

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2014

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OKALOOSA COUNTY SALTWATER BEACH MONITORING RESULTS for October 27, 2014

This is the final report for 2014. Sampling will resume in March 2015.

The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) conducts weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring from March through October at 13 sites through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage.

Site	Name	City	Enterococci	Water Quality
SP-1	Liza Jackson Park	Ft. Walton Beach	Pass	Good
SP-2	Garniers Park	Ft. Walton Beach	Pass	Good
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-4	Wayside Park	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-5	Poquito Park	Shalimar	Pass	Good
SP-6	Gulf Islands National Seashore	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
SP-7	East Pass	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	Fail	Poor
SP-9	Henderson Beach	Destin	Pass	Good
SP-10	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park	Niceville	Fail	Poor
SP-11	James Lee Park	Destin	Pass	Good
SP-13	Emerald Promenade	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-14	Clement E Taylor Park	Destin	Pass	Good

Florida Department of Health

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The following water quality classifications are used by the Florida Department of Health and are based upon the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended standard for enterococci. The classification standard is as follows:

GOOD:	0 – 35 colony forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters (ml) of marine water
MODERATE:	36 – 104 CFU per 100 ml of marine water
POOR	≥ 105 CFU per 100 ml of marine water.

Advisories have been issued for **Lincoln Park** of Valparaiso; and **Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville on the enterococci standards recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public. **Note:** While this last sample resulted in an advisory due to poor water quality, sampling has been discontinued until the first week of March 2015. We will be unable to any information on water quality until March 2015.

Bathing at any of these 13 sites between November and February is at your own risk, since no testing is done during these months.

If you have questions, contact the DOH-Okaloosa County at (850) 833-9247 or (850) 689-7859. You can also visit HealthyOkaloosa.com, and click the "Healthy Beaches" link to be taken to a list of Okaloosa County's Healthy Beaches sites and maps.

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