

RECOMMENDED ACTION
Based on Top Priority Alternative Approach

Category

Improved Beach Management Techniques (jurisdictions of coastal communities, state, tribes, feds)

Goal (s) Letter for Reference:

d, w, q, v

Summary of recommended action:

Standardize, trial, and implement a risk-based approach^{1, 2, 3} to manage recreational water, which builds upon existing water quality monitoring programs and employs the latest technology for microbial assessment and standardized sanitary inspection criteria, based on a holistic assessment of the watershed.

¹WHO, ²Annapolis Protocol, ³USEPA National Beach Guidance and Required Performance Criteria for Grants, June 2002, EPA 823B02004

Recommended timeframe:

Mechanisms are in place for standardized microbial assessment as stated in the USEPA BEACH Act of 2000. By 2009, states should add to their existing water quality monitoring programs, real-time analytical tests, a standardized tool for conducting sanitary inspections at beaches, and new beach management protocols which are based on microbial assessment and sanitary inspection.

Projected benefits and costs:

Cost: \$2.0 million annually

Benefit: A holistic watershed approach to beach management will improve the identification of contamination sources at the local level, encourage remediation of those sources, ensure the protection of public health through a risk-based approach, decrease economic loss and increase commercial benefits.

Best-suited entity(s) to accomplish recommended action:

Agencies are most suited to carry it recommended action at all levels of implementation: federal, tribal, state, local municipalities. Federal, state, tribal and local municipalities have worked together to standardize the microbial assessment of recreational water and these working groups can also standardize the sanitary inspection process. Once these two tools are in place they can be trialed at the local level, adopted by the federal government, and implemented at the state and tribal level.

Measurable objectives:

By 2010 the number of beaches classified as having “good” water quality will comprise 90 – 95% of all Great Lakes public bathing beaches. At the local level individual contamination events will occur no more than 5 % of available days within a bathing season and the remediation measures will be in place to address these events.