

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Schweriner See is a lake situated around 15km south of Königs Wusterhausen in the Dahme Lake District, a landscape which has many lakes. It is part of the Teupitz-Köris Lake Chain which includes ten lakes connected with each other with canals and which extends from Teupitzer See to the River Dahme. The lake is only thinly separated from Teupitzer See, which is situated further up, by an island ("Schweriner Horst"), which is connected to the eastern shore by a bridge. Unlike the lakes situated further down, it does not belong to the "Dahme Heathland Lakes" Nature Park.

Apart from the water from Teupitzer See, Schweriner See receives no further inflows. It drains via the Mochengraben into Zemminsee. The total catchment area is 49km², 64% of which is forested.

Schweriner See has a surface area of 237ha and a maximum depth of 4.7m. The average depth is approximately 2.2m. Temperature layers only form temporarily in the body of water.

The shore of Schweriner See is for the most part populated. The southern and north-eastern shore as well as Schweriner Horst are occupied by Schwerin, which is surrounded by Schweriner See, Mielitzsee, a further extension of Teupitzer See, and Zemminsee. There are two camping sites on the forested northern shore.

Schweriner See naturally has a tendentially nutrient-rich state, because it does not form stable temperature layering during the summer. As with Teupitzer See, it had an excess of nutrients in the past far beyond the natural amount. Intensive plankton growth with blue-green algae and oxygen deficiency in deep water were the consequences. Although the waste water treatment facilities have now been renovated, Schweriner See has only recovered to a small extent. The average summer water transparency levels at the bathing area are still below one metre, blue-green algae dominate throughout the entire season, and oxygen levels are heavily imbalanced. Its state is therefore still unsatisfactory.

The entire Dahme Lake District has been intensively used by those seeking recreation from nearby Berlin from as early as the 1920's. Also in Schwerin, which due to its position on a peninsula is a cul-de-sac village, guest houses, villas and weekend houses were built for people from the big city. The area is still very popular primarily with water sports enthusiasts. As part of the Teupitz Lake Chain, Schweriner See is designated as a Federal Waterway and may be used by motorboats. The area can be easily reached by Berliners via the River Dahme and is a popular excursion destination for motorboat users.

The "Schwerin" bathing area, 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. Sometimes blue-green algae can be observed. People who are sensitive to the algae should refrain from bathing.

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Sources

Arp, W. & B. Koppelmeyer (2009): Monitoring von Phytoplankton und chemischen Parametern zur Indikation des ökologischen Zustandes in ausgewählten Seen Südbrandenburgs im Jahr 2008. – research carried out on behalf of the Ministry for Rural Development, Environment and Consumer Protection.

www.dahme-seen.de