



EPA's BEACH Report: Illinois 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 Illinois for the 2007 swimming season.

Figure 1. Illinois coastal counties.

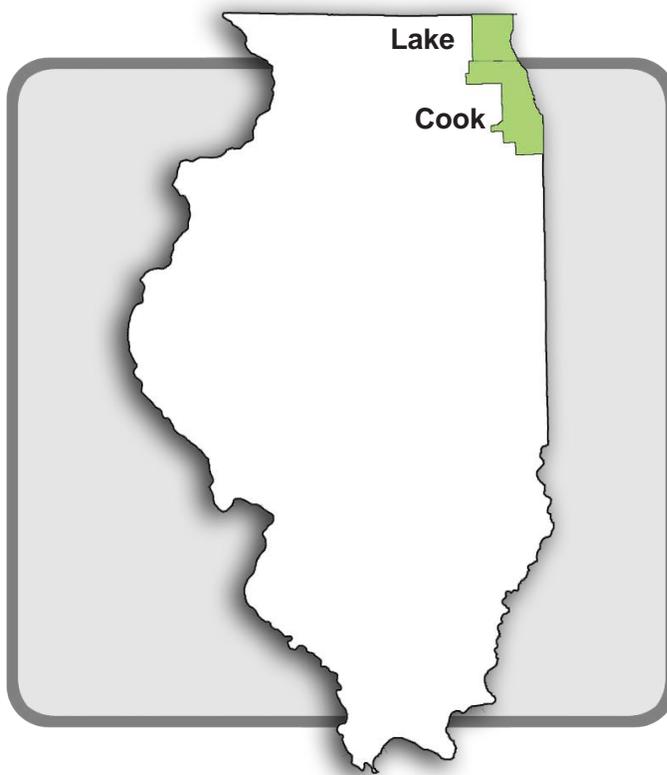


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
COOK	51	39	12
LAKE	18	12	6
TOTALS	69	51	18

2007 Summary Results

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

Illinois' 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 49 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2007 swimming season. About 88 percent of Illinois' 517 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 Illinois' 2007 swimming season, actions were reported about 17 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?

Potential sources of pollution impacting Illinois' monitored beaches in 2007 are unknown (Figure 4).

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Illinois:
www.earth911.org/waterquality/default.asp?cluster=17

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

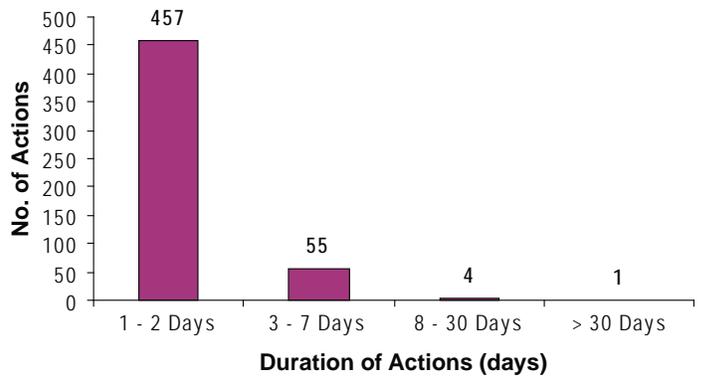


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

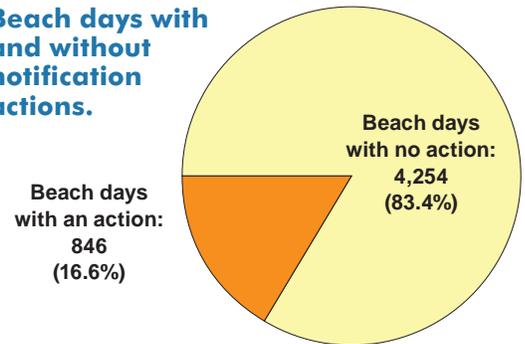


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2005–2007.

	2005	2006	2007
Number of monitored beaches	73	67	51
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	49	54	49
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	67%	81%	96%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	10%	12%	17%

Figure 4: Percent of monitored beaches potentially impacted by pollution sources (51 beaches).

