

# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECREATION PROGRAM

## ANNUAL BEACH GRANT REPORT

*2024 Season*

Submitted January 2025



*Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven*



**CONNECTICUT**

Public Health

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## Introduction

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has completed Connecticut's 2024 Annual Report for the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Beach Grant CU-00A01424. This report describes the monitoring of regulated marine bathing areas and how the 2022 Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is being implemented. It also provides information on public notification and water quality monitoring efforts. As part of the Beach Grant work plan, Connecticut provides US EPA with seasonal data for marine recreational water quality monitoring and information on the times and duration of interventions. Much of these data are summarized within this report.

Furthermore, it describes how 24 shoreline towns, 17 local health agencies, CT DPH, and Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) work together to monitor the shoreline marine beaches.

## A: Elements of the Beach Monitoring and Notification Program

The Beach Grant includes specific goals for both US EPA and Connecticut. The goals for Connecticut are achieved by following a carefully developed work plan. The work plan addresses the twelve specific identified activities described below.

**A1: CT DEEP Beach Monitoring.** CT DEEP performs weekly or more frequent beach monitoring at four coastal state beaches. The coastal State beaches are the following: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport; Silver Sands State Park, Milford; Hammonasset State Park, Madison; and Rocky Neck State Park, East Lyme. Beach sampling begins the week before Memorial Day and ends prior to Labor Day. This activity proceeds according to the beach QAPP. The beach monitoring that is conducted at the coastal state beaches is partially funded under an agreement executed with the CT DEEP. This funding is used to hire seasonal personnel who are responsible for the collection of the water samples and the transport of samples to the CT DPH Microbiology Laboratory. In 2024, the CT DPH Laboratory analyzed 224 samples collected at the coastal State Park beaches.

**A2: CT DPH Microbiology Laboratory.** CT DPH provides indicator bacteria analysis services for beach samples at no cost to CT DEEP and local health agencies. The courier service has regional drop off locations where local officials may transfer beach samples to a courier for delivery of samples to the CT DPH Microbiology Laboratory in Rocky Hill. The beach grant partially funds the hiring of seasonal personnel by the CT DPH Microbiology Laboratory, vehicle rental, and the purchase of laboratory supplies associated with the monitoring process. The seasonal employees provide the courier services to local health agencies and perform the laboratory services associated with the analysis of water samples. In 2024, the CT DPH Laboratory analyzed 1381 samples collected at all beaches along the Connecticut coastline. This represents approximately 76% of all 1781 enterococci samples collected on Connecticut marine beaches and the data sent to US EPA for the 2024 season. All other enterococci samples were tested by State-certified laboratories, specifically, Eastern Analytical Laboratory, Greenwich Health Department Laboratory, and the Stamford Health Department Laboratory. These data were forwarded to CT DPH and added to our database and to EPA's Beacon 2 web site.

**A3: Methods and Quality Control.** Sampling design and methods are described in the *QAPP*. The established bacterial indicator for designated marine bathing water in Connecticut is *Enterococci*. The benchmark single sample criterion is 104 Colony Forming Units (CFU) or Most Probable Number (MPN), with a five-sample geometric mean benchmark of 35.

According to Criterion 10 of the National Beach Guidance and Required Performance Criteria for Grants, 2014 Edition, states and tribes receiving beach grants under the CWA section 406 are expected to select a beach notification threshold, i.e., the Beach Action Value (BAV), that is based on the 75th percentile value of the illness rate in EPA's 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria. However, states and tribes have the option to submit a written justification to use an alternative value. The CT DPH has submitted to EPA its justification for maintaining the current threshold values for 2024 instead of the EPA-preferred BAV value. EPA's response is included as Appendix C.

**A4: Coastal Recreational Waters List.** CT DPH provides US EPA with a list of regulated marine bathing areas and monitoring site locations where data are collected. In 2024 there were 74 beaches on this list. This list also includes one dormant beach that is being monitored (Fort Hale-New Haven). As noted in the DPH database, and on Beacon 2, Fort Hale Beach in New Haven is permanently closed and has been so since listed in 2011. The swimming beach at this city park remains dormant at least until a major redevelopment and repair project is complete. In the interim, the city continues to evaluate the water quality at Fort Hale because it is a popular site for fishing. In January 2020 this beach was classified as "Historic" in EPA's PRAWN registry.

**A5: Local Beach Monitoring and Notification.** Local public beaches are managed by municipal health department officials or regional health district personnel. The Connecticut General Statutes outlines enforcement authority under Chapter 98, Municipal Powers. Section 7-148 states that municipalities have the power to "control and operate" recreation places, public beaches and beach facilities. They also have the power to "regulate and prohibit swimming or bathing in the public or exposed places within the municipality". (See [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_098.htm#sec\\_7-148](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_098.htm#sec_7-148).) The monitoring and closure/advisory practices at such coastal beaches are the responsibility of the local health authorities under the guidance of the CT DPH. Protocols for managing the opening and closing of municipal beaches are outlined in the *QAPP* and The State of Connecticut Guidelines for Monitoring Swimming Water and Closure Protocol (March 2022).

**A6: Communicating Beach Location, Closure/Advisory, Notification, Potential Pollution Sources, and Monitoring Information.** CT DPH uses an annual US EPA Beach Survey to collect organization, beach contact, location updates, closure, advisory, public notification, and known potential pollution source data for the regulated marine bathing areas under the authority of shoreline towns and CT DEEP. The monitoring and survey data are validated, stored electronically in a local Access database developed and maintained by the CT DPH. The data are subsequently reformatted, translated and parsed for upload to US EPA. The monitoring and notification data were compiled and accepted into EPA databases on December 20th, 2024 (a reupload of the notification data was done on January 6th due a problem in the original data set).

**A7: Measures that Inform the Public of Potential Risks.** Each year prior to the opening of Connecticut’s beach season, the CT DEEP and CT DPH collaboratively issue a press release that discusses the state beach monitoring program and informs the public of potential risks associated with swimming in contaminated waters. The CT DPH provides the risk information on the CT DPH Recreation Program Web site (<https://www.ct.gov/dph/publicbeaches>). The site contains a listing of all municipal and state park regulated marine bathing areas and their tiered classification. It contains links to local health agencies and CT DEEP for the most up-to-date information about beach status. The site also contains links to beach related topics on US EPA and US Center for Disease Control and Prevention web sites. Communicating the status of state park beaches is accomplished by updating both the CT DEEP web site, and the State Beach “hotline.” Updates are accomplished the same day (Monday through Friday) as results are received from the CT DPH laboratory. Notifications procedures for CT municipalities compiled from closure data for 2024 are shown in Table A1, Parts A and B. In past years, this table showed a compilation of all the notification methods added up over all the years of the beach grant administration in Connecticut. Because this was obscuring changes in notification methods across the years, these tables have been limited to showing only this past year. The 2024 data show that posting closures at the beach (required by public health code in this state) and posting on the internet were the two primary methods of notification in 2024, although five jurisdictions also utilized phone messaging. There were only 22 advisories in 2024, and the primary methods of notification were posting at the beach and using the internet.

**Table A1:** Public Notification Procedures Listed by current State or municipal agencies during the 2024 beach season. This list includes all current regulating agencies that issued a closing or advisory event at beaches. Counts of closing events are listed in Part A; counts of advisory events are listed in Part B. The second column is the total count of beach closures (Part A) or advisory events (Part B). Subsequent columns show the method of notification used during the 2024 season.

**PART A: CLOSING EVENTS**

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL CLOSING EVENTS	AT BEACH	ON INTERNET	IN NEWSPAPER	VIA PHONE MSG	ISOLATE AFFECTED AREA	VIA LOCAL RADIO STATION	VIA LOCAL TV STATION
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection	3	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
Ledge Light Health District	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Shore District Health Department	1	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Guilford Health Department	2	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Madison Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milford Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut River Area Health District	4	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Westbrook Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Haven Health Department	1	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
New Haven Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bridgeport Health Department	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stratford Health Department	9	X	X	-	-	X	X	X
Darien Health Department	7	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Fairfield Health Department	15	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Greenwich Department of Health	23	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Norwalk Health Department	13	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Westport Weston Health District	2	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Stamford Health Department	28	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
<b>SUM</b>	<b>104</b>							

**PART B: ADVISORY EVENTS**

DEPARTMENT	COUNT OF EVENTS	AT BEACH	ON INTERNET	IN NEWSPAPER	VIA PHONE MSG	ISOLATE AFFECTED AREA	VIA LOCAL RADIO STATION	VIA LOCAL TV STATION
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ledge Light Health District	8	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
East Shore District Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guilford Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madison Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milford Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Connecticut River Area Health District	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westbrook Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Haven Health Department	14	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
New Haven Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bridgeport Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stratford Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Darien Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfield Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenwich Department of Health	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norwalk Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westport Weston Health District	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stamford Health Department	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>SUM</b>	<b>22</b>							

**A8: Coastal Beach Monitoring Meetings with Public Health Officials.** CT DPH hosts a spring meeting for coastal Public Health Officials to review the status of the Beach Grant in Connecticut. Speakers at the meeting have previously included representatives from US EPA Region 1, CT DPH State Laboratory, the Aquaculture Division of the Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), municipal government, Yale, and CT DPH. The 2024 agenda included a presentation on microbial source tracking, a presentation on EPA's cyanobacteria monitoring collaborative, a NOAA presentation on their marine debris cleanup program, and a presentation on the Vibrio monitoring and control plans for shellfish. The microbial source tracking project determined that dog feces was a significant cause of microbial exceedances at the coastal beaches examined in the East Shore Health District. The agenda for the May 2024 meeting is found in Appendix A.

**A9: Providing Beach Grant Generated Data upon Request.** At various times throughout the year, the CT DPH Recreation Program receives requests from conservation organizations and other interested parties for the notification and monitoring data. DPH routinely gets a request for beach data from the CT Council on Environmental Quality. The CT Council on Environmental Quality publishes their annual report in mid-April. The summary data for the 2024 beach closures will be available on Council's internet site (<https://portal.ct.gov/ceq>). The Council reports event incidence relative to the prior year. When the report is issued, it should show a small decrease in closures for 2024 relative to 2023. CT DPH has also incorporated monitoring and notification data to the "Our Environment" Chapter of CT DPH's Strategic Health Action Plan.

**A10: US EPA Annual Report.** CT DPH prepares and submits an annual Beach Grant report to US EPA Region 1 using a format that was developed jointly between US EPA Region 1 and CT DPH. The annual report includes descriptions of beach data collection and management along with performance criteria and beach data summaries.

**A11: Education and Outreach.** When CT DPH is invited to explain or review Connecticut's beach monitoring effort, presentations describe the history of beach monitoring in Connecticut, current beach monitoring guidelines, and implementation programs. Connecticut's beach monitoring effort is presented in the annual Environmental Health Training offered at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) by the grant's Data Coordinator. The 2024 presentation on beaches to SCSU took place on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**A12: Assorted Office Supplies and Related Equipment.** Implementing the Beach Grant generates assorted office supply and related equipment ordering activity. Supplies include paper, color toner cartridges, binders, audio visual and computer equipment ordered to support daily operations and the semi-annual meeting for coastal Public Health officials.

## **B: CT DPH Staff and Responsibilities**

Of the four CT DPH staff positions described on this page, the Beach Grant serves to partially fund the Beach Grant coordinator positions.

**The Beach Grant coordinator** (David Kallander) is responsible for; working cooperatively with the EPA Region 1 Grant Manager (Alicia Grimaldi) in preparing the grant application and budget, developing and implementing the work plan , coordinating with CT DEEP and the CT DPH State Laboratory on grant activities, providing interpretive guidance to shoreline local health departments and CT DEEP for beach closures, and integrating Beach Grant related activities with public health issues in Connecticut.

**The Beach Grant data coordinator** (David Kallander) is responsible for; providing custom beach data sets upon request and analytic/technical assistance to support beach monitoring, preparing Connecticut’s annual US EPA Beach Survey used to collect notification and pollution source data, assembling beach monitoring and notification data, organizing and presenting at the shoreline meeting for Public Health Officials, processing and packaging beach data for transmittal to US EPA, writing Connecticut’s Annual Report for the US EPA Beach Grant, maintaining/updating the local custom database that CT DPH uses to hold and manage Beach Grant and related data, and participating in biweekly conference calls with EPA technical staff as needed.

**The Supervising Microbiologist** (Kim Holmes-Talbot) oversees the CT DPH Microbiology Laboratory where marine recreational water samples are tested for Enterococci. Additionally, she hires seasonal staff for the courier sample pick up service and trains them to help perform indicator bacteria testing conducted during the summer. Sample results data are provided by the Laboratory to CT DPH, local health departments and CT DEEP.

**The Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) developer** (Jeff Curran) was responsible for authorizing the March 2022 Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Beach Monitoring and Notification Program for Connecticut Coastal Beaches. This required experience in writing and reviewing quality assurance project plans for various types of environmental programs and projects.

## **C: Performance Criteria and Attainment of Grant Criteria**

The Federal Clean Water Act section 406(a) and Section 406(b) authorizes the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to award grants to implement monitoring and notification programs, but only if the programs meet certain requirements. One of these requirements is that the monitoring and notification programs be consistent with EPA’s performance criteria. These performance criteria provide the basis for US EPA’s evaluation of Connecticut’s 406(b) grant award. The general requirements of US EPA’s nine performance criteria are summarized in Table C1. While the quality of CT’s beaches has been regularly evaluated by outside agencies such as the Connecticut Council for the Environment and the National Resources defense Council, the author knows of no other government agency, outside the US EPA, that has formally evaluated the effectiveness of CT DPH’s Beach Program.

**Table C1:** Generalized Description of US EPA’s Nine Performance Criteria for Grant Recipients.

Category	Performance Criterion	Criterion General Requirements
Evaluation and Classification	1	Develop risk-based beach evaluation and classification plan
	2	Develop tiered monitoring plan
Monitoring	3	Monitoring report submission and delegation
	4	Methods and assessment procedures
Public Notification and Prompt Risk Communication	5	Public notification and risk communication plan
	6	Measures to notify EPA and local governments
	7	Measures to notify the public
Public Evaluation	8	Notification report submission and delegation
	9	Public evaluation of program

CT DPH maintains a beach monitoring and notification program in compliance with the nine performance criteria listed above. In brief, using custom software, CT DPH receives, manages, maintains, and uses marine beach data supplied to it by the state laboratory, local health departments and CT DEEP. Beach data sets are interrelated and include: a roster of beach managers and regulated marine bathing areas; current geospatial location data for these beaches and their sampling stations; a beach tier list that is updated annually; date and time stamped water quality monitoring results; beach closure and advisory events including extent of beach, duration, and cause; and ways the public is notified of beach closures and advisories. CT DPH’s custom software is enabled for both incoming and outgoing electronic data interchange and includes utilities to cross check and validate beach data. This monitoring and notification system and its associated database have been used, adapted, and improved since 2003.

The purpose of this Section is to describe CT DPH’s beach monitoring and notification program within the context of the nine criteria shown in TableC1. To this end, a brief sequential summary of each criterion is presented below.

**C1: Performance Criterion 1: Develop Risk-Based Beach Evaluation & Classification Plan:**

The US EPA beach grant requires funds to be prioritized based on water usage and risk to human health. To fulfill this requirement, CT DPH has developed a risk-based beach evaluation and classification procedure for coastal recreational waters. This plan is part of the “Beach Monitoring and Notification Program for Connecticut Coastal Beaches”, (Quality Assurance Project Plan - RFA11178). A revised Quality Assurance Project Plan was sent to EPA Region 1 for review on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Region 1, in turn, forwarded it to the EPA Quality Assurance Branch for review on January 24, 2022. CT DPH incorporated EPA’s comments, and the final draft was released in March 2022.

**C2: Performance Criterion 2: Develop Tiered Monitoring Plan:**

The Tiered Monitoring Plan (TMP) addresses monitoring frequency, location, and assessment of coastal waters. The TMP is based on the Risk-Based Beach Evaluation and Classification. The TMP is reviewed and revised on an annual basis. The evaluation and classification plan considers

factors of beach usage, historical environmental conditions, past test results, and whether a beach is listed by CT DEEP as impaired according to Federal 305(b)/303(d) methodology. Coastal beaches are evaluated weekly during the season and classified annually on the potential threat public health visitors might face (Table C2).

Connecticut beaches are ranked in three tiers with a classification scheme as follows:

- Tier I beaches had no more than one closure occurrence during the season.
- Tier II beaches had no more than three closure occurrences during the season.
- Tier III beaches do not meet minimum recommended sampling requirements or had more than three closure events during the season.

As shown in Table C2, eight beaches saw an increase in Tier status (decrease in water quality), however nine beaches saw a decrease in Tier status (improvement in water quality). Most of the beaches (60) had at least one bacteriological test resulting showing elevated Enterococci levels. This was a sharp rise in the number compared to 2023 (41) and 2022 (41). Figure C1 shows the fraction of samples showing Enterococci results exceeding the 104 cfu criterion from 2005 – 2024 (focusing on total number of samples). The trend line (red) indicates a gradual upward trend since 2005. The graph indicates that both 2023 and 2024 saw an increase in the total number of elevated samples (150 in 2023 and 173 in 2024), although not as high as in 2010 and 2011. Whether this is indicating a decline in the water quality at beaches in Connecticut is unknown at this time and will be watched in coming years. With on one sample per week, it could easily reflect a random event and not an increasing trend.

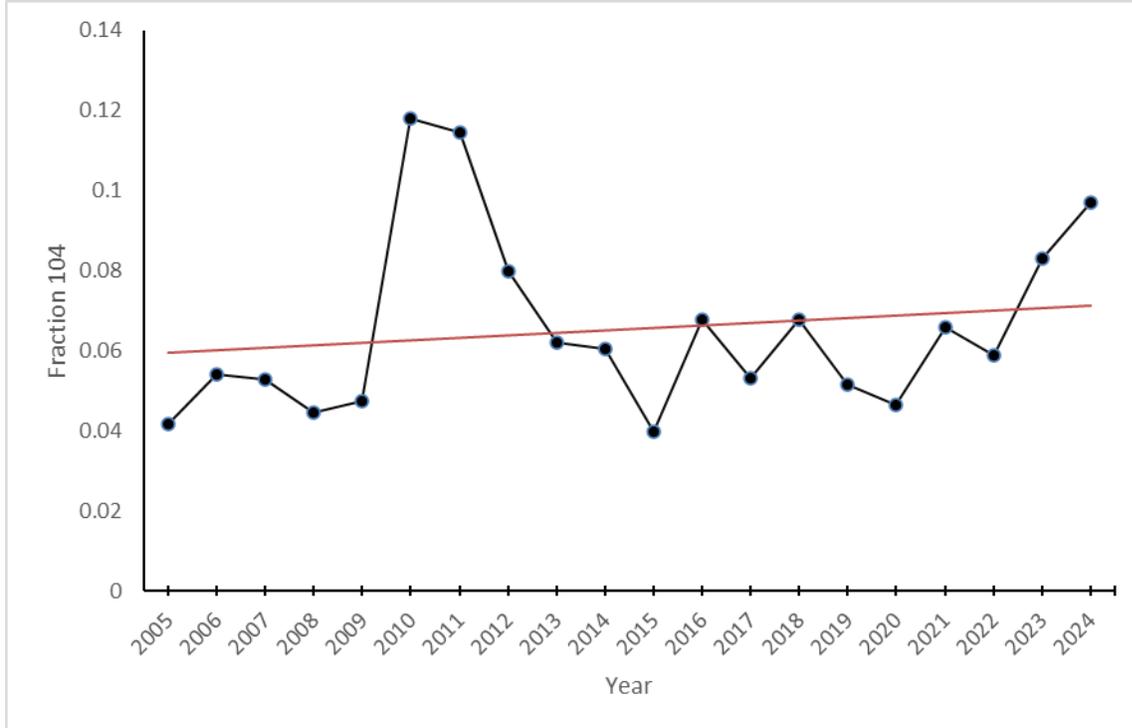


Figure C1. Fraction of water sample results showing Enterococci exceeding 104 cfu threshold, 2005 – 2024.

**Table C2:** Tier Rank. CT regulated beaches are listed alphabetically by beach name along with town, rank and change in rank relative to the previous season. The last column denotes the change in Tier Rank in 2024 relative to the previous season.

BEACH NAME	TOWN	2024	2023	Tier Change
ALTSCHULER BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 1	no change
ANCHOR BEACH (MERWIN POINT) #1	MILFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
ANCHOR BEACH (MERWIN POINT) #2	MILFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
BELL ISLAND BEACH	NORWALK	tier 2	tier 1	increase
BRANFORD POINT BEACH	BRANFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
BURYING HILL BEACH	WESTPORT	tier 1	tier 1	no change
BYRAM BEACH	GREENWICH	tier 3	tier 3	no change
CALF PASTURE BEACH	NORWALK	tier 2	tier 1	increase
CLARK AVENUE BEACH	BRANFORD	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
COMPO BEACH	WESTPORT	tier 1	tier 1	no change
CUMMINGS BEACH	STAMFORD	tier 3	tier 3	no change
DAWSON BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 1	no change
DUBOIS BEACH	STONINGTON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	STAMFORD	tier 3	tier 3	no change
EAST HAVEN TOWN BEACH	EAST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 1	no change
EAST WHARF BEACH	MADISON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
EASTERN POINT BEACH	GROTON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
ESKER POINT BEACH	GROTON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
FORT HALE PARK BEACH	NEW HAVEN	tier 3	tier 3	no change
GREAT CAPTAIN'S ISLAND BEACH	GREENWICH	tier 2	tier 1	increase
GREEN HARBOR BEACH	NEW LONDON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
GREENWICH POINT BEACH	GREENWICH	tier 3	tier 3	no change
GULF BEACH	MILFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
HAMMONASSET BEACH STATE PARK	MADISON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
HARVEY'S BEACH	OLD SAYBROOK	tier 2	tier 1	increase
HICKORY BLUFF BEACH	NORWALK	tier 2	tier 2	no change
HOLE-IN-THE-WALL BEACH	EAST LYME	tier 1	tier 1	no change
ISLAND BEACH	GREENWICH	tier 2	tier 2	no change
JACOBS BEACH (TOWN BEACH)	GUILFORD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
JENNINGS BEACH	FAIRFIELD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
LIGHTHOUSE POINT BEACH	NEW HAVEN	tier 1	tier 1	no change
LONG BEACH (MARNICK'S)	STRATFORD	tier 2	tier 1	increase
LONG BEACH (PROPER)	STRATFORD	tier 2	tier 1	increase
MARVIN BEACH	NORWALK	tier 2	tier 2	no change
MCCOOK POINT BEACH	EAST LYME	tier 1	tier 1	no change
MORSE BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 1	no change
NOANK DOCK	GROTON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
OAK STREET A BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 1	no change
OAK STREET B BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
OCEAN BEACH PARK	NEW LONDON	tier 1	tier 1	no change

BEACH NAME	TOWN	2024	2023	Tier Change
PEAR TREE POINT BEACH	DARIEN	tier 3	tier 3	no change
PENFIELD BEACH	FAIRFIELD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
PENT ROAD BEACH	MADISON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
PLEASURE BEACH-BRIDGEPORT	BRIDGEPORT	tier 3	tier 1	increase
PLEASURE BEACH-WATERFORD	WATERFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
QUIGLEY BEACH	STAMFORD	tier 3	tier 3	no change
ROCK STREET BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
ROCKY NECK STATE PARK BEACH	EAST LYME	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
ROWAYTON BEACH	NORWALK	tier 2	tier 1	increase
SASCO BEACH	FAIRFIELD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
SEABLUFF BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
SEABRIGHT BEACH	BRIDGEPORT	tier 1	tier 1	no change
SEASIDE PARK BEACH	BRIDGEPORT	tier 1	tier 1	no change
SEAVIEW BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
SHADY BEACH	NORWALK	tier 2	tier 1	increase
SHERWOOD ISLAND STATE PARK	WESTPORT	tier 1	tier 1	no change
SHORT BEACH	STRATFORD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
SILVER SANDS STATE PARK BEACH	MILFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
SOUNDVIEW BEACH	OLD LYME	tier 1	tier 1	no change
SOUTH PINE CREEK BEACH	FAIRFIELD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
SOUTH STREET BEACH	WEST HAVEN	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
SOUTHPORT BEACH	FAIRFIELD	tier 2	tier 2	no change
STONY CREEK BEACH	BRANFORD	tier 1	tier 2	decrease
SURF CLUB BEACH	MADISON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
TOWN BEACH (CLINTON)	CLINTON	tier 2	tier 2	no change
TOWN BEACH (OLD SAYBROOK)	OLD SAYBROOK	tier 1	tier 1	no change
WALNUT BEACH	MILFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
WATERFORD TOWN BEACH	WATERFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change
WEED BEACH	DARIEN	tier 2	tier 3	decrease
WEST BEACH	STAMFORD	tier 3	tier 3	no change
WEST WHARF BEACH	MADISON	tier 1	tier 1	no change
WESTBROOK TOWN BEACH	WESTBROOK	tier 1	tier 1	no change
WHITE SANDS BEACH	OLD LYME	tier 1	tier 1	no change
WOODMONT BEACH	MILFORD	tier 1	tier 1	no change

**C3: Performance Criterion 3: Monitoring Report Submission and Delegation:**

The CT DPH beach database is a stand-alone Access database. The module was completed and fully operational in October 2003 and has been constantly improved and adapted to changing needs. The database contains monitoring data on the beaches and information on associated contacts, advisories, pollution sources, and reported illnesses. Beaches are related to monitoring data in the core of the database. The module meets the XML data sharing protocols specified by US EPA. The complete monitoring data set for the 2024 season was submitted to US EPA on December 20, 2024, and is available from their Beacon 2 website (<https://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2>).

At the end of the 2024 beach season, DPH hired a contractor, Quant16 out of Chicago, IL, to begin work on a new, more modern data system. The new data system is being created using the Microsoft Power Platform (Power Apps). The system will allow the local health departments, DEEP and DPH to log in, view beach data, and post closures or advisories on beaches. The public will be able to view beach information and status on a state website. This will make Connecticut consistent with other coastal states that have similar systems. The intent is to have the new system in operation by the start of the 2025 beach season.

**C4: Performance Criterion 4: Methods and Assessment Procedures:**

All methods for assessing ambient waters and for making decisions concerning the protection of human health at beaches were established in accordance with EPA recommended standard methods. The current QAPP includes sample collection techniques, analytical procedures, and data verification and validation processes. As outlined in the QAPP, coastal waters are analyzed for Enterococci bacteria. While the majority of samples are analyzed at CT DPH's Katherine Kelly Laboratory, some towns use their own State-certified environmental testing laboratories. Each laboratory utilizes analytical methods approved by EPA. In general, results are assessed in comparison to the state standard of 104 (CFU or MPN)/100 ml water and advisories are issued when appropriate. In addition, the director of health will consider 24-hour rainfall data and other local factors (e.g., storm sewer overflow, sewage overflow, waterfowl, seaweed drift, etc.) when deciding on bathing beach closures.

**C5: Performance Criterion 5: Public Notification and Risk Communication Plan:**

CT DPH has developed a comprehensive "Beach Closure and Notification" plan. This plan describes how the public will be notified of potential risks associated with water contact activities in coastal recreational waters, and describes the advisory process for issuing, re-sampling and removing advisories. Notification protocols are described within current QAPP. In summary, beach advisories are issued as soon as elevated results are received by CT DEEP staff or local Health Directors. Advisory information is relayed to beach managers who are asked to post signs at beach entrances. The advisory is also listed on the managing authority's telephone hotline or web site. Once re-sample results are below state standards, the advisory is removed, and the public is notified through the same channels as with the posting of the advisory.

**C6: Performance Criterion 6: Measures to Notify EPA and Local Governments:**

CT DPH has developed a mechanism for prompt notification of the EPA and local governments of the occurrence, nature, location, and pollutants involved when a violation of water quality standards for public beaches occurs. These methods also communicate the extent of exceedance or the likelihood of exceeding applicable state water quality standards for pathogen indicators. CT DPH works closely with 24 municipalities along the Long Island Sound shoreline

and their 17 local health departments plus the CT DEEP to support the consistent use of statewide beach monitoring guidelines and beach closure protocol. CT DPH hosts meetings for public health officials to promote standardized beach monitoring practices; provide updates; to review marine beach tracking data for the state; and provide a forum for US EPA and public health officials to discuss beach issues. The spring 2024 meeting with shoreline public health officials was held virtually on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Presentations were given by Dr. David Kallander of the CT DPH Environmental Health Section, Kimberly Holmes-Talbot of the CT DPH Public Health Laboratory, Ansel Arrestad and Matt Lyman of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Sarah Esenther (Brown University) and Michael A. Pascucilla (East Shore Health District), Hilary Snook from USEPA's New England Regional Laboratory, Emily Marquis from the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and Demi Fox and Danielle Kamberalis from NOAA's Marine Debris Program. A copy of the meeting agenda is found in Appendix A.

**C7: Performance Criterion 7: Measures to Notify the Public:**

If it is necessary to close a State Beach, the CT DEEP Project Manager or designee contacts the CT DEEP Parks Division and CT DEEP Communications Office by telephone and email. They take appropriate actions to close state beaches and initiate the public notification process. Municipalities have their own notification procedures. (See Table A1). Communication of closure status at State beaches to the general public is presently accomplished by updating the CT DEEP web site and a notice put on via local TV stations. Updates are the responsibility of CT DEEP Parks or Office of Communications personnel on the same day significant sample results are received from the CT DPH laboratory. The CT DEEP also issues press releases on the same day the laboratory results are received that are carried by area radio and television stations, and newspapers. In addition, CT DEEP maintains a web site for public notification of State beach status (<https://www.ct.gov/deep/beachstatus>). CT DEEP is also using social media including Facebook and Twitter to provide updated information for selected facilities.

If the local director of health deems it necessary to close a bathing beach, the CT DPH is to be advised of such closure by telephone or fax as soon after the closure as possible but not later than 4-hours. The local health district/department is responsible for the notification of the general public by posting on a local municipality's website and/or via a press release to the local media.

**C8: Performance Criterion 8: Notification Report Submission and Delegation:**

States are required to report on activities taken to notify the public in the case of water quality standard exceedances, promptly report notification data to the public, and submit annual notification data elements to the US EPA. All beach notification data were entered into CT DPH's Access database by early December 2024. CT DPH first submitted the 2024 notification data to US EPA on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and resubmitted on January 6<sup>th</sup> following a correction of a data transfer error. These data are available from US EPA's Beacon 2 website (<https://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2>).

**C9: Performance Criterion 9: Public Evaluation of the Program:**

The public has been provided with an opportunity to review the list of coastal recreational waters and associated public beaches, the tier designation of coastal public beaches, and yearly reports. All documents are displayed on the CT DPH website (<https://www.ct.gov/dph/publicbeaches>), and comments are requested. CT DPH also sends

monitoring and notification data to select public non-governmental organizations and other interested parties upon request.

## D: Performance Measures

Connecticut’s monitored beaches were safe for swimming 98.5% of the 2024 swim season. Within the 73 monitored beaches, there were 188 closure days and 91 advisory days during the 98-day season. These totals are derived from 104 closure and 22 advisory events. Thirty-seven percent of all closures were due to elevated indicator bacteria, while preemptive closures were predominantly due to heavy rainfall. Table D1 shows these results along with other indices.

**Table D1:** Summary Counts for Key Parameters from the 2024 Marine Beach Season.

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Count</i>
Marine beaches tracked for the US EPA Beach Grant	74
Beaches reporting marine recreational water quality monitoring samples	73
Reported marine beach Advisory Events	22
Reported marine beach Advisory Days	91
Reported marine beach Closure Events	104
Reported marine beach Closure Days	188
Total reported marine beach events (closure events and advisory events)	126
Total reported marine beach event days (closure days and advisory days)	279
Tier 1 marine beaches	45
Tier 2 marine beaches	20
Tier 3 marine beaches	9
Reported marine beach closure and advisory events due to elevated indicator bacteria	47
Reported marine beach closure and advisory events preemptive due to heavy rainfall	79
Reported marine beach recreational water quality monitoring samples	1781
Marine beach recreational water quality monitoring samples that exceeded 104 CFU/100ml	173
Marine beaches with one or more marine recreational water quality samples that exceeded 104 CFU/100ml	60

## E: Beach Advisories and Outside Appraisal

CT DPH collects information on notification events from each of the eighteen State and municipal agencies charged with monitoring marine beaches. CT DPH generates the survey forms and distributed them in September 2024. Survey forms were returned to CT DPH by early December 2024. Information on the survey was reviewed and compiled into a custom database. Notification data were then formatted and submitted to US EPA on December 20th, 2024. During the sampling season 126 coastal notification events were recorded (Table E1).

**Table E1:** Connecticut Beach Advisories and Closures for the 2024 Swim Season. Notification data as reported to CT DPH by shoreline local health departments and CT DEEP. Data set is sorted by Town, and Event Start Date. If the municipal authority does not know the source of elevated bacteria, “unknown” is reported under the “SOURCE” column.

TOWN	BEACH NAME	EVENT TYPE	START DATE	DURATION (DAYS)	REASON	SOURCE
BRANFORD	STONY CREEK BEACH	Close	06/26/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
BRIDGEPORT	SEASIDE PARK BEACH	Close	07/09/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
CLINTON	TOWN BEACH (CLINTON)	Close	08/05/2024	4	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
CLINTON	TOWN BEACH (CLINTON)	Close	08/21/2024	4	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
DARIEN	PEAR TREE POINT BEACH	Close	07/03/2024	7	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
DARIEN	PEAR TREE POINT BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
DARIEN	PEAR TREE POINT BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
DARIEN	PEAR TREE POINT BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
DARIEN	WEED BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
DARIEN	WEED BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
DARIEN	WEED BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
EAST LYME	HOLE-IN-THE-WALL BEACH	Advisory	08/13/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
EAST LYME	ROCKY NECK STATE PARK BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	2	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
FAIRFIELD	JENNINGS BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	JENNINGS BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	JENNINGS BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	PENFIELD BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	PENFIELD BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	PENFIELD BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SASCO BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SASCO BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SASCO BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SOUTH PINE CREEK BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SOUTH PINE CREEK BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown

**Table E1: Connecticut Beach Advisories and Closures for the 2024 Swim Season. (Continued)**

TOWN	BEACH NAME	EVENT TYPE	START DATE	DURATION (DAYS)	REASON	SOURCE
FAIRFIELD	SOUTH PINE CREEK BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SOUTHPORT BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SOUTHPORT BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
FAIRFIELD	SOUTHPORT BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	05/28/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	05/30/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	06/06/2024	2	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	06/15/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	06/27/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	07/03/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	07/06/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	07/13/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	07/23/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	07/25/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	08/04/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	BYRAM BEACH	Close	08/09/2024	18	Elevated bacteria	Sewer line blockage/break
GREENWICH	GREAT CAPTAIN'S ISLAND BEACH	Close	08/19/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	GREAT CAPTAIN'S ISLAND BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	GREENWICH POINT BEACH	Close	07/13/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	GREENWICH POINT BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	GREENWICH POINT BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	GREENWICH POINT BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	2	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	GREENWICH POINT BEACH	Close	08/21/2024	2	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	ISLAND BEACH	Close	08/19/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
GREENWICH	ISLAND BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	1	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
GROTON	NOANK DOCK	Advisory	07/30/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
GUILFORD	JACOBS BEACH (TOWN BEACH)	Close	07/16/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
GUILFORD	JACOBS BEACH (TOWN BEACH)	Close	08/20/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
MILFORD	SILVER SANDS STATE PARK BEACH	Close	08/20/2024	2	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
NEW LONDON	GREEN HARBOR BEACH	Advisory	05/29/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
NEW LONDON	GREEN HARBOR BEACH	Advisory	07/02/2024	11	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
NEW LONDON	GREEN HARBOR BEACH	Advisory	07/30/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	BELL ISLAND BEACH	Close	07/17/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff

**Table E1: Connecticut Beach Advisories and Closures for the 2024 Swim Season. (Continued)**

TOWN	BEACH NAME	EVENT TYPE	START DATE	DURATION (DAYS)	REASON	SOURCE
NORWALK	BELL ISLAND BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	CALF PASTURE BEACH	Close	07/17/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	CALF PASTURE BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	HICKORY BLUFF BEACH	Close	07/17/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	HICKORY BLUFF BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	4	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
NORWALK	HICKORY BLUFF BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	MARVIN BEACH	Close	07/17/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	MARVIN BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	ROWAYTON BEACH	Close	07/17/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	ROWAYTON BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	SHADY BEACH	Close	07/17/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
NORWALK	SHADY BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
OLD LYME	SOUNDVIEW BEACH	Advisory	07/30/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
OLD SAYBROOK	HARVEY'S BEACH	Close	07/15/2024	4	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
OLD SAYBROOK	HARVEY'S BEACH	Close	07/31/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	CUMMINGS BEACH	Close	06/15/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	CUMMINGS BEACH	Close	07/01/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	CUMMINGS BEACH	Close	07/13/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	CUMMINGS BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	CUMMINGS BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	Close	06/15/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	Close	07/01/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	Close	07/13/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	EAST (COVE ISLAND) BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	QUIGLEY BEACH	Close	06/15/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	QUIGLEY BEACH	Close	07/01/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	QUIGLEY BEACH	Close	07/13/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	QUIGLEY BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	QUIGLEY BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	QUIGLEY BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	WEST BEACH	Close	06/15/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	WEST BEACH	Close	07/01/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	WEST BEACH	Close	07/13/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff

**Table E1: Connecticut Beach Advisories and Closures for the 2024 Swim Season. (Continued)**

TOWN	BEACH NAME	EVENT TYPE	START DATE	DURATION (DAYS)	REASON	SOURCE
STAMFORD	WEST BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	WEST BEACH	Close	08/07/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STAMFORD	WEST BEACH	Close	08/18/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff
STRATFORD	LONG BEACH (MARNICK'S)	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	LONG BEACH (MARNICK'S)	Close	08/06/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	LONG BEACH (MARNICK'S)	Close	08/19/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	LONG BEACH (PROPER)	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	LONG BEACH (PROPER)	Close	08/06/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	LONG BEACH (PROPER)	Close	08/19/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	SHORT BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	SHORT BEACH	Close	08/06/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
STRATFORD	SHORT BEACH	Close	08/19/2024	3	Preemptive - Rainfall	Unknown
WATERFORD	PLEASURE BEACH-WATERFORD	Advisory	07/30/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WATERFORD	WATERFORD TOWN BEACH	Advisory	08/13/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	ALTSCHULER BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	DAWSON BEACH	Advisory	06/03/2024	8	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	DAWSON BEACH	Advisory	06/17/2024	7	Elevated bacteria	Combined Sewer Overflow
WEST HAVEN	MORSE BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	OAK STREET A BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	OAK STREET B BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	6	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	ROCK STREET BEACH	Close	08/05/2024	4	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	ROCK STREET BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	ROCK STREET BEACH	Advisory	08/26/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	SEABLUFF BEACH	Advisory	06/03/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	SEABLUFF BEACH	Advisory	07/01/2024	8	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	SEABLUFF BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	SEABLUFF BEACH	Advisory	08/26/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Unknown
WEST HAVEN	SEAVIEW BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WEST HAVEN	SOUTH STREET BEACH	Advisory	08/19/2024	3	Elevated bacteria	Storm water runoff
WESTPORT	BURYING HILL BEACH	Close	07/18/2024	1	Preemptive - Rainfall	Storm water runoff

Appendix A: Spring Meeting Agenda.

**CONNECTICUT BEACH GRANT MEETING FOR  
COASTAL HEALTH OFFICIALS**  
May 14, 2024, 12:30 pm

**AGENDA**

12:30 - 12:35	David Kallander, <i>CT DPH</i>	Welcome and Introduction
12:35 - 12:50	Kimberly Holmes-Talbot, <i>CT DPH</i>	The State Laboratory and Summer Beach Monitoring
12:50 – 1:00	Ansel Aarrestad, <i>CT DEEP</i>	State Park Beach Monitoring Program
1:00 - 1:15	David Kallander, <i>CT DPH</i>	Beach Grant Annual Report
1:15 – 1:45	Sarah Esenther Ph.D. Candidate, Brown University  Michael A. Pascucilla Director of Health East Shore Health District	Microbial Source Tracking to Mitigate Bacterial Contamination in Recreational Beaches & Aquaculture Waters - A Promising Public Health Tool
1:45 -2:15	Hilary Snook USEPA New England Regional Laboratory	The EPA Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative – A Program for Documenting, Monitoring, and Managing Harmful Algal Blooms
2:15 -2:45	Emily Marquis CT Dept. of Agriculture	Connecticut Shellfish Sanitation Vibrio Control Plans and Monitoring
2:45 - 3:15	Demi Fox Northeast Regional Coordinator NOAA Marine Debris Program  Danielle Kamberalis East Coast Marine Debris Specialist NOAA Marine Debris Program	Introduction to NOAA’s Marine Debris Program in the Northeast Region
3:15	Q&A, Adjourn	

## Appendix B: Nineteen-year summary data

YEAR	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24
Count of marine beaches tracked for the  US EPA Beach Grant	67	66	66	66	66	73	73	73	73	74	73	73	73	74	74	74	74	74	74
Count of marine beaches monitored weekly during the bathing season	63	64	66	65	65	72	72	72	72	72	72	73	73	74	69	74	73	73	73
Count of reported marine beach  <b>Advisory Events</b>	1	1	1	1	1	16	28	12	3	4	3	8	9	6	2	33	8	14	22
Count of reported marine beach  <b>Advisory Days</b>	2	1	30	2	3	101	191	52	6	5	6	22	16	6	6	110	16	30	91
Count of reported marine beach  <b>Closure Events</b>	106	65	66	74	66	152	68	66	65	50	79	52	83	96	37	91	45	109	104

<b>YEAR</b>	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24
Count of reported marine beach  <b>Closure Days</b>	222	107	105	106	140	535	107	99	111	70	157	132	115	153	63	267	68	190	188
Count of total marine beach <b>events</b>  (closure events and advisory events)	107	66	67	75	67	168	96	78	68	54	82	60	92	102	39	124	53	123	126
Count of total marine beach event days  (closure days and advisory days)	224	108	135	108	143	636	298	151	117	75	163	154	131	159	80	377	84	220	279
Count of Tier 1 marine beaches <sup>1</sup>	46	54	54	49	52	29	55	57	53	57	54	60	49	49	63	53	63	46	45
Count of Tier 2 marine beaches <sup>1</sup>	8	7	4	10	11	27	12	11	14	14	9	6	18	17	9	13	8	19	20

YEAR	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24
Count of Tier 3 marine beaches <sup>1</sup>	13	5	8	7	3	17	6	5	6	3	10	7	6	8	2	8	3	9	9
Count of marine beach <b>closure and advisory events</b> due to elevated indicator bacteria	18	8	13	9	37	49	12	17	18	13	46	17	32	19	10	42	20	39	47
Count of preemptive <b>closure and advisory events</b> (usually due to heavy rainfall)	81	54	53	65	27	95	56	47	47	37	33	34	60	68	23	81	33	84	79
Number of reported marine beach recreational water quality monitoring samples	1385	1682	1636	1962	2213	2051	1953	1806	1787	1864	1826	1981	1804	1882	1835	1810	1821	1810	1781
Number of marine beach recreational water quality monitoring samples that exceeded the US EPA standard of 104 CFU/100ml	75	89	73	93	261	235	156	112	108	74	124	105	122	97	85	121	107	150	173
Number of marine beaches with one or more marine recreational water quality samples that exceeded the US EPA standard of 104 CFU/100ml	29	39	28	33	55	58	44	40	30	30	41	39	44	43	33	43	41	41	60

Appendix C: EPA's Reply to Connecticut's Justification to Maintain Its Current Beach Action Values



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

June 22, 2016

Ronald Skomro  
Environmental Health Section, Recreation Program  
Connecticut Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51AIR  
P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

**RE: Justification for Alternate Beach Notification Threshold**

Dear Ron,

We have reviewed your justification for use of an Alternate Beach Notification Threshold (BNT) dated May 6, 2016 and approve your request to continue using the alternate Beach Notification Threshold (BNT) of 104 cfu of Enterococci at Connecticut beaches. This decision is based on your analysis of historical data in Connecticut. If at any point in the future you decide to use the EPA-recommended BAVs or a different BNT, please contact your project officer.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ann Rodney in black ink.

Ann Rodney,  
Project Officer, CT Beach Program

Handwritten signature of Alicia Grimaldi in blue ink.

Alicia Grimaldi,  
Region 1 Beach Program Coordinator

## **END OF ANNUAL REPORT**