

Charles Otto - POLICY MAKER

When Charles Otto was awarded swimming and lifesaving merit badges from the Boy Scouts of America as a youngster, he couldn't have known that a few years later he would put those skills to use rescuing a young child.

Today, Capt. Otto is still protecting the lives of swimmers as a senior health officer in CDC's United States Public Health Service Corps.



Though most aquatics professionals think of Dr. Michael J. Beach in relation to the CDC, Otto has been a key player for years.

He has worked on a host of environmental health issues, beginning in 1974 when he joined the Mobile County (Ala.) Health Department, where he managed a regulatory program for approximately 450 pools. After that, Otto went to work with the Alabama State Health Department, and later the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where in 1993 he helped develop the modern FDA model Food Code, now considered the industry standard. He also took assignments with the National Park Service and then at CDC's Vessel Sanitation Program, working with cruise-ship pools and spas.

Otto will be using this experience in helping to craft the CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code. "I believe I have been successful in introducing science-based and preventive programs learned through my work in food safety into my aquatic health work, at sea and now on shore," he says.

Otto counts his current position as "one of the most rewarding parts of my public health career." He adds that a reason for this is the opportunity to work with Beach, the creator of CDC's Healthy Swimming program and a world-renowned expert on recreational water illnesses and prevention.

"Dr. Beach and I have been involved in many bacterial, parasitic, viral and indoor aquatics facility air-quality outbreak investigations," Otto says. "Our close collaboration between epidemiology and environmental health has been cited as a model of 'silobusting' within CDC."

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TOP STORIES

2008 Power 25

By Aquatics International Staff

Some of the most powerful people in the industry are not necessarily aquatics professionals. Find out who they are and why they matter to you.



Uninspected Consequences

Public health inspectors are stretched thin on budgets, staffs and training, leaving pools and waterparks poorly inspected, if at all. Our special investigation reveals how it's hurting aquatics and what can be done.



HEADLINES

CDC Outbreak Reporting Set to Go Online

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta will launch an electronic RWI reporting system this spring.

The Power 25

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For four years running, we've kept you up to date on the latest movers and shakers in the industry with our annual Power 25 issue. The *Aquatics International* Power 25 is back again, but this year you may notice some less familiar faces on the list. That's because some of the most powerful people in aquatics are not necessarily aquatics professionals. Over the past year or so, a lot has happened outside the confines of the industry that has profoundly impacted how you may operate. Researchers have unveiled some groundbreaking findings; policy makers have been busier than ever making pools safer; consultants have dramatically shaped some of the latest trends; and industry allies have become even more important. These are just some of the influential leaders you'll get to know on the next several pages, so jump in and power up!

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