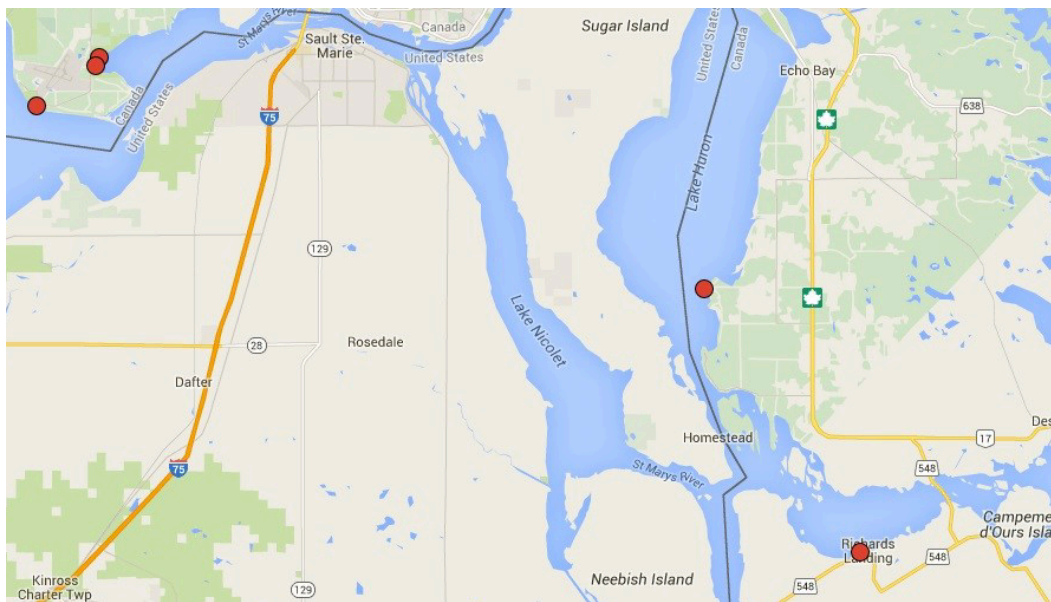




Are the beaches safe?

Yes! Water quality is monitored by Algoma Public Health. Within the St. Marys River Area of Concern there are four main beaches that Algoma Public Health monitors under its Beach Warnings program. These are Pointe des Chenes, Mark's Bay, Centennial Park, and W.I. Park. Out of all these beaches, Centennial Park (second from right) is the only beach that continues to face any health related issues. Interestingly, the issues it faces are more due to its location and the activity of wildlife, particularly waterfowl, than that of humans.



Check out the Algoma Public Health website for more information: <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/inspections-environment/recreational-water/beach-warnings/>.

What is done to keep our beaches safe?

Human contact with bacteria while swimming may have negative health effects. Water samples are taken to help prevent these water-borne illnesses. Algoma Public Health samples for *Escherichia coli* (or *E. coli*). These bacteria are commonly found in the intestines of humans and animals. Signs are posted to inform the public of the potential health concerns if increased levels of these bacteria are detected.



Beach Posting Sign - Algoma Public Health

Monitoring

A foggy morning at Bellevue Park Marina. Downstream from this area the water is being monitored for *E. coli* and other bacteria, fungi and viruses that would make the water unsafe for swimming or for other recreational activities. Since 2010, things have been looking good.



Bellevue Marine Park

Reference beaches

The beaches along the St. Marys River can be compared to more remote beaches. For example, upstream beaches such as Havilland and Harmony, or downstream beaches such as Big Point Park and Beech Beach, can all be used in reference. It has been found that all beaches within, upstream and downstream of the AOC are comparable to each other, indicating that efforts to restore and protect beaches in the St. Marys River have been successful!



St. Marys River Beach

What's next?

Historically, elevated levels of *E. coli* bacteria were detected within the St. Marys River. However, remedial actions and continued diligence by industry, the City of Sault Ste. Marie and private landowners has helped to ensure that the water is safe for swimming. Currently, a re-designation report is being prepared by the RAP Coordinator that will outline the current status of beaches within the St. Marys River.

For more information about the initiatives being undertaken to restore the St. Marys River, visit: bpac.algomau.ca

Facebook: St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan

Photo Credits: Billy Wilson. thebillywilson.com