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

The beach program staff in South Carolina wants your input. Please log onto our Web site, look at the data that is posted, and let us know if we can provide information that is more helpful. Our Web site address is: www.scdhec.gov/beach.

And, come to South Carolina—beautiful places and smiling faces await you.

Figure 1. South Carolina coastal counties.

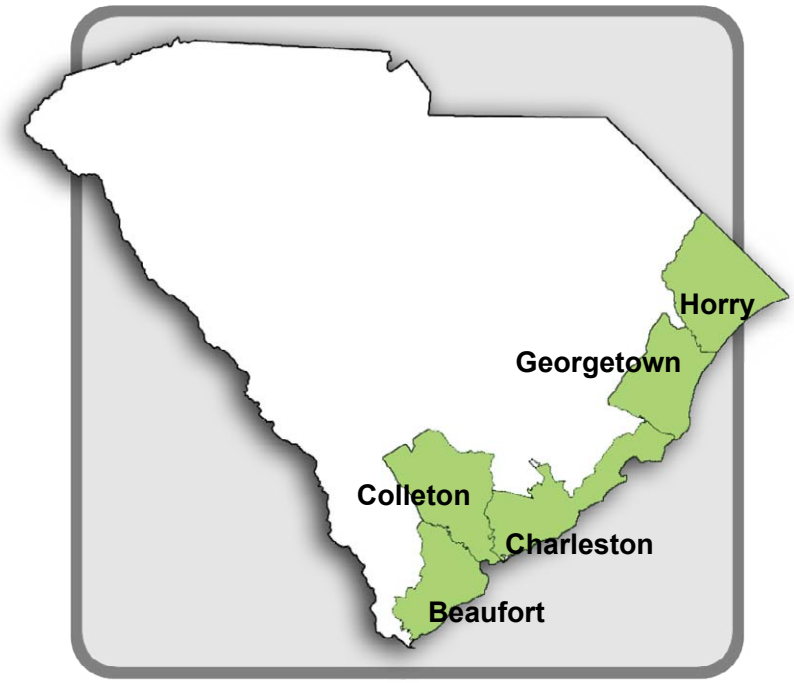

Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2008.

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**

2008 Summary Results

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

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, South Carolina's approach is to issue a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the ocean water. A total of 7 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2008 swimming season. About 72 percent of South Carolina's 18 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 South Carolina's 2008 swimming season, actions were reported about 1 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 the percentage of South Carolina's investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2008, 70 percent of the beaches were listed as having no known sources of pollution.

For More Information

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

Information regarding sample results is available at the South Carolina DHEC Web site at **www.scdhec.gov, www.earth911.com** or by contacting DHEC at (843) 238-4378.

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

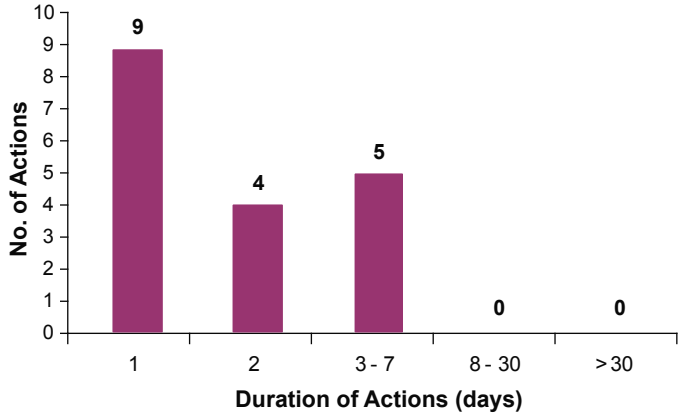

Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

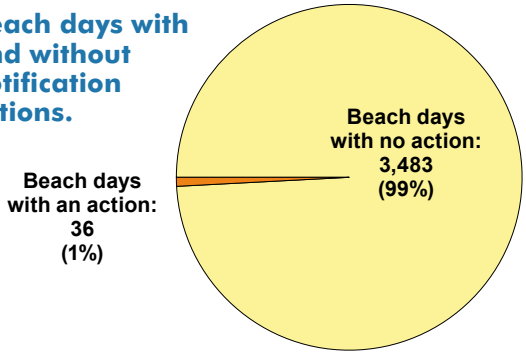

Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2006–2008.

	2006	2007	2008
Number of monitored beaches	23	23	23
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	9	10	7
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	39%	43%	30%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	8%	2%	1%
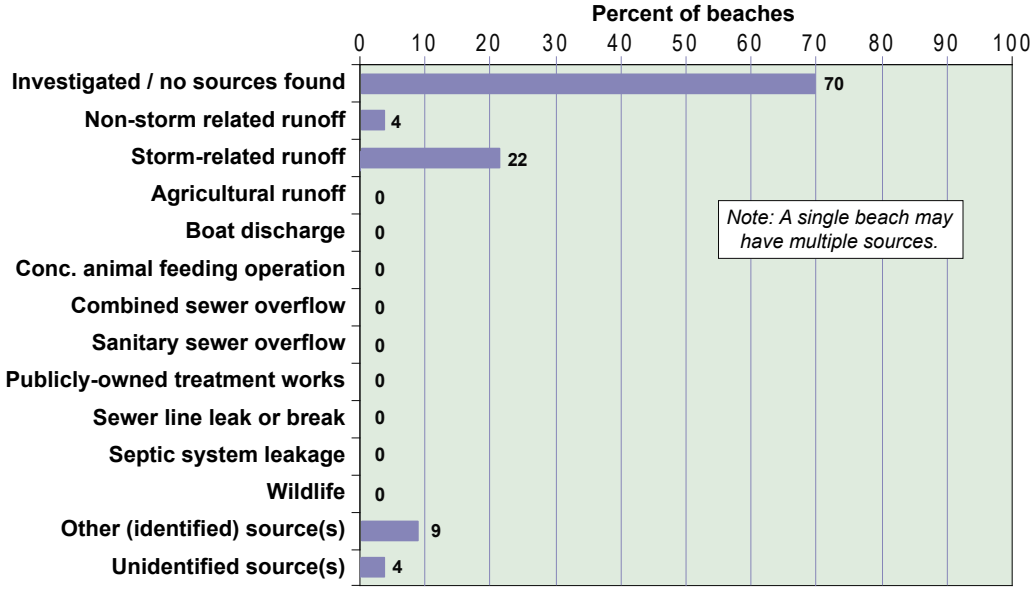
Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (23 beaches).