

Water Statistics in Chile: Essential topics, problems and solutions

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ABSTRACT: Water statistics in Chile are generated by various State agencies that are responsible for the control of water bodies, and their use by industry, mining and for irrigation. In the case of drinking water, private enterprises are responsible for the production and distribution water, for measuring of the bacteriological, chemical and physical quality of water, as well as for emissions and residual water processing. The agency controller is the Superintendence of Sanitary Services that also controls emissions to water courses and the sewer system.

The National Institute of Statistics (INE) compiles this information for the purpose of diffusing it officially through its publication “Yearbook of Statistics of the Environment” and to respond to national and international demand.

Various problems are identified in responding to the international questionnaires; the INE wants to tackle this by developing the project Harmonization of the Environmental Statistics, intended to improve the quality of the information by establishing a platform of internationally comparable data, especially with those used OECD and EUROSTAT.

It is recommended to support the Units in charge of responding to questionnaires and to cultivate a statistical culture focused on best practices in the handling and control of the quality of the information.