

NH SWIMMING BEACHES AT A GLANCE

Seeley Beach on Phillips Pond

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov



To protect the public from possible illness while swimming, the NH Beach Program monitors water for fecal bacteria and cyanobacteria from nearly 200 beaches each summer. Towns and other agencies also monitor and report results to NHDES. Bacterial results higher than the state criteria indicate contact with the water could put swimmers at risk of getting sick from harmful microscopic organisms in the water. When fecal bacteria levels are high, NHDES issues an advisory and immediately resamples the beach. Once the bacteria levels no longer exceed the state criteria, the advisory is removed. Advisories DO NOT close a beach. The decision to close a beach is left with the beach owner.

MONITORED

From Memorial Day to Labor Day the water at this beach is routinely tested for the presence of fecal bacteria

THE MOST RECENT SAMPLES ANALYZED MEET STATUTORY BACTERIA STANDARDS FOR BEACHES

Green signs are posted to let the public know the beach is tested regularly for fecal bacteria. Details on participating beaches are available online. www.des.nh.gov

ADVISORY

High levels of BACTERIA have been detected in this WATER.

N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services

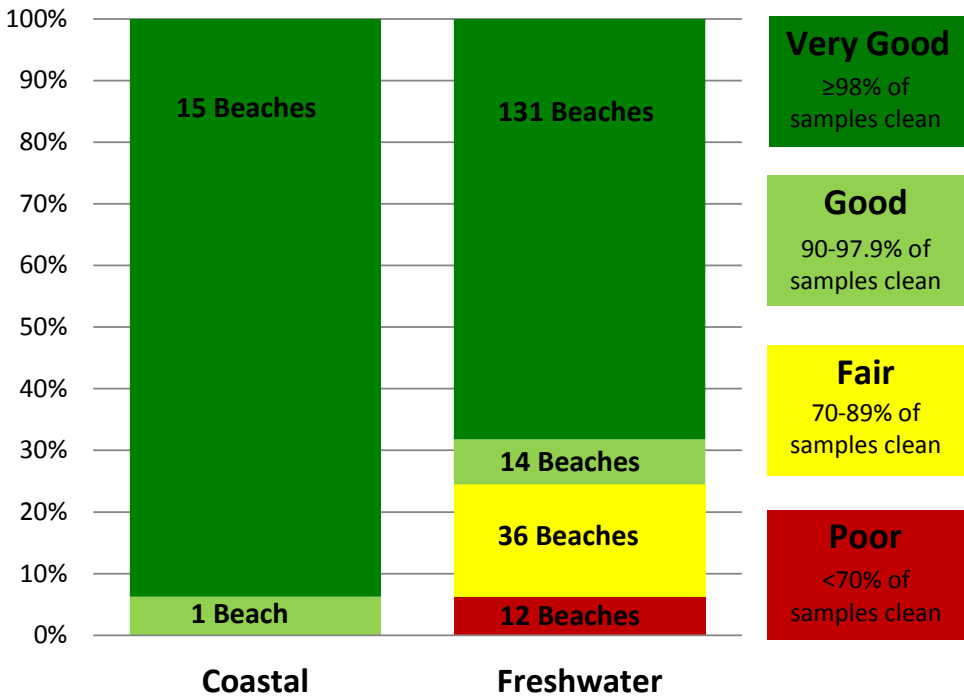
WATER CURRENTLY NOT SUITABLE FOR WADING OR SWIMMING!

Yellow signs are displayed at beach entry points when bacteria advisories are issued. Alerts and results are posted online.



Beach Advisory

2016 Summary of NH Beach Bacteria Results



Seeley Beach on Phillips Pond

Location: Sandown

2016: FAIR

80% of Samples Clean

NHDES routinely samples this beach **3** times each summer

Samples taken since 2003: **103**
Unclean Samples: **3**

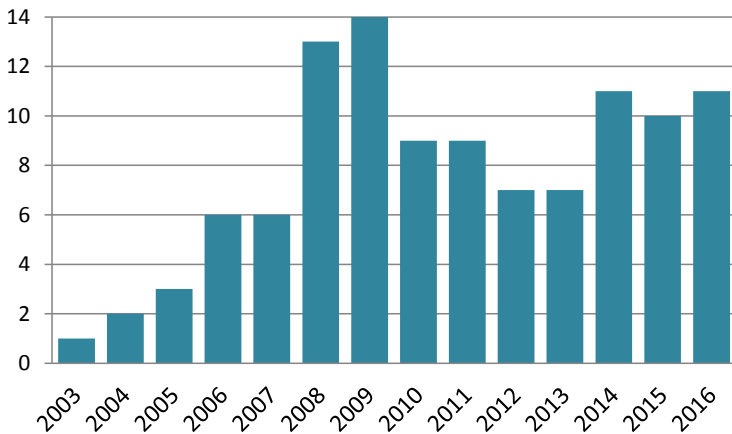
Advisories from 2003-2016:
1 fecal and 3 cyanobacteria

