

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND CRITERIA 2000 BLUE WAVE CAMPAIGN

RESORT BEACHES

A resort beach is one that has developed its facilities, actively encourages visitors and provides varied recreational opportunities. The beach should be within easy access to commercial development. It would typically include hotels, resorts, restaurants, shops, toilets, public transportation, municipal supervision, first aid facilities, and public phones.

Below are the 22 criteria for resort beaches applying for 2000 Blue Wave certification.

Water Quality

1. A beach shall have used one of the following recommended bathing water guidelines during the 1999 high-use season:

Bacteriological Indicator	Recommended Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterococci• Escherichia coli	1986 EPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fecal coliforms	1967 National Technical Advisory Committee Recreational Water Quality Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total/Fecal coliforms ratio	1995 Santa Monica Bay Study

2. Water sampling frequency should follow recommended guidelines during the high-use season or as long as the Blue Wave flag is flown.

Beach and Intertidal Area

3. Industrial or municipal discharges in compliance with appropriate standards, causing minimal adverse effects on environment, human health or aesthetics.

4. No algae or other vegetation materials accumulating and decaying on the beach.

Safety

5. Lifeguards and first aid officers on duty during the high-use season, with adequate safety provisions clearly marked and readily available for emergency use.

6. Records of all emergency incidents should be kept, and the Clean Beaches Council should be notified of any significant incidents (i.e., fatalities) during the certification season. These records, as well as local emergency plans to cope with pollution incidents, should be available for public inspection upon request, if applicable.

7. Construction work or hazardous derelict structures should be enclosed to prevent ready access by the public, particularly small children.

Services

8. Easy, safe beach access provided for all, including the disabled where possible.
9. Prohibition of unauthorized driving, dumping and camping.
10. Local ordinances affecting animals' beach access should be clearly displayed and enforced.
11. Clearly marked and protected sources of drinking water for public use within walking distance.
12. Working public telephones within walking distance from any point on the beach.
13. Adequate, clean toilet facilities within walking distance, including facilities for disabled people.
14. Adequate access and parking facilities, with suitable access for disabled people where possible. Where parking on the beach is allowed, the area should be safe and clearly marked and defined.
15. The beach should have either appropriate litter bins in adequate numbers, properly secured, regularly maintained and emptied at least daily; or an effective carry-in/carry-out program in place.

Habitat Conservation

16. The beach shall promote peaceful and protective coexistence of sensitive plant/wildlife habitats with recreation (e.g., turtle nesting, zoning for swimmers, surfers, and motorized craft).
17. The beach has evidence that protected sites and rare or protected species have been addressed in partnership with local fish and wildlife services and conservation groups.

Information and Education

18. The beach has in place a system for prompt public warning if the certified beach has, or is expected to, become grossly polluted or unsafe.
19. Laws covering beach use and appropriate codes of conduct shall be easily available to the public (including in local tourism centers and civic offices).
20. The beach authority should provide an easily identified information point with advice about the nearness of the following public facilities:

- telephone
- hospital/surgery/first aid point
- police
- coast guard
- local hazards
- local authority contact number and address

21. The responsible beach authority should be able to demonstrate that it has in place suitable environmental materials and activities to educate the public. There should be at least one initiative employed that relates to the environmental, health and safety characteristics of beaches.

Erosion Management

22. An ongoing program to evaluate and implement approaches to beach enhancement and nourishment (e.g., vegetation, dune enhancement and sediment delivery) is in place.

RURAL BEACHES

A rural beach is one that has limited facilities, has not been developed as a resort and is not part of any significant development. Rural beaches are generally more remote than resort beaches, with virtually no beachfront development. However, they may be populated with limited residential dwellings. Rural beaches are visited and enjoyed for their intrinsic qualities. Local management maintains a clean environment while promoting considerate use by visitors.

Below are the 14 criteria for rural beaches applying for 2000 Blue Wave certification.

Water Quality

1. A beach shall have used one of the following recommended bathing water guidelines during the 1999 high-use season:

Bacteriological Indicator	Recommended Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterococci• Escherichia coli	1986 EPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fecal coliforms	1967 National Technical Advisory Committee Recreational Water Quality Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total/Fecal coliforms ratio	1995 Santa Monica Bay Study

2. Water sampling frequency should follow recommended guidelines during the high-use season or as long as the Blue Wave flag is flown.

Beach and Intertidal Area

3. Industrial or municipal discharges in compliance with appropriate standards, causing minimal adverse effects on environment, human health or aesthetics.

Services

4. A beach must be actively managed under a "custodial" scheme.
5. Access should be safe and well maintained. Where appropriate, road access and parking for vehicles (e.g., handicapped) should be adequate. Although not necessarily paved, the road surface should be well maintained.
6. Prohibition of unauthorized driving, dumping and camping.
7. The beach should have either appropriate litter bins in adequate numbers or

an effective carry-in/carry-out program in place. Litter and animal waste should not be allowed to accumulate either on the beach or the surrounding area.

Safety

8. Basic lifesaving equipment should be provided within reasonable distance from the swimming beach (e.g., lifesaving rings).

9. Beach users should be warned of the potential hazards of swimming and advised of appropriate behavior close to the water. Swimming safety may be addressed through local community education efforts.

Habitat Conservation

10. The beach shall promote peaceful and protective coexistence of sensitive plant/wildlife habitats with recreational activities (e.g., turtle nesting, zoning for swimmers, surfers, windsurfers and motorized craft).

11. The beach has evidence that protected sites and rare or protected species have been addressed in partnership with local fish and wildlife services and conservation organizations.

Information and Education

12. Visitors should be actively encouraged to protect and conserve the beach and environment. The responsible authority should have in place suitable environmental materials and activities to educate the public. Special emphasis should be placed on local habitat conservation issues, if applicable.

13. An easily identified information point with advice about the nearness of the following public facilities:

- telephone
- hospital/surgery/first aid point
- police
- coast guard
- local hazards
- local authority/beach custodian's contact number & address

Erosion Management

14. The beach has an ongoing program to evaluate techniques and implement approaches to beach enhancement and nourishment (e.g., vegetation, dune enhancement and sediment delivery).