

News release

July 30, 2013

Media contacts: Jonathan Modie, Oregon Public Health Division, 971-246-9139, phd.communications@state.or.us; Robert Smith, Oregon Parks and Recreation, 503-390-0639, ext. 227

Technical questions: Rebecca Hillwig, Oregon Public Health Division; 971-673-0431, rebecca.hillwig@state.or.us; Aaron Borisenko, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 503-693-5723; aaron.n.borisenko@state.or.us

Health advisory lifted for water contact at Sunset Bay Beach

Testing shows fecal bacteria levels have subsided

A public health advisory for contact with marine water at Sunset Bay Beach in Coos County was lifted today by the Oregon Health Authority. The advisory was issued July 24 after water samples showed higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria.

Results from subsequent samples taken by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality showed contamination had subsided, and the water no longer poses a higher-than-normal risk associated with water contact activities. However, officials continue to recommend avoiding large pools of water and runoff because these are areas where increased bacteria from fecal matter can build up.

State officials continue to encourage other recreational activities at all Oregon beaches, suggesting only that water contact be avoided when advisories are in effect.

(more)

Since 2003, state officials have used a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant to monitor popular Oregon beaches and make timely reports to the public about elevated levels of fecal bacteria. Oregon state agencies participating in this program are Oregon Public Health, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, contact the [Beach Monitoring Program](#) website or call 971-673-0400, or 877-290-6767 toll-free.

###