complying with Annex I and Annex II of the revised directive is given in Table 1. No sample results have been discounted or disregarded.

There is no reference in these projected compliance figures to Portballintrae, bathing water. This was only identified in 2008 so there is only 1 year of data, insufficient for analysis here.



**Table 1 Projected rBWD Compliances for Northern Ireland's Identified Bathing Waters
(No Discounting)**

BATHING WATER	Quality of BW 01-04	Quality of BW 02-05	Quality of BW 03-06	Quality of BW 04-07	Quality of BW 05-08
Magilligan (Benone)	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Magilligan (Downhill)	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	GOOD	GOOD
Castlerock	POOR	POOR	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT
Portstewart	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Portrush (Mill) West	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Portrush (Curran) East	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT
Portrush (Whiterocks)	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Ballycastle	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SUFFICIENT
Waterfoot	SUFFICIENT	POOR	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT
Carnlough ¹	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	GOOD
Ballygally	SUFFICIENT	POOR	SUFFICIENT	POOR	POOR
Brown's Bay	SUFFICIENT	GOOD	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SUFFICIENT
Helen's Bay	POOR	SUFFICIENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Crawfordsburn	SUFFICIENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Ballyholme	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR
Groomsport	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Millisle	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	GOOD	GOOD
Ballywalter	GOOD	GOOD	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT
Tyrella	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Murlough Co Down	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Newcastle	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	POOR	POOR
Cranfield (Nicholson's Strand)	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Cranfield (Cranfield Bay)	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT

¹ The compliance was assessed with and without the abnormal weather waiver applied to Carnlough in 2007. The AWW applied to Carnlough in 2007 did not affect the projected compliance.

