



Proceedings of the 2009 National Beach Conference

Huntington Beach, California
April 20–22, 2009



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Abstract

The goal of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Beaches Environmental Assessment, Closure and Health (BEACH) Act Grant Program is to work in partnership with states, tribes, territories, local governments, and the public to significantly reduce the risk of disease to people who use the nation's recreational waters. This is accomplished through improved recreational water programs, better communication, and scientific advances. EPA awards BEACH Act grants to eligible coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and tribes to help them develop and implement beach monitoring and notification programs.

The third National Beach Conference took place in Huntington Beach, California, in April 2009. Previous National Beach Conferences were held in San Diego, California, in October 2004, and Niagara Falls, New York, in October 2006.

The third conference provided a forum for participants to learn about beach health initiatives across the country; present new methods, indicators, and modeling techniques; identify beach health needs; discuss priorities for the short term and long term; and recommend protocols and procedures to encourage greater consistency among jurisdictions. EPA organized the conference into these sessions:

- Session I: Welcome Speakers
 - Session II: Changes in Policy: Perspectives from Around the World
 - Session III: Between a Rock and a Hard Place—Impacts of Infrastructure and Climate Change on Beaches
 - Session IV: Notifying the Public (and Other Agencies)—Panel Discussion
 - Session V: Sanitary Surveys and Source Tracking
 - Session VI: Forecasting and Predictive Modeling
 - Session VII: Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment
 - Session VIII: Debate
 - Session IX: Remediation, TMDLs, and Economics
 - Session X: Rapid Methods and Alternative Indicators
 - Session XI: Epidemiological Studies Underway
 - Session XII: Putting it All Together: Where Do We Go from Here?
 - Session XIII: Conference Wrap Up
- Each session consisted of individual presentations and a discussion period with questions and comments from the audience and responses by the speakers. This proceedings document contains each speaker's biosketch, abstract, and presentation slides.



Acknowledgments

The Office of Science and Technology (OST) in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Water funded the 2009 National Beach Conference. The Standards and Health Protection Division in OST organized the conference.

The planning workgroup included the following representatives:

- EPA Headquarters: Lars Wilcut, Erica Fleisig, Rich Healy, Beth LeaMond, Bill Kramer, and John Wathen
- EPA Regional and Research Offices: Holly Wirick, Joel Hansel, Tim Wade, and Marjorie Jones
- United States Geological Survey: Richard Whitman
- State and local Beach Program or public health officials: Shannon Briggs, Julie Kinzleman, Joan Rose, Jessica Archer, Helena Solo-Gabrielle
- The California State Water Resources Control Board: Michael Gjerde
- The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP): Steve Weisberg
- Heal the Bay: Mark Gold
- Tetra Tech, Inc.: Shannon Prendergast and Elsa Mittelholtz

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Contents

Agenda	1
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DAY ONE

Session I: Welcome Speakers	7
EPA Welcome	8
<i>Ephraim King, USEPA OST</i>	
State Welcome	9
<i>Alexis Strauss, Water Management Division Director for USEPA Region 9</i>	
“Riding the Wave...”	10
<i>Laird Hamilton, Professional Surfer and Clean Water Advocate</i>	
“...of Emerging Science”	11
<i>Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP</i>	
Session II: Changes in Policy: Perspectives from Around the World	15
<i>Session Chairs: Lars Wilcut (USEPA OST), Richard Whitman (USGS)</i>	
EPA’s Beach Program: Emerging Science, Emerging Policy.....	16
<i>Lars Wilcut, USEPA OST</i>	
Canadian Recreational Water: New Water Quality Guidelines and Research Activities	20
<i>Tom Edge, Environment Canada</i>	
European Bathing Waters—Experiences from Scotland, UK.....	25
<i>Calum McPhail, Scottish Environment Protection Agency</i>	
Tribal Experience with Beach Management: Grand Portage Tribe	33
<i>Margaret Watkins, Grand Portage Tribe</i>	
Policies and Practices of Beach Monitoring in the Great Lakes.....	39
<i>Richard Whitman, USGS</i>	
Session III: Between a Rock and a Hard Place—Impacts of Infrastructure and Climate Change on Beaches	43
<i>Session Chair: Julie Kinzelman, Racine Health Department</i>	
Beaches Done Badly: Dealing with Historic Infrastructure	45
<i>Greg Kleinheinz, UW-Oshkosh</i>	
Alamitos Bay Circulation Study.....	52
<i>Weixia Jin, Moffatt & Nichol</i>	
<i>Tom Leary, City of Long Beach, CA</i>	
Engineering Controls for Improving Storm Water Quality and Beach Health.....	60
<i>Roger Miller, Miller Engineers & Scientists</i>	



Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements: City of Los Angeles Innovative Approaches to BMP Designs for Clean Beaches 67
Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles

Climate Changes Impacts on Beaches: Common Themes with the Water and Sanitation Sector 74
Katrina Charles, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

Estimating the Potential Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Southern California Beaches 79
Linwood Pendleton, The Ocean Foundation

Session IV: Notifying the Public (and Other Agencies)—Panel Discussion 85
Session Chair: John Wathen, USEPA

DAY TWO

Session V: Sanitary Surveys and Source Tracking 97
Session Chair: Shannon Briggs, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Lake Michigan Beaches—Identifying Contamination Sources through the Use of the US EPA/GLRC Standardized Sanitary Survey Tool 99
Julie Kinzelman, Racine Health Department
Greg Kleinheinz, UW-Oshkosh

