



EPA's BEACH Report:

California 2007 Swimming Season

July 2008

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 California for the 2007 swimming season.

Figure 1. California coastal counties.



Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2007.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
DEL NORTE	12	12	0
HUMBOLT	28	28	0
LOS ANGELES	48	48	0
MARIN	28	28	0
MENDOCINO	20	20	0
MONTEREY	24	24	0
ORANGE	23	23	0
SAN DIEGO	74	74	0
SAN FRANCISCO	7	7	0
SAN LUIS OBISPO	17	17	0
SAN MATEO	41	41	0
SANTA BARBARA	33	33	0
SANTA CRUZ	28	28	0
SONOMA	7	7	0
VENTURA	34	34	0
TOTALS	424	424	0

2007 Summary Results

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

California's approach is to issue a beach advisory when water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 138 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2007 swimming season. About 34 percent of California's 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 California's 2007 swimming season, actions were reported about 5 percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2007 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2007 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources impact monitored beaches?

Sources of pollution impacting California's monitored beaches in 2007 were unidentified (Figure 4).

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in California visit the Web site: www.waterboards.ca.gov/beachquality/ or contact Michael W. Gjerde, California Beach Coordinator at the State Water Resources Control Board at (916) 341-5283.

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

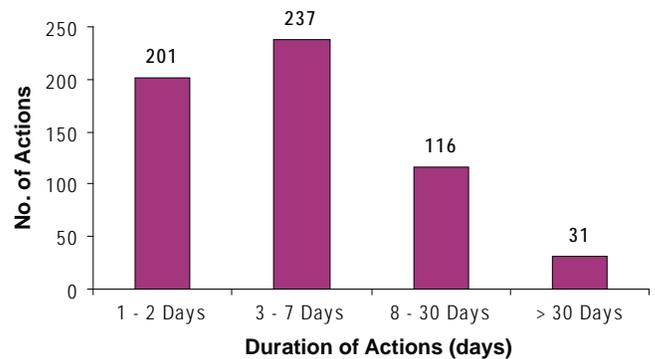


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

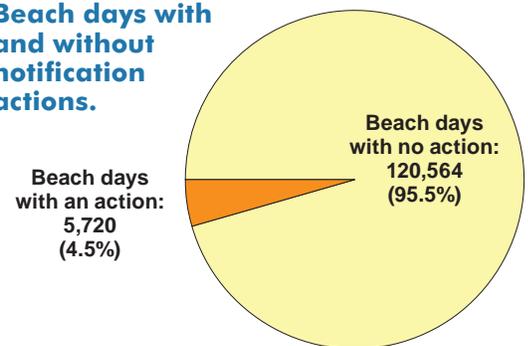


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2005–2007.

	2005	2006	2007
Number of monitored beaches	426	425	424
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	153	139	138
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	36%	33%	33%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	4%	5%	5%

Figure 4: Percent of monitored beaches potentially impacted by pollution sources (424 beaches).

