

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2013

Contact: Shaun May
850-833-9240 x 2145 | Cell: 850-699-4225

OKALOOSA COUNTY SALTWATER BEACH MONITORING RESULTS for July 15, 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	Fail	Poor
SP-2	Garniers Park	Ft. Walton Beach	Fail	Poor
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	Pass	*Good
SP-4	Wayside Park	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-5	Poquito Park	Shalimar	Pass	Moderate
SP-6	Gulf Islands National Seashore	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-7	East Pass	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	Pass	Moderate
SP-9	Henderson Beach	Destin	Pass	Moderate
SP-10	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park	Niceville	Pass	Moderate
SP-11	James Lee Park	Destin	Pass	Moderate
SP-13	Emerald Promenade	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-14	Clement E Taylor Park	Destin	Pass	Moderate

The following water quality classifications are used by the Florida Department of Health and are based upon the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended standard for enterococci. The classification standard is as follows:

GOOD:	0 – 35 colony forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters (ml) of marine water
MODERATE:	36 – 104 CFU per 100 ml of marine water
POOR	≥ 105 CFU per 100 ml of marine water.

Advisories based on Healthy Beaches water quality testing have been issued for **Garniers Park** and **Liza Jackson Park** of Fort Walton Beach, and **Gulf Islands National Seashore** of Okaloosa Island based on the enterococci standards. These beaches should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

***Please be advised that advisories issued due to recent sewer spills for Liza Jackson Park in Fort Walton Beach, Marler Park on Okaloosa Island, Gulf Islands National Seashore on Okaloosa Island are still in effect. We are advising the public not to enter the water and/or use water or jet skis or boat in waters from Liza Jackson Park in Fort Walton Beach to Gulf Islands National Seashore on Okaloosa Island. Advisories for East Pass in Destin and Clement E. Taylor Park in Destin have been lifted.**

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.

DOH protects, promotes and improves the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For news story ideas, interviews, videos and more from DOH Communications visit the DOH Online Newsroom.

###