



EPA's BEACH Report: Northern Mariana Islands 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 territory of the Northern Mariana Islands for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. Monitored Northern Mariana Islands.

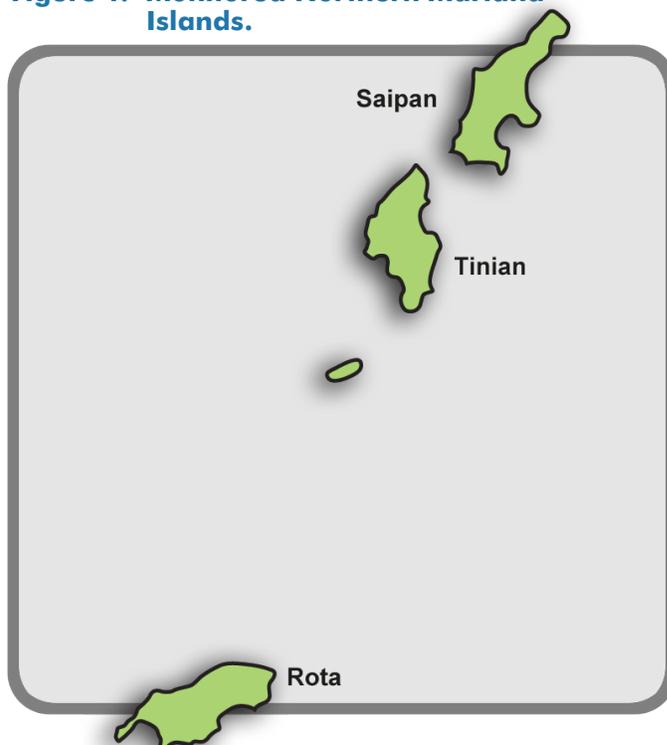


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches for 2010.

Island	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ROTA	9	9	0
SAIPAN	47	47	0
TINIAN	7	7	0
TOTALS	63	63	0



2010 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Northern Mariana Islands requires beach managers to post an advisory or closure. An advisory warns people that there is an increased health risk associated with entering the water and a closure warns people to completely avoid contact with the water. All 63 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification actions.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

In 2010, about four percent of Northern Mariana Islands' total beach days were under an advisory (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?

Northern Mariana Islands' officials indicate that no sources of pollution were found at monitored beaches.

For More Information

For general information about beaches:

www.epa.gov/beaches/

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

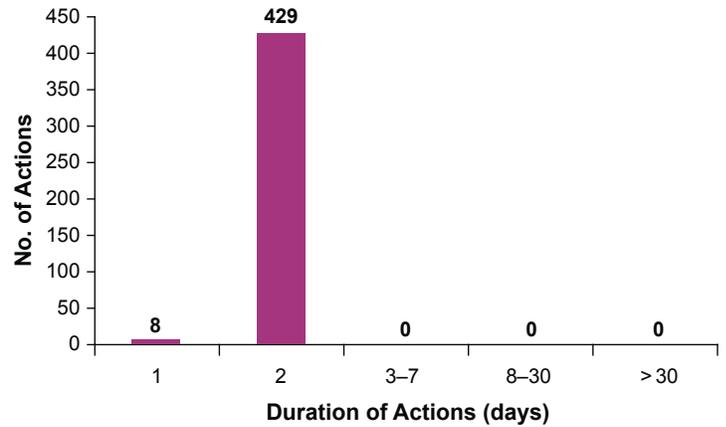


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

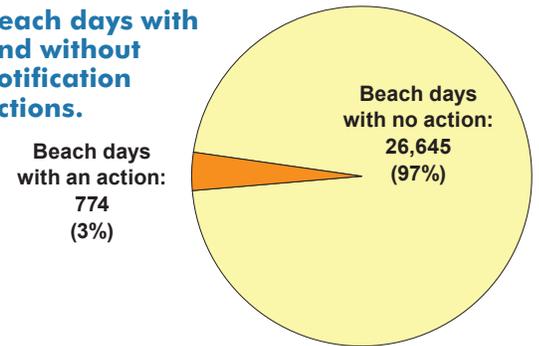


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008–2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	50	73	63
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	39	61	63
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	78%	83%	100%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	2%	3%	4%

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (63 beaches).

