March 8, 2017

OKALOOSA COUNTY SALTWATER BEACH MONITORING RESULTS FOR MARCH 6, 2017

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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. Samples are collected from March through the end of October. 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	Water Quality
SP-1	Liza Jackson Park	Ft. Walton Beach	Poor
SP-2	Garniers Park	Ft. Walton Beach	Good
SP-3	Marler Park	Okaloosa Island	Good
SP-4	Wayside Park (Gulf Site)	Okaloosa Island	Good
SP-5	Poquito Park	Shalimar	Good
SP-8	Lincoln Park	Valparaiso	Good
SP-9	Henderson Beach (Gulf Site)	Destin	Good
SP-10	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park	Niceville	Good
SP-11	James Lee Park (Gulf Site)	Destin	Good
SP-13	Emerald Promenade (Gulf Site)	Okaloosa Island	Good
SP-14	Clement E Taylor Park	Destin	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

Health advisories are issued for sampling locations classified as POOR based on the EPA's recommendation standards for enterococci. An advisory has been issued for **Liza Jackson Park** of Fort Walton Beach. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public.

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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