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3.2.b: Supplemental - Increase percentage of core saltwater swimming beaches meeting water quality standards from 89% to 95% by 2016



CLEAN, COOL WATER

Department of Ecology

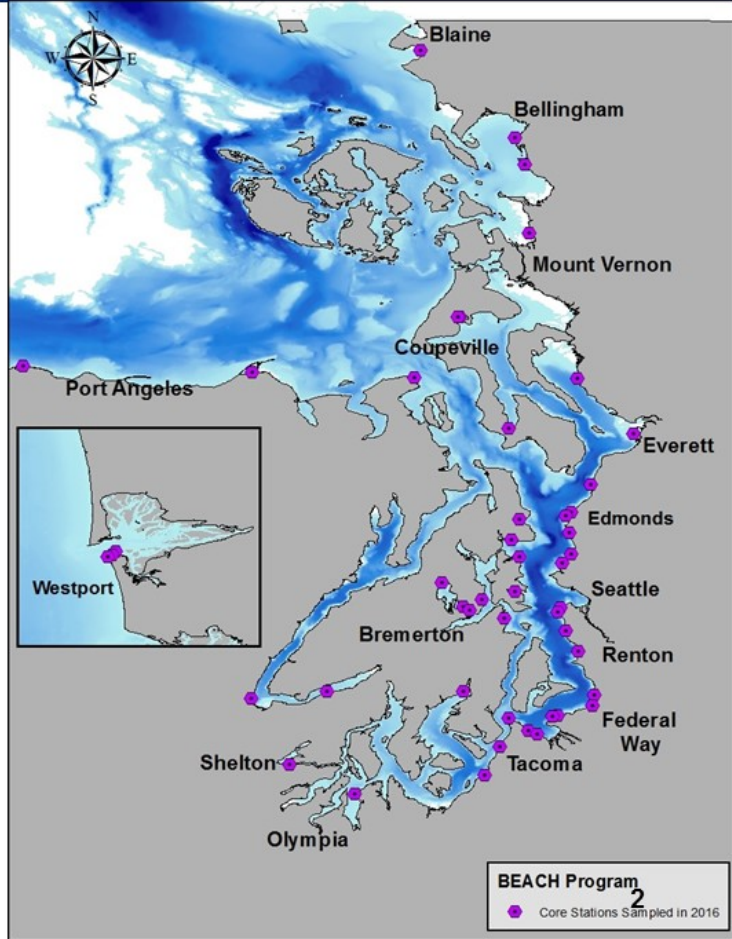
Carol Smith

November 28, 2016



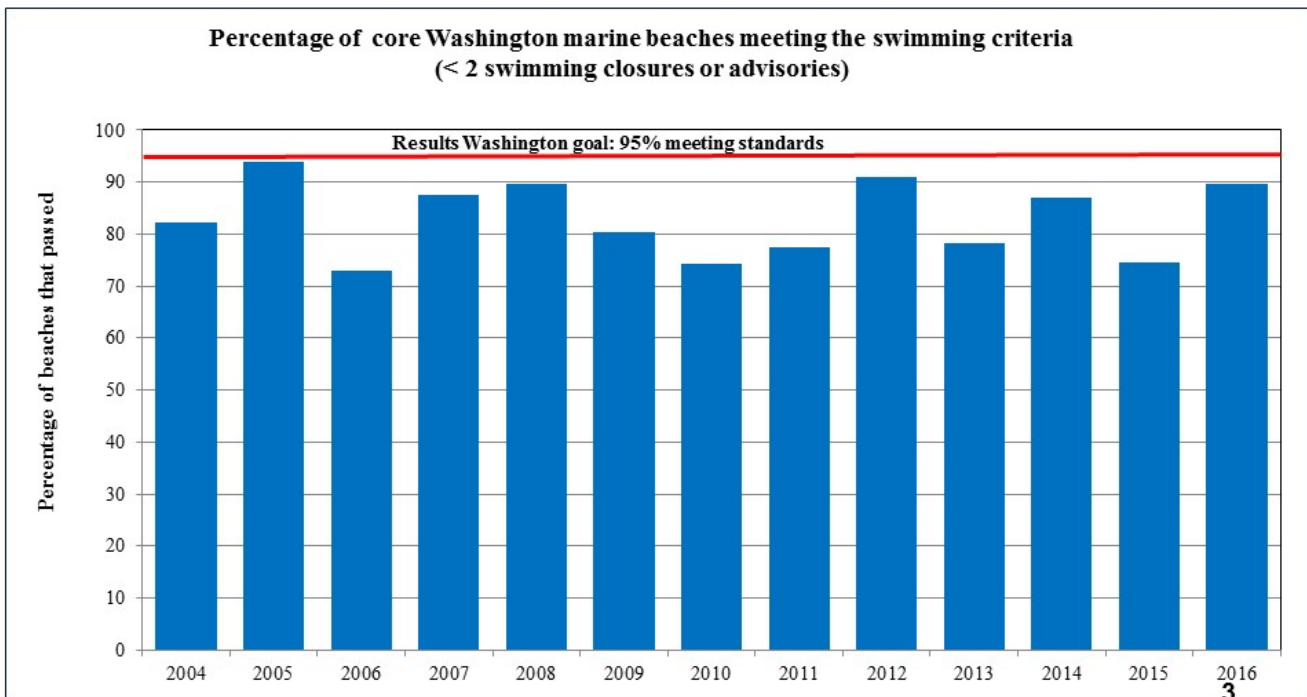
Background:

- Recreation, human health, and economics
- Core set of beaches tested for *Enterococcus*
- The 2016 goal: 95% of the saltwater swimming beaches free of fecal bacteria



Current State:

Off target; improvement actions in progress



Problem/Opportunity:

Goal not reached, but getting close

5 out of 47 beaches had problems:

- Edmonds Underwater Park, Snohomish County
- Freeland County Park, Island County
- Pomeroy Park, Manchester Beach, Kitsap County
- Saltwater State Park, King County
- Sunnyside Beach Park, Pierce County

2016 better because:

- Cooler weather led to less bathers and pets, and less algae washing up and decaying.
- Previous improvements are helping overall water quality.



