

News release

June 8, 2012

Media contacts: Susan Wickstrom, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-0892 or 971-246-9139; susan.d.wickstrom@state.or.us; Robert Smith, Oregon Parks and Recreation, 503-986-0665 or 503-551-3528

Technical questions: Rebecca Hillwig, 971-673-0431; rebecca.hillwig@state.or.us; or Larry Caton, 503-693-5726; larry.caton@state.or.us

Health advisory lifted for water contact at Rockaway Beach *Testing shows fecal bacteria levels have subsided*

A public health advisory for contact with marine water at Rockaway Beach in Tillamook County was lifted today by the Oregon Health Authority. The advisory was issued Thursday, after water samples showed higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria at the mouth of Rock Creek.

Results from subsequent samples taken by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in the area showed contamination had subsided, and the water no longer poses a higher-than-normal risk associated with water-contact activities.

State officials continue to 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 Oregon Public Health, 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; also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

###