**5. General information as provided by the Swedish authorities**

To the bathing season 2008 Sweden implemented into the swedish legislation the new Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC by regulation SFS 2008:218 and NFS 2008:8 which is now legally binding.The Swedish implementation of the new directive was also informed to the Commission before the start of the bathing season 2008. During the bathing season 2008 the swedish muncipalities sampled their bathing waters according to the Directive 2006/7/EC in order of frequency, parameters etc.

The member states have been asked to set their own limit for “large bathing water”. In Sweden it was decided that large bathing water is a place visited by at least 200 bathers per day. The responsible communities were asked to re-register their EU bathing waters in regard of this. 470 bathing water were registered with motive (>200 bathers/day), control plan and sampled according to the new rules of the new directive before the bathing season 2008.

Five bathing waters were removed from the list before the bathing season 2009. Four of these were additional sampling points to other bathing waters. One bathing water was not visited by >200 bathers/day during 2008 and therefore removed. Another five bathing waters were asked to be removed by the communities, but since no quantitative changes were observed, these bathing waters are still listed. Four new bating waters were registered for the bathing season of 2009.

According to the new directive, Sweden has 469 bathing water areas with a large number of bathers, and these bathing areas has been registered with names, coordinates and control plan before the bathing season 2009.

The reported bathing areas has been sampled according to the new directive given that the maximum days allowed between two samplings are 30 days. The majority of the Swedish counties has a bathing season shorter than 8 weeks which gives an allowed minimum frequency of 3 samples per bathing season.

**Non-complying bathing sites**

None of the Swedish bathing waters have been prohibited for bathing during the season 2009. At bathing waters that during the bathing season 2009 got the judgement Non Complying the municipalities concerned investigate the possible reasons of the bad quality of the bathing water. This could be due to semi permanent or permanent causes such as leaching wastewater from individual households and municipal wastewater treatment plants. The current measures are site-specific and as cost-efficient as possible for the actual area.

Several beaches have problems with pollution of the beach and bathing area from birds, mainly geese, this problem is difficult to control but many municipalities work with measures to reduce the number of birds at the bathing area.

# Information to the public

The bathing data for the season are reported to the website “Badplatsen”, where the public can consult the latest quality assessments. It is also possible to search for previous years’ assessments. This website can be accessed via the home page of the Swedish EPA or of the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control (http://badplatsen.smittskyddsinstitutet.se).

**Waste water treatment**

Most Swedish households are connected to a sewage treatment plant. The majority of such plants have both a chemical and biological treatment stage, but do not generally perform disinfection.

# Treatment of diffuse pollution sources

Considerable efforts are made to monitor the maintenance of private cesspools and to ensure that an increasing number of them are connected to a treatment plant. Sweden historically used to have a large number of wetland areas, which played an important part in reducing nutrient and bacteria loads to nearby watercourses. Many of these wetlands have been drained, in the post war decades but now new ones are being established in some parts of the country in order to reduce pollution from non-point sources. Several bathing areas have problems with pollution caused by birds, mainly geese, a source of contamination, which can be difficult to control.