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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walton County Weekly Beach Sampling Results

December 29, 2008

Walton County Saltwater Beach Monitoring Results

The Walton County Health Department has been conducting saltwater beach water quality monitoring at seven sites once every week since August 1, 2000, through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. The water samples are being analyzed for enteric bacteria (both fecal coliform and enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals, which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant coastal beach water quality problems and whether future beach monitoring efforts are necessary.

Site	Name	Fecal Coliform	Water Quality	Enterococci	Water Quality	Enterococci Geometric Mean	Water Quality
SP-1	County Park- Miramar Bch	1	Good	1	Good	1.43	Good
SP-2	Choctaw Beach	1	Good	1	Good	3.69	Good
SP-3	Dune Allen Bch Access	1	Good	1	Good	1.15	Good
SP-4	Blue Mountain Bch Access	2	Good	1	Good	1.52	Good
SP-5	Grayton Bch Access	1	Good	1	Good	1.15	Good
SP-6	Wheeler Point	45	Good	19	Good	5.38	Good
SP-7	Holly Street Bch Access	1	Good	1	Good	1.15	Good
SP-8	Eastern Lake Bch Access	1	Good	1	Good	1.32	Good
SP-9	Inlet Beach	2	Good	1	Good	1.15	Good

*TNTC – Too Numerous To Count

Water quality classifications are based upon:

- (1) Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) adopted Criteria for Surface Water Quality Classifications (Chapter 62-302.530, Florida Administrative Code)

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories

Good = 0-199 Fecal coliform per 100 milliliters of marine water

Moderate = 200-399 Fecal coliform per 100 milliliters of marine water

Poor = 400 or more Fecal coliform per 100 milliliters of marine water

- (2) United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended criteria.

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories

Good = 0-34 Enterococci per 100 ml of marine water, 0-35 CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean

Moderate = 35-104 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water

Poor = Greater than 105 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, 36 and Over CFU/100 ml

Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean

If you should have any questions, please contact the Walton County Health Department of (850) 892-8021, or visit the Department of Health's internet Beach Water Quality website (www.doh.state.fl.us, click on the drop down arrow next to "-Choose Subject-" and then select "Beach Water Quality").