

**Freshwater Beach Inspection Program  
Summer Sampling 2013 Annual Report**



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## 2013 Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program: Freshwater Beaches

In 2013, freshwater beaches were inspected by the Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program from June 17 to August 29. The goal of the freshwater beach program is to inspect each beach in the program three times over between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In 2013, DES personnel performed 645 beach inspections at 166 freshwater beaches in 11 weeks. Of these inspections, 488 were routine, scheduled, inspections while the remaining 157 inspections were related to elevated bacteria levels and advisories. Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau personnel conducted 97 routine inspections at juvenile camp beaches. The 742 inspections conducted yielded a total of 1,622 E. coli samples analyzed by the state laboratory, including field duplicates. In 2013, 267 E. coli samples exceeded the state standards, resulting in the issuance of 76 freshwater beach advisories (Table), the most ever issued in a single summer. The percentage of E. coli samples exceeding the state standard was only 14%. The most likely reason for the dramatic increase in bacteria violations was the wet weather in June and July. Increased rainfall means more wastes from the land is washed into nearby ponds and lakes. Of the 59 beaches with elevated bacteria levels leading to advisories, 20 also had advisories in 2012. Eight additional beach advisories were issued for cyanobacteria, one less than issued in 2012. One of the eight cyanobacteria advisories was issued for Bonnyman Road Boat Launch on Province Lake, Effingham, which is not a regularly sampled beach but is recognized by the residents as a location where people often swim.

However, not all cyanobacteria blooms occur on a beach. Since 2008, DES has issued cyanobacteria lake warnings if an algae bloom occurs far away from a beach or on a lake without a public beach. One cyanobacteria warning was issued for a week on Province Lake, Effingham and another was issued for 16 days on Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack. Two warnings was only one more than in 2012 which had the fewest issued since the protocol began in 2008.

Fifteen pre-emptive fecal bacteria advisories were issued at Ahern State Park, Laconia, 6 more than in 2012. Pre-emptive advisories are issued when >0.25 inches of rain falls in a 6 hour period at the state park. The increase was due to the increased rainfall in the beginning of the summer. Additional sampling was conducted in the summer of 2013 to determine if the efforts to reduce the goose population by letting the grass grow tall have been successful. However, sampling conducted after heavy rainfall at Ahern State Park was not conclusive. The testing regime at Ahern State Park will be continued in 2014.

Not all freshwater beaches sampled by the DES program are accessible to the general public. Of the 145 town and private beaches that are sampled by the DES inspection staff, 102 limit entry to residents and guests only. Seven of the beaches charge entry fees to everyone. Only 36 of 145 private and town beaches allow unrestricted access to the swimming areas.

In preparation for the 2014 sampling season, the DES Beach Program staff will continue to improve the tools implemented in 2013:

1. Refinements of the beach advisory map searchable by town:  
[http://www2.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps.aspx](http://www2.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_BeachMaps/WaterShed_BeachMaps.aspx)
2. Annual reports for each freshwater beach found through the OneStop data search:  
<http://www2.des.state.nh.us/DESOnestop/BasicSearch.aspx>

**Table.** *E. coli* advisories issued for New Hampshire Lakes in 2013. Advisories issued when a single sample was over 158 cts/100ml of water or two samples were over 88 cts/100ml of water. (#) indicates the number of advisories in 2012.

Town	Beach	2013 <i>E. coli</i> Advisories	2013 Cyano Advisories	Total Days Posted
Allenstown	Camper Beach on Beaver Pond Beach at Bear Brook State Park	1	0	2
Barnstead	Camp Fatima Beach	1	0	3
	Crescent Drive Beach on Halfmoon Lake	1	0	2
	Colony Beach on Locke Lake	2	0	8
	Lower Suncook Lake Association Beach	1	0	1
	Suncook Lake Town Beach	1	0	2
Barrington	Camp Fireside Beach	1	0	5
Bradford	Massasecum Casino Beach	1	0	2
Brookline	Lake Potanipo Town Beach	1	0	2
Canterbury	Sherwood Forest Shores Beach 1 on New Pond	1	0	2
	Sherwood Forest Shores Beach 2 on New Pond	1	0	5
	Sherwood Forest Shores Beach 3 on New Pond	1	0	2
Carroll	Twin Mountain Beach - Tuttle Brook	2	0	5
Derry	Gallien's Beach on Beaver Pond	0	1	5
	Hood Pond Town Beach	3	0	23
	Chase's Grove Beach on Island Pond	2	0	15
Enfield	Dartmouth Sailing Club Beach on Mascoma	0	1	4
	Shakoma Town Beach on Mascoma Lake	1	1	6
Franklin	Lagace Beach on Webster Lake	1	0	2
Freedom	Camp Hunkins	1	0	4
Gilford	Ellacoya RV Park Beach (1)	2	0	3
	Ellacoya State Park Beach (2)	2	0	8
	Gilford Town Beach on Lake Winnepesaukee	1	0	17
Gilmanton	Crystal Lake Town Beach (2)	1	0	2
Goffstown	Glen Lake Park Beach (1)	1	0	3
Gorham	Moose Brook State Park	2	0	5
	Libby Town Pool on Peabody River	1	0	7
Greenfield	Otter Lake State Park - Camping Beach	1	0	2
	Otter Lake State Park - Picnic Beach (1)	2	0	4
	Zephyr Lake Town Beach (1)	1	0	2

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Town	Beach	2013 <i>E. coli</i> Advisories	2013 Cyano Advisories	Total Days Posted
Hillsborough	Eastman Park Beach	1	0	4
	Emerald Beach (1)	1	0	4
	Manahan Park Beach on Pierce Lake (2)	1	0	2
Hollis	Silver Lake State Park Beach	0	1	17
Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park Beach (1)	1	1	7
Hudson	Robinson Pond Town Beach (2)	1	0	3
Keene	Otter Brook Park Beach	1	0	1
Kingston	Great Pond Association Beach	1	0	6
Laconia	Endicott Park Beach, AKA Weirs Beach (2)	2	0	4
	Bartlett Beach (1)	2	0	37
	Cove Beach at Opechee Park (1)	1	0	23
	Bond Beach on Opechee Bay	1	0	9
Litchfield	Darrah Pond Town Beach	1	0	17
Milton	Milton Recreation Area Beach (1)	1	0	12
Newbury	Blodgett's Landing on Lake Sunapee (1)	1	0	2
Northfield	Glines Park Beach on Sondogardy Pond	2	1	18
Northwood	Lynn-Grove Association Beach	0	1	2
Nottingham	Pawtuckaway State Park Beach (4)	3	0	19
Peterborough	MacDowell Reservoir Beach	1	0	4
Rindge	Pearly Lake Beach (2)	1	0	1
Salem	Arlington Pond Improvement Assoc. Beach (2)	2	0	4
	Hedgehog Town Beach (2)	1	0	16
	Second Street Beach	1	0	4
Tamworth	Moore's Pond Assoc. Beach	1	0	4
Tuftonborough	19 Mile Bay Public Beach on Lake Winnepesaukee	1	0	2
Warner	Silver Lake Reservoir Beach	2	0	13
Washington	Mill Pond Town Beach (1)	2	0	8
Waterville Valley	Corcoran's Pond Beach	1	0	4
Weare	Clough State Park Beach	1	0	4
Windham	Cobbett's Pond Town Beach	1	0	2
Wofeborough	Wentworth State Park Beach (1)	1	0	5
	Albee Beach on Lake Wentworth	1	0	2