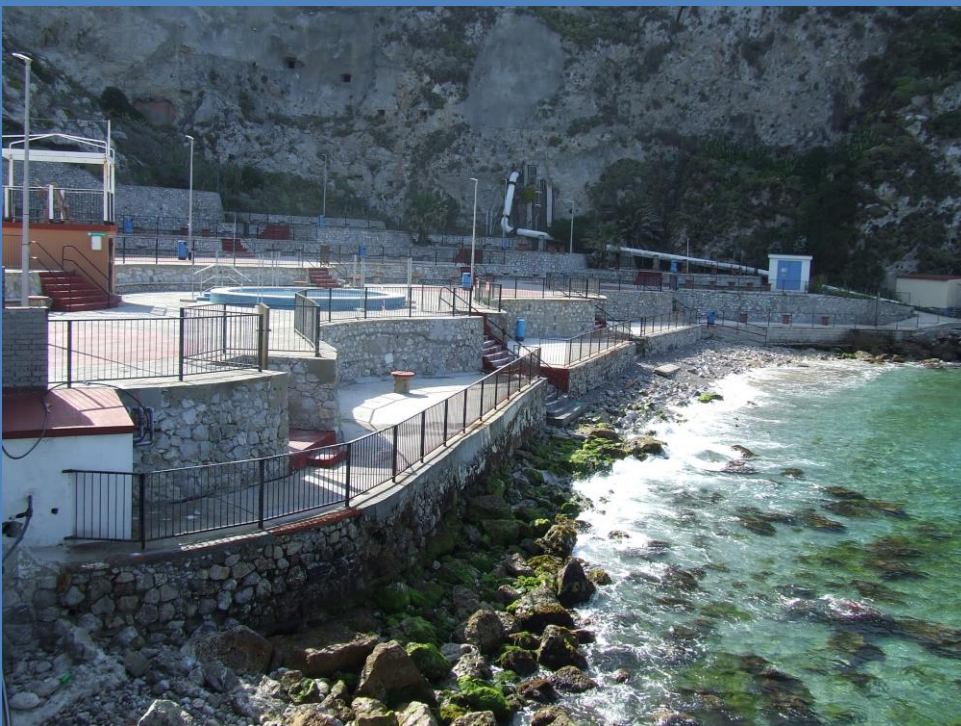




# LITTLE BAY

## BATHING WATER PROFILE



Little Bay is located in the South West area of Gibraltar, within the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Special Area of Conservation. In addition to its popularity with bathers, the bay is also a very popular diving and snorkeling area. There are no predominant land uses in the vicinity of Little Bay.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 7-9 metres depending on the exact location on the beach. The rocky beach slopes gently towards the water. For local tide information see: <http://www.gibraltarport.com/tide-and-weather>

*Table 1. General description of Sandy Bay & monitoring point*

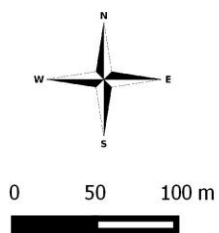
<b>NAME OF THE PARAMETER</b>	
<b>Bathing Water ID</b>	UKGIB40
<b>Bathing Water Name</b>	Little Bay
<b>Short Bathing Water Name</b>	Little Bay
<b>Name of the competent authority</b>	Department the Environment & Climate Change
<b>Contact information of the competent authority</b>	Tel: (00350) 200 48450 Email: info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi
<b>Bathing water profile last reviewed on</b>	1st August 2016
<b>Next review of Bathing water profile</b>	1st August 2020
<b>Reasons for review</b>	Directive requires bathing water classified as good status to be reviewed every 4 years.
<b>Beach publicly or privately operated</b>	Publicly operated
<b>Member state</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Province, Region, etc.</b>	Gibraltar
<b>Municipality</b>	Gibraltar
<b>Name of the river, lake, transitional water or coastal</b>	Gibraltar
<b>Location within member state</b>	See Figure 1
<b>Pair of coordinates of the monitoring point</b>	Long: 28°85'35" Lat: 399°92'50"
<b>Frame of reference for the coordinates</b>	WGS84

The chosen monitoring point at Little Bay is illustrated in Figure 1. The representative point is located in the middle of the bay although bathers frequent the entirety of the length of the bathing area demarcated. Known sources of pollution could originate from the South of the beach making the chosen point the ideal monitoring location.

Figure 1. Location of Little Bay, extent and bathing water monitoring point.



