



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For February 20, 2012

The Okaloosa County Health Department conducts weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 12 sites 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	56	Good	52	Moderate	29.67	Good
SP-2	Garniers Park	Ft. Walton Beach	36	Good	96	Moderate	40.48	Poor
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	20	Good	24	Good	5.72	Good
SP-4	Wayside Park	Okaloosa Island	32	Good	36	Moderate	7.13	Good
SP-5	Poguito Park	Shalimar	24	Good	68	Moderate	14.67	Good
SP-6	Gulf Islands National Seashore	Okaloosa Island	52	Good	28	Good	23.59	Good
SP-7	East Pass	Okaloosa Island	16	Good	28	Good	7.35	Good
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	340	Moderate	212	Poor	10.17	Good
SP-9	Henderson Park Beach	Destin	4	Good	4	Good	4.0	Good
SP-10	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park	Niceville	TNTC	Poor	752	Poor	21.22	Good
SP-11	James Lee Park	Destin	72	Good	4	Good	4.0	Good
SP-12	Camp Timpoochee	Niceville	12	Good	56	Moderate	12.09	Good



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Water quality classifications are based upon:

1. Florida's Department of Environmental Protections (FDEP) 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.

An advisory has been issued for Garniers Park of Fort Walton Beach based on the geometric mean standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

An advisory has been issued for Lincoln Park of Valparaiso based on the enterococci standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

An advisory has been issued for Rocky Bayou State Park of Niceville based on the fecal coliform standard recommended by the FDEP and the enterococci standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

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

If you 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." You can also visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com, and click the "Healthy Beaches" link to be taken to a list of the Okaloosa County "Healthy Beaches" sites and maps.

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