



# EPA's BEACH Report: Michigan 2008 Swimming Season

May 2009

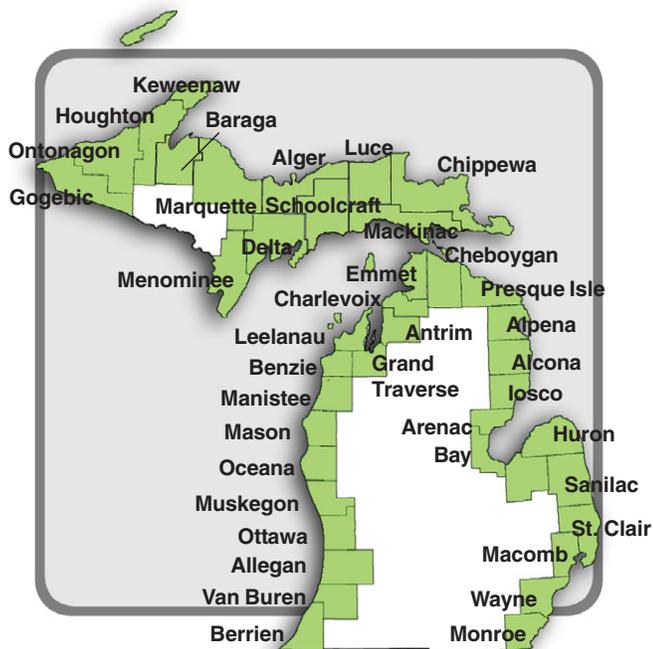
## Introduction

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 2008 swimming season.

**Figure 1. Michigan coastal counties.**



**Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2008.**

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALCONA	15	1	14
ALGER	19	0	19
ALLEGAN	11	4	7
ALPENA	21	5	16
ANTRIM	28	5	23
ARENAC	28	8	20
BARAGA	24	2	22
BAY	10	5	5
BENZIE	10	1	9
BERRIEN	33	13	20
CHARLEVOIX	20	14	6
CHEBOYGAN	23	4	19
CHIPPEWA	27	6	21
DELTA	55	0	55
EMMET	35	11	24
GOGEBIC	10	0	10
GRAND TRAVERSE	47	5	42
HOUGHTON	24	7	17
HURON	41	12	29
IOSCO	24	8	16
KEWEENAW	27	1	26
LEELANAU	54	4	50
LUCE	17	0	17
MACKINAC	56	2	54
MACOMB	14	4	10
MANISTEE	18	9	9
MARQUETTE	9	5	4
MASON	16	7	9
MENOMINEE	11	2	9
MONROE	12	5	7
MUSKEGON	19	12	7
OCEANA	16	6	10
ONTONAGON	18	2	16
OTTAWA	15	9	6
PRESQUE ISLE	37	5	32
SANILAC	23	4	19
SCHOOLCRAFT	15	2	13
ST. CLAIR	24	15	9
VAN BUREN	8	4	4
WAYNE	7	3	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>709</b>

## 2008 Summary Results

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

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Michigan's approach is to issue a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 27 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2008 swimming season. About 40 percent of Michigan's 53 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 Michigan's 2008 swimming season, actions were reported about 2 percent of the time (Figure 3).

### How do 2008 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2008 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

### What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays Michigan's investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2008, all investigated beaches indicated they had unidentified sources of pollution.

## For More Information

For general information about beaches:  
[www.epa.gov/beaches/](http://www.epa.gov/beaches/)

For information about beaches in Michigan:  
[www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/public/default.aspx](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/public/default.aspx)

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

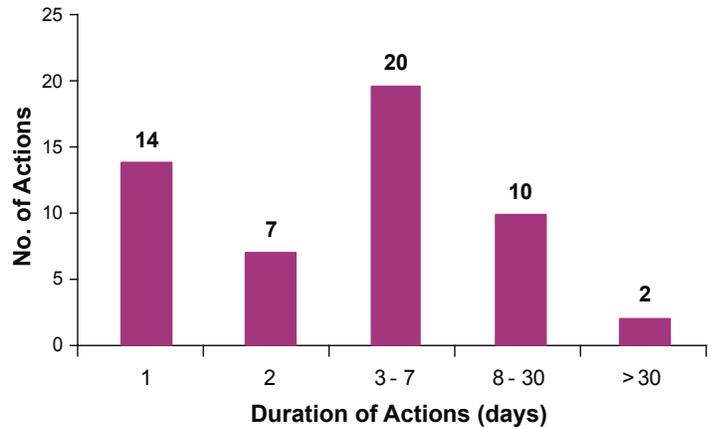


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

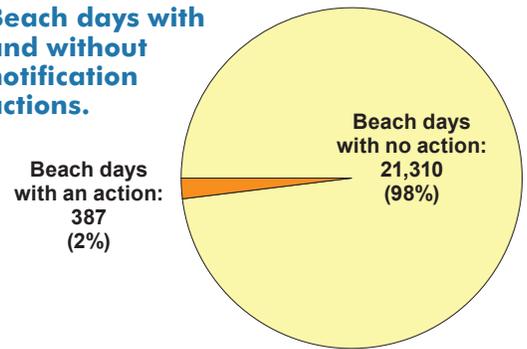


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2006–2008.

	2006	2007	2008
Number of monitored beaches	211	208	212
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	42	32	27
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	20%	15%	13%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	2%	3%	2%

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (212 beaches).

