



EPA's BEACH Report: Michigan 2009 Swimming Season

May 2010

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters.

The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the State of Michigan for the 2009 swimming season.

Figure 1. Michigan coastal counties.

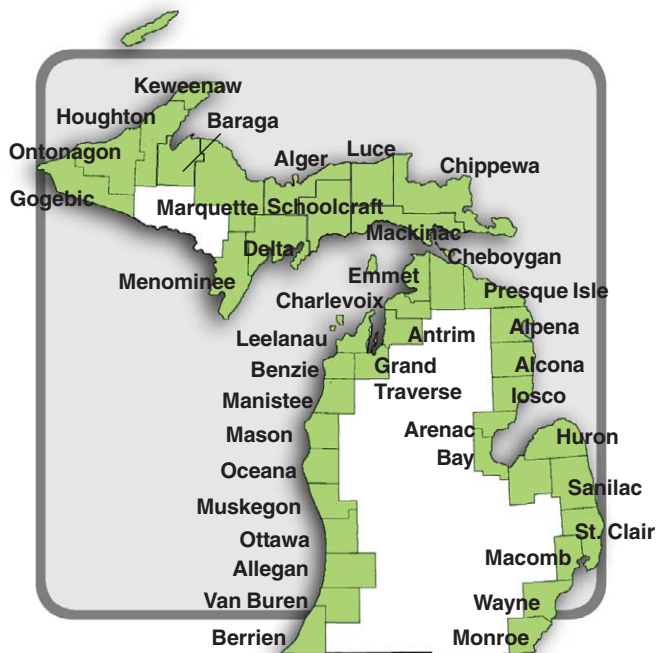


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2009.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALCONA	7	6	1
ALGER	12	0	12
ALLEGAN	5	4	1
ALPENA	14	5	9
ANTRIM	16	6	10
ARENAC	15	8	7
BARAGA	12	1	11
BAY	6	5	1
BENZIE	7	1	6
BERRIEN	21	14	7
CHARLEVOIX	21	15	6
CHEBOYGAN	13	4	9
CHIPPEWA	26	6	10
DELTA	28	2	26
EMMET	21	11	10
GOGEBIC	7	0	7
GRAND TRAVERSE	32	5	27
HOUGHTON	15	7	8
HURON	24	13	11
IOSCO	13	9	4
KEWEENAW	14	1	13
LEELANAU	35	3	32
LUCE	16	0	16
MACKINAC	39	2	37
MACOMB	4	4	0
MANISTEE	10	9	1
MARQUETTE	7	5	2
MASON	10	7	3
MENOMINEE	8	2	6
MONROE	2	2	0
MUSKEGON	13	12	1
OCEANA	8	7	1
ONTONAGON	11	2	9
OTTAWA	11	9	2
PRESQUE ISLE	22	4	18
SANILAC	12	5	7
SCHOOLCRAFT	9	2	7
ST. CLAIR	15	15	0
VAN BUREN	4	4	0
WAYNE	3	3	0
TOTALS	568	220	348

2009 Summary Results

How many notification actions were reported and how long were they?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Michigan’s approach is to issue a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 41 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2009 swimming season. About 55 percent of Michigan’s 62 notification actions lasted two days or less. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Michigan’s 2009 swimming season, actions were reported about 3 percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2009 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2009 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays Michigan’s investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2009, most investigated beaches indicated they had unidentified sources of pollution.

For More Information

For general information about beaches:
www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in Michigan:
www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/public/default.aspx

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

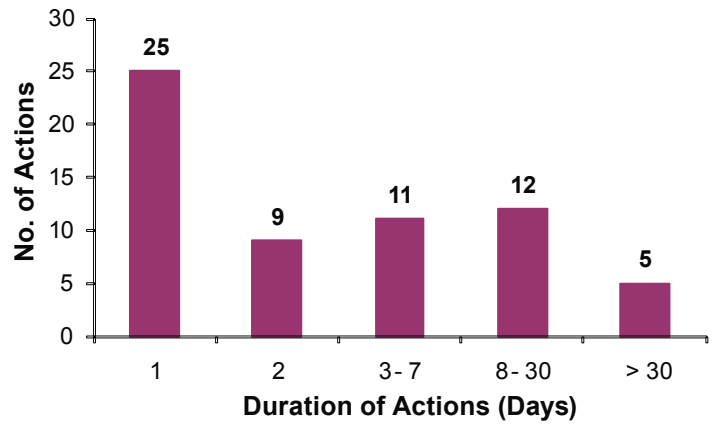


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

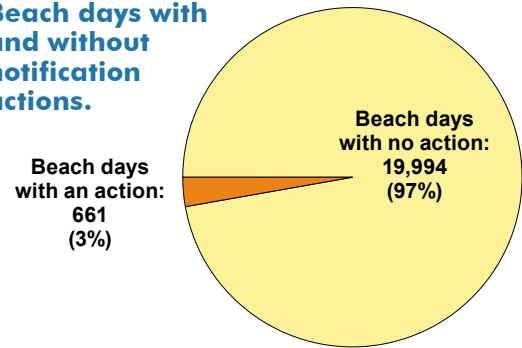


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2007–2009.

	2007	2008	2009
Number of monitored beaches	208	212	220
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	32	27	41
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	15%	13%	19%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	3%	2%	3%

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (215 beaches).

