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2005/2006 Winter Season Summary

During the Winter season, October 2005 through April 2006, the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program (OBMP) regularly sampled 15 beaches and issued 6 water contact advisories at 3 beaches; 1 advisory was issued for Agate beach (Newport), 2 advisories were issued for Cannon beach (Cannon Beach) and 3 advisories were issued for Sunset Bay State Park beach (near Coos Bay). Out of a total of 578 marine samples analyzed, 2.4% (14 samples) exceeded the 158 orgs/100mL single sample maximum. This marine water exceedance rate is slightly lower than the average rate for all sampling seasons.

For more detailed monitoring results, or to obtain monitoring data, please visit the OBMP website at www.healthoregon.org/beach

Beach Web Survey



The Oregon Beach Monitoring Program (OBMP) survey is an online survey that is deployed to the OBMP website twice per year, after each sampling season. The survey measures the following:

- Beaches visited and use characteristics, such as most visited beaches, recreational activities engaged in, and water contact.
- Effectiveness of notification process and methods used to alert the public
- Public knowledge and awareness of the program and public satisfaction with key program elements

The results for summer 2005 are now in! A total number of 120 respondents answered the online survey over the period October 1, 2005 through April 30, 2006.

A few highlights from the survey results:

- The most visited beaches included Agate, Cannon, Cape Kiwanda State Park, Indian at Ecola State

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Start of Summer Sampling

Summer is nearly here and you know what that means...school's out, more people visiting the beach and the kick-off to OBMP's summer sampling.

OBMP began its fourth summer season of sampling at 70 locations along the Oregon coast on May 8, 2006 and will proceed through September.

For a list of summer locations and results, please visit our website at www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/beaches.

Park, Otter Rock at Devils Punch Bowl State Park, Seaside and Short Sands at Oswald West State Park.

- Surfing and hiking/walking were the activities engaged in most by respondents across all beaches.
- Knowledge of water contact advisories came from a variety of sources, which included: newspaper articles (38%), other media types (35%), beach signage (28%) and OBMP email alerts (27%).
- The most frequently reported sources for information about the program were newspaper articles (34%), the Surfrider Foundation's website (30%), and beach water quality advisories issued by OBMP (25%).
- Nearly all respondents (98%) agreed that the OBMP is a worthwhile program to have in Oregon

To read more about the results of the survey, please visit our website at www.healthoregon.org/beach.

Outreach & Education

“Yucky.” “Yucky water.” “Gross.”

These words were used a whole lot last month during the Children Clean Water Festivals in Portland and Rockaway Beach to describe the impact that pollution has on the ocean.

Program staff members used a new three-dimensional tabletop coastal watershed model - an interactive educational tool to illustrate to 4th and 5th graders how human actions affect the water quality of the ocean.

The model consists of all components of a coastal community, including a treatment plant, resort community, a farm area, a residential home with a septic system, storm drains and other sites. The front of the model remains clear for a view of the ocean. The model, which offers a comprehensive view of a watershed, takes the complexity out of understanding environmental issues.

During the festivals students participated in the demonstration of point and non-point sources of pollution by helping to "pollute" the model with cocoa powder, green and red Kool-Aid and crushed Oreos (dirt, fertilizer, pesticides and dog and seabird poop respectively), and then by making it "rain" with a spray bottle to demonstrate



Picture taken at 6th Annual Tillamook County Children's Clean Water Festival at Twin Rocks Friend Camp.

how pollutants run off the land and into the ocean.

Since acquiring the model two months ago, OBMP has made about five presentations at educational events for children and adults. It is a unique, interactive learning tool that helps people of all ages make a visual connection between land use and water quality. Over time, we hope to provide more presentations at community events and bring environmental learning to life in classrooms throughout schools in the State. The model will be an integral part of our outreach and education plan to help increase the awareness of the beach monitoring program and provide an understanding of the importance of water quality.

First Annual Clean Beaches Art Contest

Last month the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program held an art contest for 4th & 5th graders who attended the Children's Clean Water Festival in Rockaway Beach. The students were asked to create an art piece that communicated how certain everyday activities can affect our oceans. The art contest was a fun and creative way for students to learn about the importance of water quality and protection.

More than 30 entries were submitted. It was a very difficult decision to select the overall winner, as there was so much talent to choose from.

Students illustrated things people can do to protect Oregon's beaches or how ocean water becomes polluted as subject matter for their artwork, including littering, throwing away trash, boaters disposing of waste, trash attracting seabirds and other animals and much more.

Congratulations to Kaitlin Carlon-O'Kane, a fourth grader from Neskowin Valley School, for creating the winning design.



Program staff visited each school to present each student who participated in the contest with a certificate of excellence. The grand prize winner received four admission tickets to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. We would like to thank the staff at the Oregon Coast Aquarium for donating the tickets.

Please visit our website at www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/beaches to view the outstanding artwork created by the kids!

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- June 29 – July 5, 2006: Celebrate National Clean Beaches Week.

The Clean Beaches Council, as part of Great Outdoors Month has designated the week beginning June 29, 2006, as National Clean Beaches Week. The National Beaches Week is a platform to focus public attention on the role healthy beaches play in the lives of all Americans.

The following is a list of activities occurring during this week throughout Oregon:

- Large press conference will be held on June 23rd with the OPRD & Oregon Fire Dept.
- Several beach safety talks will be given by the OPRD Beach Safety Program at parks and campgrounds along the Oregon coast
- "Treasure the Beach" cleanup project - Seaside, July 4-5

For more information about National Clean Beaches Week, please visit the Clean Beaches Council website at:

<http://www.cleanbeaches.org/>.

Signup for Water Quality Alerts



Get the latest water quality information sent directly to your email. Find out what beaches are being monitored and the latest sampling results. We offer water quality email alerts for North, Mid and South coast beaches. If you would like to be included in the email alert list, please send your name, email address and which list(s) you are interested in to joel.m.sherman@state.or.us.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/beaches

