

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# EPA's BEACH Report:

## Virgin Islands 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 the Virgin Islands for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. U.S. Virgin Islands

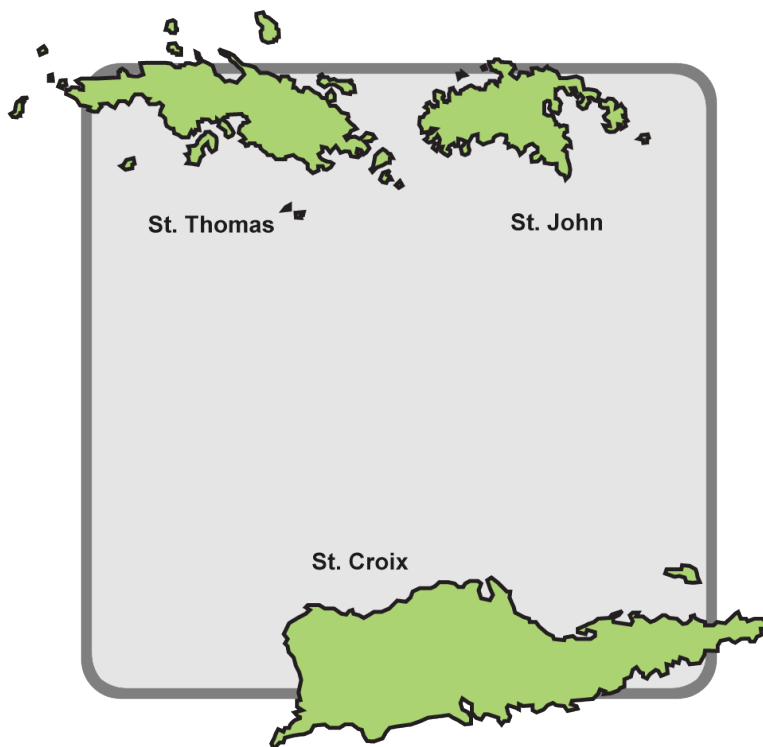


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches for 2010.

| Island        | Total Beaches | Monitored | Not Monitored |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| ST. CROIX     | 20            | 20        | 0             |
| ST. JOHN      | 8             | 8         | 0             |
| ST. THOMAS    | 15            | 15        | 0             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>43</b>     | <b>43</b> | <b>0</b>      |



## 2010 Summary Results

### How many beaches had notification actions?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Virgin Islands 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 15 out of 43 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 0.4 percent of Virgin Islands' 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?

Virgin Islands' officials indicate that no sources were found at most investigated beaches.

## For More Information

For general information about beaches:

[www.epa.gov/beaches/](http://www.epa.gov/beaches/)

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

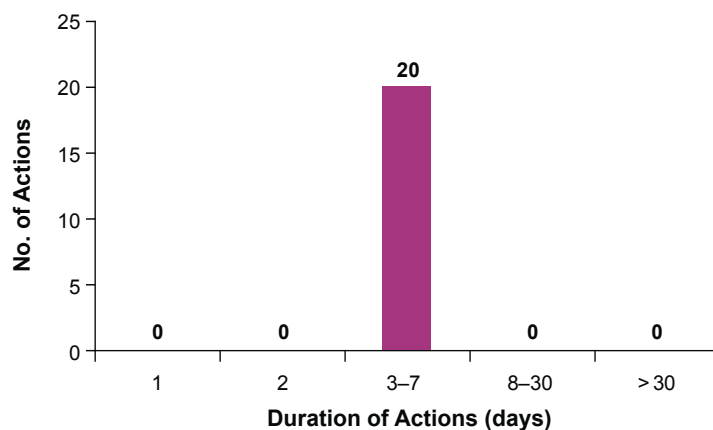


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

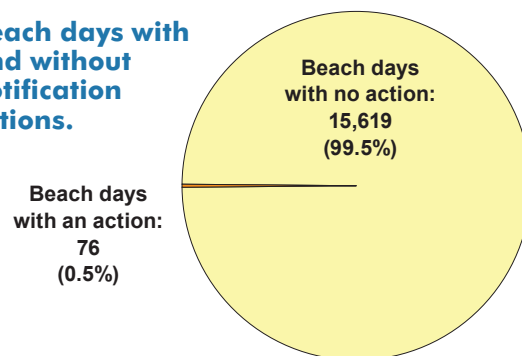


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008–2010.

|   | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Number of monitored beaches                               | 43   | 43   | 43   |
| Number of beaches affected by notification actions        | 8    | 15   | 15   |
| Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions    | 19%  | 35%  | 35%  |
| Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.4% |

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (36 beaches).

