



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2009

Contact: Donna Harty
850-833-9245

Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For January 5, 2009

The Okaloosa County Health Department has been conducting saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 12 sites once every two weeks since July 31, 2000 and weekly since August 2002, through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci), that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant beach water quality problems.

Site	Name	City	Fecal Coliform	Water Quality	Enterococci	Water Quality	Enterococci Geometric Mean	Water Quality
SP-1	Liza Jackson Park	Ft. Walton Beach	2	Good	2	Good	5	Good
SP-2	Garniers Park	Ft. Walton Beach	44	Good	8	Good	10	Good
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	26	Good	2	Good	2	Good
SP-4	Wayside Park	Okaloosa Island	54	Good	44	Moderate	3	Good
SP-5	Poquito Park	Shalimar	36	Good	6	Good	3	Good
SP-6	Gulf Island National Seashore	Okaloosa Island	16	Good	2	Good	2	Good
SP-7	East Pass	Okaloosa Island	4	Good	2	Good	1	Good
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	400	Poor	40	Moderate	6	Good
SP-9	Henderson Park Beach	Destin	2	Good	2	Good	1	Good
SP-10	Rocky Bayou State Park	Niceville	400	Poor	40	Moderate	15	Good
SP-11	James Lee Park	Destin	2	Good	2	Good	1	Good
SP-12	Camp Timpoochee	Niceville	12	Good	6	Good	2	Good

Water quality classifications are based upon:

1. Florida Department of Environmental Protections (DEP's) adopted Criteria for Surface Water Quality Classifications (Chapter 62-302.530, Florida Administrative Code), which establishes a fecal coliform standard greater than or equal to 400 colony forming units per 100 milliliters for 10% of the samples; and
2. United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended standard for enterococci of greater than or equal to 104 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water, or a geometric mean of the five most current weekly samples of greater than 35 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water.

Bacteria counts often come back high during or after a rainfall event.

An Advisory/Warning has been issued for Lincoln Park in Valparaiso and Rocky Bayou State Park in Niceville based on the fecal coliform standard established by the FL DEP. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Okaloosa County Health Department at (850) 833-9247 or (850) 689-7859, or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website (www.doh.state.fl.us, click on Floridians and Visitors- under "Food, Water, Air, Land" choose "Beach Water Quality").

MCC