

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report: California 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 State of California for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. California coastal counties.



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

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALAMEDA	1	1	0
CONTRA COSTA	1	1	0
DEL NORTE	12	12	0
HUMBOLT	28	28	0
LOS ANGELES	49	49	0
MARIN	28	28	0
MENDOCINO	21	21	0
MONTEREY	25	25	0
ORANGE	28	28	0
SAN DIEGO	76	76	0
SAN FRANCISCO	7	7	0
SAN LUIS OBISPO	17	17	0
SAN MATEO	41	41	0
SANTA BARBARA	34	34	0
SANTA CRUZ	28	28	0
SONOMA	7	7	0
VENTURA	35	35	0
TOTALS	438	438	0



2010 Summary Results

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

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, California issues a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 138 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For California's 2010 swimming season, actions were reported about four percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

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

For More Information

For general information about beaches:

www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in California visit the website: www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/beaches/beach_water_quality/index.shtml 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.

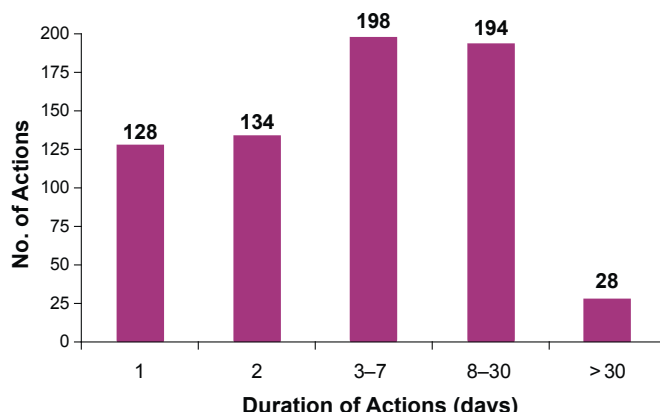


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

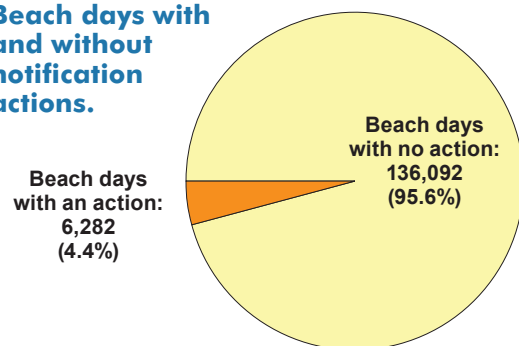


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008-2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	433	434	438
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	139	173	138
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	32%	40%	32%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	6%	6%	4%