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Recommendation:

Extend target date from 2016 to 2020

Proposed measure: Increase percentage of core saltwater swimming beaches meeting water quality standards from 90% to 95% by 2020.

Reasons

- Established partnerships are productive
- Some actions have lag times
- Some actions in the watershed also improve freshwater

Challenges

- Funding
- Natural sources
- Climate change

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Bay View State Park Success Story

- Consistently failed 2011-2015. Met goal in 2016.
- PIC Program in Skagit County:
 - Septic system compliance increased from 30-92%
 - 7 system failures under repair right now
 - 900+ properties evaluated. Skagit Conservation District working with 12 landowners with potential agricultural issues



Strategy:

Funding and partnerships

- Maintain great partnership with Department of Health.
- Enhance partnerships with communities and local jurisdictions to identify bacteria sources and implementation.
- Success requires funding. Funding has been problematic.

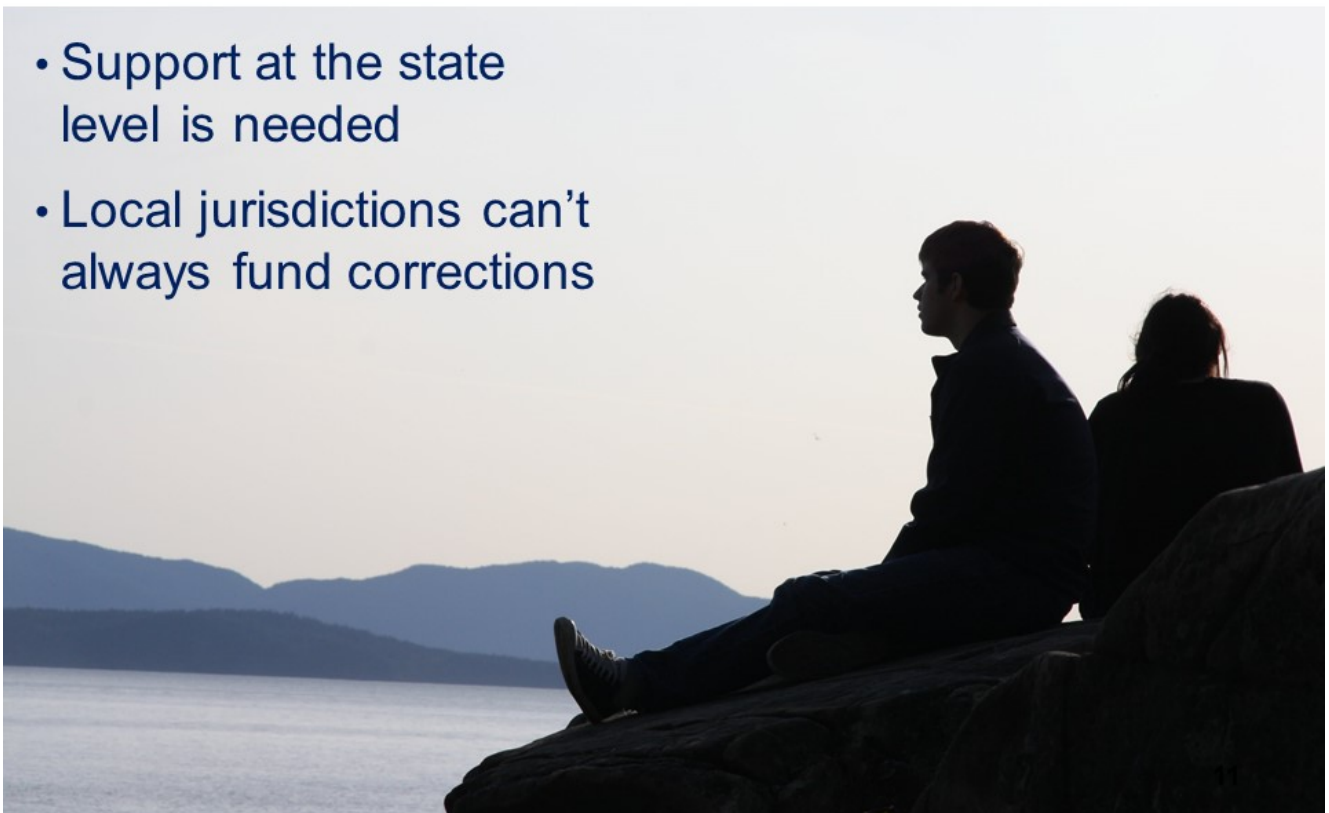


Detailed Action Plan:

Task	Task Lead	Partners	Expected Outcome	Status	Due Date
Beach staff meets with local jurisdictions of "problem" core beaches. Develop plans and actions to control bacterial pollution to beaches.	BEACH Program Manager	DOH, Washington State Parks, and Island, Kitsap, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties	Clean saltwater beaches	At Risk	12/31/2016
Beach staff meets with DOH NEP staff to recommend funding to local partners for source remediation efforts.					
Look for other possible funding sources.					
Continue monitoring to determine if source control efforts are effective.					

Assistance needed:

- Support at the state level is needed
- Local jurisdictions can't always fund corrections





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