

2008 Blue Water Task Force Bacteria Data

Several groups of bacteria species are used to indicate the presence of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms. In Rhode Island two groups are monitored in order to protect human health - fecal coliforms and enterococci. The USEPA has identified enterococci as better indicators of increased risks of contracting gastrointestinal illnesses from water contact than fecal coliforms. 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) maintained a geometric mean approach to its adoption of 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.

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.

Surfrider Sites - Blue Water Task Force Monitoring

RI Department of Environmental Management fecal coliform standards:

Shellfish Waters - Not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL.

Monitoring Location	1/26	3/29	5/10	6/7	7/12	8/16	9/20	10/25	11/22	12/20	GeoMean
	----- Number of Fecal coliform colony forming units per 100 mL -----										
Watch Hill Harbor	13	19	30	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	16
Watch Hill	< 1	< 1	< 1	3	< 1	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Misquamcut DEM Surf Area	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Weekapaug Breechway	< 1	1	10	< 2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
Deep Hole	< 1	1	< 1	< 1	< 1	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
The K's	< 1	< 1	3	1	< 1	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Conant Ave.	< 1	3	7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarborough Beach South	< 1	< 1	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Scarborough DEM Surf Area	< 1	< 1	-	< 2	< 2	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Monahan's Dock	< 1	< 1	8	< 1	< 1	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Narragansett Pier Beach Steps	< 1	1	19	< 1	< 1	-	-	-	-	-	1
First Beach	12	8	8	4	26	-	-	-	-	-	7
Second Beach	< 1	1	2	< 1	5	-	-	-	-	-	< 1
Third Beach	< 1	3	101	Bottle broke	8	-	-	-	-	-	3

Primary Contact Recreation/Swimming Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 35 enterococci per 100 mL.

RI Department of Health standards for recreational contact (i.e. swimming):

Marine Waters - Not to exceed 104 enterococci per 100 mL (single sample value).

Monitoring Location	1/26	3/29	5/10	6/7	7/12	8/16	9/20	10/25	11/22	12/20	GeoMean
	----- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL -----										
Watch Hill Harbor	< 10	20	< 10	10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Watch Hill	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Misquam Surf Area	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Weekapug Breechway	< 10	< 10	10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Deep Hole	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
The K's	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Conant Ave.	< 10	10	20	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Scarboro South	< 10	< 10	-	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Scarboro Surf Area	< 10	< 10	-	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Monahan's	10	< 10	20	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Narr Pier Beach Steps	< 10	< 10	10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
First Beach	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	20	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Second Beach	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10
Third Beach	< 10	< 10	< 10	Bottle broke	< 10	-	-	-	-	-	< 10