

## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR

## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 2, 2014 Contact: Robbie Wilbur 601/961-5277

## **MDEQ Issues Beach Closure in Pass Christian**

(Jackson, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), through its Beach Monitoring Program, issued a beach closure Wednesday for a section of beach in Pass Christian:

## •Station 5 -- Pass Christian West -- from Fort Henry east to Elliot Avenue.

This segment of beach has been under an advisory since March 15 but was changed to a closure today due to continued high bacteria levels. These levels are likely the result of recent heavy rain and flooding in the area causing overflows.

MDEQ advises residents not to enter the water or consume any seafood collected from these nearshore waters until further notice. MDEQ will monitor the water and lift the closure when bacteria levels indicate conditions are safe for water contact.

More information on the Mississippi Beach Monitoring Program: <a href="http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi">http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi</a>.

To receive beach advisories directly, send an email to rwilbur@deq.state.ms.us for inclusion in a public group email list, text "MDEQbeach" to 95577, or follow MDEQ on Twitter: @MDEQ.

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MDEQ has set up a texting group for media on the Gulf Coast. If you would like to be on

the list and receive info via text, then text "MDEQcoastmedia" to 95577, or follow MDEQ on Twitter: @MDEQ