

## **Bathing water profiles: The Dutch approach and some practical cases**

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In the Netherlands are 650 bathing water sites of which 80 are coastal waters. We standardised the method of producing a bathing water profile for both of these types of water. This method should be a practical, cost-efficient, independent and relatively simple tool.

In the Dutch view a bathing water profile should give an estimate of which sources of faecal emission negatively influence the bathing water quality and via which dispersion routes. Important aspects are then the type of emission (continuous/non-recurrent, specific source/diffuse sources) and the location-specific characteristics. In such a bathing water profile advises how to reach better water quality will be given. This, supplemented by extra monitoring if necessary, can be used to substantiate chosen management measures better, and can ultimately lead to the desired result. This means that funds can be used more efficiently.

At the same time, the bathing water profile will be used to communicate with society/public with regard to the quality of the bathing water and the management measures taken.

The Dutch approach exists of several steps (investigating the historical data of the water quality, a field visit, description of the location and the hydromorphology of the location) in which all possible routes and sources of contamination are listed. Then all these sources are analysed with a quick-scan to find out which sources and routes are the most important in influencing the bathing water quality negatively at this site. This leads to some advises to optimize the water quality and the bathing water is ready to use.

In the presentation some practical cases will be shown to illustrate our approach and choices made.