

Reducing and Preventing Beach Closures

in Northern New England
March 18, 2005



New England Has A Short Swimming Season



Beaches closed -- just in time for Labor Day weekend

By JOAO FERREIRA, Standard-Times staff writer

With the busy Labor Day weekend approaching, health officials in at least two SouthCoast communities closed public beaches yesterday due to contamination.

Officials closed beaches in New Bedford and Wareham. The swimming areas could reopen today after new test results become available.

One beach reopens, another closes

By Lois Marchand

Staff Writer

KINGSTON -- The town beach on Greenwood Lake has reopened after a series of water tests showed the troublesome cyanobacteria bloom has been reduced to limits considered safe.

High bacteria level forces beach closing: Geese droppings, water rise seen as potential causes

By JOE McGEE

The Patriot Ledger

HANSON—A Monponsett Pond beach was closed to swimmers yesterday because of dangerous bacteria levels in the water.

A sign was posted on the Ocean Avenue beach at about 1 p.m. yesterday.

"We did get a hit for E. coli bacteria," health board member Terence McSweeney said.



EPA's Clean Beaches Initiative

Protects public health by reducing beach closures



New England's beaches are monitored **MORE FREQUENTLY** *now* than five years ago

- ☀️ NH has 15 coastal beaches - all are monitored
- ☀️ 30 of Maine's coastal beaches are now monitored – up 60% from 2002
- ☀️ MA has over 800 coastal beach monitoring stations – all beaches are monitored



\$204,770 for Seacoast beaches

■ EPA provides funds to help monitor, improve water quality

By Karen Dandurant
kdandurant@seacoastonline.com

RYE — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday announced a \$204,770 grant to the N.H. Department of Environmental Services to help improve and expand the water quality monitoring and public notification

programs at state coastal beaches. The announcement was made at Wallis Sands State Beach.

In presenting the check, Robert Varney, the EPA's New England regional administrator, said the federal funding will enhance the coastal monitoring program that the state is three years into.

"Beach contamination is a serious problem for coastal communities," said Varney. "About one-fifth of New England's

beaches had closures last year because of high bacteria.

"This money is intended to allow better assessment of the water quality, to identify problems, trace them back to the source and correct the problem," he explained.

Since 2000, only one saltwater beach in New Hampshire has been issued a swimming advisory because of elevated bacteria levels. According to EPA officials, that advisory was issued in June

2003 at the New Castle town beach.

Mike Walls, assistant commissioner of the N.H. DES, called the program a prime example of good government, in which state and federal agencies work together.

"What's really important to this program are our many volunteers," said Walls. "That's how we get things done. The money allows us to keep this going."

Walls said water monitoring in

See GRANT, Page A8

York's waters to be monitored

By Marci Hait
mhait@seacoastonline.com

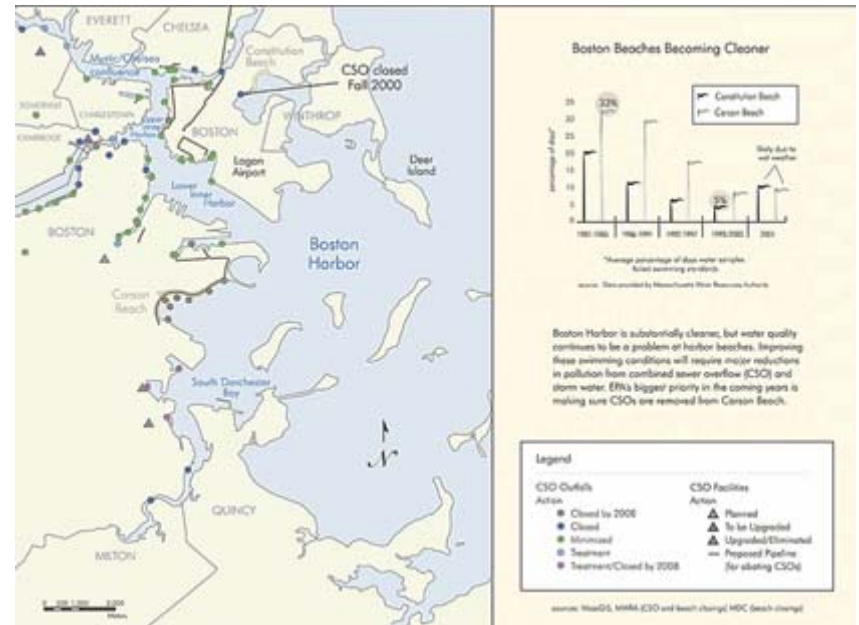
Overall, Maine's beaches are safe, but with a new voluntary beach monitoring system starting this summer, beach-goers should feel a lot more at ease partaking in some fun in the sun.

"I think our waters are pretty clean," said Michael Sullivan, director of the York Parks and Recreation Department. "It just seems like a responsible thing to do."



Beach Closures in Northern New England: Sources: storm water, old infrastructure, CSOs

Typically, one out of four beaches experiences at least one posting during the summer



Beach Closures in Northern New England

Sources: "wildlife", boat sewage

Typically, one out of four beaches experiences at least one posting during the summer



The Next Step: Using monitoring and assessment information to identify sources of bacteria and correct them



Tools & strategies to improve water quality at coastal and freshwater beaches

Speakers will describe examples from:

- 📍 Bar Harbor and Portland in Maine
- 📍 Coastal and freshwater beaches in New Hampshire
- 📍 Quincy, Danvers and other Salem Sound communities in Massachusetts



Guest Commentary

Monday August 2, 2004

Efforts are paying off for New England's beaches

By Robert W. Varney
Regional administrator
U.S. EPA
Boston

Three years ago, a half-dozen of New Hampshire's coastal beaches were not being monitored and even when they were sampled, it took two days to get the water quality results back. Now all 16 of the state's coastal beaches are being sampled weekly, the results are coming back more quickly and "Swimming Advisories" are being posted immediately on a state Web site.

Across New Hampshire and New England, a three-year-old program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has led to better monitoring programs, more aggressive pollution removal and improved public notification about swimming conditions, which have made our region's beaches safer, cleaner, and more enjoyable for millions of residents and visitors.