



EPA's BEACH Report: Illinois 2010 Swimming Season

May 2011

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters. The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the State of Illinois for the 2010 swimming season.



Figure 1. Illinois coastal counties.

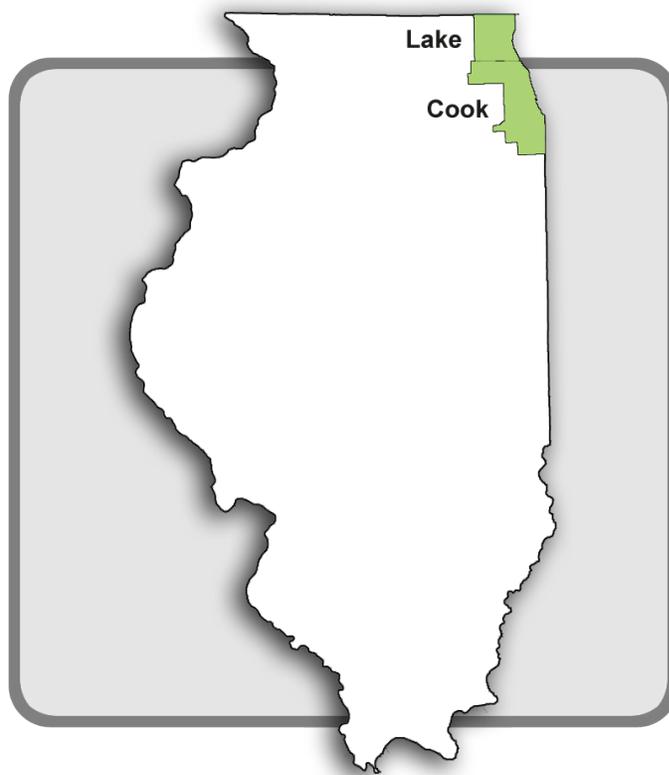


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2010.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
COOK	37	37	0
LAKE	19	13	6
TOTALS	56	50	6

2010 Summary Results

How many notification actions were reported and how long were they?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Illinois issues a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 43 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. About 76 percent of Illinois' 288 notification actions lasted two days or less. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Illinois' 2010 swimming season, actions were reported about 12 percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2010 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Illinois has ongoing investigations of potential pollution sources that might affect swimming beaches.

For More Information

For general information about beaches:
www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in Illinois:
www.earth911.org/waterquality/default.asp?cluster=17

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

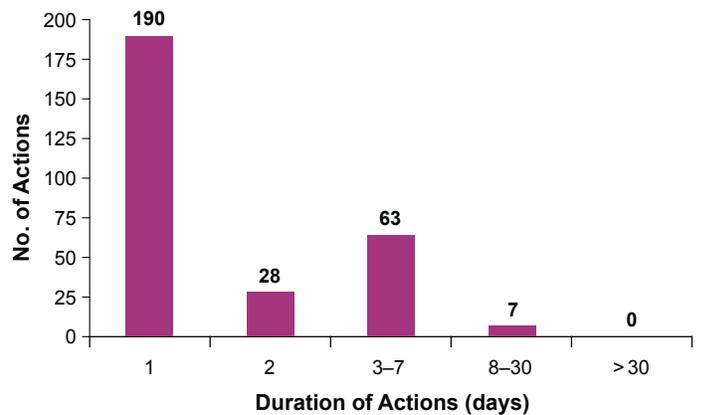


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

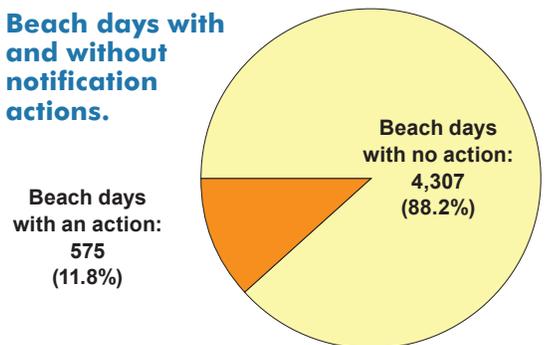


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008–2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	52	52	50
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	49	52	43
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	94%	100%	86%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	11%	11%	12%