

EPA's BEACH Report: New Hampshire 2012 Swimming Season

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Introduction

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000 authorizes EPA to provide grants to coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and eligible tribes to monitor their coastal beaches for bacteria that indicate the possible presence of disease-causing pathogens and to notify the public when there is a potential risk to public health. The BEACH Act requires that recipients of those grants report their coastal beach monitoring and notification data to EPA. This fact sheet highlights the data submitted to EPA by the State of New Hampshire for the 2012 swimming season.

2012 Swimming Season Monitoring and Notification Actions

New Hampshire monitored 16 coastal beaches in Rockingham County during the 2012 swimming season (Figure 1 and Table 1). When monitoring results at swimming beaches show that levels of specific indicator bacteria in the water exceed applicable water quality standards, New Hampshire officials issue a beach advisory, warning people of possible risks of swimming.

How many beaches had notification actions?

In 2012, of the 16 coastal beaches that New Hampshire monitored, three (19 percent) had at least one notification action (Figure 2).

Figure 1. New Hampshire coastal county

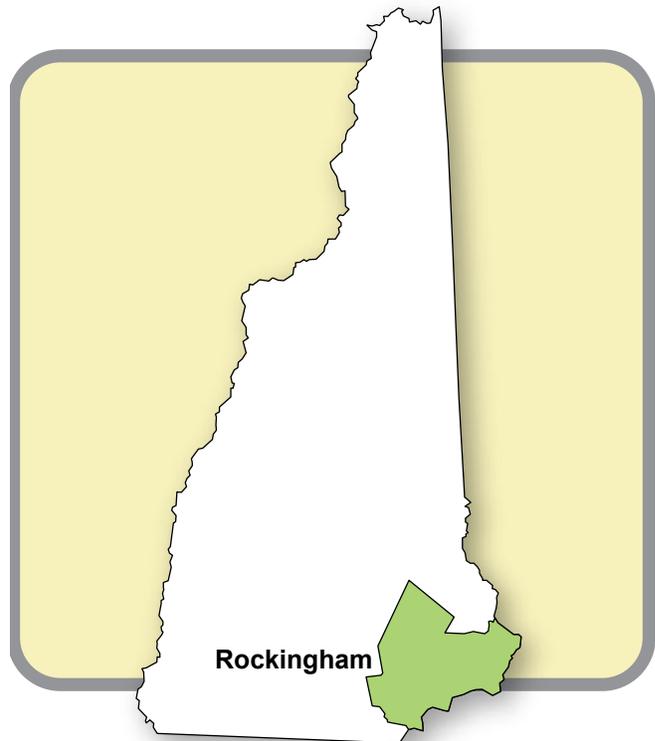


Table 1. Number of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2012

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ROCKINGHAM	16	16	0
TOTALS	16	16	0

Figure 2: Percent of beaches with one or more notification actions

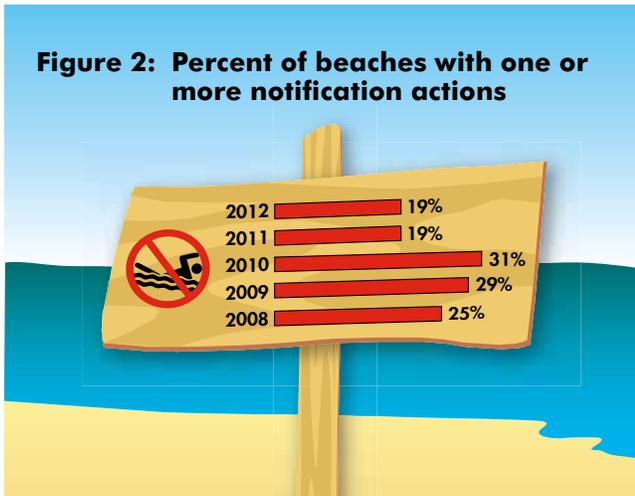


Figure 3: Duration of beach notification actions in 2012



How many notification actions were issued and how long did they last?

New Hampshire issued three notification actions during the 2012 swimming season. Typically New Hampshire lifts an action when follow-up monitoring indicates that water quality complies with applicable standards. For all three of the actions water quality returned to normal and beaches were deemed safe for swimming within one or two days (Figure 3).

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

EPA calculates the total available beach days and the number of beach days with notification actions to better track trends over time. Total available beach days are determined by multiplying the length of the beach season by the number of

Figure 4: Percent of beach days open and safe for swimming



beaches in the state. For 2012 EPA calculated that 1,568 beach days were associated with the swimming seasons of the 16 monitored New Hampshire beaches. New Hampshire reported notification actions on six days, meaning that beaches were open and safe for swimming over 99 percent of the time. This continues the trend of consistently high percentages of open beach days at beaches in New Hampshire (Figure 4).

For More Information

For information about the New Hampshire beach program contact:

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For general information about beaches visit:
<http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/>.

For information about a specific beach visit:
<http://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2/>.