

**Coastal Beach Inspection Program
Summer Sampling 2013 Annual Report**



**Prepared by:
Sonya Carlson**

**Water Division
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503
www.des.nh.gov**

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**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
Vicki Quiram, Assistant Commissioner
Harry T. Stewart, Water Division Director**

2013 Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program: Coastal Beaches

The BEACH Program is a federally funded program that provides resources for coastal beach research and monitoring. DES inspected 16 coastal public swimming beaches in 2013. During the swim season, Memorial Day through Labor Day, ten beaches were inspected twice weekly and four were inspected weekly according to their tiered monitoring assessment. Sampling at the final two beaches, Hampton Harbor and Northside Park (a.k.a. Plaice Cove), occurred every other week in 2013. Sampling frequency was reduced because Hampton Harbor Beach has very few visitors and Northside Park has never had any sample over the state standard out of all 391 samples collected since 2002.

Staff members conducted 297 inspections and collected 1027 samples for Enterococci analysis during the swim season. No off-season sampling was conducted in 2013. During the swim season, 16 Enterococci samples exceeded the state standard, resulting in five coastal beach advisories (Table 1). Four of the five advisories were at North Hampton State Beach and in effect for a total of 7 days. The other advisory was issued for two days at Bass Beach in North Hampton. The swim season in New Hampshire was 98 days long in 2013 which translates into 1,568 beach days for all 16 beaches. With only 9 advisory days during the entire summer at coastal beaches, the chance of a beach not being under a swimming advisory was 99.4% in 2013.

More rain fell in both June and July than in previous years. June's the total rainfall for the month was 6.78 inches, almost twice the normal monthly rainfall of 3.09 inches. July was almost as wet as June with 6.7 inches also almost twice the monthly rainfall of 3.74 inches. August was much drier than normal with only 2.05 inches of rainfall, one-third less than the average of 3.18 inches. The increased rainfall in June and July accounts for the multiple beach advisories this summer.

All 16 coastal beaches are accessible to the general public. All five state beaches have parking fees as do the beaches on Hampton and Seabrook Harbor. New Castle town beach charges all visitors an entrance fee. The remaining coastal beaches have parking areas for residents near the beach, but public parking is available in most areas of the coast.

Table 1. 2013 Coastal Beach Advisories

Beach Name	Town	Advisory Details
Bass Beach	North Hampton	2 days: July 3-5
North Hampton State Beach	North Hampton	2 days: June 12-14
		2 days: June 27-29
		1 day: July 24-25
		2 days: July 26-28

Annual risk-based beach evaluations were conducted and the tiered monitoring system continued in 2013. Beaches with more visitors are sampled more often. Tier I beaches are sampled twice a week (Table 2). Tier II beaches are sampled once a week. Tier III beaches are sampled once every other week. If a beach has had many elevated bacteria samples and

listed as impaired per the 2012 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM), the beach moves up one level in the tier structure for more frequent sampling.

What started as a special study of the beach program in 2008, has now become in progress projects by two coastal towns. The two watershed management plans completed in 2011 for the Little River and Parsons Creek watersheds are the basis for North Hampton and Rye work to reduce bacteria coming to the coast through stormwater. Both towns are receiving watershed assistance grants and in 2013 used the grant funds to pinpoint bacteria sources for remediation.

Future efforts of the beach program will include maintaining monitoring efforts at coastal beaches, yearly reviews of the tiered monitoring evaluation to ensure effective sampling is in place. Additionally, communication through new media outlets will continue to inform the public how the beach program works, what it samples, and what advisories indicate. Continued recognition by the Natural Resources Defense Council as one of the two best coastal beach states helps explain our public health mission to the public.

Table 2. 2013 Coastal Beach Locations and Sampling Frequency

Beach Name	Alternate Name	Town	Visits per week
Hampton Harbor Beach	–	Hampton	Every other week
Hampton Beach State Park	–	Hampton	2
North Beach State Park	–	Hampton	1
Northside Park	Plaice Cove	Hampton	Every other week
Sun Valley Beach	Part of Seabrook Town Beach	Hampton	1
New Castle Town Beach	Great Island Common Beach	New Castle	2
Bass Beach	–	North Hampton	1
North Hampton State Beach	–	North Hampton	2
Foss Beach	–	Rye	1
Jenness Beach at Cable Road	Cable Beach	Rye	2
Jenness Beach State Park	–	Rye	2
Sawyer Beach	–	Rye	2
Wallis Sands Beach at Wallis Road	Pirates Cove Beach	Rye	2
Wallis Sands State Park	–	Rye	1
Seabrook Town Beach	–	Seabrook	2
Seabrook Harbor Beach	–	Seabrook	1