

# Freshwater Beach Inspection Program Summer Sampling 2015 Annual Report



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## 2015 Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program: Freshwater Beaches

In 2015, freshwater beaches were inspected by the Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program from June 15 to September 1. The goal of the freshwater beach program is to inspect each beach in the program three times between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In 2015, NHDES personnel performed 583 beach inspections at 170 freshwater beaches in 12 weeks. Due to budget constraints, the Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau personnel did not conduct any inspections at juvenile camp beaches. A total of 1,367 *E. coli* samples were collected and analyzed by the state laboratory, including field duplicates. Towns and federal agencies that sample water at New Hampshire beaches also reported collecting 460 samples looking for bacteria at beaches. In 2015, 180 *E. coli* samples exceeded the state standards, resulting in the issuance of 61 freshwater beach advisories (Table), just three more advisories than issued in the summer of 2014. Rainfall was almost 50% above average in June 2015 and 75% above average in August 2015, while twice as much rain fell in July of 2015 than in July of previous years. About 50% less rain fell in July 2015 than average. The higher-than-average amount of rainfall during the summer of 2015 accounts for the higher-than-average number of advisories issued that summer.

Of the 44 beaches with elevated bacteria levels leading to advisories, 22 also had advisories in 2014. Ten additional beach advisories were issued for cyanobacteria, two fewer than issued in 2014, but very close to the 10-year average of 11 cyanobacteria advisories.

However, not all cyanobacteria blooms occur on a beach. Since 2008, NHDES has issued cyanobacteria lake warnings if an algae bloom occurs far away from a beach or on a lake without a public beach. Cyanobacteria warnings were issued for Keyser Pond, Henniker; Otternic Pond, Hudson; Nippo Pond, Barrington; Lake Monomonac, Rindge; and Downing Pond, New Durham. Five warnings were issued, one more than issued in 2014, but significantly less than 2008, when 16 warnings were issued.

Twelve pre-emptive fecal bacteria advisories were issued at Ahern State Park, Laconia, which is the 10-year average for this beach. Pre-emptive advisories are issued when >0.25 inches of rain falls in a six-hour period at the state park. The decrease was due to the decreased rainfall over the summer. Additional sampling was not conducted in the summer of 2015 to determine if the efforts to reduce the goose population by letting the grass grow tall have been successful. Future sampling will be conducted after heavy rainfall at Ahern State Park in 2015 to determine if this pre-emptive advisory system can be eliminated.

Not all freshwater beaches sampled by the NHDES program are accessible to the general public. Of the 146 town and private beaches that are sampled by NHDES inspection staff, 100 limit entry to residents and guests only. Seven of the beaches charge entry fees to everyone. Only 39 of 146 private and town beaches allow unrestricted access to the swimming areas.

In preparation for the 2015 sampling season, NHDES Beach Program staff will continue to improve the tools implemented for the 2014 season:

1. Refinements of the beach advisory map searchable by advisory status:  
[http://www2.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps.aspx](http://www2.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_BeachMaps/WaterShed_BeachMaps.aspx)
2. Annual reports for each freshwater beach found through the OneStop data search:  
<http://www2.des.state.nh.us/DESOnestop/BasicSearch.aspx>

**Table.** *E. coli* and cyanobacteria advisories issued for New Hampshire beaches in 2015. Advisories issued when a single sample was over 158 cts/100ml of water or two samples were over 88 cts/100ml of water. (#) indicates the number of advisories in 2014.

Town	Beach	2015 <i>E. coli</i> Advisories	2015 Cyano Advisories	Total Days Posted
Allenstown	Day-Use Beach on Catamount Pond at Bear Brook State Park (1)	1	0	6
Barnstead	Colony Beach on Locke Lake (1)	1	0	3
	Georgetown Beach on Locke Lake	1	0	3
	North Barnstead Road Beach on Locke Lake	2	0	6
Bristol	Avery-Crouse Beach – Newfound Lake	1	0	2
Brookline	Max Cohen Memorial Grove Beach	1	0	2
Carroll	Twin Mountain Beach - Tuttle Brook (1)	1	0	2
Chesterfield	Wares Grove Town Beach on Spofford Lake	1	0	5
Deerfield	Veasey Park Beach on Pleasant Lake	1	0	2
Derry	Chase’s Grove Beach on Island Pond (1)	3	0	13
Enfield	Lakeview Condominium Beach on Mascoma (2)	1	0	5
Fitzwilliam	Fitzwilliam Town Beach – Laurel Lake	1	0	2
Franklin	Griffin Beach on Webster Lake (2)	1	0	2
Gilmanton	Gilmanton Town Beach on Crystal Lake	2	0	6
Greenfield	Otter Lake State Park - Middle Beach (2)	1	0	2
	Otter Lake State Park - Picnic Beach (2)	1	0	2
Hancock	Hancock Town Beach on Norway Pond	0	1	5
Hanover	Recreation Area Beach on Storrs Pond	1	0	2
Hebron	Hebron Town Beach on Newfound Lake	1	0	2
Henniker	French Pond Town Beach	0	2	28
Hillsborough	Manahan Park Beach on Pierce Lake	1	0	3
Hollis	Silver Lake State Park Beach (5)	1	3	12
Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park Beach	1	0	2
Hudson	Robinson Pond Town Beach (1)	1	1	10
Keene	Otter Brook Park Beach (2)	1	1	11
Kingston	Great Pond Park Association Beach	1	0	7
Laconia	Bartlett Beach (1)	2	0	26
	Bond Beach	2	0	4
	Cove Beach at Opechee Park (1)	1	0	45
	Endicott Park Beach, AKA Weirs Beach (1)	1	0	2
	Point Beach at Opechee Park (1)	1	0	2

**Table . (con't) *E. coli* and cyanobacteria advisories issued for New Hampshire beaches in 2015. Advisories issued when a single sample was over 158 cts/100ml of water or two samples were over 88 cts/100ml of water. (#) indicates the number of advisories in 2014.**

Town	Beach	2015 <i>E. coli</i> Advisories	2015 Cyano Advisories	Total Days Posted
Litchfield	Litchfield Town Beach on Darrah Pond	0	1	23
Lyme	Chase Beach on Post Pond	1	0	2
Madison	Geneva Beach	1	0	3
Manchester	Crystal Lake Town Beach (6)	1	0	1
Moultonboro	Moultonboro Neck Town Beach on Lake Winnepesaukee (1)	1	0	4
Newbury	Blodgett Landing Beach on Lake Sunapee (1)	1	0	2
Northfield	Glins Park Beach on Sondogardy Pond (1)	0	1	6
Nottingham	Pawtuckaway State Park Beach (4)	8	0	35
Ossipee	Ossipee Town Beach on Mill Pond	2	0	4
Rindge	Pearly Lake Beach (1)	1	0	26
Salem	Arlington Pond Improvement Association Beach	1	0	2
Sanbornton	Sanbornton Town Beach on Hermit Lake	1	0	6
Surry	Surry Mountain Recreation Area Beach (1)	4	0	11
Troy	Troy Town Beach on Village Pond (2)	1	0	6
Tuftonboro	19 Mile Bay Public Beach on Winnepesaukee	1	0	4
	Mirror Lake Beach	1	0	5
Wilmot	Tannery Pond Beach	1	0	4