

# 2023 Water Quality Report

## For Inlet Beach, Florida Community

We are pleased to present you with our 2023 Water Quality Report with testing data from the 2022 calendar year. This report provides important information about your drinking water and how it compares with federal drinking water standards determined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency. The information is technical in nature and can be difficult to understand without a laboratory background. We hope that you will find this Consumer Confidence Report informative and easy to understand about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We also want you to understand the efforts we make continually to improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

If you still have questions about the safety of your water, please contact our General Manager, Allen Fowler, at 850-231-4498. Thank you for trusting us to provide your drinking water. We are honored to serve the Inlet Beach community.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Kelly, Jr." in a cursive style.

Jim Kelly  
Board President

**What is Our Water Source?** The water source for Inlet Beach Water System (IBWS) is groundwater drawn through deep wells from the pristine Floridan Aquifer. The Floridan Aquifer is the primary source for drinking water in Florida. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatments required are chlorine for disinfection purposes and hydrogen peroxide for oxidation of sulfur. IBWS operates and treats water for its customers under permit #1660370.

We also have the ability to supplement our water supply from Regional Utilities, should the need arise. In 2022, **15% of our water came from Inlet Beach's Well #2; 18% from Well #3; 66% from Well #4 and less than 1% from Regional.**

In 2022 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on the Inlet Beach Water System, and Regional Utilities' systems. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the drinking water wells. There are two potential sources of contamination identified for the Inlet Beach Water system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. No potential sources of contamination were identified near Regional Utilities' wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

This report combines test data from our primary source, (Inlet Beach Wells #2, #3, and #4), and our supplemental source (Regional Utilities).

To learn more, please attend our annual meeting in Inlet Beach which will be held on **Saturday, August 19, 2023** (unless otherwise notified). The date and location will be announced again by mail at a later date.

Connect with us!  
[@inletbeachwater](#)



# Monitoring Guidelines

Inlet Beach Water System routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

## Key Terms to Know

In the following tables, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ◆ **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- ◆ **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- ◆ **Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **“ND”** - means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- ◆ **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** - one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.
- ◆ **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- ◆ **Picocurie per liter (pCi/L)** - measure of the radioactivity in water.

## 2022 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants *</b>							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Oct 2016 – Jul 2018	N	4.28 (avg)	ND – 5.7	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Oct 2016 – Jul 2018	N	2.13 (avg)	0.3 – 2.7	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants *</b>							
Barium (ppm)	Feb 2020 & May 2021	N	0.015	0.0089 – 0.015	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	May & June 2021	N	0.46	ND – 0.46	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	Feb 2020 & May 2021	N	47	2.2 – 47	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

## 2022 CONTAMINANTS TABLE (continued)

### Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides\*

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Ethylene dibromide (nanograms/l)	Aug 2021	N	10	ND - 0.01	0	20	Discharge from petroleum refineries

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
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<b>Lead and Copper (Tap Water)</b> Inlet Beach Water System data only.							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	June 2021	N	0.03	ND of 10	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	May 2021	N	0	ND of 10	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Secondary Contaminants \*

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Iron (ppm)	Jan 2022, June 2022 & Sept 2022	N	0.13	0.09 – 0.13	N/A	0.3	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Odor (threshold odor number)	Jun & Aug 2021	Y	17	ND - 17	N/A	3	Naturally occurring organics

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
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<b>Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b> Inlet Beach Water System data only.							
Chlorine (ppm) (Stage 1)	Jan –Dec 2022	N	1.28	0.51 – 2.0	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Feb 2022-Oct 2022	N	26.3	4.6 – 54.1	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Feb 2022-Oct 2022	Y	72.08	32.6 – 96.9	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\* Compilation of two systems unless otherwise indicated: Inlet Beach and Regional Utilities

\*\* Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.



## What improvements are we making?

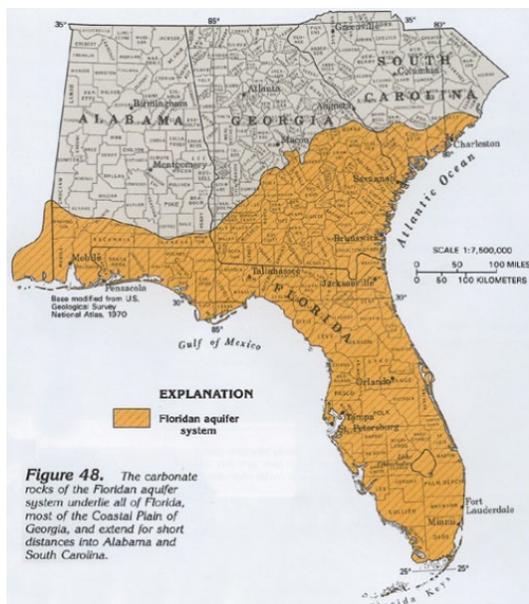
Inlet Beach Water System had two elements that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Once during the first quarter of 2022, 7 West Shore Place exceeded the Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL. TTHMs increase the longer water remains in the pipes between treatment and use. Due to the numerous amounts of vacation homes in Inlet Beach that remain unoccupied for several weeks and months, this is an expected obstacle. IBWS has installed automatic flushers throughout Inlet Beach to keep the water moving and will continue to monitor 7 West Shore Place to ensure the TTHMs do not exceed the MCL.



Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that another potentially harmful waterborne pathogen may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year, we were required to conduct 1 Level 1 assessment(s). 1 Level 1 assessment(s) were completed. In addition, we were required to take 6 corrective actions and we completed 6 of these actions.

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) sets drinking water standard for secondary contaminants and has determined that Odor is an aesthetic concern at certain levels of exposure. Inlet Beach Water System sampled Well#2 in June 2021 and Odor was found at a level higher than allowed by the state, but all subsequent samples have been ND. Less than 4.8% of our water came from Well #2 in 2021. Odor, as secondary drinking water contaminant, do not pose a health risk. We will continue to sample as required by rule and work with the Department as needed.

**THE FACTS:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.



Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM EPA

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Inlet Beach Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments.

**Inlet Beach Water System** would like you to know that we work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. Conservation of our quality drinking water is of utmost importance at Inlet Beach. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, by limiting unnecessary water use, keeping plumbing repairs up to date and by using shallow wells for all outside and agriculture water needs. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about our drinking water or the information provided, please feel free to contact the water company office.



### Contact:

Inlet Beach Water System's business office located at 95 N Wall Street, Inlet Beach, FL 32461, is open weekdays, except for holidays:

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (closed for lunch)  
General Information/Emergencies (850) 231-4498  
[www.inletbeachwater.com](http://www.inletbeachwater.com)