

2017 Bacteria Data - Western Coastal waters: Enterococci and fecal coliform

Two groups of bacteria are commonly 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) and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) use 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, fecal coliform levels are also assessed.

While URIWW's Analytical Laboratories are certified by the State of Rhode Island, 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 and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection fecal coliform standards:
Shellfish Waters - Geometric mean not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL.

Clean Up Sound and Harbors Sites (arranged approximately west to east along the coast)

Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		---- Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform per 100 mL ----						
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	74	2382	384	135	-	-	309
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 4	<10	591	144	<10	-	-	44
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard	<10	2005	132	<10	-	-	64
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	41	>2005	63	10	-	-	>173
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - N of Rte 1	63	>24196	41	<10	-	-	>397
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon	<10	75	<10	20	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	10	42	30	<10	-	-	23
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	<10	64	41	<10	-	-	14
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	53	<10	<10	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	30	691	134	<10	-	-	144
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	20	98	41	10	-	-	44
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	20	75	53	<10	-	-	39
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	8	3448	2143	520	-	-	166
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	20	324	10	<10	-	-	80
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	97	124	148	691	-	-	110
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	73	344	218	886	-	-	158
LN	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	160	271	121	64	-	-	208
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	75	111	31	<10	-	-	91
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	20	87	10	53	-	-	42
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	52	10	31	10	-	-	23
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	10	10	10	10	-	-	10
LN	Napatree Point - Cove	20	<10	64	10	-	-	11
LN	Napatree Point - Bayside	20	10	31	<10	-	-	18
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	<10	<10	10	<10	-	-	<10

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Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		----	Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL					----
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	26	1223	1354	52	-	-	218
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 4	<10	406	31	<10	-	-	23
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard	<10	885	199	<10	-	-	56
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	10	1184	146	<10	-	-	120
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - N of Rte 1	85	8164	20	<10	-	-	240
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon	<10	64	31	<10	-	-	13
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	<10	75	10	<10	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	20	42	31	<10	-	-	30
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	31	<10	<10	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	10	691	41	10	-	-	41
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	<10	98	<10	<10	-	-	10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	<10	75	20	<10	-	-	11
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	221.6	3448	959	199	-	-	171
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	324	<10	<10	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	20	344	63	122	-	-	85
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	20	164	41	52	-	-	51
LN	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	20	192	10	10	-	-	25
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	20	31	<10	<10	-	-	<10
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	<10	10	10	20	-	-	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	<10	<10	10	<10	-	-	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	<10	10	<10	<10	-	-	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Cove	<10	<10	10	<10	-	-	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Bayside	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	-	<10

RI Department of Environmental Management and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection enterococci standards:
Geometric mean less than 35 enterococci per 100 mL

RI Department of Health standards for recreational contact (i.e. swimming):
Single sample values not to exceed: 60 enterococci per 100 mL.

To learn more, see our factsheet on bacteria available on URI Watershed Watch's website
(see <http://cels.uri.edu/docslink/ww/water-quality-factsheets/Bacteria.pdf>)

For additional information about beach monitoring see the Rhode Island Department of Health (<http://www.health.ri.gov/beaches/>)
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/water/quality/>). In Connecticut, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's "Water" webpages have additional information on regulations and restoration efforts in Connecticut, see www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325618&depNav_GID=1654.

