EPA's BEACH Report: Ohio 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 Ohio for the 2008 swimming season.

Figure 1. Ohio coastal counties.

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

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ASHTABULA	4	4	0
CUYAHOGA	4	4	0
ERIE	25	25	0
LAKE	2	2	0
LORAIN	2	2	0
LUCAS	2	2	0
OTTAWA	7	7	0
TOTALS	**46**	**46**	**0**

2008 Summary Results

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

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Ohio's approach is to issue a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 41 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2008 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Ohio's 2008 swimming season, actions were reported about 17 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?

Possible pollution sources were not investigated at Ohio beaches.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Ohio:
www.odh.ohio.gov, (614) 466-1390, or
1-(866) OHIO BCH

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

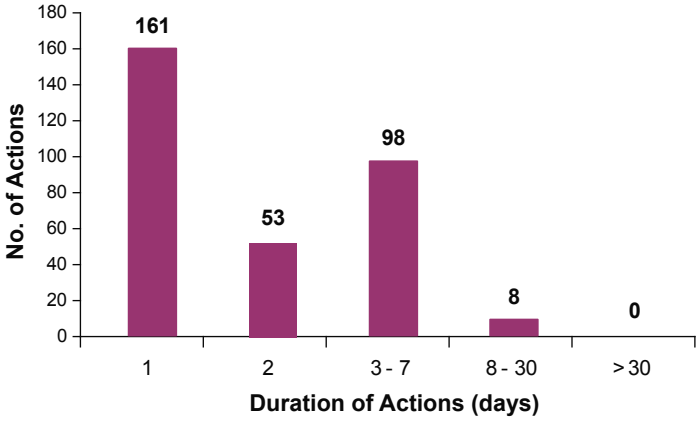

Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

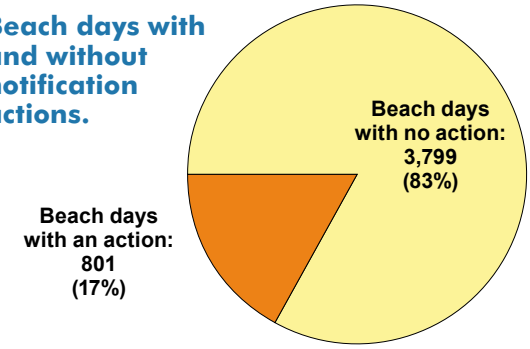

Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2006–2008.

	2006	2007	2008
Number of monitored beaches	52	55	46
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	42	37	41
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	81%	67%	89%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	12%	10%	17%