

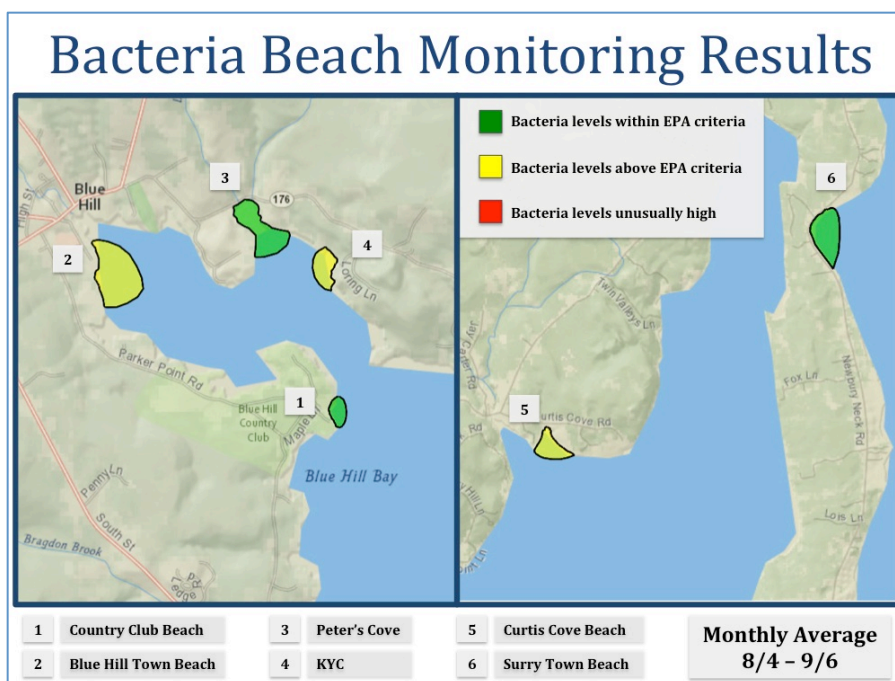
Marine & Environmental Research Institute

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.

Bacteria Monitoring Results – September 7, 2016

The most recent bacteria levels measured on September 6th at all six beaches monitored by the Marine & Environmental Research Institute meet the EPA’s criteria for safe swimming. EPA criteria states that bacteria levels should not exceed 104 cells per 100mL in a single sample. The levels measured at all six sites met this standard.

However, monthly average levels at Curtis Cove, Blue Hill Town Beach, and the KYC boat launch area exceed the EPA’s threshold for safe swimming, though levels have dropped significantly at each location over the past two weeks. EPA criteria states that bacteria levels should not exceed monthly average of 35 cells per 100mL. The levels measured at these three sites exceeded this standard. Beach-goers should use their best judgment when swimming at these three locations as daily bacteria testing results can vary dramatically.



Both daily and monthly average bacteria levels at the Surry Town Beach, Peter’s Cove, and Country Club Beach on Parker Point were within EPA’s criteria for safe swimming as of September 6, 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	9/6/16		8/30/16		AVERAGE 8/4 – 9/6
	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 1	SITE 2	
Country Club Beach			9.6		13.5
Blue Hill Town Beach	10.7	7.3	8.1	52.7	115.1
Peters Cove	40.8	25.9	37.4	40.3	30.9
KYC			8.1	4.0	84.5
Curtis Cove	9.8	4.1	11.4	41.4	109.5
Surry Town Beach			7.1		8.4

*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.