

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report:

Alaska 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 Alaska for the 2007 swimming season.

Figure 1. Alaska coastal communities.

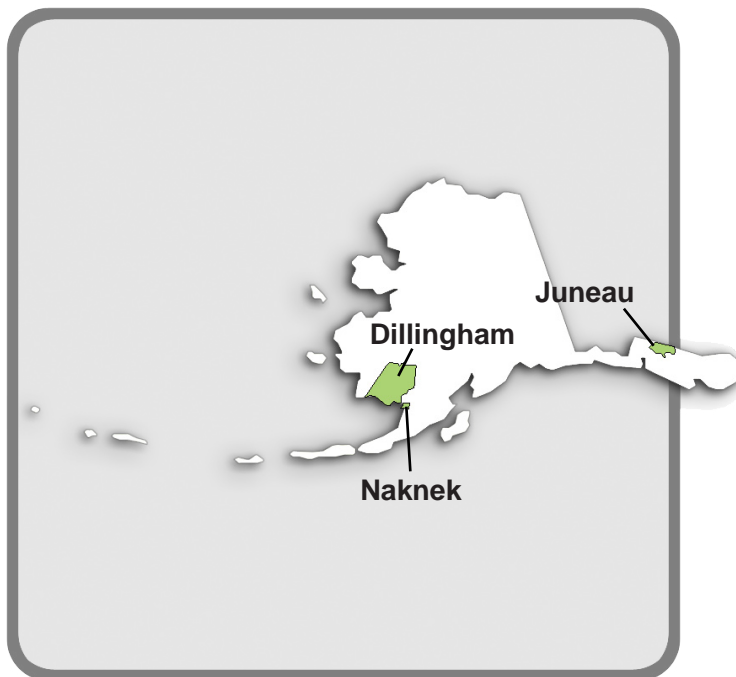


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by community for 2007.

Community	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
NAKNEK	1	1	0
DILLINGHAM	1	1	0
JUNEAU	1	1	0
TOTALS	3	3	0

2007 Summary Results

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

Alaska'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. None of the 3 monitored beaches had an advisory issued during the 2007 swimming season.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

No actions were reported during Alaska's 2007 swimming season (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?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of Alaska's monitored beaches potentially impacted by various pollution sources. In 2007, 2 out of 3 of their beaches reported no known sources of pollution.

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.

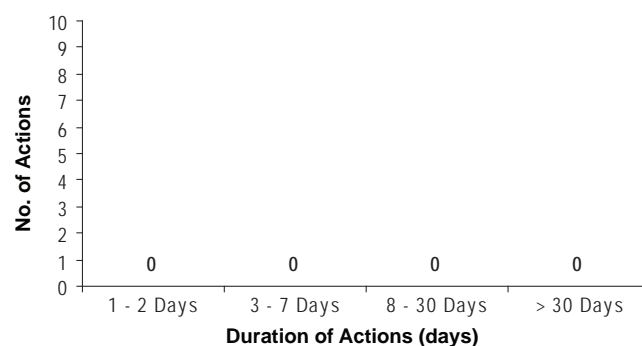


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

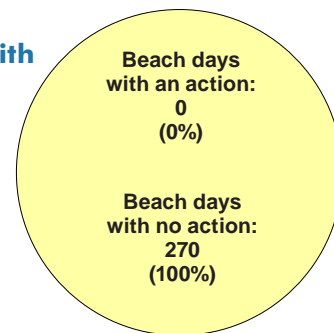


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2005–2007.

	2005	2006	2007
Number of monitored beaches	2	3	3
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	2	0	0
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	100%	0%	0%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	39%	0%	0%

Figure 4: Percent of monitored beaches potentially impacted by pollution sources (3 beaches).

