

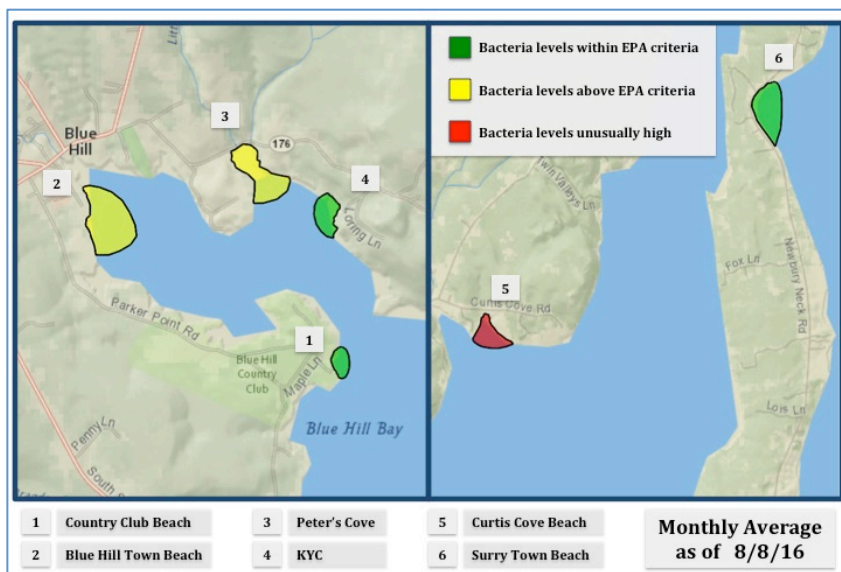
# Marine & Environmental Research Institute

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 8, 2016

Bacteria levels taken on August 8<sup>th</sup> at Curtis Cove beach met water quality standards set by the EPA. The monthly average, however, continues to exceed the threshold for safe swimming at this location. 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.

One sample taken near the stream at Blue Hill Town Beach on August 8<sup>th</sup> exceeded the EPA's criteria for bacteria levels in a single sample. Monthly averages at Blue Hill Town Beach and Peters Cove also continue to exceed the threshold for safe swimming. Beach-goers should use their best judgment when swimming at Curtis Cove, Peters Cove, and the Blue Hill Town Beach, as daily bacteria testing results can vary dramatically.



The causes of the high bacteria counts at Curtis Cove, Blue Hill Town Beach, and Peters Cove are not known at this time. As of today no correlation has been made to rain events, water temperature, or other likely causes. MERI has increased the frequency of testing at these three locations and the Town of Blue Hill has been advised.

The monthly average bacteria level and the daily bacteria levels at the Country Club Beach, KYC, and Surry Town Beach were within EPA's criteria for safe swimming as of August 8, 2016.

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	8/8/16 – Daily		8/5/16 - Daily		Monthly Average 7/8- 8/8
	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 1	SITE 2	
Country Club Beach					11.0
Blue Hill Town Beach	42.2	112.7			87.3
Peters Cove	48.7	7.4			50.6
KYC					30.0
Curtis Cove	2.0	19.7	56.1	28.5	178.1*
Surry Town Beach					12.7

\*High monthly average is due to a spike in bacteria levels in samples taken at Curtis Cove on 8/3/16.

Data measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) for Enterococcus in a 100ml sample. Results in red above Maine Healthy Beaches and EPA criteria for marine water: 104 cells per 100mL daily or a monthly average of over 35 cells per 100mL.