

July 6, 2016

OKALOOSA COUNTY SALTWATER BEACH MONITORING RESULTS FOR JULY 5, 2016



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Ft. Walton Beach, Fla– The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) conducts bi-weekly saltwater beach water quality monitoring at 11 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	Moderate
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-4	Wayside Park	Okaloosa Island	Pass	Good
SP-5	Poquito Park	Shalimar	Pass	Moderate
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	Pass	Good
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	Moderate
SP-13	Emerald Promenade	Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
SP-14	Clement E Taylor Park	Destin	Pass	Good

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: 36-70 CFU per 100 ml of marine water

POOR: greater than 70 CFU per 100 ml of marine water

Advisories have been issued for **Emerald Promenade** of Okaloosa Island; and **Rocky Bayou State Park** of Niceville based on the enterococci standards recommended by the EPA. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

Effective July 1, 2016, DOH-Okaloosa has changed the sample frequency from weekly sampling to bi-weekly sampling. The next routine sampling will occur on July 18, 2018. Additionally, Gulf Islands National Seashore and East Pass are no longer part of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program and will not be sampled.

The previous sampling site of Gulf Islands National is close to Marler Park on Okaloosa Island, and the previous sampling site of East Pass is close to Clement E. Taylor Park in Destin.

If you have questions, contact the DOH-Okaloosa County at (850) 833-9247 or (850) 689-7859. You can also visit www.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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