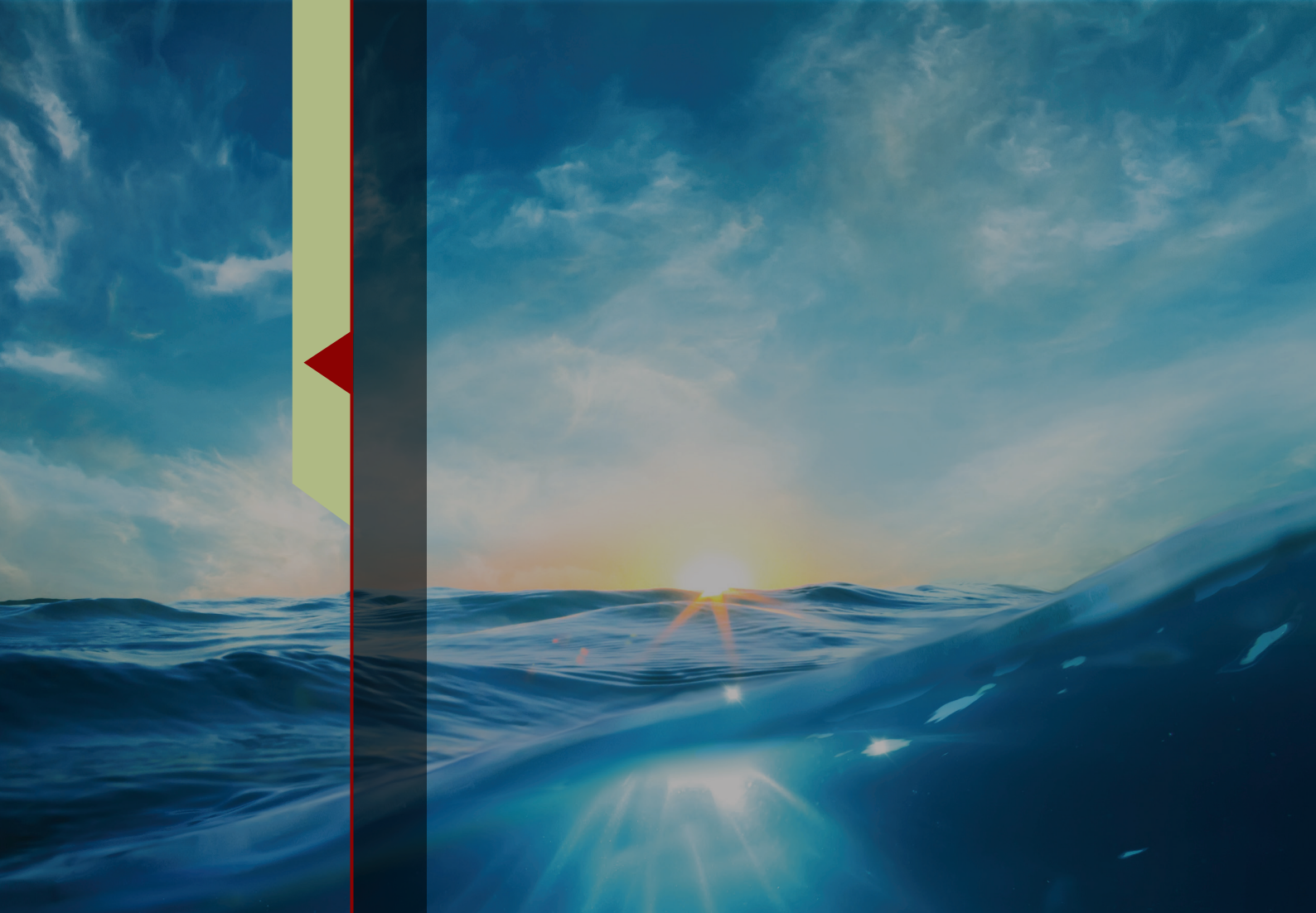




مركز الإحصاء  
STATISTICS CENTRE



# Water Statistics 2018



عام التسامح  
YEAR OF TOLERANCE



شركة أبوظبي لخدمات الصرف الصحي  
Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company



هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي  
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI



دائرة الطاقة  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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## Introduction

This publication presents water statistics in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for the year 2018. It contains desalinated water statistics including production and consumption of desalinated water and water transmission system, in addition to water quality. It also contains wastewater statistics that includes wastewater quality and treatment plants capacity.

The key sources of data used in the report are the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Department of Energy, Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company (ADSSC).

The "Explanatory Notes" section at the end of this report provides an explanation of the key terms and technical concepts used in this publication.

## Key Points

### Water statistics

Water statistics are considered one of the most important branches of environmental statistics. Water statistics include water resources and types as well as the amount consumed and sanitation statistics. The Abu Dhabi government seeks to ensure the optimum utilization of water resources, conservation of natural resources and to meet the growing need for water in various areas. Non- conventional water resources are of great importance in Abu Dhabi. Non- conventional water resources include seawater desalination and wastewater treatment and reuse.

### Desalinated water statistics

Economic development and population growth require more water supplies. Development plans aim at forecasting demand and supply of water resources. Water desalination industry enjoys great significance in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to meet the growing demand. Data shows that the available desalinated water in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2018-totaled **1,092.0** MCM, of which **1,081.9** MCM were consumed.

#### Consumption of desalinated water

Table 1.1 reveals that available desalinated water in Emirate of Abu Dhabi decreased in 2018 by 1.9% compared with 2017. The annual consumption of desalinated water decreased by 1.8% compared with 2017. The public consumption of desalinated water accounted for 99.08% of the total available desalinated water in 2018. Table 1.1 also shows the stability of per capita daily consumption of equals one cubic meter/ day in 2018.

