

Notification Data to PRAWN (Schema 2.4 and/or Access Database v2.3, February 3, 2017, or later)

1. By January 31, 2026, each jurisdiction (state, tribe and territory) submits its 2025 Season notification data to PRAWN.
2. Upon completion of submissions, notify Bill Kramer ( [kramer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:kramer.bill@epa.gov) ). Bill will update the jurisdiction status from “submitting” to “verifying” on: <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/beam2/f?p=beam2:50:13625461014736:>
3. Because EPA cannot know what beach or action entries are missing, as soon as possible after their final submission each jurisdiction verifies their notification data in BEACON. The date for completion of verification (including corrections) is March 31, 2026. (For guidance on conducting a verification, see Appendix A and accompanying file). If complete and correct, notify Bill; If not complete and correct, go to 4.
4. If the data is not complete and correct, the jurisdiction uses the documents on the “Submitting to EPA” webpage in conjunction with CGI Federal if necessary, to submit corrections to PRAWN.  
<https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/submitting-data-epa>
5. If requested by the jurisdiction, Bill will direct CGI Federal to, e.g., create new beach IDs, or revise “Historical status” data and then notify the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction will then submit any new or revised data to PRAWN as necessary (including initial data for new beach IDs, attribute and L/L data), and then conduct another review of BEACON and if it is accurate, notify Bill.
6. If the BEACON report appears to misrepresent otherwise correct and complete data, please describe in an email to Bill the query settings that were used, for EPA review and corrective action.

Monitoring Data to WQX/Water Quality Portal (WQP)

7. By January 31, 2026, each jurisdiction submits its 2025 Season monitoring data to WQX.
8. Upon completion of submissions, notify Bill Kramer ( [kramer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:kramer.bill@epa.gov) ).
9. As soon as possible after their final submission each jurisdiction reviews their data in the WQP (usually the Wednesday or Friday after upload from WQX) and/or in the BEACON Water Quality Report (usually the next day); and if complete and correct, notifies Bill.
10. If the data is not complete and correct, the jurisdiction submits new or revised data to WQX and then conducts another review and when it is accurate, notifies Bill.

EPA Post-verification Review (Dx)

11. EPA conducts a post-verification review of BEACON (Dx) to characterize the quality of the national dataset and to determine plans for updates for the next reporting cycle. This review may result in questions to individual jurisdictions regarding, for example, plans for periodic submissions during the year, corrections, or additions of data for optional data elements (see step 5 above, upon notification Bill will update the jurisdiction status from “verifying” to “complete” on: <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/beam2/f?p=beam2:50:13625461014736:>

For jurisdictions that have already begun their review, if we are working with you on data issues you should discuss with us whether to wait until they are resolved or whether to begin to verify the balance of your data. If you begin to verify the balance of your data and discover additional issues for which you need our assistance, let us know.

## Appendix A (for Verifying Notification Data from PRAWN as viewed in BEACON)

Review (if you did not prior to your submissions) notes on changes yet to be made to previous year submissions.

- Roll forward unchanged attributes for all BEACH Act beaches (only need to change Effective Year)
- Change or delete any prior data as necessary
- Add any new data
- If you have data that you do not want carried through from year to year, please see the FAQs and contact us and we can offer a suggestion based on the data element and/or the information.

### GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

1. See the “Submitting Data to EPA” page  
<https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/submitting-data-epa>
  2. General FAQs – consolidated including new for 2025 or more recent.
  3. BEACON User Guide – current dated July 2024 or more recent.
  4. Accompanying this Verification Process, a separate file: Verification Matrix for 2025 Season.
  5. And/or use the verification Tool (vT) – release 2.0 and User Guide, 06/2021 or more recent.
- To display all BEACH Act Beaches (including non-reporting T4 and Historical) in the BEACON Wizard, Step 2, in “INACTIVE” add Historical, in “ACCESS” and add Private. Non-BABs can be displayed by adding a green check, they will show in the main Beach Profile report.

