Wisconsin’s Coastal Beaches
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Wisconsin Beach Monitoring Program

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000
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Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000

• Requires list of all identified public coastal beaches posted for review and comment
• Requires monitoring for *E. coli* at public beaches
• Requires public notification of water quality
• Requires reporting of water quality information to EPA
Wisconsin Beach Monitoring Program

EPA
Administers BEACH Act

DNR
~$215,000 to state based on "beach miles"

Public Health
contracts with public health based on monitoring needs

Contractors
**Wisconsin Beach Monitoring Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>High priority beaches</th>
<th>Sample at least 3x/week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>Medium priority beaches</td>
<td>Sample at least 2x/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3</td>
<td>Low priority beaches</td>
<td>Sample at least 1x/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 4</td>
<td>Lowest priority</td>
<td>No sampling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Milwaukee, WI | Mark Ponto*
Why *E.coli*?
**E. coli Sampling**

*E. coli* sampling follows the BEACH program QAPP

- Middle of typical bathing area at the beach
- Knee depth
- Sampling 6-12 inches below surface of the water
Lab Analysis

All sample analyses conducted by State certified labs using EPA approved method

Most probable number (MPN) tests for E. coli:
- LTB EC-MUG (Standard Methods 9221B.1/9221F)
- ONPG-MUG (Standard Methods 9223B, AOAC 991.15, Colilert, Colilert-18, and Autoanalysis Colilert)

Membrane filter tests for E. coli:
- MEndo, LES-Endo, or mFC followed by transfer to NA-MUG media (Standard Methods 9222B/9222G or 9222D/9222G)
- MI Agar, M-ColiBlue24 Broth
Sanitary Surveys

Sanitary Surveys at time of water sampling
- water clarity (turbidity is optional addition)
- wave height
- weather conditions (e.g. cloud cover, wind, etc.),
- water temperature
- gull counts
- algae in the water
Local public health officials have the authority to post advisories or close beaches exception: DNR property
Posting Advisories and Closures

Water Quality Notice

No water quality advisory now
No hay advertencia sobre la calidad del agua

Stay alert for changing conditions. Swim at your own risk.
Este átense a las condiciones cambiantes. Nade bajo su propio riesgo.

Advisory! Adviso!

Swimming in this water could make you sick
Nadar en esta agua podría enfermarle

Beach Closed!

Do Not Swim!
No Nade!

Local contact for more information
Posting Advisories and Closures

Traditional Sampling:
Advisory: 235 cfu/100 mL
Closure: 1000 cfu/100 mL
Beach managers can implement a Nowcast model.

- provides earlier warning
- prediction for every day
- site specific criteria
- still sample for model validation and comparison
Posting Advisories and Closures

Traditional Sampling:
Advisory: 235 cfu/100 mL
Closure: 1000 cfu/100 mL

Nowcast: site specific decision criteria

re-sampling required to remove advisory or closure
Public Health has authority to post closures

- harmful algal bloom
- confirmed illness
- unsafe swimming conditions
- major pollution event
- rainfall
# Beach Advisory Report

Beach Advisories are issued at some of the Wisconsin Beaches along the Great Lakes. Advisories notify the public when a beach is open, closed or a warning has been issued. Visit your local county health department for more information. See links on the left for websites and phone numbers.

Beach Advisory Data on this website for the current beach season are preliminary and have not received final quality testing and approval. Data on this website from 2003 - 2011 have been approved.

Beach Advisory Data can be retrieved from 2003 to 2012. Pick the county, beach and/or date range. Reports can be downloaded by clicking the "Download to csv File" link at the bottom of the page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Beach Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Advisory</th>
<th>Reason for issuing advisory</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>Maslowski Beaches</td>
<td>09/03/2018 09:42</td>
<td>End of Season</td>
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Download to CSV
Monitoring for HABs

Currently no criteria for cyanobacteria or cyanotoxins

Beach program does not require monitoring for HABs

Fact Sheet: Draft Human Health Recreational Ambient Water Quality Criteria/Swimming Advisories for Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin