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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For October 15, 2012

The Okaloosa County Health Department conducts weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 13 sites through the Healthy Beaches 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	Liza Jackson Park	Ft Walton Beach	Pass	Moderate
SP-2	Garniers Park	Ft Walton Beach	Fail	Poor
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-4	Wayside Park	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-5	Poquito Park	Shalimar	Fail	Poor
SP-6	Gulf Islands National Seashore	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-7	East Pass	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	Fail	Poor
SP-9	Henderson Beach	Destin	Fail	Poor
SP-10	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park	Niceville	Fail	Poor
SP-11	James Lee Park	Destin	Pass	Moderate
SP-13	Emerald Promenade	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-14	Clement E Taylor Park	Destin	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 **Garniers Park** of Fort Walton Beach, **Marler Park**, **Wayside Park**, **Gulf Islands National Seashore**, and **East Pass** of Okaloosa Island, **Poquito Park** of Shalimar, **Henderson Beach** and **Clement E. Taylor Park** of Destin, **Lincoln Park** of Valparaiso, and **Fred Gannon 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.

If you have questions, contact the Okaloosa County Health Department at (850) 833-9247 or (850) 689-7859. You can also visit 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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