

Blue Flag Campaign and Bathing Water Quality Monitoring in Turkey

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Abstract

Blue Flag Campaign in Turkey has been carried on by Foundation for Environmental Education in Turkey (FEEE-Turkey) since 1994. The campaign aims sustainable use of coasts by awarding clean, safe, good managed beaches and marinas and by forcing local authorities to hold environmental education activities.

The main criteria of the campaign for beaches are the compliance of seawater quality with guide values of European Commission Bathing Water Directive. This compliance is monitored by fortnightly sampling and analysis for three microbiological parameters in bathing season. These three parameters are namely *Total coliform*, *Faecal coliform* and *Faecal streptococci*.

Bathing water quality monitoring of Turkish Coasts is performed by Ministry of Health for Blue Flag Campaign via a special protocol with Ministry of Tourism.

In 1998, number of sampling points at Turkish Coasts increased to 422. 58% of these points were properly sampled with sufficient frequency. Bathing water quality results shows that 87% of sampling points with sufficient frequency at Turkish coasts comply with the mandatory values whereas 47% of these points comply with the guide values mentioned in European Commission Bathing Water Directive.