

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 1, 2013 Contact: Robbie Wilbur 601/961-5277

MDEQ Issues Water Contact Advisory For Another Location

(JACKSON, Miss.) -- The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), through its Beach Monitoring Program, issued a water contact advisory today for one sampling station in Gulfport. This segment of beach is not closed; however, there may be an increased risk of illness associated with swimming in this area. This is in addition to an advisory also sent Friday for Stations 5 and 6.

MDEQ is working closely with local officials to advise residents that the water in the following location may have high bacteria levels:

•Station 10 -- Gulfport Central -- from Alfonso Drive east to the old VA entrance.

Advisories were also issued March 1 for these two locations:

- •Station 5 -- Pass Christian West from Fort Henry Avenue east to Elliot Street.
- •Station 6 -- Pass Christian Central from Henderson Avenue east to Heirn Avenue.

When water samples show that levels are safe for human contact, the advisories will be lifted. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, which performs water sampling of the Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches for MDEQ, notifies the agency when an area has returned to acceptable levels.

Additionally, swimmers are reminded that the Beach Task Force has a standing recommendation that swimming not occur during or within 24 hours of a significant rainfall event.

More information on the Mississippi Beach Monitoring Program: http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/msbeach/index.cgi.

To receive beach advisories directly, send an email to rwilbur@deq.state.ms.us for inclusion in a public group email list, text "beach" to 601-863-8082, or follow MDEQ on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/MDEQ.

###