

## HARBOR ISLAND BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The following information has been provided by DHEC who monitors our beaches from May 15 - Oct. 15 each year and routinely collects water samples. Harbor Island is a Tier 1 which means it is checked once per week and there are currently 4 test locations on Harbor Island. If high numbers of bacteria are found an advisory is issued. Do not swim in an area that has advisories posted though other beach activities are acceptable such as fishing or wading. During the summer of 2007 a portion of the Harbor Island beach was closed, the area was retested and opened within 24 hours.

Much of the bacteria problem is caused by runoff from impermeable surfaces, which goes to the storm drains and flow to the ocean. We can help reduce pollution by observing the following.

- Do not over-fertilize
- If you fertilize your lawn, follow the directions carefully, especially in regard to watering or expected rainfall
- Wash your car at a car wash, not in your driveway, so that soapy water does not go directly to the storm drain
- Pick up your pet waste promptly and dispose of it correctly - preferably in your commode, or alternately, wrapped up with your trash. Pet and livestock waste is a prime source of bacterial runoff.

The following websites have information that you may find helpful:

- <http://www.epa.gov/beaches/kids/>
- <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/>
- <http://www.scdhec.net/environment/water/beachmon.htm>