

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Zeuthener See is a lake situated on Berlin's south-eastern border. The border runs through the lake. The landscape belongs to the Berlin-Fürstental Spree Valley Lowland, which in this area has become part of the urban agglomerate.

Zeuthener See is a lake-like extension of the River Dahme, which, coming from the south, takes up the course of the Wernsdorf Lake Chain at the southern end of the lake. At the northern end the Gosen Canal flows into the lake from the east via Seddinsee. Additionally, Zeuthener See receives an inflow from the Selchower Flutgraben. Around 11km below Zeuthener See the Dahme flows into the Spree at Köpenick.

Zeuthener See is almost 4km long and between 100 and 800m wide. Its surface area is 233ha. Approximately in the middle there is a small island, the Zeuthener Wall. At the south-eastern shore a large peninsula projects into the lake. The lake is on average 2.5m deep (maximum depth: 4.8m).

The western shore of the lake is occupied by Zeuthen. As with many parishes in the area surrounding Berlin, the former fishing village experienced rapid development after 1870. Wealthy Berlin business people and industrialists built villas on the shores of the lake. Sailing and yachting clubs were founded. The opening of the Berlin to Görlitz railway line in 1866 ensured a fast connection to Berlin. Today, the western shore is lined with numerous boat jetties. The lake is a popular area for sailing. It may also be used by motorboats, as it belongs to the Dahme Waterway (a Federal Waterway), which stretches from Schmöckwitz to Prieros.

The eastern shore, the Schmöckwitzer Werder which is surrounded by the lakes of Zeuthener See, Krossinsee and Langer Zug, is unpopulated, apart from a camping site, a Japanese private university and the Rauchfangwerder peninsula. In parts, extensive reed beds are able to be sustained here.

Zeuthener See is a very nutrient-rich lake. During the summer water transparency levels are rarely above 0.5m. At the bathing area the average value during the season is only 0.7m. Due to the low transparency levels, underwater vegetation has completely disappeared. As early as April/May until long into autumn strands of the nutrient-loving blue-green algae dominate the plankton and form algae blooms.

The "Eichwalde" bathing area at Zeuthener See, 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. Often blue-green algae can be observed. People who are sensitive to the algae should refrain from bathing.

Text: Kerstin Wöbbecke, enviteam office

Sources

Brauns, M. X-F.Garcia, U. Grünert & U. Mischke (2006): Phytoplankton, Makrophyten Makrozoobenthos in fünf Berliner Seen im Rahmen der Umsetzung der EU-Wasserrahmenrichtlinie – (final report) on behalf of the Berlin Senate Administration for Urban Development

www.zeuthen.de