



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For March 18, 2013

The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County conducts weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 13 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	Fail	Poor
SP-2	<a href="#">Garniers Park</a>	Ft. Walton Beach	Fail	Poor
SP-3	<a href="#">Marler Park</a>	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-4	<a href="#">Wayside Park</a>	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-5	<a href="#">Poquito Park</a>	Shalimar	Fail	Poor
SP-6	<a href="#">Gulf Islands National Seashore</a>	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-7	<a href="#">East Pass</a>	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-8	<a href="#">Lincoln Park</a>	Valparaiso	Fail	Poor
SP-9	<a href="#">Henderson Beach</a>	Destin	Pass	Moderate
SP-10	<a href="#">Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park</a>	Niceville	Fail	Poor
SP-11	<a href="#">James Lee Park</a>	Destin	Pass	Good
SP-13	<a href="#">Emerald Promenade</a>	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-14	<a href="#">Clement E Taylor Park</a>	Destin	Pass	Moderate



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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 **Liza Jackson Park** and **Garniers Park** of Fort Walton Beach; **Poquito Park** of Shalimar; **Marler Park, Gulf Island National Seashore, and East Pass** of Okaloosa Island; **Lincoln Park** of Valparaiso; and **Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville based on the enterococci standards recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

If you have questions, contact the FDOH in Okaloosa County 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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