

2016 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 - Noank Village Boatyard	10	<10	10	<10	<10	52	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	99	<10	150	<10	10	538	21
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	115	399	1439	1012	529	7701	805
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos RR EBB	20	213	64	52	<10	20	26
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos RR FLOOD	20	110	42	20	20	<10	18
LI	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	<10	41	63	20	52	359	31
LI	CUSH - Wequetequ. Cove - Mouth	<10	20	10	<10	20	<10	<10

Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		---- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL ----						
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	41	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	10	<10	10	<10	20	448	10
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	245	299	1112	554	489	2035	596
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos RR EBB	192	201	31	<10	<10	41	19
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos RR FLOOD	<10	134	10	10	<10	20	<10
LI	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	<10	121	97	10	31	96	27
LI	CUSH - Wequetequ. Cove - Mouth	<10	41	20	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

Little Narragansett Bay and Napatree Point - next page

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Little Narragansett Bay (including tidal Pawcatuck River) and Napatree Point

Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		- - Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform per 100 mL - -						
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	<10	Lab error	305	809	457	199	118
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	31	Lab error	52	74	305	108	83
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	10	Lab error	10	<10	52	<10	<10
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	10	Lab error	<10	Weather	75	<10	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	10	Lab error	20	Weather	110	20	26
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	<10	Lab error	<10	Weather	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 fecal coliform standards:
Shellfish Waters - Geometric mean not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL.

Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		- - - - Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL - - - -						
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	10	85	10	75	20	30	27
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	64	272	<10	<10	<10	10	<10
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	20	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	<10
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	10	<10	<10	Weather	<10	10	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	<10	10	<10	Weather	<10	<10	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	<10	10	<10	Weather	<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.