**Suggested Report Review Sequence:** (To check for completeness, correct values)

Jurisdiction listing on: <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/beamcon2/f?p=beamcon2:50:1> [check links]

For Agency, spell out the “Organization Name”, and do not use the WQX ORG\_ID (see §3.1.1. of <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-12/documents/beachnotification-user-guide.pdf> )

### **Beach Attributes Report**

#### **Non-BEACH Act Beaches**

- Do not Include non-BEACH Act Beaches (e.g., above the mouth of a river or Federal properties. Let us know non-BAB beach ids and we will mark them Historic. (FAQ definitions, item #4 on: <https://www.epa.gov/beaches/submitting-beach-data-epa#verify> pages 59-60 or more recent)

A FAQ on the definition of BAB is under review – so the only thing you need to do now is check to see where your jurisdiction delineates “the mouth of the river” (in law, regulation, or court case) compared to EPA’s How’s my Waterway\* and as labeled on BEACON maps as, e.g., “River” or “Lake”.

Go to: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>

- In the Search field, enter a location of interest, click on “GO>>”
- In the returned map, upper right, click on the top-most “layers icon”; select at least Light grey base map, “Search Location”, “All Mapped Water (NDH)”,] close panel click on: >>
- In the lower right corner, expand the map to full screen
- In the upper left corner, use the + and – to zoom in and out until the “mouth of the river” aka “headland-to-headland” delineation shows as the darker blue color
- Click on darker blue colored area – note State Waterbody name and ID – name should include “river” or other inland water name e.g., “lake”, “pond”
- scroll down to see View Waterbody Report, close report tab and pop-up
- create HMWW screenshot

- Compare HMWW and BEACON screenshots to identify active beaches above the mouth-of-the-river, request that they be made “Historic”.

### **BEACH Act Beaches**

- Select a jurisdiction of interest and apply the standard EPA Beach Report filters:
  - Is Beach Act Beach = Y
  - Is Historical = N
  - Advisory Reporting Frequency [to EPA] != 0 per-year
  - Year = 2025

### **Are there rows of data returned for the selected jurisdiction?**

This confirms that BEACH Act Program Beaches for the jurisdiction are present in the dataset. If no rows appear, it indicates missing or incorrectly classified beaches.

### **Are there BEACH Act Program Beaches missing Latitude/Longitude values?**

These beaches cannot be indexed to EPA layers. They will appear in the EPA Beach Report but cannot be mapped. If found, jurisdictions should update PRAWN with complete coordinates. Large numbers of missing rows suggest widespread errors, while zero may indicate either fully corrected data or a reporting gap.

If a beach does not have L/L data (or if it changes), let us know when you send the L/L to PRAWN, and we can map them for you. Mapping (indexing) will be needed because we are considering using jurisdiction total beach length as a weighting factor in the allotment formula based on the lengths calculated from the indexing, rather than reported lengths.

### **Possible Pollution Sources Report**

- Lists each source type identified across years, even for beaches with investigation but w/o actions. Those beaches not investigated (or investigated with sources found but no further source information) should at least have the “unknown” source listed (next to right-most source column). See the Notification User Guide (p. 111 – Item #1 on: <https://www.epa.gov/beaches/submitting-beach-data-epa#notify>) the only time to not include “Unknown” is when a beach has been investigated and no possible sources found and no history of WQ problems. Then if, in the future that beach does have an action, if a source cannot be named, “Unknown” would be entered.
- “Activity Source” means that source was identified in a Beach Action.
- Cross-check against Beach Action report, each action’s sources, should show
- note Pollution Sources Pie Chart tab.

### **Beach Actions (Advisories and Closures)**

- (defaults to) **Main report:** if actions are based on monitoring, check that the beach in the Beach Swim Season and Water Quality Monitoring Report has a Monitoring Frequency > 0
- Are “Time Beach is open (in hours)” and “Time beach affected (in hours)” values present?
- Check for missing prior year data exposed by the 5-yr charts in the DNR and BEACON (back to 2011). [please see Jurisdiction Summary “New Trend Charts” item at end of this document] Those years’ data should also be in your Database of Record.
- Are there **overlapping** actions (multiple actions at the same beach on the same day(s) but for different causes)? If so, these will double count the days here, and days and percentages in the Jurisdiction Summary report will be incorrect. If there are separate stations for separate portions of the beach, request separate beach ids for the segments and associate the revised beach is with the appropriate station id in WQX.
- **Detailed Report:** to check for **duplicate** actions (only need to check if Detailed report totals > Main report totals) If they are duplicates, you can remove them (see the Notification User Guide section 3.1.6; the vT User Guide G.2.4; or have CGI assist you to remove them.

