

2011 Bacteria Data: Great Salt Pond and its Tributaries - Fecal coliform and enterococci

In Rhode Island two groups of bacteria are monitored to indicate the presense of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms - fecal coliforms and enterococci. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIHealth) uses a single-value enterococci standard for licensed swimming beaches. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) uses a geometric mean approach for contact recreation standards on all other waters (fresh and salt). In addition, as required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program for shellfish waters and their tributaries and as an indicator of overall water quality, RIDEM assesses fecal coliform levels.

While URIWW's analytical laboratories are certified by the State, URIWW 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. 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.

Monitoring Site	2011 Data						GeoMean	Max	Min
	29-Jun	27-Jul	25-Aug	1-Sep	1-Oct	Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform bacteria per 100 mL			
GSP #1 (Mid harbor)	<10	<10	10	-	-	<10	<10	<10	
GSP #2 (Narragansett Inn Cove)	64	53	20	-	-	41	64	20	
GSP #3 (Champlin's)	10	20	10	-	-	13	20	10	
GSP #4 (Trimm's)	364	124	20	-	-	97	364	20	
GSP #5 (North of Champlin's)	-	42	10	-	-	20	42	10	
Outside GSP - North	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10	<10	
BI Trib #1 (Ocean Ave)	381	1230	953	-	-	764	1230	381	
BI Trib #2 (Bridgeway Square)	621.2	3465.6	960	-	-	1274	3466	621	
BI Trib #3 (Cormorant)	5475	560	-	-	-	1751	5475	560	
BI Trib #4 (Beach Ave.)	359	517.2	129.6	-	-	289	517	130	
BI Trib #5 (Harris Pt)	>4840	3466	150	-	-	>3466	>4840	150	
BI Trib #6 (Scott's)	-	344.6	<10	-	-	-	-	-	
BI Trib (Breezy Pt)	-	-	158	-	-	-	-	-	
BI Trib #7 (Trim's West)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BI Trib #11 (Sullivan's)	-	1842	30	-	-	235	1842	30	
BI Trib #12 (Town Hall)	-	1297.6	554	-	-	848	1298	554	

Rhode Island DEM Shellfishing standards for Great Salt Pond sites: <15 cfu / 100 ml
 USEPA requires tributaries to meet receiving waters standards at the point where they enter.

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Monitoring Site	29-Jun	27-Jul	25-Aug	1-Sep	1-Oct	GeoMean	Max	Min
Most Probable Number of Enterococci bacteria per 100 mL								
GSP #1 (Mid harbor)	10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	10	<10
GSP #2 (Narragansett Inn Cove)	10	31	<10	-	-	7	31	10
GSP #3 (Champlin's)	10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	10	<10
GSP #4 (Trimm's)	164	31	135	-	-	88	164	31
GSP #5 (North of Champlin's)	-	10	<10	-	-	<10	10	<10
Outside GSP - North	<10	<10	-	-	-	<10	<10	<10
BI Trib #1 (Ocean Ave)	1961	875	318	-	-	817	1961	318
BI Trib #2 (Bridgeway Square)	1047.6	767.2	444.8	-	-	710	1048	445
BI Trib #3 (Cormorant)	548	288	-	-	-	397	548	288
BI Trib #4 (Beach Ave.)	602	816.4	185	-	-	450	816	185
BI Trib #5 (Harris Pt)	582	3973	126	-	-	663	3973	126
BI Trib #6 (Scott's)	-	49	<10	-	-	7	49	49
BI Trib (Breezy Pt)	-	-	>4840	-	-	-	-	-
BI Trib #7 (Trim's West)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BI Trib #11 (Sullivan's)	-	186	10	-	-	43	186	10
BI Trib #12 (Town Hall)	-	227.4	107	-	-	156	227	107

Rhode Island DOH enterococci swimming standard 104 per 100 mL for salt water beaches

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/Publications/Bacteria.pdf>.

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

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management website (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/index.htm>).

has information on State efforts to restore waters impaired by bacteria and other pollutants.

The Committee for the Great Salt Pond sponsors and conducts the monitoring. Learn more about their efforts to protect the salt pond and its watershed at www.cgspblockisland.org.

