

Overview of BEACH Act Implementation in New York State

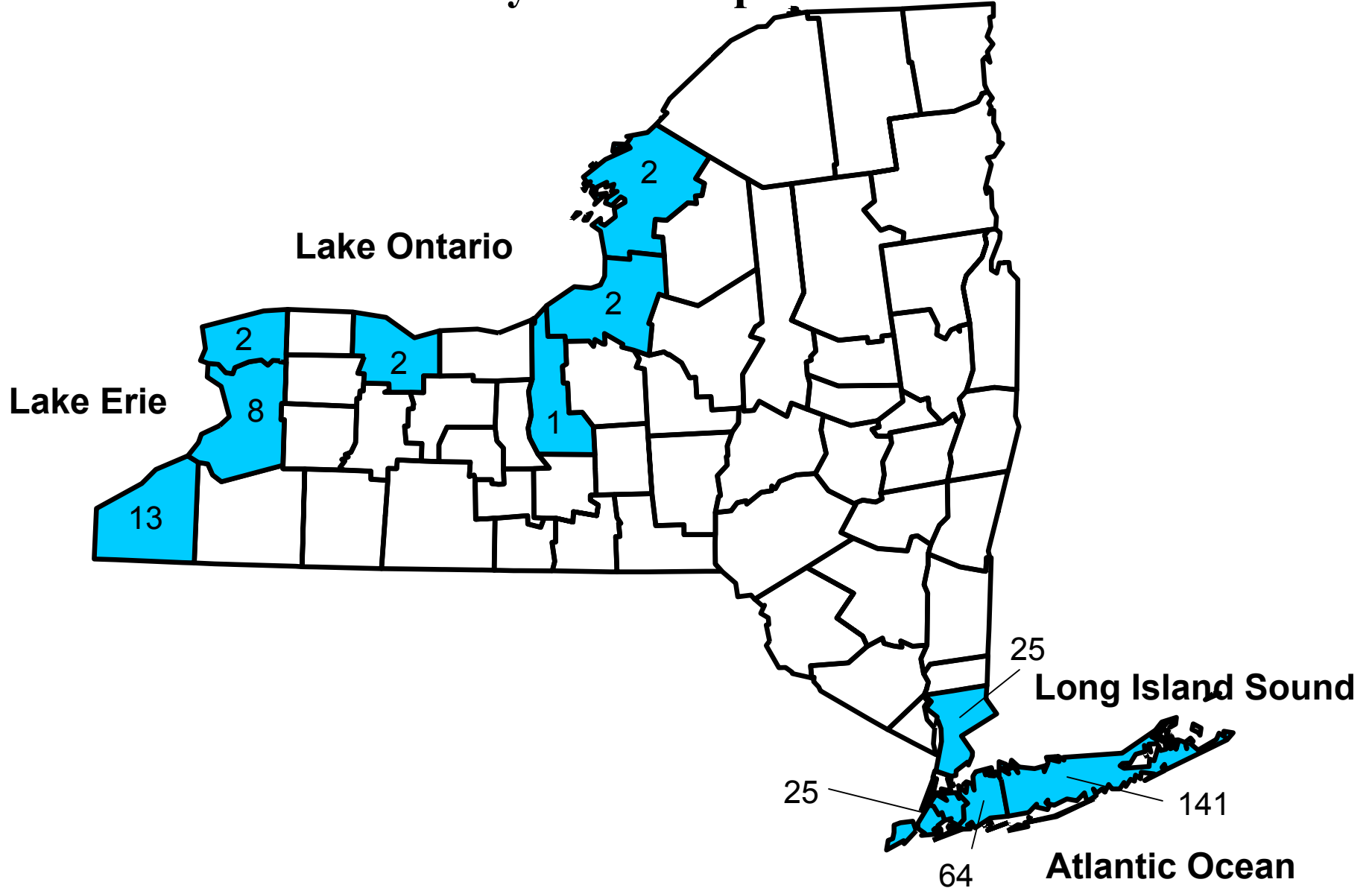
Great Lakes Beach Conference 2002

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Coastal Bathing Beaches in New York State

2002 Inventory - NYS Department of Health



New York State Bathing Beach Water Quality Regulatory Activities

- The New York State Department of Health is responsible for:
 - oversight of the uniform enforcement of the State Sanitary Code regarding permits and regulation of public bathing facilities.
 - standards and guidance regarding beach water quality monitoring and surveillance program.
 - coordination with Local Health Departments regarding beach closures/notifications.
 - management of grants.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for:
 - classification of the State's waters for their best usage.
 - establishment of water quality criteria to best protect that usage.

Bathing Beach Water Quality Regulatory Activities (continued)

- City/County Health Departments are responsible for:
 - evaluation and classification of beaches for the BEACH Act Grant.
 - sampling and monitoring of beaches for BEACH Act and State Sanitary Code compliance.
 - permit issuance and enforcement of the State Sanitary Code.
 - beach closure determination. Some use models based on rainfall, wind, etc.
- NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historical Preservation (OPRHP), which operates State owned beaches, is responsible for
 - evaluation and classification of 17 eligible beaches.
 - sampling and monitoring of eligible beaches.

NYS Water Quality Monitoring Requirements

- The State Sanitary Code specifies standards for the testing of the water quality of beaches. The frequency and location of the testing will be specified by the Local Health Department with jurisdiction over the beach.
- All waters intended for primary contact recreation must meet the minimum water quality standards prescribed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Bathing beaches must meet the State Sanitary Code Requirements including:
 - Closure or restrictions when chemical, physical and/or biological quality pose a health or safety hazard.
 - Compliance with bacteriological indicators which presently are total coliform and fecal coliform. Some counties also use the EPA's recommended escherichia coli and enterococci indicators.

NYS Water Quality Monitoring Requirements (continued)

- Total coliform:

- Not to exceed 2400/100ml for 5 or more samples in 30 days.
- 20% of total samples not to exceed 5000/100ml in 30 days.
- When standards are exceeded, the City/County Health Department will investigate to determine the source of pollution.

- Fecal coliform:

- Not to exceed 200/100ml for 5 or more samples in 30 days.
- When sample exceeds 1000/100ml
 - consider closure
 - daily samples for at least 2 days

Status of BEACH Act Grant Activities in New York State

FFY 2001 Grant Funds

- \$57,000
- Distributed to Suffolk County Department of Health and the OPRHP for the evaluation and classification of 158 beaches.
- Classification of 127 beaches was performed by Local Health Departments in Summer 2002.

Status of BEACH Act Grant Activities in New York State

FFY 2002 Grant Funds

- \$366,030
- Enhanced monitoring and reporting is to be in place for the 2003 swimming season via contracts totaling \$300,000 with the 9 City/County Health Departments and the OPRHP.
- NYS Department of Health will consider amending the State Sanitary Code to require beach water quality testing for e. coli and enterococci.
- The State Department of Health will hire a software programmer to develop a real time electronic reporting system to make sample results and closure information easily available to EPA.