



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

Figure 1. Alaska coastal communities.

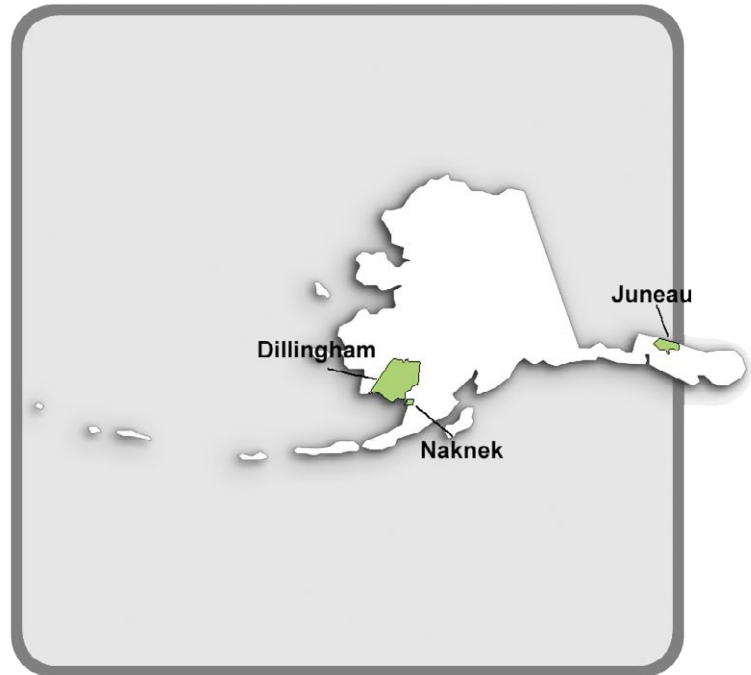


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by community for 2008.

| Community | Total Beaches | Monitored | Not Monitored |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| NAKNEK | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DILLINGHAM | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| JUNEAU | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 3 | 3 | 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, Alaska's approach is to issue a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. None of the 3 monitored beaches had an advisory issued during the 2008 swimming season.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

No actions were reported during Alaska's 2008 swimming season (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 Alaska's investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2008, 2 out of 3 of their beaches reported that sources of pollution were unknown.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Alaska:
www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wqsar/wqs/beachprogram.htm

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

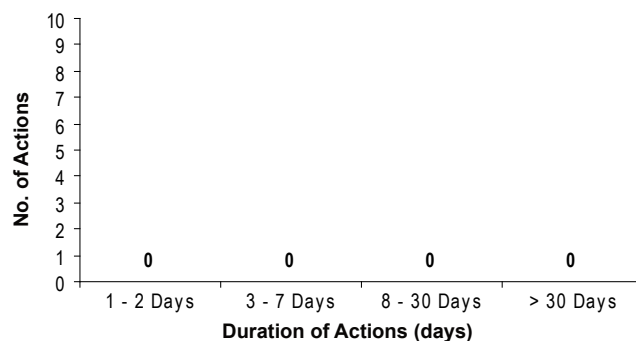


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

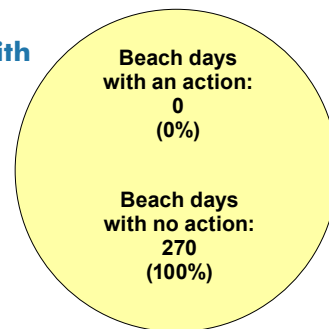


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2006–2008.

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Number of monitored beaches | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Number of beaches affected by notification actions | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (3 beaches).

