

Recreational Beach Assessment

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Texas Beach Watch Program

- The GLO administers the Beach Watch Program.
- Local entities collect samples under a QAPP.
- 167 stations representing 65 beaches.
- Collection weekly May-September and every 2 weeks October-April.
- Laboratories analyze the data using EPA approved methods.
- Beaches re-sampled until results are <104



2008 IR

- TCEQ assessed the contact recreation use as currently described in guidance.
- Beach Watch data were reviewed and summarized but no listings occurred.
- TCEQ agreed to propose a methodology in 2010.



2008 IR

- In 2008, EPA took federal action to add a bacteria impairment in Corpus Christi Bay to the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters using bacteria data collected for the Texas Beach Watch Program.
- EPA listed the entire bay and placed the water body in Category 5a (TMDL needed)



2008 IR

TCEQ requested:

- EPA reconsider the listing and give TCEQ an opportunity to develop assessment procedures with management and stakeholder input.
- EPA change the listing to include only the Cole Park and Ropes beaches.
- EPA change the category to 5c (additional data needed).
- EPA agreed to items 2 and 3.



Proposed Guidance for 2010 IR

- Propose to add Recreational Beach Assessment to guidance.
- List water bodies with persistent advisories.
- Assessment Units as described by GLO using their lengths.
- One AU per beach though several sites may comprise one beach.



Proposed Guidance for 2010 IR

- GLO will provide data to the TCEQ annually.
- GLO will provide # of samples analyzed for each beach per year and # of advisories issued at each beach per year.
- TCEQ will divide the # of advisory days by the # of samples days for a percentage of days that resulted in advisories.



Proposed Guidance for 2010 IR Listing, Concerns, and Delistings

- Beach advisories <25% of the time—Fully Supporting
- Beach advisories 20-25% of the time—Concern and Fully Supporting
- Beach advisories <20% of the time—Delisted and Fully Supporting
- Beach advisories \geq 25% of the time—Not Supporting



Discussion

- The purpose of the Recreational Beach Assessment is to identify beaches with persistent advisories that indicate that conditions are not safe for swimming at that beach.
- TCEQ will use only the advisory information provided by GLO and not the raw data.
- Recreational beach advisory information is not combined with data used to assess the contact recreation use for coastal water bodies.
- This is consistent with other assessment methods using only advisory information.



Beach Listings

- Preliminary beach listings using proposed assessment procedures and thresholds:
 - Cole Park
 - Ropes Beach
- Note: Both water bodies are currently federally listed.



Corpus Christi Beaches



Recreational Beach Assessment

Advisory Sign





Basin Monitoring Stations Basin 24—Bays and Estuaries

