

Clean Water Fund - Lake Superior Beach Monitoring

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Clean Water Fund				
Expenditures	105	105	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact	105	105	0	0

Summary

This proposal requests \$105,000 per year from the Clean Water Fund in Fiscal Years 2014-15 to support the Lake Superior Beach Monitoring and Notification Program, which seeks to reduce beach users' exposure to and risk from disease-causing microorganisms in water.

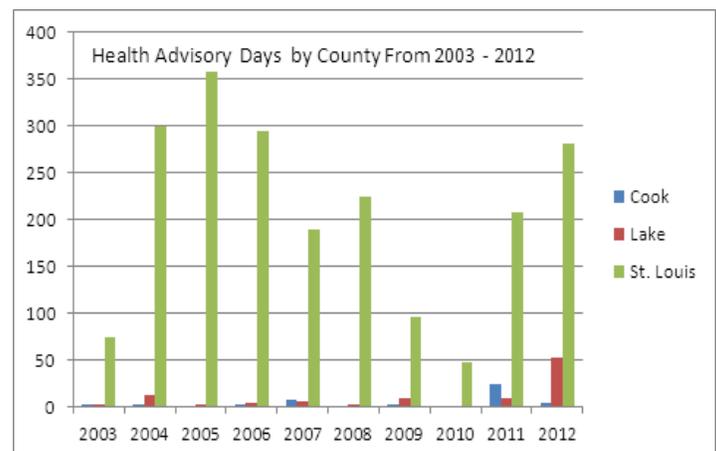
Background

Minnesota's Lake Superior shoreline is lined with 80 beaches and visited by thousands of people each year. A significant portion of this coastline's recreational waters are subject to contamination from sources such as urban runoff, overflows from wastewater collection and treatment facilities, discharge from boats, human waste, animal feeding operations, pet waste and wildlife waste. The resulting contaminated water is a potential cause of gastrointestinal illness and other diseases.

The Beach Program is based in the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Northeast District Office in Duluth. The program monitors 40 heavily used Lake Superior public beaches for *E. coli* bacteria levels from May to September every year.

Beaches that have higher use are monitored twice a week and beaches that are used less frequently are monitored once a week. MDH posts a health advisory when there are high bacterial levels that may cause disease in people using the beach. To notify the public of advisories, MDH posts signs at the beach. Additionally, MDH notifies community partners of elevated *E. coli* levels by email, and updates the program hotline (218-725-7724) and website (www.MNBeaches.org).

The following chart shows the number of days an advisory was posted at beaches from 2003 to 2012.



For more information:

Legislative Liaison Matthew Collie, 651-201-5808
 Communications Director Michael Schommer, 651-201-4998

A Beach Team made up of representatives from various agencies along the North Shore advise the Beach Program. Agencies include the University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Sea Grant, Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District, county health departments, the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and others.

Proposal

This proposal would support the following four major activities:

- Water quality monitoring.
- Public notification of beaches that have elevated bacterial counts.
- Data analysis and management.
- Reporting beach assessment data to the public and MDH.

Rationale

Currently, staff monitors the beaches using funding (\$209,000) from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided under the federal BEACH Act, a subsection of the Clean Water Act. This funding has been eliminated from the proposed EPA budget for the upcoming federal fiscal year. Without state funding, the program will not have the resources to monitor the beaches along Lake Superior or to notify the public of potentially harmful bacterial levels.

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