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**BEACHES OF SOUTH WALTON RECEIVES BLUE WAVE  
ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION FOR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

WALTON COUNTY, Fla. – June 19, 2008 – For the eighth consecutive year, all 26-miles of Beaches of South Walton has been awarded the Blue Wave Environmental Certification by the Clean Beaches Council (CBC). The 14 beach communities and three state parks have been certified under the CBC’s Blue Wave Ethic Program, making Beaches of South Walton the only destination in the nation to have all 26-miles of contiguous beach certified by the Clean Beaches Council.

“Achieving Blue Wave Beaches Environmental Certification for the eighth year in a row is a great accomplishment for us,” said Sonny Mares, executive director of Walton County Tourist Development Council. “It reinforces the dedication of the community, visitors, and TDC to keeping our beaches clean, healthy and well-maintained.”

Blue Wave Environmental certification lasts for one year. As a result, each community must continually meet Blue Wave standards to remain certified. The Clean Beaches Council makes certification decisions based on several criteria, including water quality, beach and intertidal conditions, hazards, services, habitat conservation, public information/education and erosion management. Programs like “Leave No Trace,” which encourage beach goers to reduce their environmental impact, play an important role in maintaining the quality of area beaches.

Beach communities that receive the Blue Wave Certification proudly fly the Blue Wave flags beachside, helping vacationers identify well managed beaches. In 2008, 37 beaches in the State of Florida were Blue Wave certified and nearly half of these are located within Beaches of South Walton.

The Clean Beaches Council is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting public awareness and voluntary participation in beach sustainability. Their fundamental program is the Blue Wave Campaign, America's first environmental certification program for healthy beaches.

For more information on Beaches of South Walton, visit [www.beachesofsouthwalton.com](http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com) or call 850-267-1216.