

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report:

New Hampshire 2006 Swimming Season

June 2007

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 New Hampshire for the 2006 swimming season.

Figure 1. New Hampshire coastal counties with 2006 monitored beach data.



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

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ROCKINGHAM	16	16	0
TOTALS	16	16	0

2006 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

New Hampshire's beach managers post a beach advisory warning the public to avoid water contact and informing them about the potential risks associated with swimming in polluted waters. The advisories are posted at the beach and on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Web site at www.des.state.nh.us/Beaches/index.asp and the Earth 911 Web site at www.earth911.org/static.html. Of the 16 coastal beaches that were monitored in 2006, 5, or 31 percent, had at least one advisory during the 2006 season (Figure 2).

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

A total of 6 beach notification actions were reported in the 2006 swimming season. Actions were of relatively short duration, however. Figure 3 presents breakdowns of action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For New Hampshire's 2006 swimming season, EPA determined there were a total of 1,472 beach days associated with the 16 monitored beaches. Actions were reported on 23 of those days or about 2 percent of the time (Figure 4).

How do 2006 results compare to previous years?

Beginning in 2003, states are required to submit data to EPA under the BEACH Act for beaches which are in coastal and Great Lakes waters. Table 2 compares 2006 data with data reported in previous years.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in New Hampshire:

www.des.state.nh.us/Beaches/index.asp

Figure 2: Monitored beaches with and without notification actions.

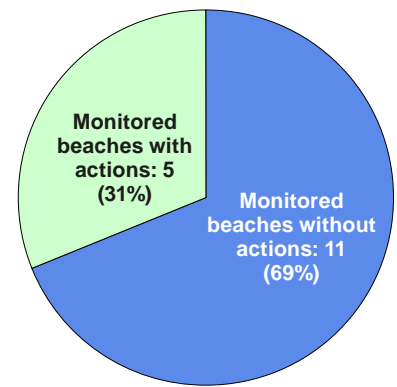


Figure 3: Beach notification actions by duration.

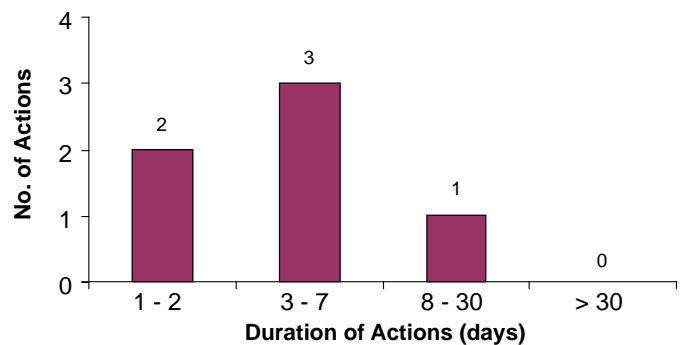


Figure 4: Beach days with and without notification actions.

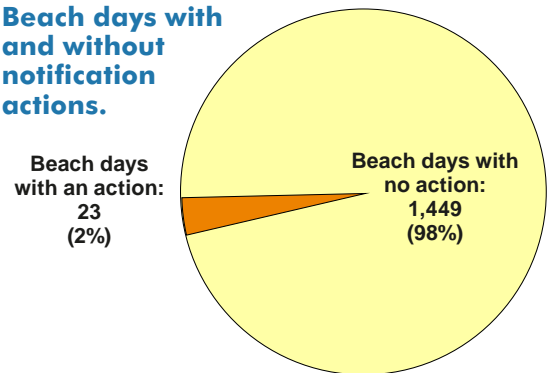


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2004-2006.

	2004	2005	2006
Number of monitored beaches	16	15	16
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	3	1	5
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	19%	7%	31%