- Note also, that the detailed report shows “Comments” columns.
- Check to see if other than monitoring results (based on a model, monitoring by a sentinel station at another beach, or policy) are shown for Beach Actions – see “- Station IDs”, below.\*
- Check to see that if any irregular monitoring reason/source/indicator comments should be displayed that they are displayed in the Beach Profile Detail report, Beach Action Report and that Beach Comments and Irregular Monitoring comments show in the Swim Season and Monitoring Frequency Report (see below), or in the Beach Profile Detail report (click on blue Beach ID link).
- Action-specific sources will automatically show in the Possible Pollution Sources report
- Station IDs for beaches with actions will automatically show in the Beach Profile details (click on blue Beach ID link) – otherwise you can add a Beach Comment of: “policy”, “model”, or a sentinel station if that is the basis for an action.

### **Beach Profile Detail**

(Click on the blue Beach ID link in any report)

Waterbody name and type, are required if the beach is on a Great Waterbody (if on a Great Lake, specify which lake)

Note BEACH Act beaches (BAB) used by the public but in a permanent non-reporting status, beginning with the 2017 season, should be Tier 4. If non-reporting (at least actions) for 2 seasons or less, mark “Dormant.” If longer than 2 seasons request “Historic” status, which can be reversed.

For beaches that should be marked non-BAB, reset their flag and request “Historic” status).

To view all beach profile data elements indicated in the matrix, be sure to click on a sample of Beach IDs. For example, the Beach Profile Detail report is the only place where assessment and internal LADPs show. If deficiencies are found in a sample of individual Beach Profile reports (e.g., sample by county and/or monitoring status, and/or Tier and/or ownership/access), your submission file may have a systematic error.

### **Beach Swim Season and Water Quality Monitoring Report**

Uncheck the filter **Is Beach Act Beach? = 'Y'** so that all beaches are shown.

Verify that the report is sorted in **ascending order** on the column **Swim Season Monitoring Frequency** so that beaches with the lowest monitoring frequency appear first.

#### **Are there BEACH Act Program Beaches with # of days in Swim Season (SS) <= 0?**

These beaches cannot be included in calculations for “Percent of Swim Season Days that Beaches are Open.” Missing values indicate incomplete reporting and must be corrected in PRAWN.

#### **Are there BEACH Act Program Beaches with # of days in Swim Season > 366?**

This is a data error, as a swim season cannot exceed one calendar year. Such values must be corrected.

#### **Are there beaches that are marked as not Tier 4 AND Is Beach Act Beach = No?**

This indicates a non-BEACH Act Beach is showing as an active reporting beach. Only BABs should be assigned to active tiers (Tier 1–3). If found, review and correct classification

#### **Are there beaches that are marked as Tier 4 AND Is Beach Act Beach = Yes?**

This indicates a BEACH Act Beach is classified as Tier 4 (non-reporting) but is still flagged as active. Tier 4 beaches should not be included in reporting. If found, review and correct classification.

### **Are Dormant or Tier 4 beaches correctly showing Swim Season Monitoring Frequency = 0?**

The Tier Column (filtered for T4) and the Dormant Column (may need to add from grey bar click “Action” button) filtered for “Y” facilitate confirming that Non-reporting beaches have a value of “0” for: season length, advisory reporting frequency to EPA, and Monitoring reporting frequency to EPA.

A Dormant beach may be monitored but not have advisories/closures issued and still be considered dormant if it is not open to the public. This confirms that non-reporting beaches are properly classified. If a Dormant or T4 beach has monitoring frequency > 0, review the classification.

