

Water Quality

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WATER QUALITY

HEALTH ADVISORIES – FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Enterococcus bacteria are associated with the digestive systems of birds and mammals. Their presence in the environment indicates the presence of bird or mammal feces. Detection of *Enterococcus* in water sources is used as a proxy for possible human waste and health concerns. Health advisories are issued to marine waterways by the Department of Health following US EPA protocols if the level of *Enterococcus* is above 71 colonies/100ml of sample. We post the weekly reports below and provide quarterly updates.

MARCH 9, 2026

HEALTH ADVISORY ISSUED THIS WEEK FOR BAYOU TEXAR

Mar 9

Baby Beach (Pensacola Beach) – Good

Bayou Texar – POOR – ADVISORY

Big Lagoon State Park East – Good

Bruce Beach – Good

Ft. Pickens – Good

Johnson's Beach – Good

Opal Beach – Good

Park West Sound side – Good

Perdido Key State Park – Good

Sanders Beach – POOR

TOTAL FOR 2026 – 76 samples – 4 advisories – 5% of samples requiring an advisory



SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS – EMERALD COAST UTILITY AUTHORITY

THE LAST SANITARY SEWAGE OVERFLOW – FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Elisaberg Street and Rentz Ave

Private utility contractor damaged a six-inch line.

Estimated 6,000 gallons spilled – 100% recovered by vacuum truck.

RED TIDE REPORTS – FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

These reports are provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

MARCH 6, 2026

FLORIDA PANHANDLE

Background in Walton and Bay Counties.

No fish kills or respiratory issues reported.

Elsewhere in FL background levels of red tide were reported from Flagler and Brevard counties.

Designation	Cells / liter of sample
Background	1,000 or less
Very low	1,000 - 10,000
Low	10,000 – 100,000
Medium	100,000 – 1,000,000
High	1,000,000 or more

ANNUAL RAINFALL DATA - NOAA

Pensacola Bay Area

2012 – 66.63”

2013 – 74.61”

2014 – 83.17”

2015 – 75.69”

2016 – 64.62”

2017 – 91.91”

2018 – 90.01”

2019 – 52.56”

2020 – 76.49”

2021 – 88.43”

2022 – 69.03”

2023 – 58.51”
 2024 – 64.60”
 2025 – 60.68”
2026 – 7.44”

MEAN (2012-2025) – 72.64”

VIBRIO VULNIFICUS CASES

Vibrio vulnificus is one of several *Vibrio* bacteria found in our coastal waters. The bacteria are naturally occurring here and are more abundant in warm water. Infections are usually associated with entering the water with open wounds or consuming uncooked seafood. Individuals with compromised immune systems (for a variety of reasons) are at highest risk. Below are *Vibrio* cases for our area.

**THIS WEEK -
 NO REPORTS OF VIBRO IN FLORIDA FOR 2026 AT THIS TIME.
 BELOW ARE THE TOTALS FOR 2025.**

	2023	2024	2025
Escambia			
Cases	4	4	3
Deaths	0	0	0
Santa Rosa			
Cases	0	2	3
Deaths	0	0	0
Florida			
Cases	46	82	33
Deaths	11	19	5

ESCAMBIA COUNTY LANDS AND WATER QUALITY DIVISION WATER QUALITY PORTAL
 This portal will provide updated water quality information from Escambia County. You can access this portal at <https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/water-quality-land-management/surface-water-quality-monitoring/water-quality-data>

PENSACOLA-PERDIDO BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM’S STATE OF THE BAY REPORT CARD
 This is an excellent website reporting on a variety of environmental parameters across the bay system.
<https://www.stateofthebays.org/>.

