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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Okaloosa County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results For March 25, 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	Liza Jackson Park	**Ft. Walton Beach**	Pass	Moderate
SP-2	Garniers Park	**Ft. Walton Beach**	Fail	Poor
SP-3	Marler Park	**Okaloosa Island**	Pass	Good
SP-4	Wayside Park	**Okaloosa Island**	Pass	Good
SP-5	Poquito Park	**Shalimar**	Pass	Moderate
SP-6	Gulf Islands National Seashore	**Okaloosa Island**	Pass	Good
SP-7	East Pass	**Okaloosa Island**	Pass	Good
SP-8	Lincoln Park	**Valparaiso**	Pass	Moderate
SP-9	Henderson Beach	**Destin**	Pass	Good
SP-10	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park	**Niceville**	Pass	Moderate
SP-11	James Lee Park	**Destin**	Pass	Good
SP-13	Emerald Promenade	**Okaloosa Island**	Pass	Good
SP-14	Clement E Taylor Park	**Destin**	Pass	Moderate

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.

An Advisory has been issued for **Garniers Park** of Fort Walton Beach 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, 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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