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MDEQ Failed to Obtain Imperative Data on Beachgrooming Report

BAY CITY, Michigan – May 1, 2006

Save Our Shoreline announces that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has today disclosed in response to a Freedom of Information Act request that it lacks any information on the actual location of study sites utilized by scientists in studies forming the basis of the agency's recently released Beachgrooming Report. Save Our Shoreline had filed the request so that its scientists reviewing the Report could adequately assess its methodology and conclusions.

"Without knowing the actual location of the study sites, our scientists have told us they are not able to adequately evaluate the study's conclusions," said SOS President Ernie Krygier. "My question is, if our scientists need this information to assess the study, why didn't the MDEQ need this information before it accepted the study's results?," he said. "This is part of the growing evidence we are finding suggesting that the MDEQ's Beachgrooming Report is biased and flawed," said Krygier. Scientists evaluating the Beachgrooming Report on behalf of SOS will be providing their preliminary views before a joint state House and Senate legislative committee on May 9, 2006.

The MDEQ is holding public hearings on the Beachgrooming Report this month in Bay City and Traverse City. Bay City's meeting takes place tomorrow, May 2, at the Doubletreee Hotel at 7:00 pm.

Founded in 2001, Save Our Shoreline is a nonprofit membership basis corporation of nearly 3000 households committed to the preservation of beaches and waterfront areas, and to the protection of rights to maintain beaches and waterfront areas. Those interested in Save Our Shoreline can find more information at <http://www.saveourshoreline.org/> or by calling (989) 667-2910. For more information about this press release, contact Ernie Krygier at (989) 793-3711.

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