

Marine & Environmental Research Institute

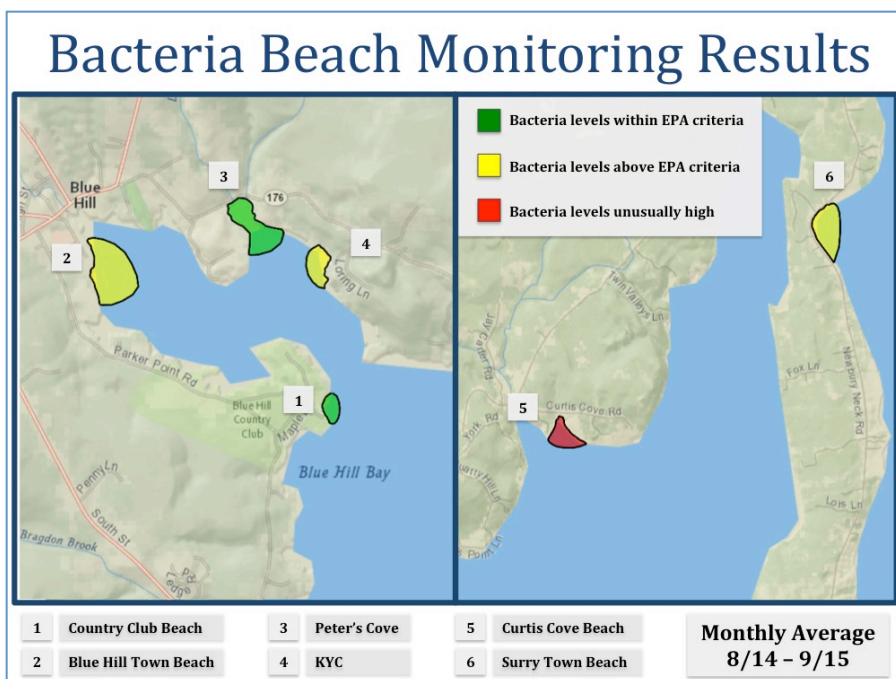
For more than a decade MERI has monitored water quality in Blue Hill Bay and reported concerns to the community. This report shares results of monitoring *Enterococcus* bacteria counts at local Blue Hill and Surry beaches. *Enterococcus* is an indicator human and animal fecal contamination. High levels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

Monitoring Results – September 16, 2016

The most recent bacteria levels measured on September 12th at Blue Hill Town Beach, Peter’s Cove, and Country Club Beach meet the EPA’s criteria for safe swimming.

Levels measured on September 12th at KYC, Curtis Cove, and Surry Town Beach exceeded the criteria for safe swimming. The sample taken on the east side of Curtis Cove Beach had levels that were ten times higher than the EPA’s criteria.

EPA criteria states that bacteria levels should not exceed 104 cells per 100mL in a single sample.



Due to the spike at Curtis Cove and the elevated levels measured at KYC and Surry Town beach, MERI researchers took follow-up samples on September 14th and September 15th at these three locations. Results showed that bacteria returned to safe levels at all three locations by September 15th. **The most recent bacteria levels measured between Sept 12th and Sept 15th at all six beaches monitored by the Marine & Environmental Research Institute meet the EPA’s criteria for safe swimming. Beach-goers should use their best judgment when swimming at these three locations as daily bacteria testing results can vary dramatically.**

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 Results Sept 12th – Sept 15th

LOCATION	9/15/16		9/14/16		9/12/16	
	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 1	SITE 2
Country Club Beach					18.1	
Blue Hill Town Beach					15.8	8.6
Peters Cove					79.4	93.5
KYC			91.2		307.6	6.3
Curtis Cove	28.1		1553.1		1119.9	9.6
Surry Town Beach			36.7	9.2	509.9	

*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.