

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report:

American Samoa 2010 Swimming Season

May 2011

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 territory of American Samoa for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. American Samoa coastal districts.

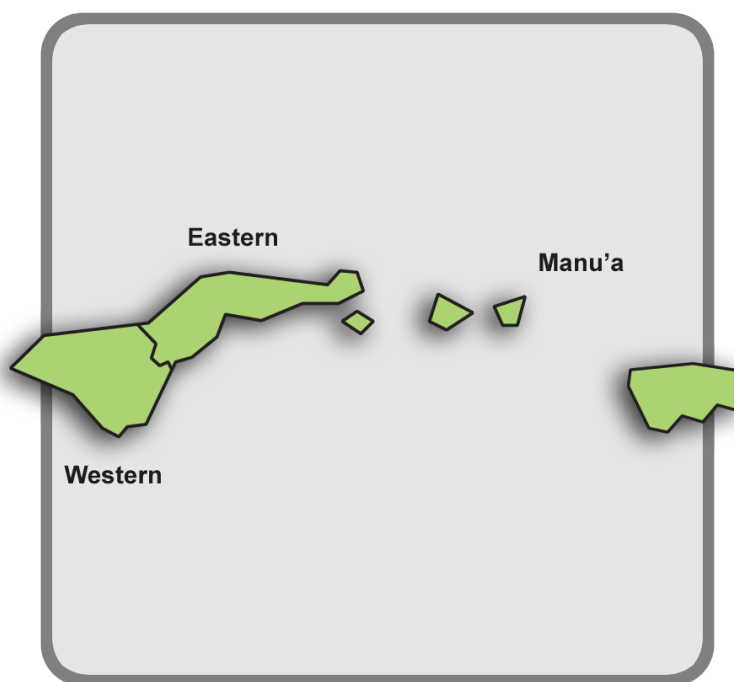


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by district for 2010.

District	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
EASTERN	36	36	0
MANU'A	5	5	0
WESTERN	9	9	0
TOTALS	50	50	0

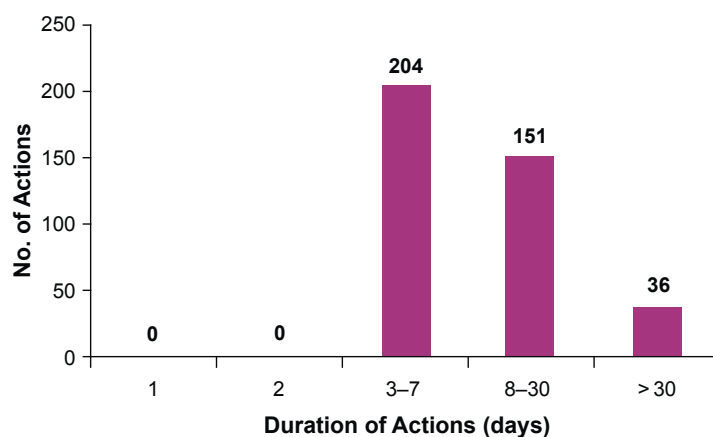


2010 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, American Samoa requires beach managers to post an advisory or closure. An advisory warns people that there is an increased health risk associated with entering the water and a closure warns people to completely avoid contact with the water. A total of 47 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification actions.

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

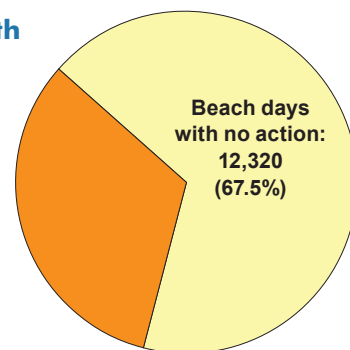


What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

In 2010, about 32 percent of American Samoa's total beach days were under an advisory or closing (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

Beach days
with an action:
5,930
(32.5)



How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2010 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

American Samoa indicates that storm-related runoff possibly affects all beaches.

Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008–2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	42	50	50
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	42	47	47
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	100%	94%	94%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	32%	30%	32%

For More Information

For general information about beaches:

www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in American Samoa:

<http://asepa.gov/default.asp>

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (50 beaches).

