

DNR to Monitor State Park Beaches

The Department of Natural Resources said they are monitoring water quality at 37 Iowa state park beaches to protect public health and enhance understanding of water quality. The water quality standards will be utilized to determine the risk of waterborne illnesses for swimmers.

Monitoring began in mid-May and will continue through September. “Our monitoring

over the past nine swimming seasons has shown that our state park beaches are safe for swimming the vast majority of the time,” said Eric O’Brien, supervisor of the DNR Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Section.

During the summer of 2008, water quality standards were exceeded for swimming less than 5 percent of the time. If standards are exceeded,

“swimming is not recommended” signs will be posted, which does not close a beach. The DNR may close a beach, however, if there is a documented health risk.

Weekly water quality test results can be found on the DNR web site at www.iowadnr.gov under the heading “Beach Monitoring.”