Sanitary Surveys—Marine Waters 110
Shannon Berry, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Volunteers for Healthy Great Lakes Beaches 114
Lyman Welch, Great Lakes Beach Alliance

Microbial Source Tracking: Using Lines of Evidence Through a Multi-Tiered Approach to Identify Human Fecal Contamination 120
Angela Coulliette, Michigan State University

The Nose Knows—Tracking and Identifying Illegal Discharges to Surface Waters 126
Scott Reynolds, Tetra Tech-Michigan

Session VI: Forecasting and Predictive Modeling 133
Session Chair: Holly Wirick, USEPA Region 5

Implementing the Use of Predictive Models for Beach Closure and Advisory Decisions 135
Donna Francy, USGS

Predicting *E. coli* for Large-scale Areas: Applications in Selected Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin Regions..... 140
Meredith Nevers, USGS

A Model of Fecal Indicator Organisms and Viruses at Avalon Bay, Catalina Island, CA, Provides Insight into Sources and Fate 145
Alexandria Boehm, Stanford University



Tidal Saltwater Wetlands and Coastal Water Quality	146
<i>Stanley Grant, UC Irvine</i>	
Stability and Accuracy of Statistical Models for Predicting Beach Closures: Five Years of SwimCast Application in Lake County, Illinois	151
<i>Greg Olyphant, Indiana University</i>	
A Model of Microbial Water Quality at a Non-Point Source Recreational Beach.....	155
<i>John Wang, University of Miami</i>	
Predictive Modeling of Remote Beaches Louisiana's Experience	163
<i>Robert Wagner, Quantitative Ecological Services, Inc.</i>	
Session VII: Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment	167
<i>Session Chair: Joan Rose, Michigan State University</i>	
QMRA for Recreational Waters	168
<i>Joan Rose, Michigan State University</i>	
Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment: Its Role Beyond Criteria to Risk Management	175
<i>Nick Ashbolt, USEPA</i>	
Microbial Risk Assessment of the Chicago Area Waterways.....	181
<i>Geeta Rijal, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago</i>	
A Framework for QMRA: A New WERF-Funded Study.....	188
<i>Stefan Wuertz, UC Davis</i> <i>Graham McBride, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand</i>	
Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment: A Primer and Potential Applications for Nationally Applicable Water Quality Criteria.....	194
<i>Jeffrey Soller, Soller Environmental</i>	
EPA Update on Recreational Criteria Development Efforts	199
<i>Denise Keehner, USEPA OST</i>	
Session VIII: Debate	203
<i>Session Chair: Ibrahim Goodwin, USEPA</i>	

DAY THREE

Session IX: Remediation, TMDLs, and Economics	207
<i>Session Chair: Joel Hansel, USEPA Region 4</i>	
A Balanced Approach to Developing and Implementing Control Measures for Bacteria Impairment in the Los Angeles Region.....	209
<i>Renee Purdy, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board</i>	
A Policy Comparison of Bacterial Pollution Management at Two Swimming Beaches in Southern California Using a Joint Physical-Behavioral-Economic Simulation Analysis.....	213
<i>Justin Warren, Stanford University</i>	



Use of a Watershed Model to Characterize and Prioritize Bacteria Sources
for Mitigation in New Hampshire Coastal Beach Watersheds 218
Sonya Carlson, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sciences
Caycee Dalton

History and Remediation of Stormwater in Horry County 224
Shannon Berry, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Session X: Rapid Methods and Alternative Indicators..... 233
Session Chair: Helena Solo-Gabriele, University of Miami

Emerging Detection Methods for Microbial Contaminants and HAB Toxins..... 235
Kelly Goodwin, NOAA

A Complete Microbial Community Approach to Monitoring and
Source Tracking Coastal-Zone Pollution..... 241
Eric Dubinsky, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Testing and Validating Rapid Analytical Methods for Assessments
of Recreational Water Quality..... 246
Rebecca Bushon, USGS

Impact of Urban Runoff on the qPCR Signal of *Enterococci* and
Other Alternative Fecal Indicators at a Tropical Beach..... 250
Marirosa Molina, USEPA NERL ERD

California's Approach to Evaluating and Implementing Rapid
Measurement Methods for Beach Water Quality Monitoring 255
John Griffith, SCCWRP

Session XI: Epidemiological Studies Underway..... 261
Session Chair: Tim Wade, USEPA

Health Effects and Water Quality at Marine Beach Sites: Results from the National
Epidemiologic and Environmental Assessment of Recreational Water 262
Tim Wade, USEPA

Screening Candidate Water Quality Indicators for Associations with
Swimming-Related Illness..... 263
Jack Colford, UC Berkeley

The BEACHES Study: Health Effects and Exposures from Non-point
Source Microbial Contaminants in Subtropical Recreational Marine Waters 265
Lora Fleming, University of Miami

Contact with Beach Sand, Concentrations of Fecal Indicators, and
Enteric Illness Risk 274
Christopher Heaney, UNC Chapel Hill

Epidemiological Studies in the UK..... 275
David Kay, CREH Aberystwyth University, United Kingdom

Estimating the Health Risks of Limited Contact Water Recreation 284
Sam Dorevitch, University of Illinois



Session XII: Putting it All Together: Where Do We Go from Here?..... 289
Session Chair: Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP

Poster Presenters 295

List of Attendees 343