**Table 1.1: Consumption of desalinated water**

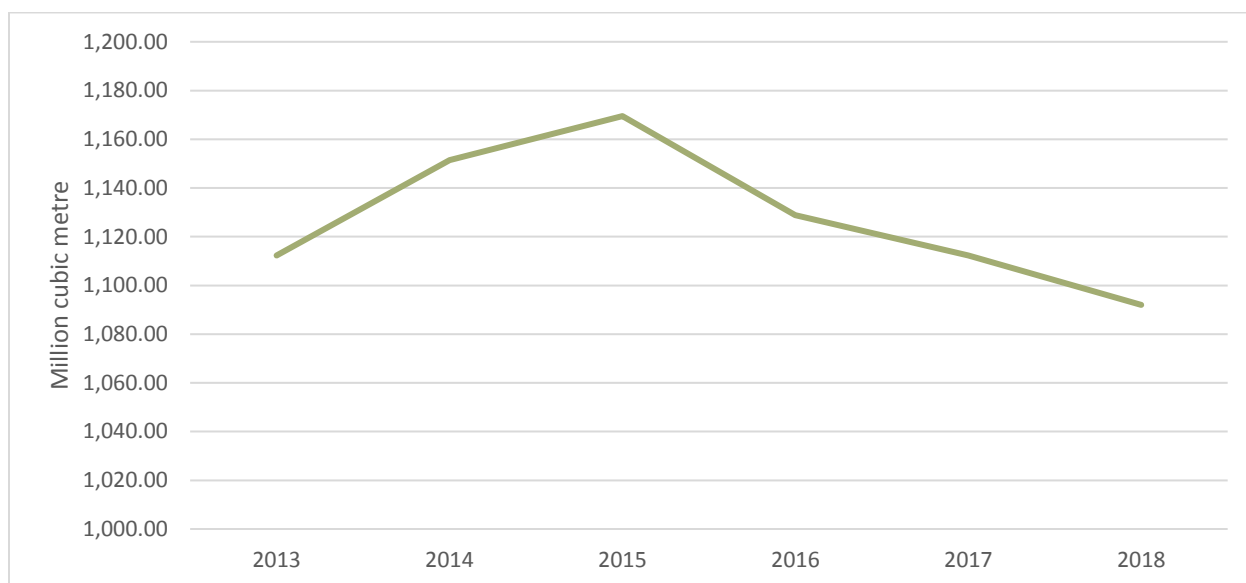
(Million cubic metre)

Item	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total of available desalinated water</b>	<b>1,112.3</b>	<b>1,151.4</b>	<b>1,169.5</b>	<b>1,128.8</b>	<b>1,112.3</b>	<b>1,092.0</b>
<b>Total Consumption of desalinated water</b>	<b>1,098.7</b>	<b>1,149.6</b>	<b>1,148.5</b>	<b>1,114.9</b>	<b>1,101.3</b>	<b>1,081.9</b>
Daily consumption	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0
Daily average per capita ( cubic meters)	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0

Source: Department of Energy- Abu Dhabi, Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Note: Consumption data has been updated by the source

**Figure 1: Total of available desalinated water**



Source: Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Company (ADWEC), Statistics Centre –Abu Dhabi

### Consumption of desalinated water by region

Table 1.2 shows the consumption of desalinated water in Abu Dhabi Emirate classified by region. Abu Dhabi city consumed the largest share at 62.0% of the total Emirate consumption, followed by the Al Ain region at 26.8% and Al Dhafra region at 11.1%.

**Table 1.2: Consumption of desalinated water by region**

(Million cubic metre)

Region	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total consumption</b>	<b>1,098.7</b>	<b>1,149.6</b>	<b>1,148.5</b>	<b>1,114.9</b>	<b>1,101.3</b>	<b>1,081.9</b>
Abu Dhabi	656.6	693.4	691.5	675.8	675.7	671.3
Al Ain	292.5	314.4	313.4	295.0	291.5	290.3
Al Dhafra	149.6	141.7	143.5	144.2	134.2	120.3

Source: Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Company (ADWEC)

Note: Consumption data has been updated by the source

## Water quality

### General network water quality

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi conducts sample analysis to ensure that the specifications of water conform to national and international standards as shown in table 1.3. The average values and concentrations are within the permissible limits and conform to international standards. Table 1.3 also shows the number of samples measured and the number of samples within the accepted standards.

**Table 1.3: Water quality by type of measurement - 2018**

Measurement type	Unit of Measurement	Prescribed concentration or Value (Maximum unless otherwise stated)	Samples Average	Number of Samples measured	Number of Samples within the accepted standards
<b>Color</b>	mg/l pt/CO scale	15	0.44	4186	4184
<b>Turbidity ( including suspended solids)</b>	NTU	4	0.987	4183	4181
<b>Odor (including Hydrogen Sulphide)</b>	Dilution Number	*	0	4186	4186
<b>Taste</b>	Dilution Number	*	0	4186	4186
<b>Total Dissolved Solids</b>	mg/l	100 (minimum) 1000( Maximum)	121.31	4183	4097
<b>Calcium hardness</b>	mg/l as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	200 at 25 °C	47.64	4186	4186
<b>Total hardness</b>	mg/l as MgCO <sub>3</sub> &CaCO <sub>3</sub>	300 at 25 °C	50.08	4186	4186
<b>Residual chlorine</b>	mg/ l Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.20 (minimum) 0.50( Maximum)	0.38	4183	4109
<b>Conductivity</b>	µmhos/cm	160(minimum) 1600( Maximum)	169.17	4118	4118
<b>Hydrogen ion</b>	pH Value	7.0(minimum) 9.2( Maximum)	8.34	4118	4118

