



**For immediate release:**  
*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

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## **ADEM Provides Water Quality Monitoring at Public Beaches**

**MONTGOMERY** – Water quality information for Alabama’s Gulf Coast public beaches will be available this spring and summer to help people make informed decisions about their recreational use of coastal waters. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has initiated its 2008 coastal beach monitoring program and the Department has resumed the weekly collection and analysis of water samples at 25 public beaches in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

ADEM scientists will conduct water quality sampling and testing to establish overall water quality data from each public beach location. The monitoring efforts will stretch from May through Labor Day with water samples being collected weekly, or more frequently if needed, at each of the public beach locations.

Beach selection and sampling frequency are determined using a risk-based evaluation and ranking process that considers the amount of beach use, the level of risk, and any specific factors associated with each beach.

The public beaches that are monitored will display a color-coded sign advising swimmers of the most recent water quality conditions and information about potential health risks associated with swimming or other water activities at the beach. In addition to the on-site signs, water quality information will be available online at [www.adem.alabama.gov](http://www.adem.alabama.gov) along with a list and map of beach monitoring locations.

Alabama has approximately 50 miles of beaches along the Gulf of Mexico and more than 65 miles of bay beaches. The Department has partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Baldwin County Health Department to ensure the successful implementation of its coastal beach monitoring program.

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