

Advisory and Warning Analysis for Alabama and the Northwest Florida Beaches

In October 2000, the Federal Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act amended the Clean Water Act requiring states and territories to increase bacterial water quality standards in coastal waters. The BEACH Act also provided grants for monitoring coastal waters and requested public notification of the results of the monitoring program. Today, approximately 25 sites area being monitored by the Coastal Alabama Beach Monitoring Program. In Florida, The Florida Healthy Beaches Program is conducting weekly monitoring samplings in approximately 300 locations. Recent studies had demonstrated changes in concentration of fecal coliform and enterococcus due spatial, temporal, and environmental factors. This presentation will compare the results of both programs and will identify common factors related to beach closings in Alabama and Northwest Florida.

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