

Marine & Environmental Research Institute

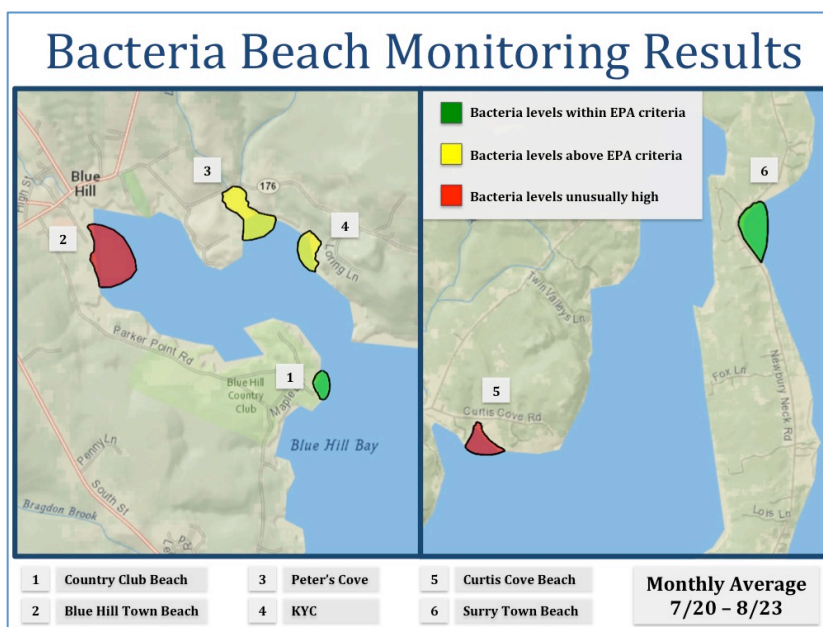
For more than a decade MERI has monitored water quality in Blue Hill Bay and reported concerns to the community. This report shares results of monitoring *Enterococcus* bacteria counts at local Blue Hill and Surry beaches. *Enterococcus* is an indicator human and animal fecal contamination. High levels can cause ear, eye, nose, and GI infections and children are very susceptible to bacteria-borne illness.

Monitoring Results - August 23, 2016

The most recent bacteria levels measured on August 23rd at one of two test sites at Curtis Cove exceeded the EPA's criteria for bacteria levels in a single sample. EPA criteria states that bacteria levels should not exceed 104 cells per 100mL in a single sample or a monthly average of 35 cells per 100mL.

Bacteria levels measured at the Blue Hill Town Beach and Peter's Cove on August 23rd met EPA criteria for bacteria levels in a single sample. This is the second second week in a row these beaches have reported safe levels.

However, monthly average levels at Curtis Cove, Blue Hill Town Beach, Peter's Cove, and KYC all exceed the EPA's threshold for safe swimming. Beach-goers should use their best judgment when swimming at these four locations as daily bacteria testing results can vary dramatically.



The monthly average bacteria levels at Country Club Beach and the Surry Town Beach were within EPA's criteria for safe swimming as of August 18, 2016.

MERI has increased the frequency of testing at Curtis Cove and the Town of Blue Hill has been advised. The MERI monitoring team will continue regular monitoring of all six local beaches and will post weekly updates and additional information at <http://www.meriresearch.org/content/beach-advisory>.

MERI Enterococcus Bacteria Testing Results – Daily and Monthly Average

LOCATION	8/23/16		8/17/16		AVERAGE 7/20 - 8/23
	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 1	SITE 2	
Country Club Beach					14.4
Blue Hill Town Beach	35.9	23.1	51.2	24.7	144.6
Peters Cove	13.2	14.5	21.4		47.9
KYC			128.7	83.6	83.8
Curtis Cove	5.2	980.4	6.3		231.6
Surry Town Beach					11.9

*Data measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) for Enterococcus in a 100ml sample. Results in red are above Maine Healthy Beaches and EPA criteria for marine water: Daily Levels: >104 cells per 100mL / Monthly Average: >35 cells per 100mL