



EPA's BEACH Report:

South Carolina 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.

South Carolina's beaches are important components of the state's tourism industry. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, in conjunction with local governments, regularly monitors coastal beaches for the bacterial indicator enterococcus to assure residents and tourists that the water is safe for wading, swimming, surfing, and other activities. The program's goal is to allow the public to make informed decisions about their ocean water recreational activities and the potential for bacteria-related health effects.

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

The beach program staff in South Carolina invite you to log onto our website: www.scdhec.gov/beach, where you will find up-to-date monitoring and advisory data and information to make your beach going experience happy and healthy.

Also, South Carolina now has one full year of sanitary survey data. Future decisions about sampling stations will be made and reported on the website based on these data.

Figure 1. South Carolina coastal counties.

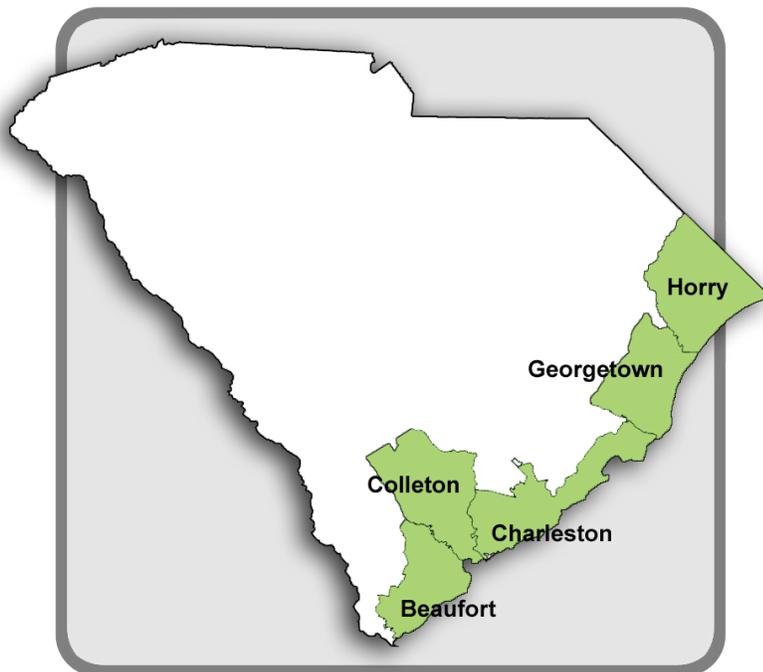


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2010.

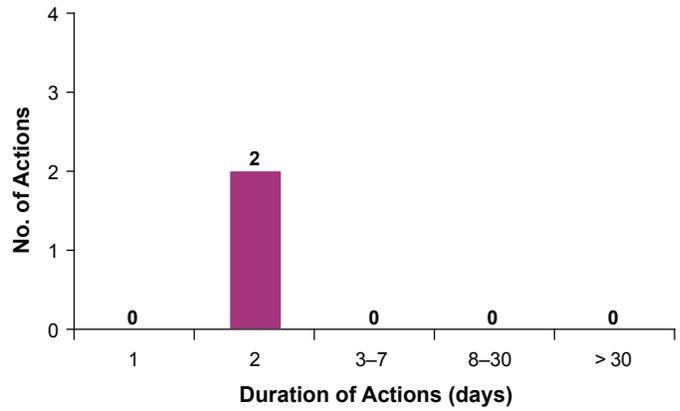
County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
BEAUFORT	4	4	0
CHARLESTON	5	5	0
COLLETON	1	1	0
GEORGETOWN	5	5	0
HORRY	8	8	0
TOTALS	23	23	0

2010 Summary Results

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

When water quality standards are exceeded at a South Carolina sampling site, an advisory is issued for 200 feet on either side of the sampling point, warning people to avoid contact with the ocean water. A single beach can have multiple sampling points. For the purposes of this report, an action is recorded for a beach even if only one sampling station on the beach is affected. One beach had two advisories issued during the 2010 swimming season, both lasting two days. Figure 2 presents a breakdown of notification action durations.

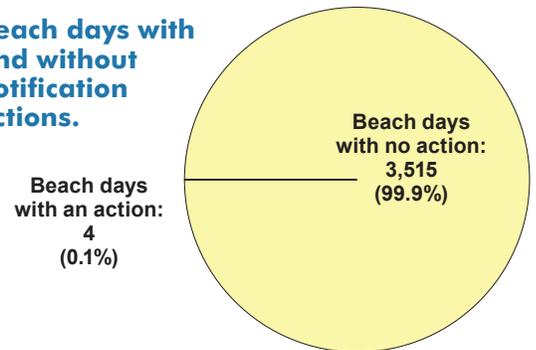
Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.



What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For South Carolina's 2010 swimming season, actions were reported less than one percent of the time (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.



How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

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

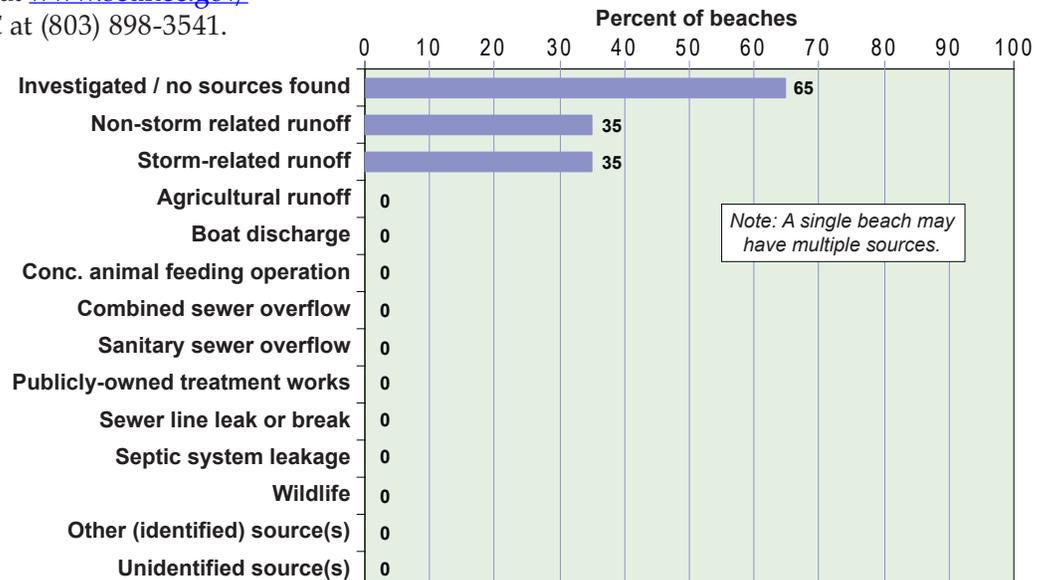
Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008-2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	23	23	23
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	7	4	1
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	30%	17%	4%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	1%	< 1%	< 1%

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of South Carolina's investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2010, 48 percent of the beaches were listed as having no known sources of pollution.

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (23 beaches).



For More Information

For general information about beaches:

www.epa.gov/beaches/

Information regarding sample results is available at the South Carolina DHEC website at www.scdhec.gov/beach, or by contacting DHEC at (803) 898-3541.