



Fact Sheet

- The 2004-2005 Beach Report Card is Heal the Bay's 15th annual report that analyzes statewide coastal water quality. The 15th annual report grades beaches from Humboldt County to San Diego County, looking specifically at the levels of bacterial contamination.
- This year, nearly 350 coastal locations were graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of adverse health effects to humans. The grades are derived from daily and weekly bacterial pollution levels in the surf zone using routine monitoring data from local health agencies and discharges. Water samples are analyzed for bacteria that indicate pollution from numerous sources, including fecal waste.
- A summary of grades during dry weather year-round from this year's annual report:

 - **61% (212 of 346) of the locations received an A grade**
 - **19% (66 of 346) of the locations received a B grade**
 - **9% (30 of 346) of the locations received a C grade**
 - **3% (11 of 346) of the locations received a D grade**
 - **8% (27 of 346) of the locations received an F grade**
- This year's "Beach Bummers", the 10 beaches with the poorest water quality in California during dry weather are:

 - 1 (tie). Doheny State Beach, Dana Point, Orange County / The Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline at the Tijuana River mouth north to Imperial Beach at south end of Seacoast Drive**
 - 3. Cabrillo Beach, harbor side at the lifeguard tower, San Pedro, Los Angeles County**
 - 4. Campbell Cove State Beach, Bodega Bay, Sonoma County**
 - 5. Avalon Beach (between the storm drain and Busy Bee Rest.), Catalina Island, Los Angeles County**
 - 6. Baby Beach, Dana Point Harbor, Orange County**
 - 7. Pacific Beach Point, Pacific Beach, San Diego County**
 - 8. Pillar Point Harbor at Capistrano Ave., Pillar Point Harbor, San Mateo County**
 - 9. Redondo Municipal Pier (southside of the pier), Redondo Beach, Los Angeles County**
 - 10. Paradise Cove (west of the pier), City of Malibu, Los Angeles County**
- Both Doheny State Beach and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline up to Imperial Beach earned the dubious honors due to: the amount of shoreline impacted (both locations), the frequency of state standard exceedances (both locations), the number of people potentially impacted (Doheny State Beach), and magnitude of exceedances (Tijuana Slough).
- Wet weather water quality was significantly impacted by the amount of rainfall California received this past winter. A summary of grades during wet weather:

 - **6% (19 of 346) of the locations received an A grade**
 - **5% (17 of 346) of the locations received a B grade**
 - **5% (17 of 346) of the locations received a C grade**
 - **8% (29 of 346) of the locations received a D grade**
 - **76% (264 of 346) of the locations received a grade of...F**
- As seen in previous years, the dry weather year-round water quality at open ocean beaches without a storm drain was significantly better than beaches impacted by a storm drain. In particular, those Southern California beaches that are located within an enclosed bay or harbor had the poorest water quality of the three conditions. A summary of the results:

 - **84% of open ocean beaches without a storm drain received an A grade**
 - **59% of beaches impacted by a storm drain received an A grade**
 - **36% of beaches located within an enclosed bay or harbor received an A grade**





- After a rain, indicator bacteria densities usually far exceed state health criteria for recreational water use. To this end, Heal the Bay and health officials recommend that beachgoers should not swim within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or in any coastal water during a rainstorm and for at least three days following a rainstorm.
- Storm drain runoff is the largest source of pollution to local beaches, flowing untreated to the coast. It is often contaminated with motor oil, animal waste, pesticides, yard waste, and trash.
- The Beach Report Card program began in 1990 with an annual review of 60 beaches in Los Angeles County, but today monitors nearly 350 locations statewide on a weekly basis -- about 460 during the summer months.
- Weekly updates and this year's annual Beach Report Card are available at www.healthebay.org

