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2012 Bathing Beach Water Sampling Program Summary

The 2012 bathing beach water sampling program officially ran for twelve weeks, from June 13 through August 29, 2012. The water samples were collected each Wednesday (except on Monday July 2, due to the July 4th Holiday) 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 8 of the 12 weeks (66.6%) 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. Four of these dates were during a rain event. 17 of the 22 (77.3%) individual instantaneous exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. Last year there were 5 of 12 weeks (41.6%) in which at least one beach was posted. Three of the dates were during a rain event. Because there were seven beach locations with multiple day postings this year, versus only one beach location last year, beaches were collectively closed 37 days more this year than last year.

Individual beach locations:

Avalon was posted one time this year versus three postings last year. The one posting was due to a high instantaneous value. The sampling for the exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value of 19.72 was almost equivalent to last year's of 19.27. Postings at this location: One, for a total of one day, two days less than last year.

Mound was posted twice this year versus one posting last year. The two postings were due to high instantaneous values. The sampling for one of the two exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One posting was for two days, due to the Fourth of July holiday; the second was a multiple-day posting due to the tidal schedule affecting the ability to re-sample. The seasonal geomean value of 15.39 for this year was almost equivalent to last year's of 15.16. Postings at this location: Two for a total of eight days, seven days more than last year.

Merrymount was posted once this year compared to one posting last year. The sampling for the single exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The posting was a multiple-day posting due

to the tidal schedule affecting the ability to re-sample. The seasonal geomean value was higher this year at 18.75 versus a value of 11.18 for last year. Postings at this location: One for six days, five days more than last year.

Chicatabot was posted once this year versus two posting last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous exceedance. The sampling for the exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. However, the resampling value did not meet instantaneous standard, resulting in multiple posting days. The seasonal geomean value was slightly higher this year (21.02) versus a value of 18.57 last year. Postings at this location: One for seven days, five days more than last year.

Heron was posted twice this year, versus one posting last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous values. Sampling for one of the exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value was higher this year at 17.76 versus last year at 15.29. Postings at this location: Two for two days, one day more than last year.

Delano (Back) was posted three times this year, versus one posting last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous values. Sampling for the three instantaneous exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One posting was a multiple-day posting due to the tidal schedule affecting the ability to re-sample. The seasonal geomean value for this location was 33.15, considerably greater than last years value of 19.85. Postings at this location: Three for eight days, seven days more than last year.

Baker (Broady) was posted four times this year, versus no postings last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous values; high geomean values during resampling caused a multiple-day posting. Another multiple-day posting was due to the tidal schedule affecting the ability to re-sample. Sampling for three of the four instantaneous exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value of 27.06 was considerably greater than last year's of 13.90. Postings at this location: Four for fourteen days, fourteen more than last year.

Firestation (Germantown) was posted twice this year versus no postings last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous values. Sampling for the two instantaneous exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The posting was a multiple-day posting due to the tidal schedule affecting the ability to re-sample. The seasonal geomean of 19.11 was significantly higher than last years at 7.48. Postings at this location: Two for seven days, seven more days than last year.

Parkhurst was not posted this year versus two postings last year. The seasonal geomean value was lower this year (9.25) versus last year (18.55). Postings at this location: None, two days less than last year.

Edgewater was not posted this year versus three postings last year. The seasonal geomean value of 11.65 was significantly lower than last year's of 25.89. Postings at this location: None, ten plus days less than last year. (Edgewater closed out last season posted).

Rhoda was posted two times this year versus three postings last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous values; high geomean values during resampling caused a multiple-day posting. Sampling for one of the two exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value of 33.5 was higher than last year's value of 25.89. Postings at this location: Two for a total of eight days, five days more than last year.

Orchard was posted twice this year versus one posting last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous exceedances. The sampling for both exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean was higher this year at 14.34 versus a value of 13.91 last year. Postings at this location: Two for two days, one day more than last year.

Nickerson was posted once this year versus two postings last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous exceedance. The exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value was lower this year at 13.26 versus a value of 18.86 for last year. Postings at this location: One for one day, one day less than last year.

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