

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report: Guam 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 Guam for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. Guam.

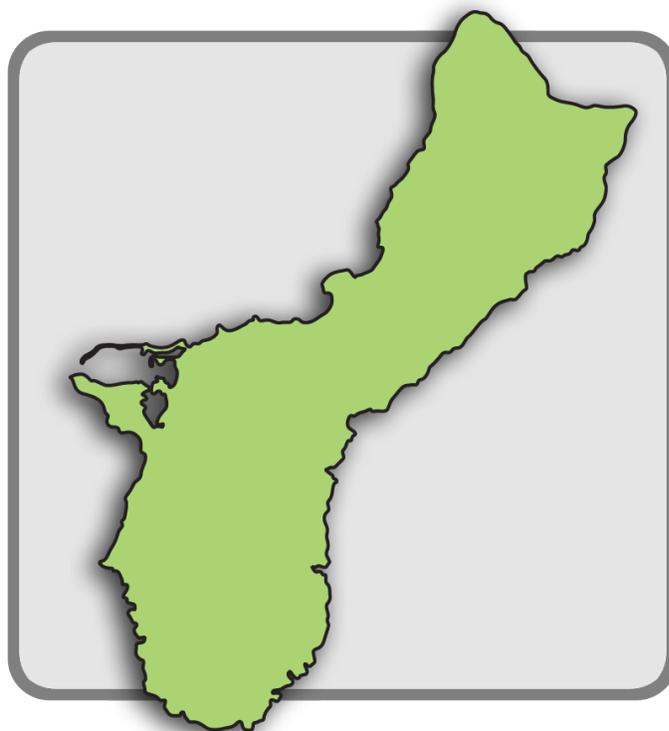


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches for 2010.

Island	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
TOTALS	31	31	0



2010 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Guam 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. Twenty-nine monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification actions.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

In 2010, about 40 percent of Guam's total beach days were under an advisory (Figure 3).

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?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of Guam's monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2010, no pollution sources were found at 71 percent of the beaches.

For More Information

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

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

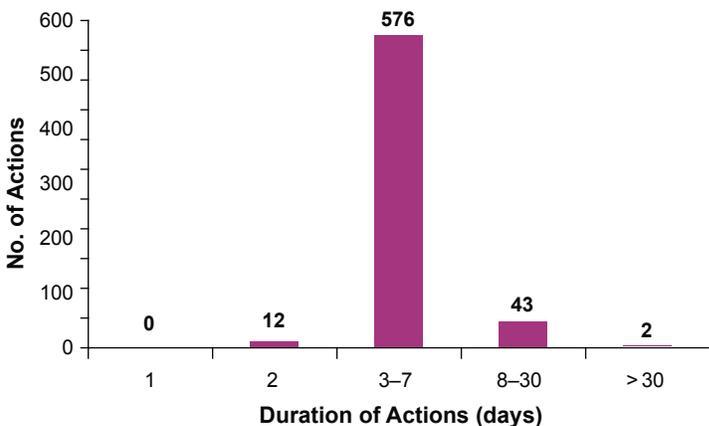


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

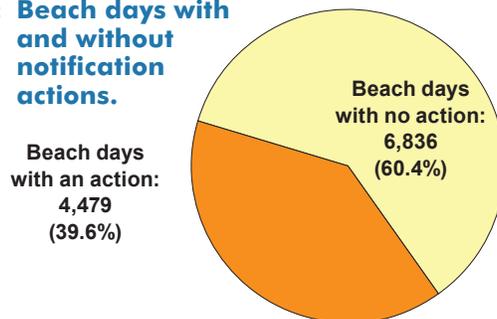


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008-2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	31	31	31
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	31	31	29
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	100%	100%	94%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	44%	41%	40%

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (31 beaches).