Source: Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority

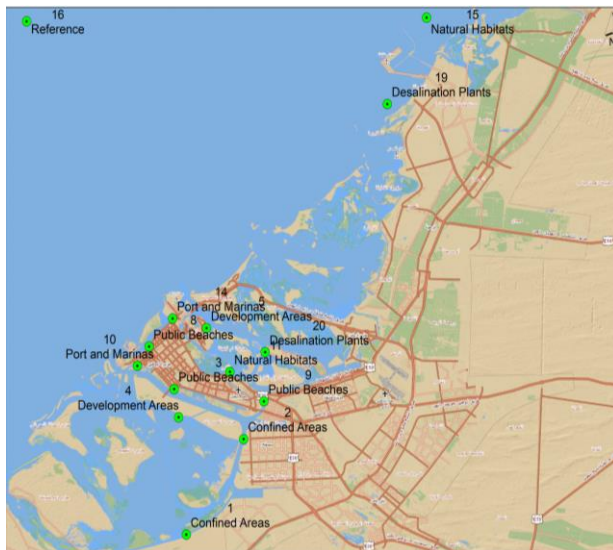
\* acceptable

## Marine water quality

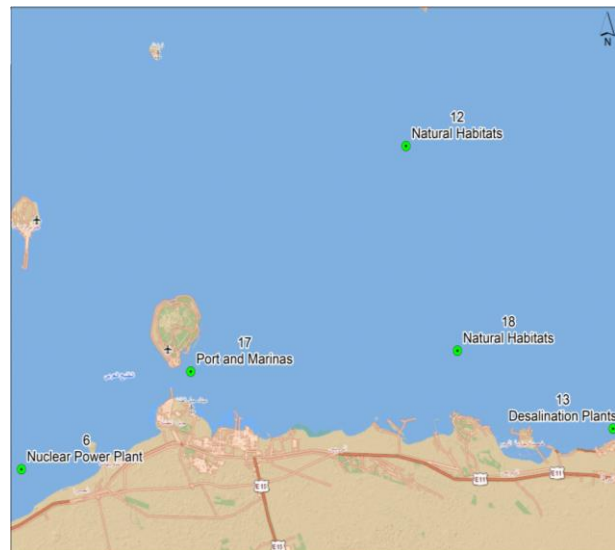
The territorial waters of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi are nutrient-rich. Nutrient inputs into the sea results from sand storms, dust, sewage discharges especially land runoff near-shore areas. Examples of important nutrients in the seawater essential for the life and growth of plants and phytoplankton include nitrites, nitrates, phosphates, and silicates. Generally, nutrients level rises in closed areas where it is difficult for water renewal to occur or in industrial zones, which have intensive human activities.

The salinity in the Arabian Gulf is relatively high because of the combined influences of restricted exchange of Gulf waters with the open ocean, the high evaporation rates caused by high temperatures, in addition to the desalination industry.

