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.

RI Department of Environmental Management fecal coliform standards:
Shellfish Waters - Not to exceed 14 fecal coliform per 100 mL (Exceedence indicated by **RED** text).

Warren Harbor Sites Fecal Coliform Data

Watershed code	Monitoring Location	21-May	18-Jun	16-Jul	13-Aug	10-Sep	22-Oct	GEOMEAN
		- - - - -	Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform per 100 mL					- - - - -
WA	Palmer River @ Wallis Street	63	52	10	10	<10	-	13
WA	Warren River - Ginalski	52	<10	10	10	20	-	10
WA	Warren River - Wharf Tavern ROW	842	<10	20	254	20	-	39
WA	Warren River - Bridge Street Access	443	271	10	64	10	-	19
WA	Warren River - Jacobs Pt	231	885	20	<10	10	-	33
MH	Kickemuit - Broken Bridge	393	857	NA	20	179	-	186
MH	Kickemuit - Shore Drive	1376	42	20	<10	<10	-	16

Warren Harbor Sites Enterococci Data

Watershed code	Monitoring Location	21-May	18-Jun	16-Jul	13-Aug	10-Sep	22-Oct	GEOMEAN
		- - - - -	Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL					- - - - -
WA	Palmer River @ Wallis Street	548	62	52	<10	<10	-	18
WA	Warren River - Ginalski	379	20	<10	10	<10	-	<10
WA	Warren River - Wharf Tavern ROW	1951	20	10	<10	<10	-	13
WA	Warren River - Bridge Street Access	3130	453	10	64	10	-	98
WA	Warren River - Jacobs Pt	1100	782	20	<10	<10	-	28
MH	Kickemuit - Broken Bridge	650	213	NA	52	52	-	139
MH	Kickemuit - Shore Drive	1017	53	41	<10	20	-	34

The Warren Harbor Commission initiated monitoring of the embayments along the Warren and Palmer Rivers as part of an effort to foster shellfish restoration in these areas.

RIDEM Primary Contact Recreationa/Swimming Geometric Mean Density (Geomean):
Not to exceed 35 enterococci per 100 mL. (Exceedences in red)
RIHealth standards at licenced beaches: Not to exceed 60 enterococci per 100 mL

Dock off the western shore of the Touisset peninsula in Warren (Image from https://www.eastbayri.com/stories/this-dock-is-built-to-last,95592)