



EPA's BEACH Report:

Michigan 2006 Swimming Season

June 2007

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 Michigan for the 2006 swimming season.

Figure 1. Michigan coastal counties with 2006 monitored beach data.

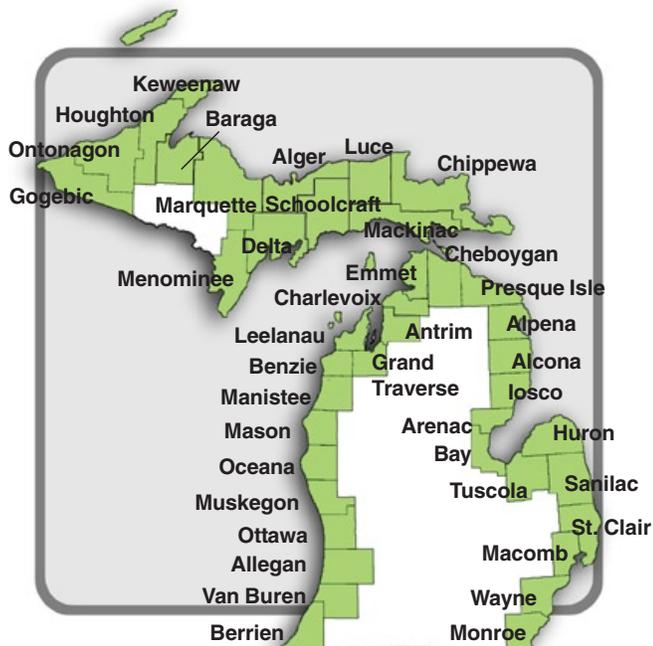


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALCONA	17	1	16
ALGER	25	1	24
ALLEGAN	11	4	7
ALPENA	23	5	18
ANTRIM	28	5	23
ARENAC	32	8	24
BARAGA	24	1	23
BAY	10	5	5
BENZIE	13	1	12
BERRIEN	33	14	19
CHARLEVOIX	19	13	6
CHEBOYGAN	24	6	18
CHEPPEWA	37	7	30
DELTA	55	2	53
EMMET	34	11	23
GOGEBIC	10	0	10
GRAND TRAVERSE	45	6	39
HOUGHTON	24	7	17
HURON	42	12	30
IOSCO	24	8	16
KEWEENAW	28	1	27
LEELANAU	67	3	64
LUCE	18	0	18
MACKINAC	60	1	59
MACOMB	14	4	10
MANISTEE	18	9	9
MARQUETTE	9	5	4
MASON	19	7	12
MENOMINEE	11	2	9
MONROE	13	5	8
MUSKEGON	19	12	7
OCEANA	16	6	10
ONTONAGON	19	2	17
OTTAWA	15	9	6
PRESQUE ISLE	37	3	34
SANILAC	23	4	19
SCHOOLCRAFT	15	1	14
ST. CLAIR	25	14	11
TUSCOLA	0	0	0
VAN BUREN	8	4	4
WAYNE	7	2	5
TOTALS	971	211	760

2006 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

Health departments use the daily and 30-day geometric mean of *E. coli* levels to determine if a beach closure or an advisory should be issued. When a beach closure or advisory is issued, the health department notifies the owner of the beach, the public, and local and state officials. Of the 211 coastal beaches that were monitored in 2006, 42, or 20 percent, had at least one advisory during the 2006 season (Figure 2).

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

A total of 53 beach notification actions were reported in the 2006 swimming season. Most actions were of relatively short duration, with only 7 lasting longer than 7 days. Figure 3 presents breakdowns of action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Michigan's 2006 swimming season, EPA determined there were a total of 20,129 beach days associated with the 211 monitored beaches. Actions were reported on 478 of those days or about 2 percent of the time (Figure 4).

How do 2006 results compare to previous years?

Beginning in 2003, states are required to submit data to EPA under the BEACH Act for beaches which are in coastal and Great Lakes waters. Table 2 compares 2006 data with data reported in previous years.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Michigan:
www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/public/default.aspx

Figure 2: Monitored Beaches with and without notification actions.

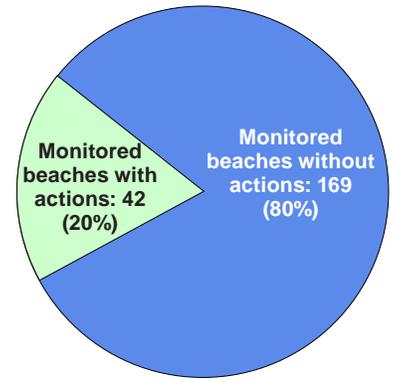


Figure 3: Beach notification actions by duration.

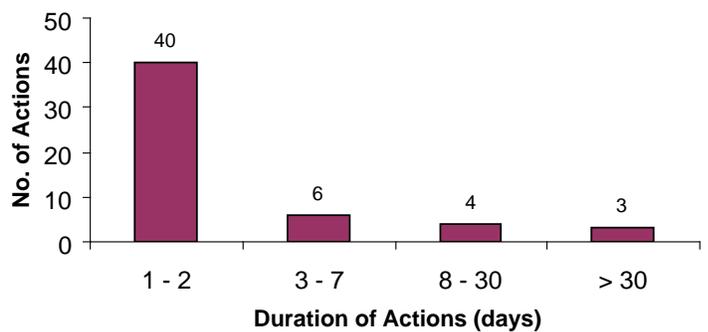


Figure 4: Beach days with and without notification actions.

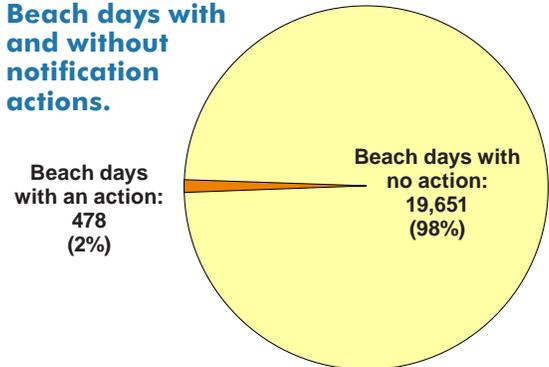


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2004-2006.

	2004	2005	2006
Number of monitored beaches	219	214	211
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	26	27	42
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	12%	13%	20%