

2024 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	CUSH - Palmer Cove North	135	836	-	-	-	-	-	336
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove Mid	512	733	-	-	-	-	-	613
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove South	209	223	-	-	-	-	-	216
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	14
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Whitehall Landing	695	10	-	-	-	-	-	83
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 fl	158	10	-	-	-	-	-	40
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt	624	<10	-	-	-	-	-	624
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	10	52	-	-	-	-	-	23
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - Mystic Shipya	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	134	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	313	<10	-	-	-	-	-	18
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	97	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	161	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	<10	10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	<10	20	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	144	148	-	-	-	-	-	146
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	31	96	-	-	-	-	-	55
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	20	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	41	87	-	-	-	-	-	60
LNB	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	164	10	-	-	-	-	-	40
LNB	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	14
LNB	Napatree Point - Cove	<10	20	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	Napatree Point - Bayside	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10

Enterococci data on the next page

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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	CUSH - Palmer Cove North	399	3609	-	-	-	-	-	1200
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove Mid	364	496	-	-	-	-	-	425
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove South	305	169	-	-	-	-	-	227
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	135	1019	-	-	-	-	-	371
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Whitehall Landing	216	64	-	-	-	-	-	118
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 fl	156	31	-	-	-	-	-	70
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt	121	42	-	-	-	-	-	71
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	63	31	-	-	-	-	-	44
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - Mystic Shipya	1723	-	-	-	-	-	-	1723
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	20	31	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	108	75	-	-	-	-	-	90
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	31	10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	30	10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	178	20	-	-	-	-	-	60
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	192	63	-	-	-	-	-	110
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	399	63	-	-	-	-	-	159
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	52	41	-	-	-	-	-	46
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	30	63	-	-	-	-	-	43
LN	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	41	41	-	-	-	-	-	41
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	75	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	64	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	20	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Cove	<10	10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Bayside	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	-	<10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	<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

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