



Interactive National List of Beaches

Summary

EPA has published online our first interactive *National List of Beaches*. The interactive list provides the public with the most current information about the extent and condition of coastal and Great Lakes beaches as reported to EPA by each coastal or Great Lakes state, tribe, and territory in the U.S.

Background

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000 requires that EPA periodically publish a list of U.S. coastal and Great Lakes recreational waters adjacent to beaches that are used by the public. The Agency must also identify whether state and local governments are implementing water quality monitoring and public notification programs at the beaches.

In accordance with the BEACH Act, EPA generates the *National List of Beaches* based on data from states, tribes and territories. Inland beaches other than those on the Great Lakes are not covered by the BEACH Act, and therefore are not included in the *National List*.

The *National List* is primarily organized by state and county. However, for Hawaii and some territories, the beaches are listed by island, and Alaska's beaches are reported by community. Beach names are listed with their monitoring status for each swimming season.

The New List

Beginning with the 2011 beach season, the public can now access EPA's *National List of Beaches* using a dynamic and interactive online tool. For beaches covered by the BEACH Act, users can find information on the length of beaches, the most recent beach closures and advisories, and water quality monitoring data reported by states, territories, or tribes.

This dynamic version generates reports that are formatted like previous *National Lists*, but uses the most current information. This ability eliminates the need for EPA to generate annual Lists in the future. From the new online tool, users will also be able to access state websites for additional information.

Previous Lists

EPA first published the *National List* in 2004, and provided updates for the 2008 and 2010 beach seasons. These static lists are available on EPA's website at:

http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/list_index.cfm.

Differences in Results

There will be some differences between reports generated using the interactive *National List* and the static lists generated using previous years' data (2004, 2008, and 2010):

- 1) The number of beaches in past reports will not match the number of beaches in the dynamic list. Changes to beaches are frequently made by local jurisdictions, such as combining several beaches into a single beach, splitting a single beach into multiple beaches, or adding or removing beaches from the list. The dynamic list reflects those changes as they are reported to EPA.
- 2) Users will not be able to duplicate the exact contents of previous reports, since the data from 2004, 2008, and 2010 used to create those reports has since been updated, reflecting the addition of late or corrected data.

For More Information

For more information on the National List of Beaches, please contact Richard Healy (202-566-0405 or healy.richard@epa.gov).

For general information about beaches go to:

<http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/>

For information about a specific beach go to:

<http://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2/>.

To find your EPA Regional or state beach
program representative go to:

[water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/whereyoulive
state.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/whereyoulive_state.cfm).
