

## News release

**Date:** September 2, 2011

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### **Health advisory lifted for water contact at Heceta and Harris beaches**

Health advisories for contact with marine water at Heceta Beach in Lane County and Harris Beach in Curry County were lifted today by Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division, in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The advisories were issued Thursday, September 1, 2011, after water samples at Heceta Beach and Harris Beach showed higher-than-normal levels of *enterococcus*, a type of fecal bacteria, in the marine water. Subsequent testing showed the contamination had subsided and the waters did not pose a higher-than-normal risk associated with water-contact activities.

State officials encourage recreational activities at all Oregon beaches, suggesting only that water contact be avoided when advisories are in effect.

Since 2003 state officials have used a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant to monitor popular Oregon beaches and make timely reports to the public about elevated levels of fecal bacteria. Oregon state agencies participating in this program are the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. For more information contact the Beach Monitoring Program at 971-673-0400 or [www.healthoregon.org/beach](http://www.healthoregon.org/beach); also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

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