2024 Bacteria Data - GSO Beach Site: 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.

URIWW's analytical laboratories are certified by the State, but 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. Results above the state standard are 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)**.

GSO Beach Sites Fecal Coliform Data

Watershed code	Monitoring Location	22-May	5-Jun	19-Jun		17-Jul	31-Jul	14-Aug	28-Aug	11-Sep	25-Sep	9-Oct	11-Oct	Geomean
NA	GSO South Ferry Rd Beach	<10	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**<10**

GSO Beach Sites Enterococci Data

Watershed code	Monitoring Location	22-May	5-Jun	19-Jun		17-Jul	31-Jul	14-Aug	28-Aug	11-Sep	25-Sep	9-Oct	11-Oct	Geomean
NA	GSO South Ferry Rd Beach	<10	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**<10**

RIDEM Primary Contact Recreationa/Swimming Geometric Mean Density (Geomean):

Not to exceed 35 enterococci per 100 mL.

RIHealth standards at licenced beaches: Not to exceed 60 enterococci per 100 mL