Bathing Beach Water Quality Monitoring

The water quality at some public beaches along Lake Erie is seasonally sampled for E. coli bacteria in accordance with the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) bathing Beach Monitoring Program. The presence of E. coli bacteria in the nearshore water is an indicator of pollution that could be potentially harmful to swimmers – especially those with weakened immune systems. When the amount of bacteria in the water exceeds 235 E. coli colony forming units (cfu) per 100mL of water sampled, signs are posted advising against swimming.

The ODH maintains Webpages dedicated to Ohio's Beach Monitoring Program with sampling results from the current and archived years. Some Ohio coastal counties also have testing programs and/or permitting programs for bathing beaches. Those programs include the Erie County Health Department (25 public and nonpublic sites), the city of Lorain Health Department, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (24 public and nonpublic sites including Ohio Nowcast sites (www.ohionowcast.info/index.asp), the Lake County General Health District and the Ashtabula County Health Department.

Learn more: Ohio Department of Health Beach Monitoring Program www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/bbeach/beachmon.aspx

Ohio Water Trails

Recognizing the rising popularity of canoeing and kayaking, various ODNR divisions collaborated to initiate the Ohio Water Trails Program. The program helps address the need for increased paddling access points and helps educate paddlers about hand-powered boating safety on Ohio's waterways. Over the past few years, the Ohio Water Trails program has evolved into a cooperative partnership between ODNR, various levels of government and non-profit conservation groups. The program promotes paddling routes that combine recreation with low-impact use. This is accomplished by designating waterways as State Water Trails and providing funding for site improvement and development; purchasing and installing access and hazard signage; and producing and distributing educational maps and brochures. As if March 2010, Ohio has designated the following water trails: the Kokosing Scenic River, the Muskingum River, the East Sandusky Bay, and the Vermilion-Lorain. Additional Ohio Water Trails are being planned that will improve access to Lake Erie and its tributaries.

Learn more: ohiodnr.com/tabid/2987/default.aspx

Clean Marinas

The Ohio Clean Marinas Program benefits the Lake Erie environment and economy. The program is a proactive partnership designed to encourage marinas and boaters to use simple, innovative solutions to keep Ohio's coastal and inland waterway resources clean. The program's goal is environmental stewardship by making marinas more aware of environmental laws and rules and to get marinas to follow best management practices and to be designated

as a "Clean Marina." More than 40 of Ohio's coastal marinas (commercial and public) have made a commitment to follow voluntary practices that protect the coastal environment including clean water and fresh air.

Boat Shrink-Wrap Recycling Program

Since 2006, the Ohio Clean Marinas Program, together with Ohio company Mondo Polymer Technologies Inc., has recycled more than 1 million pounds of boat shrink-wrap. Marinas save an average of \$500 annually in



reduced waste disposal costs. The recycled material has produced nearly 150,000 guardrail blocks, enough to line almost 200 miles of Ohio highway.

Clean Boating

The Ohio Clean Boater Program is a proactive partnership designed to encourage marinas and boaters to use simple, innovative solutions to keep Ohio's coastal and inland waterway resources clean. The basic goal of the program is environmental stewardship by making marinas and boaters more aware of environmental laws, rules and jurisdictions, and to get as many boaters as possible to follow best boater practices and to be designated as "Clean Boaters."

Learn more:

www.ohiocleanmarina.osu.edu www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanmarinas/shrinkwrap www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanboaters