City of Quincy, Massachusetts

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2011 Bathing Beach Water Sampling Program Summary

The 2011 bathing beach water sampling program officially ran for twelve weeks, from June 15 through August 31, 2011. 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 5 of the 12 weeks (41.6%) 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. Three of these dates were during a rain event. Last year there were 6 of 12 weeks (50.0%) in which at least one beach was posted. Three of the dates were during a rain event. Because there was only one beach location (Edgewater) with a multiple day posting this year, versus eleven beach locations last year, beaches were collectively closed 74 days less this year than last year.

Individual beach locations:

Avalon was posted three times this year versus two postings last year. The three postings were due to high instantaneous values. The sampling for all of the exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value of 19.27 was slightly lower than last year's of 25.57. Postings at this location: Three, for a total of three days, two days less than last year.

Mound was posted once this year versus two 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 15.15 for this year was almost equivalent to last year's of 14.48. Postings at this location: Two for a total of two days, three days less 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 seasonal geomean value was lower this year at 11.18 versus a value of 18.56 for last year. Postings at this location: One for one day, three days less than last year.

Chicatabot was posted twice this year versus one posting last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous exceedances. The sampling for both these exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value was slightly higher this year (18.57) versus a value of 12.60 last year. Postings at this location: Two for two days, two days less than last year.

Heron was posted once this year, versus three posting last year. The one posting was due to a high instantaneous value. Sampling for the one exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value was lower this year at 15.29 versus last year at 18.22. Postings at this location: One for one day, eleven days less than last year.

Delano (Back) was posted once this year, versus two postings last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous value. Sampling for the one exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value for this location was 19.85, considerably lower than last years value of 30.47. Postings at this location: One for one day, four days less than last year.

Baker (Broady) was not posted at all this year, versus four postings last year. The seasonal geomean value of 13.90 was considerably lower than last year's of 21.45. Postings at this location: None, eighteen less than last year.

Firestation (Germantown) was not posted at all this year, versus one posting last year. The seasonal geomean of 7.48 was significantly lower than last years at 14.20. Postings at this location: none, one less than last year.

Parkhurst was posted two times this year versus four postings last year. Both postings were due to high instantaneous sample results. Sampling for both exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value was lower this year (18.5) versus last year (38.9). Postings at this location: Two for two days, at least fifteen days less than last year.

Edgewater was posted three times this year versus one posting last year. Two of the postings were due to high instantaneous values, one posting (during the last week of the season) was due to a high geomean value. Sampling for two of the exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. One resampling and posting resulted in a multiple-day posting. The seasonal geomean value of 25.89 was higher than last year's of 18.31. Postings at this location: Three for ten plus days (Edgewater ended the season posted, with a high geomean value), at least nine days more than last year.

Rhoda was posted three times this year versus three postings last year. All of the postings were due to high instantaneous exceedances. Sampling for two of the three exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value of 25.9 was almost equivalent to last year's value of 24.0. Postings at this location: Three for a total of three days, eighteen days less than last year.

Orchard was posted once this year versus one posting last year. The posting was due to a high instantaneous exceedance. The sampling for this exceedance occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean was higher this year at 13.91 versus a value of 7.88 last year. Postings at this location: One for one day, three days less than last year.

Nickerson was posted twice this year versus two postings last year. The postings were due to high instantaneous exceedances. Both exceedances occurred during or within 24 hours of a rainfall event. The seasonal geomean value was higher this year at 18.86 versus a value of 16.23 for last year. Postings at this location: Two for two days, three days 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 Edgewater and Rhoda .