

2006 Bacteria Data - Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs Enterococci Data

A number of groups of bacteria species are used to indicate the presence of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms. In Rhode Island the two groups monitored in order to protect human health are fecal coliforms and enterococci. The USEPA has identified enterococci as better indicators of increased risks of contracting gastrointestinal illnesses from water contact than the fecal coliforms. Therefore the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIHealth) adopted single-value enterococci standards for licensed swimming beaches in 2004, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is in the process of also adopting enterococci for contact recreation standards on all waters (fresh and salt.) In addition, as required under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program and as an indicator of overall water quality, RIDEM continues to assess fecal coliform levels, particularly in marine waters or waters that discharge directly to marine waters (fecal coliform data is available for marine waters and shellfish area tributaries under the "Marine Bacteria" file.)

For several years URI Watershed Watch used an USEPA approved membrane filtration method with mE media on primarily salt water samples for analyzing enterococci. In order to produce the most relevant data for our communities as possible, in 2006 Watershed Watch began using the RIHealth preferred IDEXX method for analyzing enterococci on all waters, and is also now a State certified laboratory.

Watershed Watch data is intended for screening purposes only, but is very valuable for targeting areas of concerns and for tracking potential sources of bacterial contamination. Samples may have been collected over a period of days for each collection period, so may reflect dry versus wet weather or rain event values. Please contact Watershed Watch for specific sample dates.

Any result above the state standard is considered unsafe, and swimmers should refrain from swimming until results return to acceptable levels, or at least for several days after heavy rain.

RI Department of Health Enterococci Standards:
Fresh water - Not to exceed 61 enterococci per 100 mL.

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
		----- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL -----						
WD	Alton Pond	101.3	-	98.8	-	-	-	100.0
S	Asa Pond	27.1	-	< 1	-	-	-	1.6
WD	Barber Pond	1	-	48	-	-	1	3.6
A	Belleville Pond - Lower	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
A	Belleville Pond - Upper	-	< 1	8.4	-	-	-	0.9
PA	Blackamore Pond	125.9	-	< 1	-	-	83.1	10.2
TH	Blue Lake	27.1	-	1	-	-	9.5	6.4
WD	Boone Lake	4.2	-	4.2	-	-	1	2.6
TH	Bowdish Reservoir	< 1	-	< 1	-	-	< 1	< 1
WD	Browning Mill Pond	34.4	-	2	-	-	< 1	1.9
TH	Carbuncle Pond	7.5	-	2	-	-	1	2.5
PE	Carr Pond (NK)	73.8	-	3	-	-	< 1	2.8
PA	Carr Pond (WG)	< 1	-	1	-	-	< 1	0.2
TH	Clarkville Pond	38.4	-	4.2	-	-	4.2	8.8
CW	Deep Pond	-	4.2	204.6	0.5	-	< 1	2.6
PA	Fenner Pond	65.9	-	17.5	-	-	165.2	57.5
PA	Flat River Reservoir	40.6	-	3.1	-	-	3.1	7.3
WO	Georgiaville Pond	36.4	-	5.3	-	-	3.1	8.4
NA	Gorton Pond	-	6.3	< 1	< 1	-	1	0.5

