

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED EC BATHING WATER DIRECTIVE 2006/7/EC

Following the close of the bathing water consultation earlier this year in February, we are pleased to announce that the Bathing Water Regulations 2008 recently came into force in England and Wales.



This edition of the newsletter will cover the:

- bathing water consultation;
- bathing water notice.

1. Bathing water consultation

The consultation on the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive closed on 4 February. The consultation carried out in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government sought views on the Government's proposals for implementing the Directive, the partial impact assessment and draft Bathing Water Regulations. Forty-two responses were received and on the whole the responses supported the Government's proposals. A summary of responses document, including the Government's response can be viewed at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/bathingwaters/index.htm>

Some stakeholders commented on the costs and benefits of the Government's proposals included in the impact assessment. Discussion on the issues raised in relation to the impact assessment can be found in the summary of responses document (link above) and the updated impacted assessment can be viewed at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20081097_en.pdf

A small number of comments were also received on the draft Bathing Water Regulations 2008. These were considered as we finalised the text. The Regulations were laid before Parliament on 21 April 2008 and came into force on 14 May 2008 and can be viewed at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20081097_en.pdf

2. Bathing water notice

We have recently updated the Bathing Water Notice (which lists the bathing waters identified under both the current and revised Bathing Water Directives) to reflect recent changes made to the list of identified bathing waters in England.

The draft Bathing Waters (England) Notice 2008 is open to representations or objections until 29 August 2008 and is available on the Defra website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/bathing/pdf/bw-england2008-notice.pdf

Information on the process for identifying bathing waters can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/bathing/identification.htm

3. Further information

Further information on the Bathing Water Directives can be found on the Defra website at

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/bathing/default.htm

4. We would like to hear from you too...

If you have a particular point of interest or concern which you would like to discuss with the Department, or perhaps there is an area you would like us to cover in a future edition of the newsletter then we would like to hear from you. You can email Kate Hedges in the Water Quality Division, Defra – Kate.Hedges@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**Water Quality Division
Defra**

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