

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report:

Connecticut 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 Connecticut for the 2007 swimming season.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health collects monitored beach data for 66 marine beaches located along its shoreline with Long Island Sound. Local health departments monitor sixty-two (62) of these beaches. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection monitors the remaining four (4) State Park marine beaches.

Connecticut has adopted a set of beach monitoring guidelines that are based on US EPA standards for recreational bathing waters. These guidelines have been in effect since May 1989. They were revised most recently in April 2003.

Questions about a municipal beach should be directed to the shoreline local health department that monitors it. Questions about a State Park beach should be directed to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Figure 1. Connecticut coastal counties.

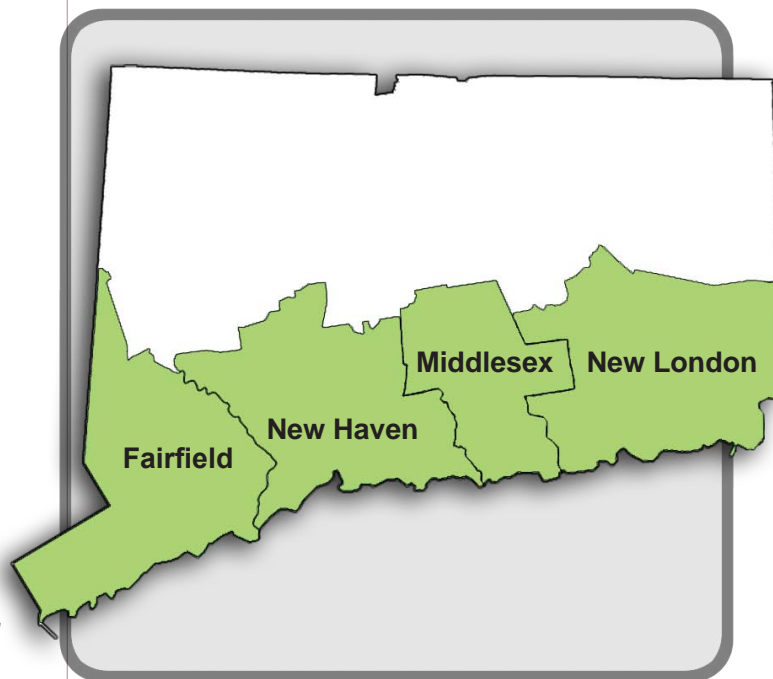


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2007.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
FAIRFIELD	28	28	0
MIDDLESEX	5	5	0
NEW HAVEN	19	19	0
NEW LONDON	14	14	0
TOTALS	66	66	0

2007 Summary Results

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

Connecticut's approach is to issue a beach advisory or closure when water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach to warn people to avoid contact with the ocean water. A total of 33 monitored beaches had at least one notification action issued during the 2007 swimming season. About 91 percent of Connecticut'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 Connecticut's 2007 swimming season, actions were reported about 2 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?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of Connecticut's monitored beaches potentially impacted by various pollution sources. In 2007, 67 percent of the beaches included storm-related runoff as a known potential source. No pollution sources were identified at 11 percent of the beaches.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Connecticut:
<http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp>

Click Programs and Services at the top of the Web page. Then select Public Beaches.

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

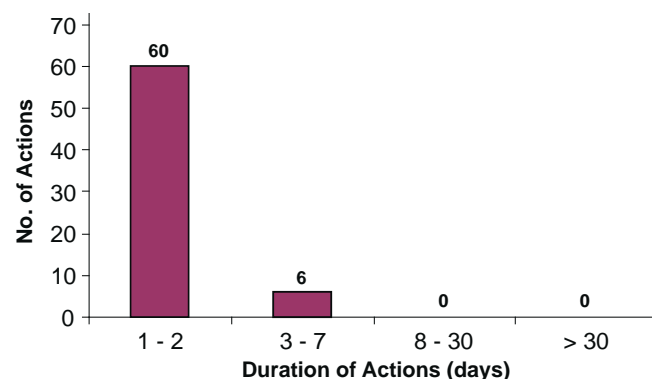


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

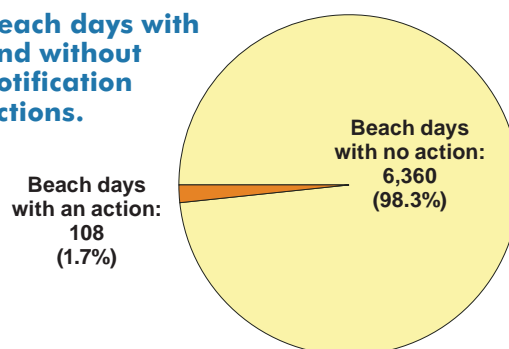


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2005–2007.

	2005	2006	2007
Number of monitored beaches	67	67	66
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	28	40	33
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	42%	60%	50%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	3%	3%	2%

Figure 4: Percent of monitored beaches potentially impacted by pollution sources (66 beaches).

