

2017 Bacteria Data: Great Salt Pond and its Tributaries - Fecal coliform and enterococci

In Rhode Island two groups of bacteria are monitored to indicate the presence 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.

2017 Data

Monitoring Site	6/28 & 7/5	8/2/2017	8/16 & 9/5	Sept	Oct	Geomean	Max	Min
Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform bacteria per 100 mL								
GSP #1 (Mid harbor)	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10	<10
GSP #2 (Narra. Inn Cove)	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10	<10
GSP #4 (Trimm's)	31	10	10	-	-	15	31	10
GSP #5 (N of Champlin's)	137	10	<10	-	-	11	137	<10
Outside GSP - North	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10	<10
Bl Trib #1 (Ocean Ave)	1642	600	6212	-	-	1829	6212	600
Bl Trib #2 (Bridgegate Square)	364	2069	Dry	-	-	867	2069	364
Bl Trib #3 (Cormorant)	271	30	86	-	-	89	271	30
Bl Trib #4 (Beach Ave.)	111	Dry	Dry	-	-	-	-	-
Bl Trib #5 (Harris Pt)	449	775	135	-	-	361	775	135
Bl Trib (Breezy Pt)	82	356	22	-	-	86	356	22
Bl Trib #11 (Sullivan's)	8	24	160	-	-	32	160	8
Bl Trib #12 (Town Hall)	29	126	111	-	-	74	126	29

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.



(Photo from
<http://greatfreedomadventures.com/>)

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2017 Data

Monitoring Site	June/July 8/2/2017	August	Sept	Oct	Geomean	Max	Min
Most Probable Number of Enterococci bacteria per 100 mL							
GSP #1 (Mid harbor)	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10
GSP #2 (Narra. Inn Cove)	<10	10	<10	-	-	<10	10
GSP #4 (Trimm's)	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10
GSP #5 (N of Champlin's)	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10
Outside GSP - North	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10	<10
BI Trib #1 (Ocean Ave)	580	1230	6212	-	-	1643	6212
BI Trib #2 (Bridgegate Square)	49	744	Dry	-	-	191	744
BI Trib #3 (Cormorant)	150	108	189	-	-	145	189
BI Trib #4 (Beach Ave.)	177	DRY	Dry	-	-	-	-
BI Trib #5 (Harris Pt)	<10	1298	122	-	-	398	1298
BI Trib (Breezy Pt)	10	1828	215	-	-	158	1828
BI Trib #11 (Sullivan's)	10	313	161.2	-	-	80	313
BI Trib #12 (Town Hall)	2	13	26	-	-	9	26

Rhode Island DOH enterococci swimming standard 60 per 100 mL for beaches

RI Department of Environmental Management Enterococci Standards:

Non-Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 54 enterococci per 100 mL.

Designated Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 33 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://cels.uri.edu/docslink/ww/water-quality-factsheets/Bacteria.pdf>. See the Rhode Island Department of Health beach monitoring website (<http://www.health.ri.gov/beaches/>) for 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/water/quality/>).



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