### Little Bay Bathing Water & Catchment Map



#### Legend

- Bathing Water Monitoring Points
- ▲ Desalination Outfall
- ◆ Primary Treated Outfall
- Pumping Station Overflow
- ▭ Defined Beach Extent



Department of the Environment  
and Climate Change  
HM Government of Gibraltar

*Table 2. Physical and geographical characteristics of Little Bay.*

NAME OF THE PARAMETER	
<b>Description of the beach</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> muddy <input type="checkbox"/> marshy <input type="checkbox"/> sandy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rocky
<b>Structure of the riparian Zone</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> natural <input type="checkbox"/> semi-natural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>modified</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>other</u> : Coastal shoreline reinforced with sea wall
<b>Length of the beach</b>	Approx. 160 meters
<b>Medium depth of the bathing water</b>	2 meters
<b>Maximum depth of the bathing water</b>	10 meters
<b>Bathrooms, showers, toilets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> bathrooms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>showers (during bathing season)</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>toilets</u>
<b>Waste disposal</b>	Waste collection and recycling facilities are available at the beach.
<b>Admittance for dogs</b>	Dogs are not allowed on the beach.
<b>Other activities than bathing</b>	Fishing (restricted during certain times of the year), diving and snorkelling
<b>Maximum daily number of bathers during high season and best weather conditions</b>	300

*Table 3. Name and codes of the river basin district.*

NAME OF THE PARAMETER	
<b>River Basin District ID</b>	UKGIB17
<b>River Basin District Name</b>	Gibraltar
<b>River Basin District SUID</b>	n/a
<b>River Basin District SU Name</b>	n/a
<b>Water Body ID</b>	UKGIB6903
<b>Water Body Name</b>	Gibraltar
<b>National Water Unit ID</b>	n/a
<b>National Water Unit Name</b>	n/a

### *Historical data*

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In Gibraltar the bathing season lasts for six and a half months, from the 15<sup>th</sup> of April to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October; although the greatest number of bathers occur during mid-June to mid-September.

Bathing water standards are set in the EC Directive 2006/7/EC. The bathing water monitoring programme is based on weekly samples taken throughout the bathing season. Little Bay has always met the mandatory values set by the Bathing Water Directives. Recent and historical results of the bathing water programme at Little Bay are available online from the Gibraltar Environmental Agency website at:

[http://www.environmental-agency.gi/environmental\\_monitoring.htm](http://www.environmental-agency.gi/environmental_monitoring.htm)

In addition to the requirements of the revised Bathing Water Directive numerous quality elements are being used to assess the status of coastal waters in the immediate vicinity of Little Bay. These quality elements include physical, biological and chemical parameters in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. A comprehensive overview and results of the monitoring carried out to date is available online from the Department of the Environment and Climate Change' website [<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/water>]. The coastal monitoring programme has been augmented to include the obligations of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC).

### *Identification and assessment of causes of pollution that might affect bathing waters*

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The coastal waters in the vicinity of storm water overflows can see changes in water quality during periods of heavy rainfall especially where these serve as combined sewer overflows. The resultant flows could have an effect on bathing water compliance predominantly due to faecal pollution. The climatic conditions in Gibraltar can be described as Mediterranean/subtropical and therefore periods of heavy rainfall are infrequent during the bathing season in Gibraltar.

The potential relevant pollution sources at Little Bay and the adjacent beach of Camp Bay are highlighted in Figure 1. These consist of a pumping station overflow and a primary treated sewage outfall to the south of Little Bay and two storm drains to the north. There are no surface watercourses within close proximity of Little Bay.

The principal risk is short-term faecal pollution following a period of intense rainfall during the bathing season. The effects of which would last no longer than 1-2 days after the period of rainfall. In addition, there is also the possibility of contamination from the primary treated sewage outfall located approximately 1.2 km south-east of Little Bay. There is however no indication, as proven by the bathing water monitoring programme and modelling studies, that the sewage outfall located at Europa Point is currently having any impacts on the quality of bathing water in Little Bay or any other bathing water in Gibraltar. This is attributed to the strong currents and extremely high dispersion factor of the Straits of Gibraltar.

*Proliferation of cyanobacteria, macro-algae and/or other marine species*

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Macroalgae and phytoplankton are an integral part of the marine ecosystem. Excess populations can nevertheless result in a deterioration of bathing water quality especially in the case of phytoplankton blooms.

Ongoing monitoring suggests that Little Bay is not subject to excess macroalgae or phytoplankton. Phytoplankton numbers do increase naturally during the spring and autumn but not in numbers large enough to be considered as a threat to bathing water quality.

There is a possibility of increased numbers of jellyfish in the water particularly during the summer months. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Although there are a few stinging species common to the Gibraltar, most are harmless and bathers are not allowed to swim when jellyfish numbers pose a risk to bathers.

**About this document:**

This document was produced in August 2016. Any feedback or comments on the profile should be sent to [info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi)