

Mergozzo

Altitude	195 m a.l.m.
Area	1,81 km ²
Volume	82,9 Mm ³
Max. depth	73 m
Average depth	45 m
Area of the hydrographic basin	10,4 km ²
Renewal time	6 years

The Hydrographic Characteristics

Orta

Altitude	290 m a.l.m.
Area	18 km ²
Volume	1,300 Mm ³
Max. depth	143 m
Average depth	71 m
Area of the hydrographic basin	116 km ²
Renewal time	8,9 years

The Hydrographic Characteristics

Maggiore

Altitude	193,85 m a.l.m.
Area	212,51 km ²
Volume	37,500 Mm ³
Max. depth	370 m
Average depth	177,5 m
Area of the hydrographic basin	6,599 km ²
Renewal time	4,1 years

The Hydrographic Characteristics

The Bathing Waters of the Maggiore, Orta and Mergozzo Lakes

Lakes: a Resource

Italian lake habitats have high ecological, scenic, social and economic value. Lakes are important elements of the landscape and of the hydrogeological cycle, providing vital reserves of water that allow us to practice numerous activities, both recreational and economic (swimming, fishing, tourism, sports). They represent an important water asset which is being and will be used as a resource for the supplying of drinking water, both in the coastal centres and in the big neighbouring cities. Precisely because of these many uses, they are under human pressure and have to be safeguarded. High quality of Piedmont lakes plays a key role in the remarkable tourist presence which is registered every year in these areas, most of all during the summer season, having considerable positive effects on the local economy as well.

The Activity of ARPA Piemonte

ARPA is the agency for the protection of the environment of Piedmont that monitors and analyses the bathing waters of the entire region. In order to safeguard public health, it has to maintain an active plan of surveillance on the territory that will immediately detect any episodes of pollution or any other hazards, and suggest the preventive and corrective actions to be adopted. Water samples are taken twice a month in the period from April to September, at depths of between 80 and 120 cm, along the shorelines normally used by swimmers. When the analyses are completed, declarations of suitability or unsuitability for bathing are issued for each zone and are sent to the mayors of the towns concerned. The mayor, who is the highest local health authority, then enacts measures to prohibit bathing, if necessary, or to revoke the prohibitions.

What does the Law prescribe?

Pending the implementation of the new Directive 2006/7/EC, bathing water is checked according to the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 470 of 8 June 1982 (and following amendments and integrations thereto) implementing Directive 76/160/EEC. The monitoring plan is aimed to check water conditions, both from a microbiological and physical-chemical point of view. This allows to identify conditions of environmental degradation, as well as situations which have the potential for being dangerous.

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Lago di Mergozzo is a small lake that shares its origin and evolution with Lago Maggiore, from which it was separated over the centuries by the alluvial deposits of the Toce River. Today the two lakes are connected by a non-navigable canal. The lake is fed by numerous small streams descending from the north, from the slopes of Monte Orfano, and from the first peaks of the Val Grande. Enclosed in a mountain setting, its shores are very steep on the southwest side, while on the southeast they are lower and sandy. This small lake is one of the cleanest in Italy; the use of motorboats has been forbidden on its waters for years. Typical economic activities in the surrounding area include the cutting and working of stone (pink marble of Candoglia; stone of Monte Orfano) and plant and flower nurseries. During the bathing season, 5 areas of the Mergozzo lakeshore are monitored. One area is closed to bathing consequent to a critical situation that emerged in the summer of 2007.

Lago di Mergozzo

Of glacial origin, Lago d'Orta, the ancient lake of Cusius, is surrounded by woods, mountains and towns. An important characteristic, unique in Europe, is the south-north water flow direction. The lake is fed by underwater springs and many short watercourses. The only effluent is the Nigoglia canal, which flows immediately into the Strona River controlled at Omega by a system of sluices. The lake serves as a large water reservoir that supplies nearby industries. Among the main manufacturing activities located in the basin of this lake, there are textile industries, tap and fitting manufacturers (over 130 companies), and factories producing household articles. The bathing areas monitored are 18, most of which are suitable for swimming.

Lago d'Orta

Lago Maggiore, or Verbano, is the second largest lake in Italy. Of glacial origin, its shoreline stretches into Piedmont, Lombardy and Switzerland. Mild climate fosters the growth of Mediterranean vegetation on the valley floors, which alternate with a more Alpine landscape dominated by the peaks of the Val d'Ossola. The lake is fed by numerous rivers and streams, first of all the Ticino, a tributary in Swiss territory and an effluent in Italy. There are 50 monitored beaches along the Piedmont shoreline of Lago Maggiore, and most of them are suitable for bathing.

Lago Maggiore



The Bathing Waters of the Maggiore, Orta and Mergozzo Lakes

bathing season 2008



- ARONA**
 30 Lido Nautica - Lido Rocchette
- BAVENO**
 17 Hotel Palazzo
 93 Spiaggia Camping
 94 Spiaggia via Repubblica dell'Ossola
 95 Spiaggia lungolago di Feriolo
 96 Spiaggia Villa Fedora
 97 Spiaggia Baracchetta
 108 Lido
- BELGIRATE**
 22 Villa Carlotta
 23 Lido Comunale
- CANNERO RIVIERA**
 5 Lido Cannero
- CANNOBIO**
 1 Camping Internazionale Riviera
 3 Lido Parco
 4 Campeggio Nosetto
- CASTELLETO SOPRA TICINO**
 35 Spiaggia Cicognola
- DORMELLETO**
 31 Campeggio Lago Azzurro
 33 Località Piroli - Bar Leonardi
- GHIFFA**
 11 Quarantina
 12 Villa Volpi
 13 Spiaggia Incrino
 74 Panizza
- LESA**
 24 Lido
 25 Madonna di Campagna
 26 Castellaccio
 27 Presso Torrente Erno
 75 Campeggio Solcio
- MEINA**
 28 Scivolo Galli
 76 Lido
- OGGEBBIO**
 7 Dell'Orto
- 9 Sotto Camogno
 10 Villa Gianna
- STRESA**
 18 Isola Pescatori
 19 Isola Bella
 20 Lido di Carciano
 21 Villa Pallavicino
 88 Spiaggia Borromeo
 89 Spiaggia Regina Blu
 92 Isola Madre
- VERBANIA**
 14 Campeggio Sasso
 15 Campeggio Isolino
 16 Lido Toce
 85 Lido e Colonia Solare di Suna
 86 Località Tre Ponti
 100 Villa Taranto
 101 Beata Giovannina
 102 Rigoletto
 103 Bel Sito Suna
 104 Isolino Vecchio (Fondotoce)

■ Maggiore

Mergozzo

LAGO DI MERGOZZO

- MERGOZZO**
 51 Lido Pilastrini - Spiaggia Quartina
 52 Portaiolo
- VERBANIA**
 48 Camping La Quietè
 49 Camping Continental
 50 Hotel Piccolo Lago

■ Mergozzo

Nonio

LAGO D'ORTA

- 66
- 65
- Pettenasco
- 64
- 63
- 61
- 62
- Orta San Giulio
- 60
- Pella
- 68
- 69
- 70
- 59
- 71
- 58
- San Maurizio d'Opaglio

BEACH ACCESS 2008

■ PUBLIC	■ PUBLIC/PRIVATE BEACH	■ PRIVATE	● BATHING BEACHES	● UNSUITABLE FOR BATHING
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BATHING SEASON KEY TO SYMBOLS FOR 2008



- CANNOBIO TORRENTE CANNOBINO**
 79 Orrido S. Anna
 80 ossidi metallici
- VERBANIA TORRENTE SAN BERNARDINO**
 91 Santino

■ Torrenti Cannobino e San Bernardino

- GOZZANO**
 58 Lido di Gozzano
- NONIO**
 66 Imbarcadere
- OMEGNA**
 98 Spiaggia Club Velico
 99 Spiaggia Campeggio Agip
 105 Spiaggia pubblica Bagnella
 106 Spiaggia lido Centro Sportivo
 107 Area attuale sede Canottieri
- ORTA SAN GIULIO**
 59 Miami
 60 Ortello
 61 Villa Motta
 62 Bagnera
- PELLA**
 68 Rialaccio
- PETTENASCO**
 63 Campeggio Verde Lago
 64 Camping Allegro
 65 Punta di Crabbia
- SAN MAURIZIO D'OPAGLIO**
 69 Porto di Lagna
 70 Prarolo
 71 Pascolo

■ Orta

Data concerning suitability for bathing in the controlled areas are updated every 15 days from April to September, and are available on the website www.arpa.piemonte.it