



# **Future Direction of US EPA's Beach Program**

**FY 2010 and Beyond**



# Planning Goals

- ❖ Improve beach monitoring programs and processes
- ❖ Improve communication of public health message
- ❖ Improve beach program implementation



# Goal 1: Improve Programs

- ❖ Promote greater use of beach sanitary surveys
- ❖ Review and revise beach tiering scheme
- ❖ Increase use of predictive tools
- ❖ Facilitate implementation of rapid methods



# Promote Beach Sanitary Surveys

- ❖ Marine version used at Boqueron, Surfside
- ❖ Other states have marine forms
  - Maryland, Mass., Maine, S. Carolina
- ❖ Form a workgroup in 2011
- ❖ Distribute in 2012



# Review Beach Tiering System

- ❖ Tiering based on use and risk
- ❖ Additional factors could be considered
  - Water quality history (~8 years)
  - Sanitary survey results
  - Use of rapid methods



# Promote Modeling

- ❖ Session at the next Beach Conference
- ❖ Virtual Beach training
- ❖ Expand the modeling section in the Performance Criteria



# Rapid Methods

- ❖ Implementation considerations
  - Where to use them
  - How often to sample
- ❖ Need to engage Regions, states and other stakeholders in implementation



## Goal 2:

# Communications

- ❖ Provide more timely beach data to the public
- ❖ Effectively use website tools, design, and technology
- ❖ Enhance beach program materials and activities to increase public awareness of beach water quality



# More Timely Beach Data

- ❖ Why? To be consistent with potential addition to rec criteria
- ❖ How? Upgrade our IT systems
  - Easier data submittal
  - Better QA tools
- ❖ How? More frequent state reporting



# Improve Beach Website

- ❖ Upgraded user interface
  - Standard reports
  - Better map interface
- ❖ Web 2.0 tools
- ❖ Better meet needs of stakeholders



# Enhance Outreach and Education

- ❖ Evaluate notification program
- ❖ Develop comprehensive communication strategy
- ❖ Explore partnerships and other outreach mechanisms



## **Goal 3: Implementation**

- ❖ **Oversee the grant award process**
- ❖ **Facilitate information sharing and coordination with partners**
- ❖ **Improve coordination within EPA and with other federal agencies**
- ❖ **Reexamine Performance Criteria**



# Oversee Grant Process

- ❖ Accelerate grant awards and expenditures
- ❖ Ensure equity for tribes
- ❖ Identify source of beach use data



# Facilitate Information Sharing

- ❖ Initiate policy call with states
- ❖ Hold regular meetings with Regions
- ❖ Host National Beach Conference in 2011
- ❖ Make better use of technology



# Improve Coordination

- ❖ Raise Beach Program profile with other CWA programs
- ❖ Investigate federal agency beach programs



# Performance Criteria

- ❖ Incorporate EMPACT study findings
- ❖ Discuss role and implications of SSM/geometric mean
- ❖ Consider more consistency across states
- ❖ Address new requirements



# Conclusion

- ❖ Raise the bar
- ❖ Provide better tools
- ❖ Prepare for rec criteria
- ❖ Engage partners and stakeholders

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