All other beaches should have values for those data elements. If the season is short or 0, or monitoring frequency irregular or 0, check to see if dormant, check that any Irregular Monitoring Comments show in the Beach Profile Detail report. Check to see that # of days with actions is < or = to # of swim season days

### **Are there beaches with Swim Season Monitoring Frequency = 0 that are Tier 1–3?**

This indicates an active beach is marked as reporting but shows no monitoring. These should either be Dormant or Tier 4 unless actions can still be issued by policy, model, or sentinel station. If so, this must be documented in the Beach Comment field (\*see below).

### **Do active monitored beaches (Tier 1–3, Monitoring Frequency > 0) have Monitoring Station ID and Notification Station ID values?** Missing IDs suggest incomplete or incorrect submissions,

\*Currently in BEACON - for any active reporting monitored beach, If there have been no beach actions due to a monitoring report yet, the station ID will not show. So, in the meantime, add in “Beach Comment” the station ID(s) and/or, if appropriate for your jurisdiction, say that “policy” (e.g., design storm) or “model”, or “sampling result from a sentinel station”, can be the basis for a beach action in the absence of a monitoring result (if that how the jurisdiction would inform the public at a beach w/o a station). [See Notification Access DB Guide Exhibit 3-3]

If any active reporting beaches that are not monitored (Swim season monitoring frequency = 0) , also show no monitoring events – should they be dormant or T4? If the jurisdiction’s Program would, if justified, issue a Beach Action even without monitoring data (based on a model, monitoring by a sentinel station at another beach, or policy), then the tier designation does not need to change. Indicate in the Beach Comment field that policy, model, or sentinel station may apply. (e.g., “Action may be by policy”).

### **Beach Contact Information**

Check all beaches for submitted data. (May use a jurisdiction-level webpage if beach-level information is found on that webpage). OK for T4 beaches to not have contact information.

### **WQS Criteria**

This report presents a table of all WQS criteria values for all BEACH Act beaches. This report includes monitored and non-monitored beaches because all BAB waters have primary contact WQS.

### **Local Action Notification Procedures**

This report, for each beach: Identifies Local Action Decision Procedures (LADP) used to notify the public of beach actions. [Uncheck year and BAB flag, scroll down for a cumulative list of all years – most recent first]. The list is sorted by county and beach name. For details on a particular beach see the Beach Profile Detail report. To see only the LADPs currently in use, select the most recent year for which there is data. If you don’t see a beach in the report, it means that the beach does not yet have Local Action Decision Procedures used to notify the public of beach actions associated with it for the year(s) selected. The Beach Profile Detail report (click on any blue Beach ID link) is the only place where assessment and internal LADPs show.

**Water Quality**

- If results are found, check that Monitoring Frequency is > 0 for the related Beach IDs, even where no actions resulted.
- Check to see that the whole beach season (& off-season, if monitored) has data by sorting on “Start Date”.
- During 2021 Season submissions, we advised of duplicates showing for 30 days after a submission. This is due to a change in the USGS’s Water Quality Portal (WQP), we implemented a fix. Check to see if duplicates remain and if so remove them.
- Beach grant funds cannot be used to monitor historic or non-beach act beaches.

**EPA’s Beach Report Jurisdiction Summary (Dynamic National Report (DNR))**

We have added multi-year Trend Charts (like those found in the Dynamic National Report - DNR) to this BEACON report. You should review the completeness of prior-year data for at least 2020-2024; but also, back to include 2011, and if necessary, update your database of record. See:

- Action Duration ..... (DNR Chart 4)
- Pollution Sources ..... (DNR Chart 3)
- State Summary
  - Number of Program Beaches, Number monitored, Percent monitored .... (DNR Chart 1)
  - Percent Time Open w/o Notification Action ..... (DNR Chart 5)
  - Percent beaches with Notification Actions ..... (DNR Chart 2)

[https://usepamy.sharepoint.com/personal/kramer\\_bill\\_epa\\_gov/Documents/0BEAC](https://usepamy.sharepoint.com/personal/kramer_bill_epa_gov/Documents/0BEAC)  
HES/0 QA Annual/2025 Season/verification-process-2023.docx