

2023 Bacteria Data - Western Coastal waters: Fecal coliform and enterococci

Fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria are commonly monitored to indicate the presence of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) 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 CT Department of Energy & 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.	AUG (2)	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		---- Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform per 100 mL ----							
LI	Fishers Island - West Harbor	-	-	<10	<10	-	10	<10	<10
LI	Fishers Island - Hay Harbor	-	-	<10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove North	-	504	10	63	-	457	<10	110
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove Mid	20	<10	<10	20	-	10	10	<10
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove South	10	<10	75	<10	-	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	663	20	583	<10	-	20	10	43
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Whitehall Landing	-	-	557	31	-	10	20	56
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 fl	309	20	10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt	253	53	63	20	-	20	10	51
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	121	10	<10	75	-	10	<10	16
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - Mystic Shipyard	20	98	279	-	-	20	<10	58
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	31	10	10	<10	-	10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	31	<10	10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	74	<10	10	<10	-	20	10	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	10	10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	41	<10	657	84	110	41	42	47
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	10	<10	155	265	298	20	20	37
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	10	10	121	41	51	<10	10	17
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	<10	691	3784	2382	459	31	10	211
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	<10	31	<10	<10	10	10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	10	31	<10	<10	10	<10	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	-	-	5172	31	-	10	86	117
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	-	-	17329	301	-	1201	591	1843
LNB	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	-	-	1243	379	-	2142	1658	1003
LNB	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	-	-	3784	10	-	121	164	46
LNB	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	-	-	19863	150	-	10	42	31
LNB	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	-	-	12033	<10	-	<10	10	23
LNB	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	-	-	784	10	-	42	42	69
LNB	Napatree Point - Cove	-	<10	31	20	-	<10	31	<10
LNB	Napatree Point - Bayside	-	10	20	10	-	<10	31	10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	-	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10

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Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	AUG (2)	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		-- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL --							
LI	Fishers Island - West Harbor	-	-	<10	31	-	10	<10	<10
LI	Fishers Island - Hay Harbor	-	-	<10	<10	-	10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove North	-	886	717	187	-	1374	583	625
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove Mid	30	20	52	20	-	10	85	28
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove South	10	10	85	<10	-	<10	20	10
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	857	285	1014	855	-	397	528	595
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Whitehall Landing	-	-	86	41	-	<10	183	28
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 fl	441	10	<10	31	-	<10	42	13
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt	985	<10	95	10	-	<10	64	20
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	301	10	<10	31	-	<10	10	10
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - Mystic Shipya	30	20	262	-	-	10	2187	81
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	52	<10	<10	10	-	10	42	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	110	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	53	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	73	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	42	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	10	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	20	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	85	41	218	84	109	86	192	102
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	41	63	199	110	226	86	111	103
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	10	10	52	41	52	<10	<10	10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	98	480	3609	1561	417	199	135	435
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	<10	20	<10	20	<10	<10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	20	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	-	-	2851	250	-	275	228	460
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	-	-	12033	183	-	754	1455	1247
LN	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	-	-	17329	269	-	663	1989	1575
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	-	-	15531	64	-	153	1773	534
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	-	-	332	<10	-	10	1652	48
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	-	-	203	<10	-	<10	20	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	-	-	1374	<10	-	<10	<10	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Cove	-	10	20	<10	-	20	10	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Bayside	-	20	10	10	-	<10	10	<10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	-	<10	<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/www/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

http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325618&depNav_GID=1654).