

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Gross Leuthener See is a lake situated almost 20km north east of Lübben in the direction of Beeskow in the "Leuthen Sand Plateau", an undulating ground moraine area over which tower the hilltops of a several terminal moraines. It stretches in a bow shape between the localities of Gross Leuthen on the western shore and Klein Leuthen on the eastern shore. Due to its wind exposed location and its shallow water depth (an average of 2.4m), the 115ha lake is always well mixed.

South of Gross Leuthen the Dollgener Seegraben flows into the lake and leaves it again in the north east. It then drains into the River Spree via the Rocher Mühlenfliess. The 27km² catchment area of Gross Leuthener See consists of a good 68% forest (predominantly pine forest) and only around 23% is arable land.

The lake is of interest in terms of tourism: north of Gross Leuthen there is a four-star camping site within walking distance of the lake. On the other side of the lake there is the Klein Leuthen holiday and leisure centre.

The lake is surrounded by a 50 – 100m wide riparian zone populated by trees. This is bordered by areas used for agriculture. A reed belt, which has gaps in part, can be primarily found on the eastern shore, whilst water lilies grow in the flat bays near the inflow, as well as in the north west.

Gross Leuthener See is used for fish farming and is a popular angling lake. The main species of fish are eel and carp, but there is also a good population of pike and zander. Due to the limited access to the lake, angling is predominantly undertaken using boats.

Due to the very high proportion of forest in its large catchment area, Gross Leuthener See should be a moderately nutrient-rich lake with comparatively high water transparency levels. However, the lake, which is monitored by the State Office for Environment as part of long-term environmental programme, showed clear signs of an excess of nutrients: strong growth of plant plankton, which was dominated by blue-green algae, water transparency levels which were constantly below one metre, greatly impoverished underwater vegetation and extreme swings in oxygen levels. The overall state was therefore only able to be categorised as moderate.

The "Gross Leuthen" bathing, which is tested every four weeks by the local Office for Health as per the Brandenburg Bathing Water Regulations, there were no exceedances of single values of the microbiological parameters e.coli and intestinal enterococci. Blooms of blue-green algae have not been observed.

Text: Kerstin Wöbbecke, enviteam office

Sources:

www.eurocamp-spreewaldtor.de Camping Gross Leuthen GmbH, EuroCamp "Spreewaldtor" at Gurkenradweg
www.ffz-ferienamsee.de Ferien- und Freizeitzentrum Klein Leuthen
www.spreewaldfisch.com Fischerei Kowalski, Gross Leuthen