Percent Clean 2003-2016:
97% - GOOD

How Clean are New Hampshire Beaches? To generate a summary of beach cleanliness over time, the number of clean samples was compared to the total number of samples tested for each beach (2003-current). During the summer, freshwater beaches are typically sampled once a month and most of the coastal beaches are sampled twice a week. All coastal beaches and most freshwater beaches in the New Hampshire assessment fall into the "Good" or "Very Good" categories, where beaches are clean > 90% of the time.

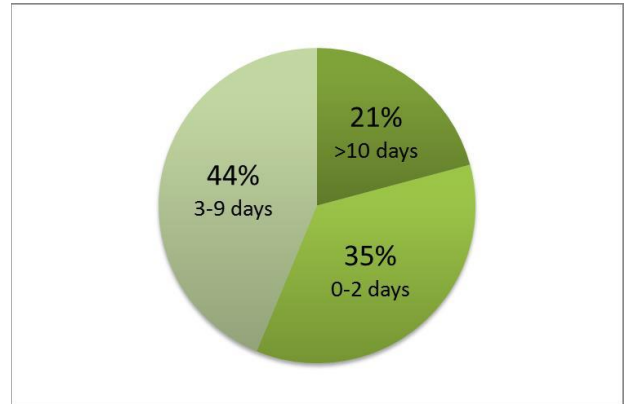
Advisories for Cyanobacteria and Fecal Bacteria

Reported Cyanobacteria Blooms and Advisories



Since 2003, nearly 40 freshwater beaches have reported a cyanobacteria bloom event occurring at least once in a summer. There were 11 cyanobacteria advisories recorded by NHDES in 2016. Increased public awareness has likely caused more sightings to occur over time.

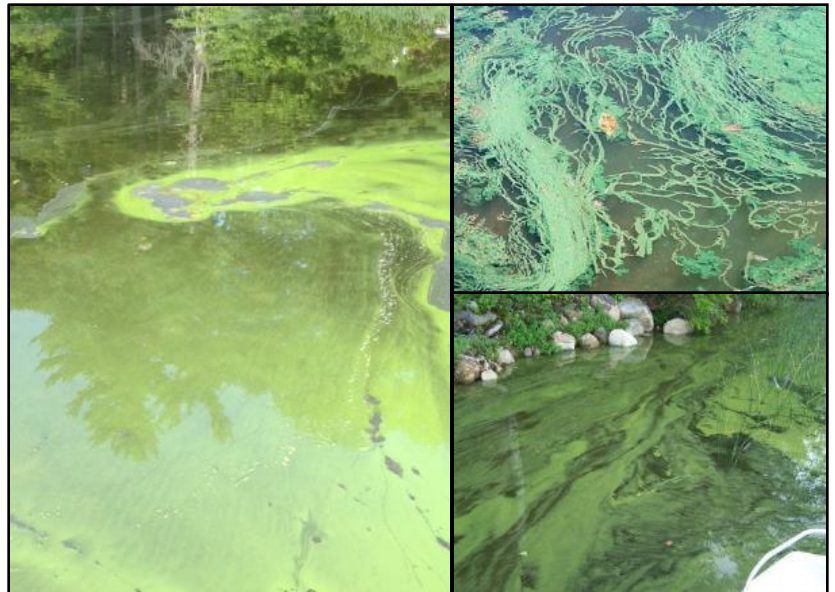
Length of 2016 Fecal Beach Advisories



There were 79 fecal bacteria advisories from 48 out of 193 freshwater beaches sampled in 2016. Only one of 16 coastal beaches had an advisory in 2016. Most advisories only lasted 0 to 2 days (35%) or no longer than 9 days (44%).

Avoid Cyanobacteria at the beach!

If you see “slimy or scummy” water with green, blue-green or red clouds, it could be cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria blooms are caused by excess nutrients from fertilizer, storm water, and runoff that facilitate their growth. In large quantities, cyanobacteria can be harmful as they may produce toxins. NHDES advises humans and animals to avoid all contact and report a suspected bloom. The beach program posts advisories to warn swimmers when blooms are confirmed at a beach or within a lake or pond in NH. Contact the Beach Program to report a sighting or harmful cyanobacteria bloom.



Stay Connected with the Beach Program

Current advisories posted at www.des.nh.gov.

At left, click on:



Beach Advisory

Subscribe to our newsletter. Select “Beach Advisories” at:

<http://des.nh.gov/media/enews/index.htm>



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Questions about beaches and sampling can be directed to:

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