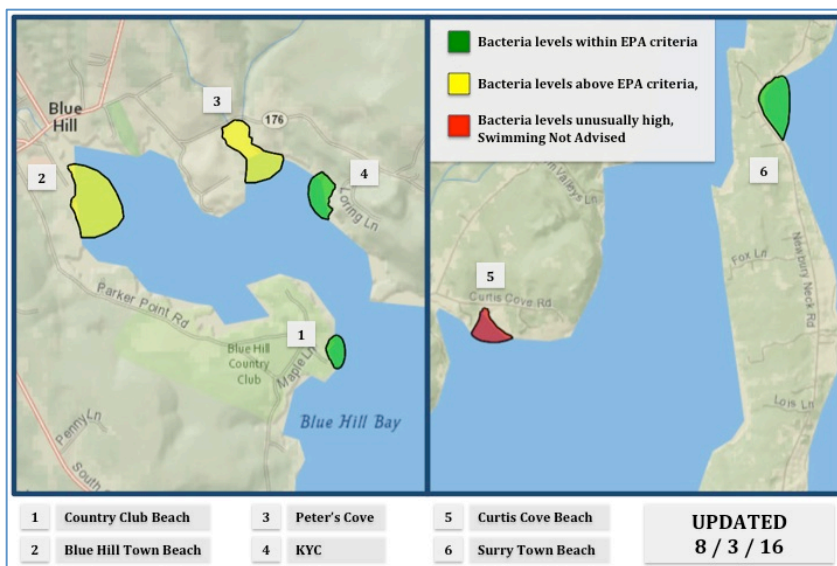


Marine & Environmental Research Institute

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 3, 2016

Enterococcus bacteria counts at Curtis Cove beach were 10 X higher than EPA safe threshold levels for safe swimming. The EPA advises people not to swim when *Enterococcus* counts are above 104 per 100 mL water on a given day. As of 8/03, Curtis Cove levels were 961 and 1011 counts per 100 mL! Monthly averages were also above the EPA criteria of 35 per 100 mL. **Based on these criteria, swimming is not advised at Curtis Cove** until bacteria counts return to normal.



Average monthly bacteria levels at Peter's Cove and the Blue Hill Town Beach are also above EPA criteria, but did not experience a severe spike. **Bacteria levels at the Blue Hill Country Club beach, KYC, and Surry Town beach were within EPA criteria for safe swimming as of 8/03.**

As yet, we do not know the reason for the high counts at Curtis Cove; these levels are higher than can be explained by recent rain events. The Town of Blue Hill has been advised about the situation. The MERI monitoring team will continue regular monitoring of all six local beaches and post results regularly at the MERI Center and on the website. For updates, call (207) 374-2135.

LOCATION	8/3/16		8/4/16		Monthly AVERAGE
	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 1	SITE 2	
Country Club Beach	33.9	8.4			11.0
Blue Hill Town Beach	44.3	317.4	N/A		89.8
Peters Cove	251.3	9.2	31.8		55.6
KYC	26.6	14.5			30.0
Curtis Cove	960.6	1011.2	50.5	89.1	208.5
Surry Town Beach	24.2	24.8			12.7
*Data measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) for Enterococcus in a 100mL sample. Results in red are above EPA criterion for marine water: 35 colony-forming units per 100mL on a monthly average basis or above 104 units per 100ML on a given day.					