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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For June 18, 2012

The Okaloosa County Health Department conducts bi-weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 12 sites through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (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.

Site	Name	City	Enterococci	Water Quality
SP-1	<a href="#">Liza Jackson Park</a>	Ft. Walton Beach	Pass	Good
SP-2	<a href="#">Garniers Park</a>	Ft. Walton Beach	Pass	Moderate
SP-3	<a href="#">Marler Park</a>	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-4	<a href="#">Wayside Park</a>	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-5	<a href="#">Poquito Park</a>	Shalimar	Pass	Good
SP-8	<a href="#">Lincoln Park</a>	Valparaiso	Pass	Moderate
SP-9	<a href="#">Henderson Park Beach</a>	Destin	Pass	Good
SP-10	<a href="#">Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park</a>	Niceville	Fail	Poor
SP-11	<a href="#">James Lee Park</a>	Destin	Fail	Poor
SP-13	<a href="#">Emerald Promenade</a>	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor

Water quality classifications are based upon the 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.

Advisories have been issued for **Emerald Promenade** of Okaloosa Island, **James Lee Park** of Destin, and **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. Bacteria counts often come back high during or after a rainfall event.

If you have questions, contact the Okaloosa County Health Department at (850) 833-9247 or (850) 689-7859. You can also visit [HealthyOkaloosa.com](http://HealthyOkaloosa.com), and click the "Healthy Beaches" link to be taken to a list of Okaloosa County's Healthy Beaches sites and maps.

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