



GCOOS Public Health and Safety Task Team

Follow up discussion (internal) for beach conditions/ water quality information product

March 10, 2017

Participants: Barb, Shin, Matt, Bob, Grant

This call was a follow up to 2/21/2017 meeting (teleconference). The objective for this call was to continue to discuss feasibility and possible solutions for building and maintaining a near real-time beach conditions/ water quality product.

<http://brc.healthebay.org> is a site that displays water quality analysis for the west coast of US. Some locations further north (OR, WA) are displayed seasonal. Users can sign up for report card feed from specific locations. Site also contains practical information for people that may be concerned with water quality and elevated levels of bacteria. Heal the Bay site utilizes current water quality data to determine grades so still need reliable, consistent bacteriological data source.

Bob mentioned that weather service data should be straightforward but the interface is not consistent and could be problem linking.

Shin brought up NOAA experimental beach forecast page

<http://www.weather.gov/beach/mfl>

Can use map interface to choose beach and show weather, solar irradiation, and rip current information. Could not find bacterial data sets. Again the discussion veered to keeping up with bacteriological data sets is like trying to hit a moving target. The starting strategy should be to test a product using 1 or 2 test sites to slowly build. Sarasota and Galveston are two good candidates for beta testing as they have relatively consistent sources for current bacteriological data. GCOOS needs to determine the maintenance need for displaying current water quality data.

Shin has developed a test page for water quality <http://koba.tamu.edu/waterquality/> as a start. May have to wait until after hurricane information product is finished, as it is priority as we approach June 1. Will keep moving this ahead even if slowly to get a usable product functioning.