

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

Figure 1. Michigan coastal counties.

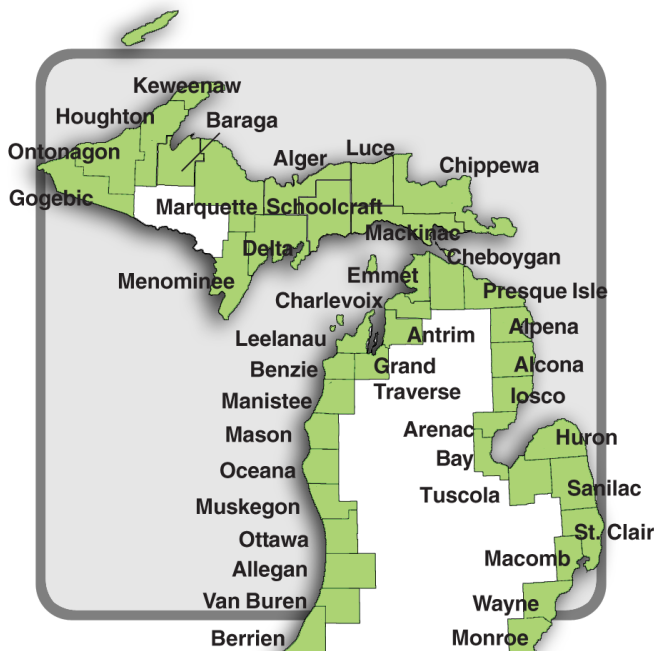


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2010.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALCONA	7	1	6
ALGER	12	0	12
ALLEGAN	5	4	1
ALPENA	14	5	9
ANTRIM	16	5	11
ARENAC	15	8	7
BARAGA	12	1	11
BAY	6	5	1
BENZIE	8	2	6
BERRIEN	21	14	7
CHARLEVOIX	20	9	11
CHEBOYGAN	13	4	9
CHIPPEWA	26	6	10
DELTA	28	0	28
EMMET	21	11	10
GOGEBIC	7	0	7
GRAND TRAVERSE	32	5	27
HOUGHTON	15	7	8
HURON	24	13	11
IOSCO	13	8	5
KEWEENAW	14	1	13
LEELANAU	39	7	32
LUCE	16	0	16
MACKINAC	34	2	32
MACOMB	4	4	0
MANISTEE	10	9	1
MARQUETTE	7	5	2
MASON	10	7	3
MENOMINEE	8	2	6
MONROE	3	3	0
MUSKEGON	13	12	1
OCEANA	8	5	3
ONTONAGON	10	2	8
OTTAWA	11	9	2
PRESQUE ISLE	22	3	19
SANILAC	12	5	7
SCHOOLCRAFT	9	2	7
ST. CLAIR	15	15	0
TUSCOLA	1	0	1
VAN BUREN	4	4	0
WAYNE	3	2	1
TOTALS	568	207	361

2010 Summary Results

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

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Michigan issues a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 59 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. About 67 percent of Michigan's 105 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 Michigan's 2010 swimming season, actions were reported about three 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.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Pollution sources were not investigated in 2010.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Michigan:
www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

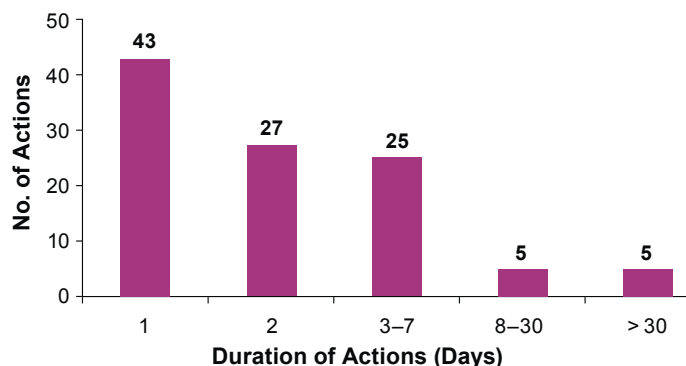


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

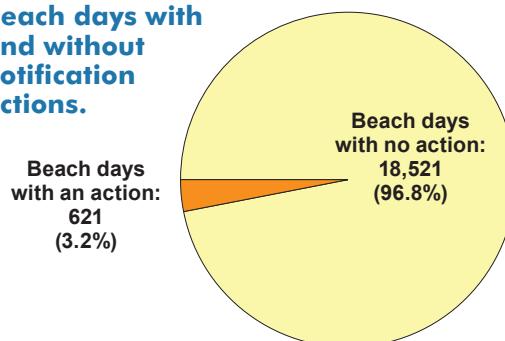


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008–2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	212	220	207
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	27	41	59
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	13%	19%	28%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	2%	3%	3%