

2022 Bacteria Data - Western Coastal waters: Fecal coliform and enterococci

Two groups of bacteria are commonly monitored to indicate the presence 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) 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 Connecticut Department of 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	Fishers Island - West Harbor	-	-	-	-	-	<10	-
LI	Fishers Island - Hay Harbor	-	-	-	-	-	<10	-
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	20	108	<10	379	420	109	58
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 floating c	<10	10	10	192	<10	150	12
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyard Pt floating	<10	20	10	238	10	659	26
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	10	<10	31	41	20	324	21
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - N of Rte 1	124	624	31	295	109	1439	219
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	20	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	10	<10	<10	10	10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	10	<10	<10	10	<10	10	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	42	10	<10	20	<10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	20	20	42	-	888	<10	62
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	53	20	75	51	816	<10	80
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	10	<10	31	<10	52	<10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	75	109	231	520	1291	41	263
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	-	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	-	<10	<10	10	53	<10	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	63	193	355	<10	Lab error	-	46
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	31	120	160	195	Lab error	-	104
LNB	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	20	53	120	84	Lab error	-	57
LNB	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	10	<10	31	148	Lab error	-	<10
LNB	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	<10	<10	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LNB	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	20	<10	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LNB	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	<10	<10	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LNB	Napatree Point - Cove	<10	<10	<10	132	<10	<10	<10
LNB	Napatree Point - Bayside	<10	20	<10	84	<10	<10	<10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	<10	<10	<10	201	<10	<10	<10

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Watershed	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
code		-- Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL --						
LI	Fishers Island - West Harbor	-	-	-	-	-	<10	-
LI	Fishers Island - Hay Harbor	-	-	-	-	-	<10	-
LI	CUSH - Whitford Brook	74	91	1565	569	228	677	268
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport North (Latitude 41 floating c	10	31	10	10	<10	238	14
LI	CUSH - Mystic Seaport South (Shipyards Pt floating	20	124	<10	64	10	831	33
LI	CUSH - Mystic River Park	31	42	10	20	<10	238	20
LI	CUSH - Pequotsepos Cove - N of Rte 1	271	591	20	109	20	3255	168
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Daybeacon 4)	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	20	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Green Bouy 29)	20	20	<10	<10	10	20	<10
LI	CUSH - Mystic Harbor (Red Bouy 24)	<10	10	31	<10	<10	<10	<10
LI	CUSH - Noank Village Boatyard	<10	53	31	<10	<10	10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove Inlet	20	10	<10	-	1439	<10	12
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Head	10	31	75	41	1223	10	48
LNB	CUSH - Wequetequock Cove - Mouth	<10	<10	20	<10	31	<10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Oxecosset Brook	63	135	538	1483	3076	52	321
LNB	CUSH - Sandy Point West	-	<10	<10	20	<10	<10	<10
LNB	CUSH - Stonington Harbor Mid	-	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
WD	STB - P'tuck North of WWTF	171	148	52	109	Lab error	-	109
WD	STB - P'tuck South of WWTF	75	52	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LN	STB - P'tuck River @ Mastuxet Brook	31	10	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LN	STB - Mouth of P'tuck	10	20	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LN	STB - Watch Hill Harbor	<10	<10	10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, North Sandy Pt	<10	<10	10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LN	STB - Lil NB, S Barn Is. Ramp	<10	<10	<10	<10	Lab error	-	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Cove	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	42	<10
LN	Napatree Point - Bayside	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
CW	Napatree Point - Oceanside	<10	10	<10	<10	<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).