City of Quincy, Massachusetts

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2010 Bathing Beach Water Sampling Program Summary

The 2010 bathing beach water sampling program officially ran for twelve weeks, from June 16 through September 1, 2010. The water samples were collected each Wednesday and were collected near the high tide (sample collection, whenever possible, began within one hour before and/or after high tide). Samples were collected from thirteen public and/or semi-public beach locations. Beaches were posted as unacceptable for swimming and re-sampled whenever single-sample enterococcus counts were greater than 104 colony forming units per 100 ml of water and/or whenever the five sample geometric mean value was greater than 35. G & L Lab of Quincy was contracted to perform the laboratory analysis of the water samples.

Once again this year, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), with grant money obtained under the federal government's BEACH Act, assisted municipalities, including Quincy, with the costs of weekly beach water quality monitoring. In addition to local notification (local newspaper, cable, Quincy Health Department's 24hr.Beach results hotline and City's web page), Quincy results were also available to the public on the MDPH Beaches web page.

There were 6 of the 12 weeks (50%) in which at least one Quincy beach was posted due to an enterococcus count of greater than 104 and/or a five sample geomean value greater than 35. Three of these dates were during a rain event. Last year there were 8 of 12 weeks (66.6%) in which at least one beach was posted. Five of the dates were during a rain event.

Individual beach locations:

Avalon was posted two times this year versus three postings last year. The two postings were due to high instantaneous values. The sampling for at least one of the exceedences occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean value of 20.57 was slightly lower than last year's of 30.37. Postings at this location: Two, for a total of five days.

Mound was posted twice this year versus two postings last year. Both postings were due to high instantaneous values. The sampling for both exceedences occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean value of 14.48 for this year was lower than last year's of 20.48. Postings at this location: Two for a total of five days.

Merrymount was posted once this year compared to one posting last year. The sampling for the single exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean value was higher this year at 18.56 versus a value of 16.19 for last year. Postings at this location: One for a total of 4 days.

Chicatabot was posted once this year versus three postings last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous exceedence. The sampling for this exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean value was considerably lower this year (12.60) versus a value of 28.62 last year. Postings at this location: One for four days.

Heron was posted three times this year, versus two posting last year. Two postings were due to high instantaneous values. One posting was due to a high geomean value. Sampling for at least one exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). On another occasion, the re-sampling result also exceeded the standard (geomean), resulting in another multiple day posting. The seasonal geomean value was lower this year at 18.22 versus last year at 24.23. Postings at this location: Three for twelve days.

Delano (Back) was posted two times this year, versus three postings last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous values. Sampling for at least one exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean value for this location was 30.47, almost equivalent to last year's of 30.31. Postings at this location: Two for five days.

Baker (Broady) was posted four times this year, versus twice last year. Three postings were due to high instantaneous sample results, the fourth was due to a high five-sample geomean value. At least one sampling for the high instaneous value exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). On another occasion, the re-sampling result also exceeded the standard (geomean), resulting in another multiple day posting. The seasonal geomean value of 21.45 was lower than last year's of 26.45. Postings at this location: Four, for 18 days.

Firestation (Germantown) was posted once this year, versus no postings last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous exceedence. The seasonal geomean of 14.20 was slightly higher than last years at 8.96. Postings at this location: One for a total of 24 hours.

Parkhurst was posted four times this year versus no postings last year. Three postings were due to high instantaneous sample results, the fourth was due to a high five-sample geomean value. On one occasion, the re-sampling result also exceeded the standard, resulting in multiple day postings. On another occasion, the re-sampling result also exceeded the standard (geomean), resulting in another multiple day posting. The seasonal geomean value was higher this year (39.96) versus last year (10.18). Postings at this location: Four for 17 plus days (Parkhurst ended the season posted, with both a high instantaneous and geomean value; the seasonal geomean value was also high).

Edgewater was posted once this year versus one posting last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous value. The seasonal geomean value of 18.31 was higher than last year's of 14.28. Postings at this location: One for a total of 24 hours.

Rhoda was posted three times this year versus three postings last year. One of the postings was due to a high instantaneous exceedence, with one resulting in multiple-day postings. High geomean exceedences resulted in further multiple-day postings. The seasonal geomean value of 24.03 was lower than last year's value of 31.8. Postings at this location: Three for a total of 21 days.

Orchard was posted once this year versus no postings last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous exceedence. The sampling for this exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean was lower this year at 7.88 versus a value of 12.09 last year. Postings at this location: One for four days.

Nickerson was posted twice this year versus two postings last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous exceedences. At least one exceedence occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting (over a weekend). The seasonal geomean value was lower this year at 16.23 versus a value of 31.8 for last year. Postings at this location: Two for five days.

Efforts will be continued during the off-season to assess potential contamination sources at those beaches with numerous exceedences, especially a continual assessment of the storm drains and sewers in the areas affecting Rhoda, Baker (Broady) and Parkhurst.