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### Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For May 14, 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	<a href="#">Liza Jackson Park</a>	Ft. Walton Beach	32	Good	28	Good	37.37	Poor
SP-2	<a href="#">Garniers Park</a>	Ft. Walton Beach	32	Good	104	Moderate	63.06	Poor
SP-3	<a href="#">Marler Park</a>	Okaloosa Island	8	Good	20	Good	5.52	Good
SP-4	<a href="#">Wayside Park</a>	Okaloosa Island	12	Good	4	Good	20.57	Good
SP-5	<a href="#">Poguito Park</a>	Shalimar	8	Good	48	Moderate	23.17	Good
SP-6	<a href="#">Gulf Islands National Seashore</a>	Okaloosa Island	28	Good	4	Good	20.54	Good
SP-7	<a href="#">East Pass</a>	Okaloosa Island	500	Poor	216	Poor	29.9	Good
SP-8	<a href="#">Lincoln Park</a>	Valparaiso	272	Moderate	148	Poor	30.83	Good
SP-9	<a href="#">Henderson Park Beach</a>	Destin	4	Good	56	Good	14.04	Good
SP-10	<a href="#">Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park</a>	Niceville	876	Poor	320	Poor	44.37	Poor
SP-11	<a href="#">James Lee Park</a>	Destin	8	Good	4	Good	10.81	Good
SP-12	<a href="#">Camp Timpoochee</a>	Niceville	4	Good	12	Good	34.81	Good

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.

Advisories have been issued for **Liza Jackson Park and Garniers Park** of Ft. Walton Beach and **Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville -- based on the geometric mean standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

Advisories have been issued for **East Pass** of Okaloosa Island, **Lincoln Park** of Valparaiso and for **Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville -- based on the enterococci standard recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

Advisories have been issued for **East Pass** of Okaloosa Island and for **Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville -- based on the fecal coliform standard recommended by the FDEP. 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](http://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](http://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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