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WO	Hawkins Pond	< 1	-	4.2	-	-	20.3	2.0
WD	Hundred Acre Pond	28.8	-	< 1	-	-	6.1	2.6
S	Indian Lake	42.9	-	3	-	-	2	6.4
B	Keech Pond	-	1	1	-	-	3.1	1.5
CE	Lily Pond	33.2	-	198.9	-	-	-	81.3
PA	Little Pond	13	-	3.1	1	-	6.3	4.0
WD	Locustville Pond	< 1	-	4.2	-	-	1	0.7
S	Long Pond (SK)	< 1	-	2	-	-	1	0.6
PA	Mashapaug Pond	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WD	Meadowbrook Pond	5.2	-	< 1	-	-	2	1.0
NA	Melville Pond - Upper	2	-	1	-	-	8.7	2.6
PA	Meshanticut Pond	111.9	-	> 2419.6	-	-	3265.6	970.3
PA	Mishnock Lake	13.5	-	1	1	-	8.5	3.3
SK	Nanaquaket Pond	10	-	< 1	-	-	< 10	1.0
PA	Oak Swamp Reservoir	88.5	-	< 1	-	-	-	3.0
B	Pascoag Reservoir	< 1	-	< 1	-	-	1	0.2
WD	Pasquisett Pond	2	-	6.4	-	-	5.3	4.1
PA	Ponagansett Reservoir	< 1	-	36.4	1	-	< 1	0.8
NA	Prince's Pond	20.1	-	< 1	-	-	< 1	0.6
PA	Printworks Pond	17.2	-	2	-	-	14.5	7.9
WD	Queen @ Usquepaugh (Glen Rock Res)	28.1	-	78	-	-	16.1	32.8
PA	Randall Pond	1	-	1	-	-	73.8	4.2
PA	Sand Pond	-	-	4.1	18.3	-	3.1	6.1
S	Saugatucket Pond	< 1	-	17.1	-	-	5.1	2.1
CW	Schoolhouse Pond - Lower	< 1	-	15	-	-	3.1	1.7
CW	Schoolhouse Pond - Upper	< 1	-	7.5	-	-	< 1	0.4
B	Scott Pond	34.1	-	< 1	-	-	31.8	4.8
A	Secret Lake	9.6	-	3.1	-	-	13.7	7.4
S	Silver Lake	1	-	1	-	-	5.1	1.7
PE	Silver Spring Lake	43.8	-	1	-	-	83.2	15.4
WO	Slack's Reservoir	-	-	6.4	-	-	1	2.5
TE	Slater Pond	80.6	-	-	-	-	22.1	42.2
B	Slatersville Reservoir - Upper	-	-	< 1	-	-	1	0.3
B	Smith & Sayles Res.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WD	Spalding Pond	94.5	-	14.6	-	-	2908	158.9
PA	Spectacle Pond	2	-	4.1	-	-	31	6.3
B	Spring Grove Pond	16.4	-	< 1	-	-	2	1.5
B	Spring Lake	1	-	8.6	-	-	1	2.0
TA	Stafford Pond	-	1	< 1	< 1	-	4.2	0.5

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B	Tarklin Pond	118.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
PA	Tiogue Lake	4.1	-	2	-	-	9.9	4.3
WD	Tucker Pond	5.3	-	-	1	-	5.3	3.0
PA	Upper Dam Pond	42.9	-	7.4	-	-	59.1	26.6
B	Valley Falls Pond	50	-	78	-	-	23.8	45.3
B	Wallum Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NA	Warwick Pond	10.8	-	7.5	-	-	3	6.2
WD	Watchaug Pond	6.4	-	< 1	-	-	2	1.1
WO	Waterman Reservoir	-	-	4.1	-	-	22.2	-
NA	Wesquage Pond	4	-	3.1	-	-	< 10	2.3
WD	White Brook Pond	< 1	-	19.2	25.3	-	1	2.6
S	White Pond	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WD	Wincheck Pond	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WO	Woonasquatucket Res. - Stump P.	-	1	1	-	-	1	1.0
WD	Worden Pond	15	-	9.7	-	-	3.1	7.7
WD	Wyassup Lake	2	-	< 1	-	-	15	1.4
WD	Wyoming Pond	-	-	11	-	-	-	-
WD	Yawgoo Pond	< 1	-	3	< 1	-	9.9	0.7

A factsheet describing how bacteria are monitored, what bacterial indicators are, where bacteria come from and how we can all help to reduce bacterial input into our local water resources is available at <http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/ww/resources/Bacteria.pdf>.

See the Rhode Island Department of Health beach monitoring website (<http://www.ribeaches.org/>) for additional information about beach monitoring and state standards.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management website has information on State efforts to restore waters impaired by bacteria and other pollutants (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/index.htm>).

