

2009 Bacteria Data - Tributary and Marine Sites: Fecal coliform and enterococci

A number of groups of bacteria species are used to indicate the presence of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms in water. Fecal coliform are one group, and its monitoring is required under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program for shellfish waters and as an indicator of overall water quality. Thus RIDEM assesses fecal coliform levels in marine waters or waters that discharge directly to marine waters.

While URIWW's Analytical Laboratories are State certified, Watershed Watch data is intended for screening purposes only. Our data are 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 Environmental Management fecal coliform standards:

Shellfish Waters - Geometric mean not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL.

USEPA regulations require tributaries to meet receiving waters standards at the point where they enter.

Shellfish Waters Tributaries Fecal Coliform Data (see "[Rivers](#)" data for enterococci data)

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
Number of Fecal coliform colony forming units per 100 mL								
NA	Buckeye Brook #1 @ Novelty Road	-	1500	-	-	3620	160	954
NA	Buckeye Brook #2 @ Lockwood Bk	80	600	27200	200	11360	500	1068
NA	Buckeye Brook #3 @ Warner Brook	110	not run	380	300	3620	330	432
NA	Buckeye Brook #4 @ Mill Cove	350	1780	19840	-	~10000	20	1198
GB	GB #1 - Maskerchugg @ Rt 1	13	not run	300	42	448	not run	93
GB	GB #2 - Burger King	48	1040	8000	2400	2440	1540	1238
GB	GB #3 - Rte 115 pipe	40	1144	8000	850	2560	40	563
GB	GB #4 - Mill Creek	32	122	7000	280	440	120	272
GB	GB #5 - Health Center (Headwaters)	100	1140	6000	120	2320	200	580
GB	GB #6 - Tuscatucket Brk	36	1920	77	20	~16000	12	165
GB	GB #7 - Southern Crk	84	784	6560	290	2040	140	574
H	HW #5 - Sandhill Brook (Saw Mill Inlet)	30	400	60	193	~12500	460	305
H	HW #6 - Hunt River @ Forge Rd.	70	476	70	124	3570	156	233
WD	Pawcatuck River North of WWTP	54	90	74	64	94	30	63
WD	Pawcatuck River South of WWTP	50	160	190	132	78	26	86
WD	Pawcatuck River - Mouth	42	79	71	49	4	11	28
NA	Wesquage Pond	24	-	8	-	-	20	16
NA	Wesquage Outlet - Ponside	190	320	10	2160	48	440	174
NA	Wesquage Outlet - Oceanside	80	400	4	1850	160	433	159
WO	Woonasquatuck R @ Greystone Pond	16	256	1000	100	92	40	107
WO	Woonasquatuck River @ Donigian Park	64	940	18720	540	120	120	454
WO	Woonasquatuck R @ Waterplace Park	40	3760	>28000	4500	216	280	> 1023

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Narrow River Watch Sites

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
Number of Fecal coliform colony forming units per 100 mL								
PE	NR 01- Gilbert Stuart *	~250	260	28	30	42	12	55
PE	NR 02 - Upper Pond	3	4	7	11	27	< 1	4
PE	NR 03 - Lower Pond A	<1	50	39	8	20	-	8
PE	NR 04 - Lower Pond B	5	29	284	2	22	-	18
PE	NR 05 - Lacey Bridge	2	50	260	2	26	2	12
PE	NR 06 - Mettatuxet Beach	60	56	63	12	24	-	36
PE	NR 07 - End of Narrows	-	36	516	8	-	-	53
PE	NR 08 - Middlebridge	8	76	272	32	138	-	59
PE	NR 09 - Pettaquamscutt	10	~370	96	6	12	-	30
PE	NR 10 - Sprague Bridge	6	338	128	16	50	-	46
PE	NR 11 - Mettatuxet Brook *	41	536	2440	180	2800	770	524
PE	NR 12 - Mumford Brook *	312	6200	6800	1600	2080	< 200	1139
PE	NR 13 - Near Lakeside Rd.	4	2	70	9	28	18	12
PE	NR 14 - Lakeside Outfall *	< 10	20	116	160	340	300	58

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL								
PE	NR 01- Gilbert Stuart *	3.1	95.8	12	72.6	28	12.6	21.2
PE	NR 02 - Upper Pond	<10	<10	<10	20	20	10	<10
PE	NR 03 - Lower Pond A	<10	31	10	< 10	20	-	<10
PE	NR 04 - Lower Pond B	<10	<10	164	< 10	10	-	<10
PE	NR 05 - Lacey Bridge	<10	20	178	20	20	10	15.6
PE	NR 06 - Mettatuxet Beach	10	20	20	< 10	42	-	11.1
PE	NR 07 - End of Narrows	-	<10	164	< 10	-	-	<10
PE	NR 08 - Middlebridge	10	53	20	42	238	-	40.3
PE	NR 09 - Pettaquamscutt	42	164	61	20	30	-	47.9
PE	NR 10 - Sprague Bridge	124	64	155	< 10	52	-	36.4
PE	NR 11 - Mettatuxet Brook *	74	648.8	>2419.6	669.6	8664	1211	> 966
PE	NR 12 - Mumford Brook *	335.6	2595.2	4184.8	1670	169	246	795.3
PE	NR 13 - Near Lakeside Rd.	<10	<10	124	10	10	61	<10
PE	NR 14 - Lakeside Outfall *	<2	58.4	67.8	86.2	333	250	42.2

See Bay Bacteria for Clean Up Stonington Harbor, Napatree Point, Little Narragansett Bay & Bristol Harbor Sites

RI Department of Environmental Management Shellfish Standards: Not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL.

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

Single Sample Not to exceed: 61 enterococci per 100 mL Fresh Waters * / Marine Waters 104 enterococci per 100 mL.

Freshwater Geometric Mean Density: 54 enterococci per 10 mL non-designated beach / 33 per 100 mL designated beaches.

Marine (salt water) Geometric Mean Density: 35 enterococci per 100 mL.

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