## Marine water quality monitoring location



Abu Dhabi

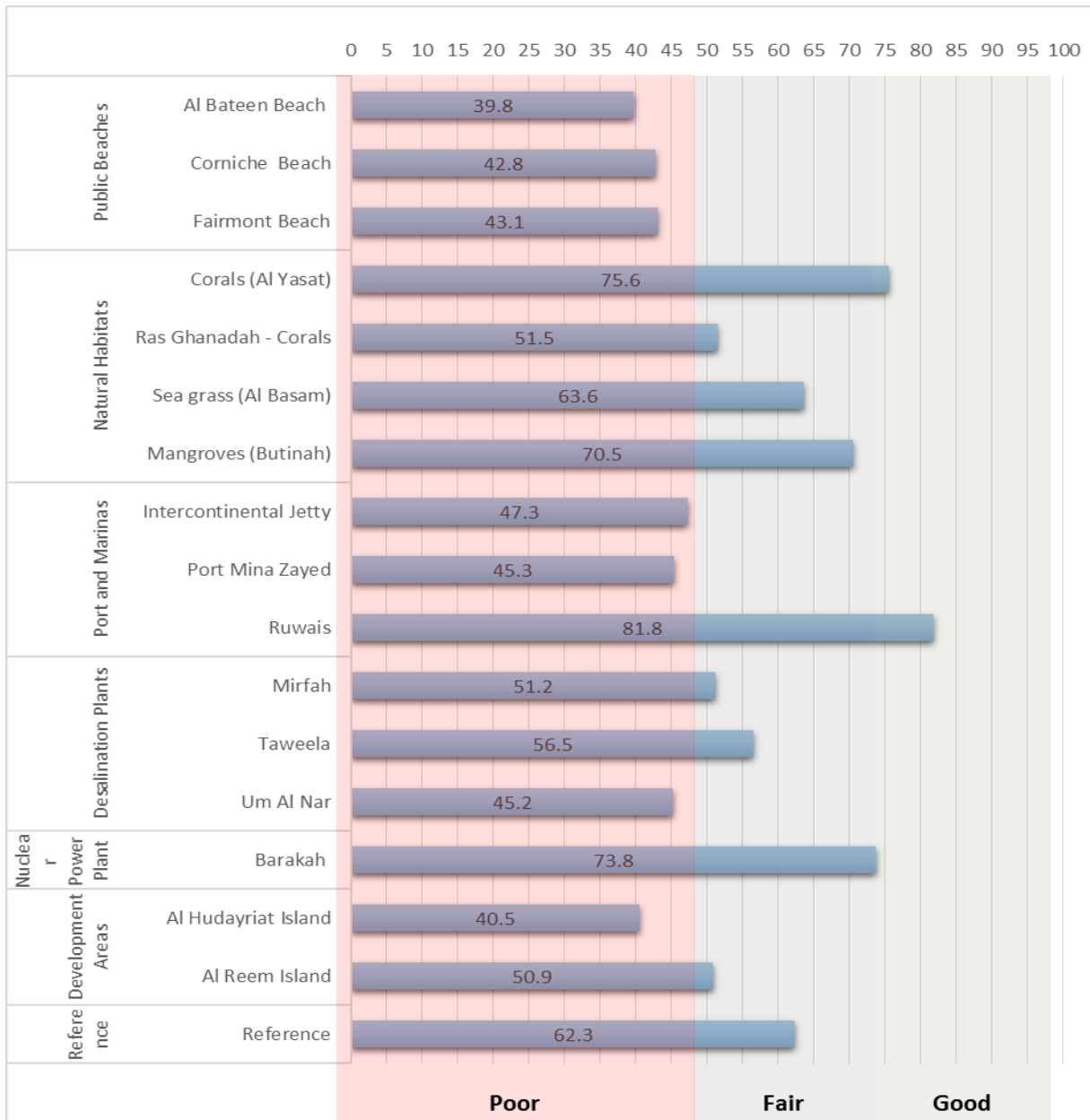


Al Dhafra

The effort of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi Government to achieve and maintain sustainable development goals under the objective of sustainable conservation of oceans, seas and marine resources, management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and avoiding the negative impacts of pollution resulting from economic activities. The indicators of nutrient measurement in marine areas are one of the most important Statistical indicators to measure nutrients in marine waters as essential elements for the conservation of marine animals and plants.

Monitoring programs rely on the continuous use of the marine water quality index to determine the state of marine water quality in relation to nutrient enrichment and the level of microbes and heavy metal deposits in water, as in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, respectively. The results are grouped into three categories to assess the situation: "Good" (75 ° and above), "Fair" (from 50 ° to 74 °) and "poor" (from 0 to 49 °).

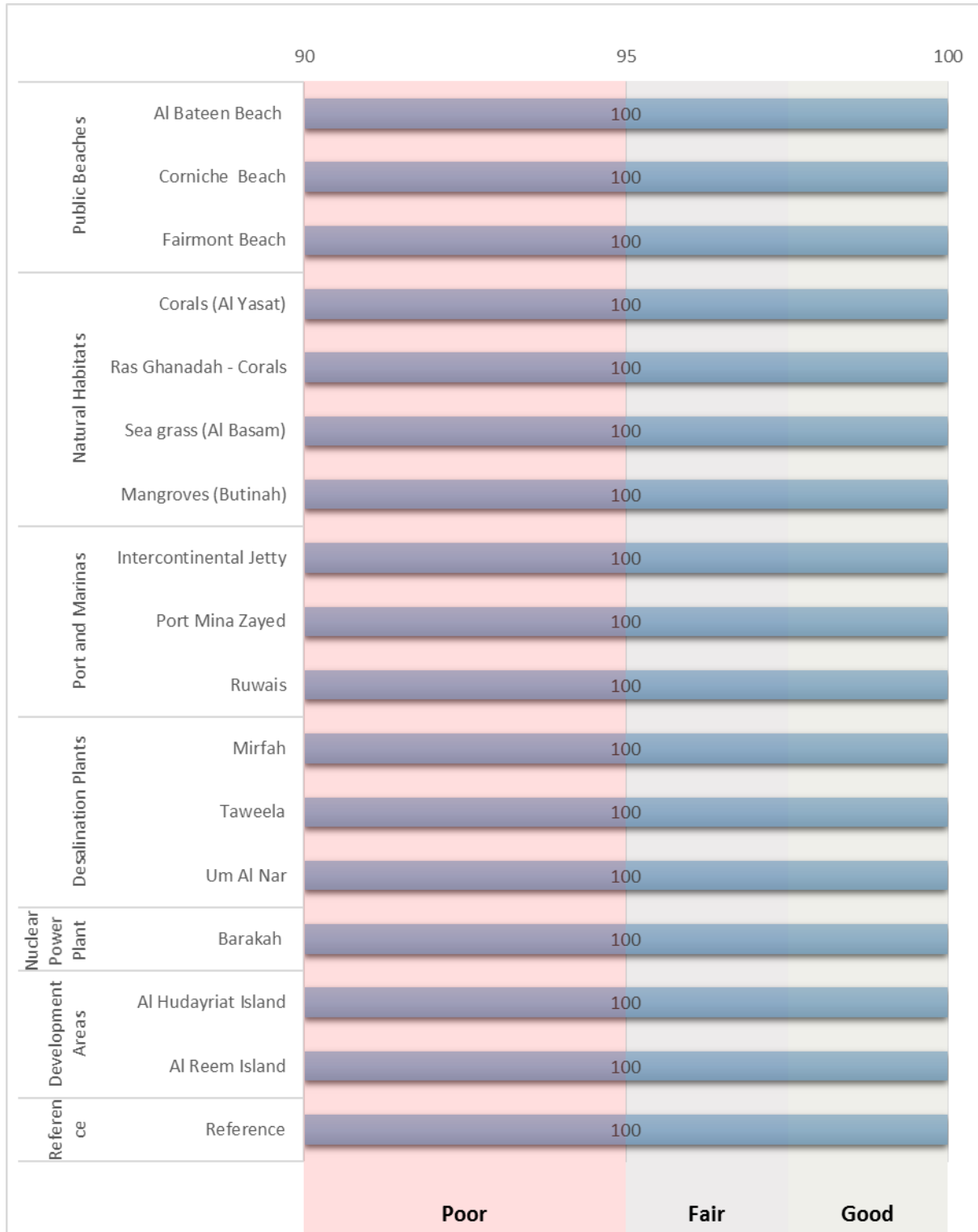
**Figure 2: Eutrophication Index of marine water quality of Abu Dhabi Emirate 2018**



