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### **BOCA CHICA BEACH BACTERIA ADVISORY**

Cameron County has posted signs at Boca Chica Beach advising the public that there are abnormal bacteria levels in the water that may cause illness. This action by Cameron County was based on findings provided by the UTPA Coastal Studies Laboratory.

"The high bacteria levels are most likely the result of water run-off from Tropical Storm Hermine," stated Tony Reisinger, Cameron County Extension Agent for Coastal & Marine Resources. Reisinger added, "There is a fish kill at Boca Chica Beach made up of one unidentified fish that probably washed out of the Rio Grande River and was killed by the saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico."

Cameron County Judge Carlos H. Cascos stated, "Based on reports provided by the UTPA Coastal Studies Laboratory, the bacteria levels are normal for the other beach areas, such as South Padre Island. This advisory is strictly for Boca Chica Beach and we strongly encourage people to take necessary precautions and avoid water contact at Boca Chica Beach until test results return to normal." Judge Cascos also stated, "People can still go fishing as the fish are safe to eat, but we are encouraging beach goers to stay out of the water. During a circumstance such as this, wade fishing is not a good idea."

The UTPA Coastal Studies Laboratory will continue to test the bacteria levels at Boca Chica Beach. The Cameron County Extension Office, Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services and the Cameron County Parks Department will continue to monitor these reports to ensure the safety of beach visitors.

The public will be updated as more information becomes available.

*For additional information on the Texas General Land Office Beach Watch Program, visit the website at [www.texasbeachwatch.com](http://www.texasbeachwatch.com)*

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