



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



Distr.  
RESTRICTED

UNEP/WG.118/Inf.22  
23 May 1985

Original: ENGLISH

Third Meeting of the Working Group for  
Scientific and Technical Co-operation  
for MED POL

Athens, 27-31 May 1985



Long-term Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research  
in the Mediterranean Sea (MED POL - PHASE II)

REPORTS ON THE LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE  
CONTRACTING PARTIES RELEVANT TO THE PROPOSED INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CRITERIA FOR MERCURY IN SEAFOOD AND FOR COASTAL RECREATIONAL WATERS,  
SHELLFISH AND SHELLFISH-GROWING WATERS

ISRAEL28 February 1985  
Ref. 450.3.3-3

RE: Your letter of 4 February 1985

Dear Mr. Manos:

For the purpose of Document UNEP/WG.118/Inf.22 I would like to inform you of the following measures taken by the Government of Israel:

Coastal recreational waters

On March 1982 the following criteria were adopted for adequacy of coastal recreational waters for bathing:

1. Absence of epidemiological evidence on diseases associated with bathing at the area concerned.
2. Absence of a sewage outfall which might cause contamination of the water in the vicinity of the area concerned.
3. Results of microbiological examinations of waters from the area concerned reveal that the number of Faecal coliforms is less than 1000 per 100 ml of water in 90% of the samples. The recommended sampling frequency is four times per month during the bathing season (May - October). If during a certain month the number of F. coliforms in one of the samples exceeds 1000, the sampling frequency should be doubled during that month.

As you know, bathing beaches in Israel are monitored on a regular basis by the Ministry of Health.

Mercury in seafood

In 1979 the following criterion was adopted:

One ppm (on a wet weight basis) is the maximal allowable concentration of total mercury in the flesh of edible fish. The marketing of fish with higher mercury levels is forbidden.

Surveys of mercury levels in edible fish are conducted on a regular basis by the Ministry of Health and by the Ministry of the Interior.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Yuval Cohen, Head  
Marine Pollution Section