Source: Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

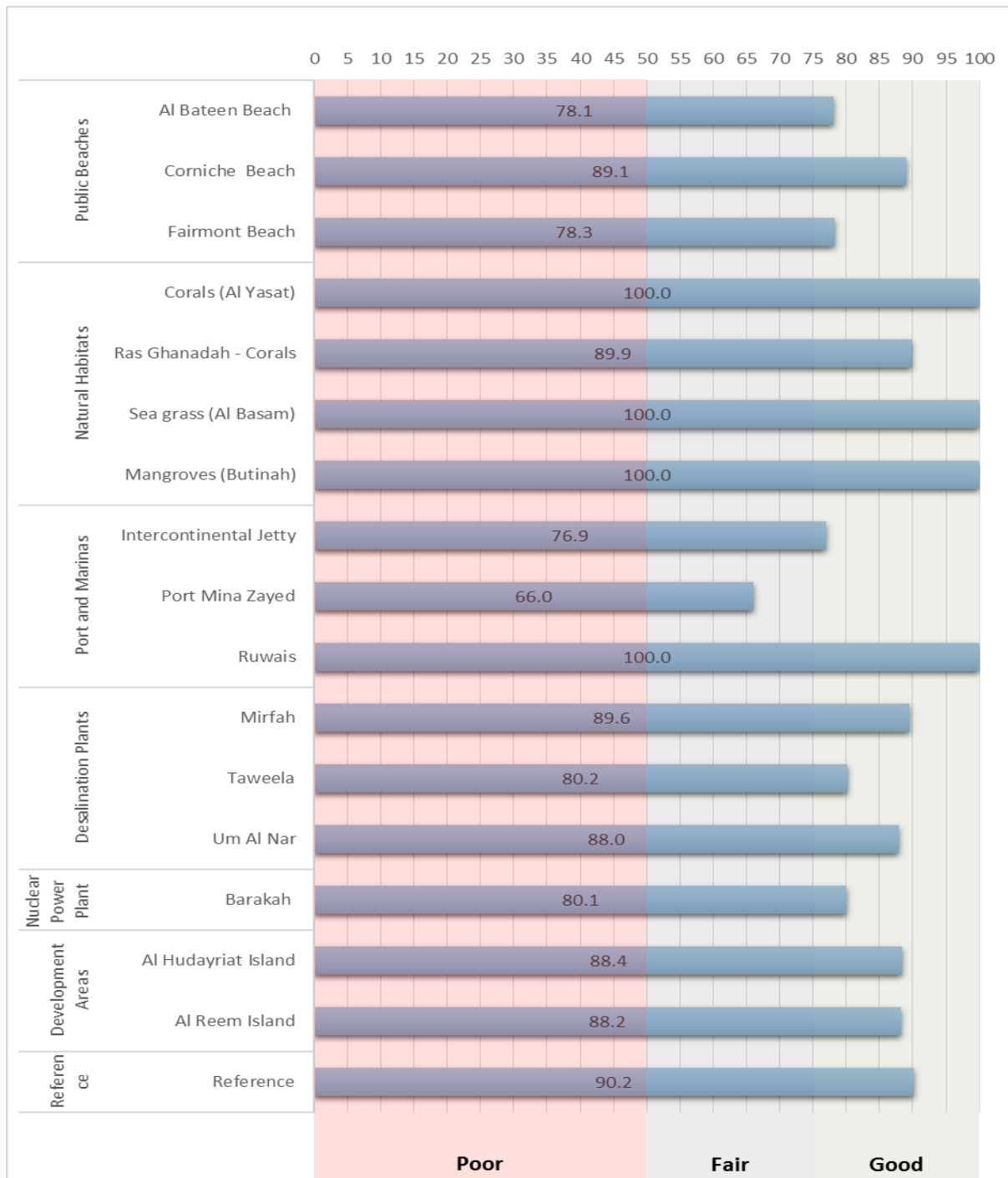


**Figure 3: Microbial Index of marine water quality of Abu Dhabi Emirate 2018**



Source: Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

**Figure 4: Sediment Index of marine water quality of Abu Dhabi Emirate 2018**



Source: Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

## Wastewater statistics

### Quantity of wastewater

Wastewater treatment aims at reducing the pollution caused by different sources such as industry, and service and domestic activities. Wastewater treatment is one way of utilizing water and diversifying its sources, especially when water resources are scarce. Figure 5 shows the wastewater inflow, treated wastewater and treated wastewater reuse from 2011 to 2018. In 2018, the quantity of wastewater inflow totaled 311.6 MCM, a decrease of 2.6% compared with 2017 as shown in table 2.1. Tables 2.2 and 2.3 illustrate that 96.3% of the total quantity of wastewater inflow was treated. Data shows that 54.4% of the treated wastewater was reused to irrigate green areas as shown in Figure 6.

