2024 Bacteria Data: Great Salt Pond and its Tributaries - Fecal coliform and enterococci

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.

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Monitoring Site	5/7 & /20	6/3 & 6/17	7/1 & 7/15	8/5 & 8/12	8/26 & 9/16	9/23 & 10/17	10/31 - tribs only	Geo- mean	Max	Min		
Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform bacteria per 100 mL												
GSP #1 (Mid harbor)	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	10	-	<10	10	<10		
GSP #2 (Narra. Inn Cove)	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	-	<10	10	<10		
GSP #4 (Trimm's)	10	20	86	<10	41	<10	-	15	86	<10		
GSP #5 (N of Champlin's)	<10	<10	<10	10	10	<10	-	<10	10	<10		
Outside GSP - North	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10		
BI Trib #1 (Ocean Ave)	84	12	63	20	86	1968	<10	78	1968	<10		
BI Trib #2 (Bridgegate Sq)	<10	4	355	489	20	1309	355	51	1309	<10		
BI Trib #3 (Cormorant)	<10	53	10	<10	384	<10	10	<10	384	<10		
BI Trib #4 (Beach Ave.)	<10	<4	<10	75	<10	Dry	Dry	<4	75	<4		
BI Trib (Breezy Pt)	<10	40	75	41	63	63	41	28	75	<10		
BI Trib #11 (Sullivan's)	246	816	638	63	98	341	<10	254	816	<10		

2024 Data

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.



Clamming on BI (Image from https://www.blockislandorgan ics.com/Blog/post/2016/06/01 /Discovering-Block-Island-Clamming-in-the-Great-Salt-Pond.aspx)

URI Watershed Watch Data - https://web.uri.edu/watershedwatch/

2024 Bacteria Data: Great Salt Pond and its Tributaries - Fecal coliform and enterococci

Monitoring Site	5/7 & /20	6/3 & 6/17	7/1 & 7/15	8/5 & 8/12	8/26 & 9/16	9/23 & 10/17	10/31 - tribs only	Geo- mean	Max	Min		
Most Probable Number of Enterococci bacteria per 100 mL												
GSP #1 (Mid harbor)	<10	<10	<10	20	<10	<10	-	<10	20	<10		
GSP #2 (Narra. Inn Cove)	<10	<10	31	10	<10	<10	-	<10	31	<10		
GSP #4 (Trimm's)	<10	10	20	20	20	<10	-	10	20	<10		
GSP #5 (N of Champlin's)	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10		
Outside GSP - North	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	-	<10	<10	<10		
BI Trib #1 (Ocean Ave)	109	480	399	708	161	4355	301	439	4355	109		
BI Trib #2 (Bridgegate Sq)	364	47 1	520	631	121	1076	488	447	1076	121		
BI Trib #3 (Cormorant)	<10	64	178	86	885	41	<10	57	885	<10		
BI Trib #4 (Beach Ave.)	52	343	1968	226	73	Dry	Dry	225	1968	52		
BI Trib (Breezy Pt)	<10	44	1421	10	1860	269	120	82	1860	<10		
BI Trib #11 (Sullivan's)	41	531	317	<10	20	258	42	107	531	<10		

2024 Data

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. esignated Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 33 enterococci per 100 m

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/).



Learning what's in the Great Salt Pond (https://www.blockisl andorganics.com/Bl og/post/2021/08/11/ Discovering-Block-Island-Block-Island-Maritime-Institute.aspx)

Committee for the Great Salt Pond sponsors and conducts the monitoring. See www.cgspblockisland.org to learn more.

URI Watershed Watch Data - https://web.uri.edu/watershedwatch/