

Guam Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 22439 GMF, GU 96921



PLEASE RELEASE WITHIN 24 HOURS

May 2, 2003

Contact: Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division
at 475-1656 OR 475-1658/9

KILL DATE OF THIS PSA IS ONE WEEK AFTER RELEASE

RECREATIONAL WATERS POLLUTION REPORT

ATTENTION: West Hagåtña Bay is currently closed due to a sewage leak in the effluent pipe from the Hagåtña Sewage Treatment Plant. Area closed extends west from Paseo to the public parking adjacent to Diamond Auto. This area will remain closed until further notice.

Number of beach closures: 1

Number of beach advisories: 11

The results of samples taken by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency on **Wednesday, April 30, 2003** show that the following recreational waters were polluted above the accepted bacteriological standards:

Harmon:	Tanguisson Beach
Tamuning:	Dungca's Beach, Trinchera Beach
Hagåtña:	Hagåtña Boat Basin
Agat:	Southern Christian Academy Beach, Bangi Beach
Umatac/Merizo:	Toguan Bay
Merizo:	Merizo Pier
Inarajan:	Inarajan Pool, Inarajan Bay
Talofoto:	Talofoto Bay

(Place names as spelled in United States Geological Survey [USGS] maps.)

The public is advised not to swim or wade within 400 yards of polluted waters. This advisory is in effect until subsequent samples are analyzed and show bacteriological concentrations to be within acceptable standards. No harvesting or consumption of seaweed, fish or marine organisms is allowed at Tanguisson Beach.

Swimming, fishing or playing in unsafe waters may result in minor illnesses such as sore throats or diarrhea. It might also result in more serious illnesses such as meningitis, encephalitis, or severe gastroenteritis. Children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of getting sick when they come in contact with contaminated water.

The Recreational Waters Pollution Report is compiled by Guam EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division. Since 1974, Guam EPA has performed this community service weekly. The Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division (formerly called Monitoring Laboratory Services Division) takes water samples of 38 recreational beaches every Wednesday* and analyzes the samples for concentrations of the *enterococcus* bacteria indicator. Advisories are based on an instantaneous standard of not greater than 104 *enterococci*/100 ml and a geometric mean standard of not greater than 35 *enterococci*/100 ml.

Questions about the Recreational Waters Pollution Report should be directed to the Guam EPA laboratory. The laboratory can be reached at 475-1656/8. For more information, please also visit <http://www.epa.gov/ostwater/beaches/local/sum2.html> or <http://www.yosemite.epa.gov/water/beach.nsf> on the web.

* Adjustments are made during official holidays.