**Table 2.1: Quantity of wastewater inflow by region**

(million cubic meter)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>259.6</b>	<b>275.5</b>	<b>295.0</b>	<b>322.7</b>	<b>344.4</b>	<b>335.6</b>	<b>319.6</b>	<b>311.6</b>
Abu Dhabi	185.9	203.7	219.7	237.2	259.4	254.1	242.6	237.7
Al Ain	62.8	58.4	60.5	71.2	71.5	67.7	64.4	62.8
Al Dhafra	10.9	13.4	14.8	14.3	13.5	13.8	12.6	11.1

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company (ADSSC)

**Table 2.2: Quantity of treated wastewater by region**

(million cubic meter)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>243.1</b>	<b>265.4</b>	<b>283.0</b>	<b>312.9</b>	<b>332.3</b>	<b>325.9</b>	<b>310.7</b>	<b>300.1</b>
Abu Dhabi	181.0	196.4	209.4	231.3	251.7	247.1	236.0	228.9
Al Ain	52.3	55.9	59.1	67.6	67.6	65.3	62.3	60.1
Al Dhafra	9.8	13.1	14.5	14.0	13.0	13.5	12.4	11.1

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company (ADSSC)

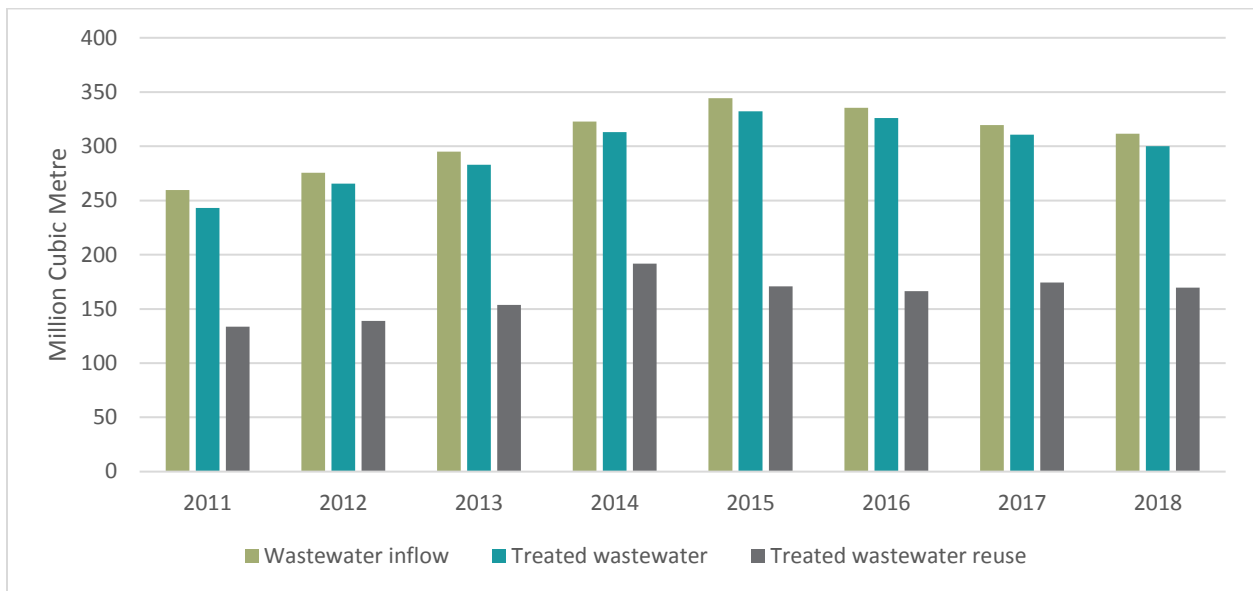
**Table 2.3 : Quantity of treated wastewater reuse by region**

(million cubic meter)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.5</b>	<b>138.8</b>	<b>153.8</b>	<b>191.7</b>	<b>170.8</b>	<b>166.5</b>	<b>174.4</b>	<b>169.6</b>
Abu Dhabi	73.0	75.4	86.5	115.6	95.7	91.1	101.8	99.7
Al Ain	51.5	54.8	58.0	66.0	64.6	63.7	61.3	59.4
Al Dhafra	9.0	8.6	9.3	10.1	10.5	11.7	11.3	10.5

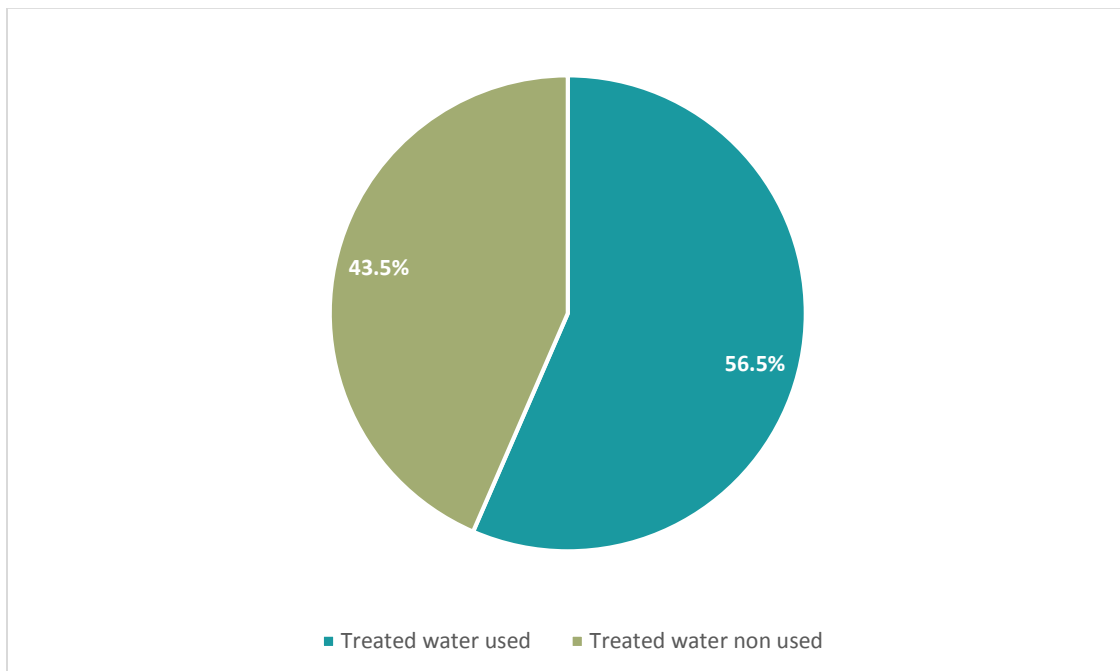
Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company (ADSSC)

**Figure 5: Quantity of wastewater**



Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

**Figure 6: Percentage distribution of treated wastewater**



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

## Wastewater treatment plants capacity

The total capacity of wastewater treatment plants amounted to 473.7 MCM in 2018 decreased 0.1% compared with 2017. The conventional treatment plants accounted for the largest share of wastewater treatment plants at 99.05%, while non- conventional plants represent 0.95% as presented in tables 2.4-2.6.

