



WATER QUALITY IN THE SEINE: AFTER MEDIAPART'S REVELATIONS, SURFRIDER CALLS FOR TOTAL TRANSPARENCY

Press Release 8.08.2023 | For immediate release

To their astonishment, Surfrider's teams have learned of [two Mediapart articles published on Wednesday 7 August](#) revealing that the quality of the water in the Seine has been sufficient only 20% of the time since the launch of the Olympic Games on 26 July.

Since the start of our sampling campaign and its exposure last April, Surfrider Foundation has had only one aim: to shed full light on the real state of the Seine with independent analyses, so as to be able to attest to results that would not be contested. In today's world, where the word of institutions is often challenged, we felt this was important.

Our last sample was taken on 15 July. After that, we had to stop, as we were unable to gain access to the competition site: the stakeholders organising the Olympics gave us no authorisation despite our request in our open letter.

From then on, the only way to obtain information was to consult the weekly bulletins on water quality in the Seine published each weekend by the Paris prefecture, [but since 23 July, when the COJO took control of communications, the prefecture no longer publishes any information.](#)

In the absence of data open to the general public, we had to rely on the data provided by the IOC in its daily briefings. The information given is unclear and not very precise about the methodologies and parameters referred to in their communication.

Over the last few days, several media outlets, including AFP, have expressed this need for transparency, before discovering the Mediapart articles yesterday evening.

In order to ensure transparency of information for the public, Surfrider is calling on all parties involved in the organization of the Paris 2024 Olympics to make all data public and update the prefecture's weekly bulletins.

We are also asking that the data be published with a clear indication of the analytical methods used the analytical methods used.

It is the responsibility of the organisers to demonstrate complete transparency, both for the safety of the athletes and for the information of the public, particularly in the context of the bathability of the Seine in the summer of 2025.

Surfrider recalls that its NGO, founded in 1984 in the United States and in 1990 in Europe, was created by surfers who were fed up with coming back sick from their sessions due to poor quality water. 40 years on, the fight to ensure the health of water sports users is as strong as ever.

We remain at the disposal of journalists for any requests for information or interviews.

About Surfrider Foundation Europe

Surfrider Foundation Europe, an NGO founded in 1990, works to protect the oceans, coastlines, waves and their users. For over 30 years, with a team of experts and some fifty volunteer branches in 12 European countries, the association has been working with stakeholders (citizens, private and public sectors) on several major issues: aquatic waste, coastal development, climate change, water quality and the health of ocean users. Because the health of users counts, Surfrider is closely monitoring the revision of the European Directive on the quality of bathing water. Find out more

about the association at <https://surfrider.eu> and on video

CONTACT :

Lionel Cheylus | Press Relations Manager | +33 6 08 10 58 02 | lcheylyus@surfrider.eu



SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
www.surfrider.eu



Surfrider Foundation Europe's "Healthy Water" campaign is supported by the LIFE programme created by the European Commission. The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the content, which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.