

2025 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.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		---- Most Probable Number of Fecal coliform per 100 mL ----						
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove North	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove Mid	<10	109	-	-	-	-	15
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove South	20	52	-	-	-	-	32
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	10	345	-	-	-	-	59
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Whitehall Landing	31	20	-	-	-	-	25
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 floe	<10	10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt flo	31	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	42	20	-	-	-	-	29
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - Mystic Shipyard	30	313	-	-	-	-	97
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	<10	10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	10	10	-	-	-	-	10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	84	31	-	-	-	-	51
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	10	20	-	-	-	-	14
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	20	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	30	10	-	-	-	-	14
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	-	31	-	-	-	-	-
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
LNB	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	-	63	-	-	-	-	-
LNB	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
LNB	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
LNB	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	-	75	-	-	-	-	-
LNB	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
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

2025 Bacteria Data - Western Coastal waters: Fecal coliform and enterococci

Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		-- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL --						
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove North	164	637	-	-	-	-	323
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove Mid	137	160	-	-	-	-	148
LI	CUSH - Palmer Cove South	<10	109	-	-	-	-	15
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	98	609	-	-	-	-	244
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Whitehall Landing	53	20	-	-	-	-	33
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 floe	<10	10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt flo	10	10	-	-	-	-	10
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - Mystic Shipyard	110	1860	-	-	-	-	452
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	10	20	-	-	-	-	14
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	10	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	41	31	-	-	-	-	36
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	<10	20	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	226	426	-	-	-	-	310
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	<10	10	-	-	-	-	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	<10	<10	-	-	-	-	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	-	52	-	-	-	-	-
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	-	52	-	-	-	-	-
LN	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	-	<10	-	-	-	-	-
LN	Napatree Point - Cove	<10	20	-	-	-	-	<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/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).