**Table 2.4: Total Wastewater Treatment Plants Capacity by Region**

(Million cubic metre)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>436.9</b>	<b>405.2</b>	<b>470.5</b>	<b>466.8</b>	<b>470.4</b>	<b>474.7</b>	<b>473.2</b>	<b>473.7</b>
Abu Dhabi	360.3	328.6	344.4	369.9	369.9	370.6	369.4	369.9
Al Ain	65.3	65.3	112.7	81.7	81.7	82.4	82.2	82.2
Al Dhafra	11.3	11.3	13.4	15.2	18.8	21.7	21.6	21.6

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

**Table 2.5: Total Conventional Wastewater Treatment Plants Capacity by Region**

(Million cubic metre)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>418.9</b>	<b>404.7</b>	<b>469.2</b>	<b>461.6</b>	<b>465.3</b>	<b>469.9</b>	<b>468.7</b>	<b>469.2</b>
Abu Dhabi	343.8	328.6	343.8	365.4	365.4	366.4	365.4	365.9
Al Ain	64.0	65.0	112.3	81.3	81.3	82.2	81.9	81.9
Al Dhafra	11.1	11.1	13.1	14.9	18.6	21.3	21.3	21.3

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

**Table 2.6: Total Non-Conventional Wastewater Treatment Plants Capacity by Region**

(Million cubic metre)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Abu Dhabi	16.4	0.0	0.6	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.0
Al Ain	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Al Dhafra	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

In 2018, the percentage of operated organic load to designed load was 66%, where the hydraulic load of plant operating capacity stood at 1,297 thousand cubic meters. The percentage of operated hydraulic load to designed load was 35%, where the Organic load stood at 129 thousand kilogram per day, as shown in table 2.7.

**Table 2.7: Status of Sewage Treatment Plants by Design and Operating Capacity to Hydraulic and Organic Load – 2018**

Region	Plant Design Capacity		Plant Operating Capacity		Plant Status	
	Hydraulic Load	Organic Load	Hydraulic Load	Organic Load	Operated Organic Load to Designed (%)	Operated Hydraulic Load to Designed (%)
	(m <sup>3</sup> /d)	(Kg BOD / d)	(m <sup>3</sup> /d)	(Kg BOD/d)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,297,907</b>	<b>368,883</b>	<b>854,407</b>	<b>129,371</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>35%</b>
Abu Dhabi	1,013,537	259,397	651,154	90,239	64%	35%
Al Ain	225,100	91,728	172,181	33,306	76%	36%
Al Dhafra	59,270	17,758	31,072	5,826	52%	33%

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

## Wastewater quality

With the increasing demand on wastewater treatment and reuse in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the environmental monitoring level and health standards of wastewater treatment, reuse or disposal also increased. There are several parameters that examine in the process of wastewater treatment, such as the daily amount of dry sludge, the concentrations of biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids. Table 2.8 shows that wastewater is basically treated to produce water that conforms to the international standards for irrigation of green spaces or disposal in the sea.

**Table 2.8: Mean annual concentration of main pollutants in wastewater before and after treatment pollutant – 2018**

(Milligram/litre)

Pollutant type	Maximum allowed limit of wastewater disposal	Before treatment	After treatment
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> )	50	179	2
Chemical oxygen demand (COD)	100	416	22
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	1500	1383	1324
Total phosphorus (P)	2	5	3

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

The tables below shows the daily average of some pollutants types, where the daily amount of sludge production increased by 6.4% to 146.6 tons in 2018. In addition, the percentage of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) decreased by 5.4% in 2018 from 2017.

**Table 2.9: Average daily amount of dry sludge by region**

(Tons/day)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>149.6</b>	<b>164.7</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>137.2</b>	<b>146.6</b>
Abu Dhabi	110.1	115.6	92.8	105.5	79.9	80.1	101.7	115.4
Al Ain	33.6	42.0	21.4	25.0	29.1	29.2	28.5	29.1
Al Dhafra	6.0	7.1	5.0	3.9	4.8	4.8	7.1	2.1

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

**Table 2.10: Average daily concentration of BOD by region**

(kg/day)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>128.5</b>	<b>156.3</b>	<b>143.4</b>	<b>190.5</b>	<b>174.4</b>	<b>165.5</b>
Abu Dhabi	79	125	99.7	107.3	97.1	142.7	135.3	131.7
Al Ain	23	33	17.7	39	40.6	40.3	30.8	28.2
Al Dhafra	4	10	11.1	10	5.7	7.5	8.3	5.5

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

**Table 2.11: Average daily concentration of suspended solids by region**

(Tons/day)

Region	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.1</b>	<b>148.4</b>	<b>564.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>196.3</b>	<b>155.1</b>	<b>194.0</b>
Abu Dhabi	71.8	100.7	234.3	-	128.5	139.7	115.1	158.9
Al Ain	28.3	38.3	197.5	-	42.3	49.4	33.6	28.7
Al Dhafra	3.0	9.5	132.7	-	7.7	7.2	6.4	6.4

Source: Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company

## Explanatory Notes

### Glossary

This publication contains certain terms specific to the environment and necessary when analyzing the environment statistics of Abu Dhabi Emirate. They include the following terms:

#### **Biochemical oxygen demands (BOD)**

Amount of dissolved oxygen required by organisms for the aerobic decomposition of organic matter present in water. This is measured at 20 degrees Celsius for a period of five days. The parameter yields information on the degree of water pollution with organic matter <sup>(1)</sup>.

#### **MICROBIAL INDEX**

The Microbial Index indicates the level of bacterial contamination in marine waters that can pose a threat to public health and is based on parameters that are microbiological indicators of human fecal contamination in marine water, including enterococci (EN) and fecal coliform (FC) bacteria.

#### **EUTROPHICATION INDEX**

The Eutrophication Index indicates the level of nutrient over-enrichment of the coastal waters and is based on parameters associated with eutrophication, including nutrients (nitrate, phosphate, and ammonia), chlorophyll-a, and dissolved oxygen.

#### **EUTROPHICATION**

Eutrophication is the increase the concentration of the essential elements of plant nutrition nitrogen and phosphorus in lakes and dams because of the introduction of organic pollutants in it, leading to the growth of fish and its reflection on aquatic organisms. This process is slow in nature unless accelerated by human. Shallow seawater and narrow artificial lakes, lakes and dams when exposed to pollution.

#### **SEDIMENT INDEX**

The Sediment Index indicates the extent of metal contamination in marine sediments and is based on levels of heavy metal contaminants in sediment. The heavy metal parameters that are used to calculate the Sediment Index (Chromium, Cobalt, Lead, Zinc, Nickel, and MWQ MONITORING SITES IN ABU DHABI Mercury)

#### **Biological treatment:**

It is a wastewater treatment employing aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms that results in decanted effluents and separate sludge containing microbial mass together with pollutants. Biological treatment processes are also used in combination or in conjunction with mechanical treatment <sup>(1)</sup>

#### **Desalinated Water:**

Total volume of water obtained from desalination of (i.e., seawater and brackish water ... etc) <sup>(1)</sup>.



**Mechanical treatment:**

It is the treatment of a physical and mechanical nature that results in decanted effluents and separate sludge. Mechanical processes are also used in combination and/or in conjunction with biological and advanced unit operations. Mechanical treatment includes processes as sedimentation, flotation, etc. <sup>(1)</sup>.

**Seawater:**

On average, seawater in the world's oceans has a salinity of ~3.5 percent. This means that for every 1 litre (1000 ml) of seawater there are 35 grams of salts (mostly, but not entirely, sodium chloride) dissolved in it <sup>(3)</sup>.

**Sewage sludge production (dry matter)**

The accumulated settled solids, either moist or mixed, with a liquid component because of natural or artificial processes, that have been separated from various types of waste water during treatment <sup>(3)</sup>.

**Total public water supply:**

Water supplied by economic units engaged in collection, purification and distribution of water including desalting of seawater to produce water as the principal product of interest, and excluding system operation for agricultural purposes and treatment of wastewater solely in order to prevent pollution. It corresponds to ISIC division 41. Deliveries of water from one public supply undertaking to another are excluded <sup>(1)</sup>.

**Total reuse of freshwater:**

Freshwater that has undergone wastewater treatment and is deliverable to a user as reclaimed wastewater. This means the direct supply of treated wastewater to the users. Excluded is wastewater discharged into watercourse and used again downstream <sup>(1)</sup>.

**Total wastewater generated:**

Quantity of water in cubic meters, which have no purpose to use, or because of its presence, quantity, or quality in the time in which it is found.

**Total wastewater treatment:**

Process to render wastewater fit to meet applicable environmental standards or other quality norms for recycling or reuse <sup>(1)</sup>.

**Treated in other treatment plants:**

Treatment of wastewater in any non-public treatment plants, i.e. industrial wastewater plants. Excluded from 'Other wastewater treatment' is treatment in under independent treatment facilities such as septic tanks <sup>(1)</sup>.

**Treatment in independent treatment facilities:**

Individual private treatment facilities to treat domestic and other wastewater in cases where a public wastewater network is not available or not justified because it would produce no environmental benefits. Examples of such systems are treatment in wastewater tanks <sup>(1)</sup>.

## **Wastewater treated in public treatment plants:**

All treatment of wastewater in municipal treatment plants by official authorities, or by private companies for local authorities, whose main purpose is wastewater treatment <sup>(1)</sup>.

## **Water transmission system availability:**

Water Transmission System Availability is calculated in percentage in terms of the summation of the availabilities of transmission system components, such as pumps, water transmission lines, storage tanks, and surge vessels.

## **Data sources**

The key sources of data used in the report are the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Company – ADWEC, Abu Dhabi Distribution Company, Al Ain Distribution Company, Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority - ADWEA, Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company (ADSSC) and Abu Dhabi Transmission & Dispatch Company (TRANSCO).

The data are processed and passed to Statistic Centre – Abu Dhabi for further editing and compilation.

## **Notes on tables**

Unless otherwise indicated, all figures released in this publication pertain to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Unless details in tables refer to regions, the figures relate to the total of the Emirate. Wherever “Abu Dhabi” is used in this publication, it refers to Abu Dhabi region and not to the whole Emirate.

Due to rounding, some totals may not equal the sum of components.

## **More information and next release**

For more information about environmental statistics and other official statistics, please visit the statistics link on the SCAD website at [www.scad.gov.abudhabi](http://www.scad.gov.abudhabi)

The next release is expected in September 2020 for 2019 data.

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