

Water Quality Is A Key Recreational Public Safety Factor

Midway through the 2015 beach season, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay released a study of water quality on the Metropolitan Beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, including Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull covering the period from Memorial Day weekend through July 18th. The metric we examined is overall beach safety, the percentage of days that each site is below the threshold Enterococcus bacterial count of 104 CFU/100ml.

Here are the results for the 1st half of 2015 compared with results for all of 2014. www.southbostontoday.com/public_21/beaches.cfm

Beach	2014 Score	2015 Score
King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott	88%	74%
Nahant Beach	100%	100%
Revere Beach	100%	100%
Winthrop Beach	94%	100%
Constitution Beach in East Boston	96%	83%
Pleasure Bay in South Boston	100%	100%
M Street Beach in South Boston	100%	100%
Carson Beach in South Boston	100%	95%
City Point Beach in South Boston	100%	100%
Savin Hill Beach in Dorchester	88%	100%
Malibu Beach in Dorchester	93%	87%
Tenean Beach in Dorchester	95%	69%
Wollaston Beach in Quincy	94%	90%
Nantasket Beach in Hull	98%	100%
ALL BEACHES	96%	93%

Most of the Metropolitan Region's public beaches - including Nahant Beach, Revere Beach, Winthrop Beach, Nantasket Beach, Pleasure Bay, M Street Beach, City Point Beach and Savin Hill Beach - achieved perfect scores of 100%. Carson Beach in South Boston scored 95%, failing just one test on June 12. Wollaston Beach in Quincy scored 90%. Malibu Beach in Dorchester scored 87%, while Constitution Beach in East Boston scored 83%.

However, King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott scored just 75% and Tenean Beach in Dorchester scored just 69%, with more beach closings during the first half of this season (from May 22 to July 18) than in all of 2014.

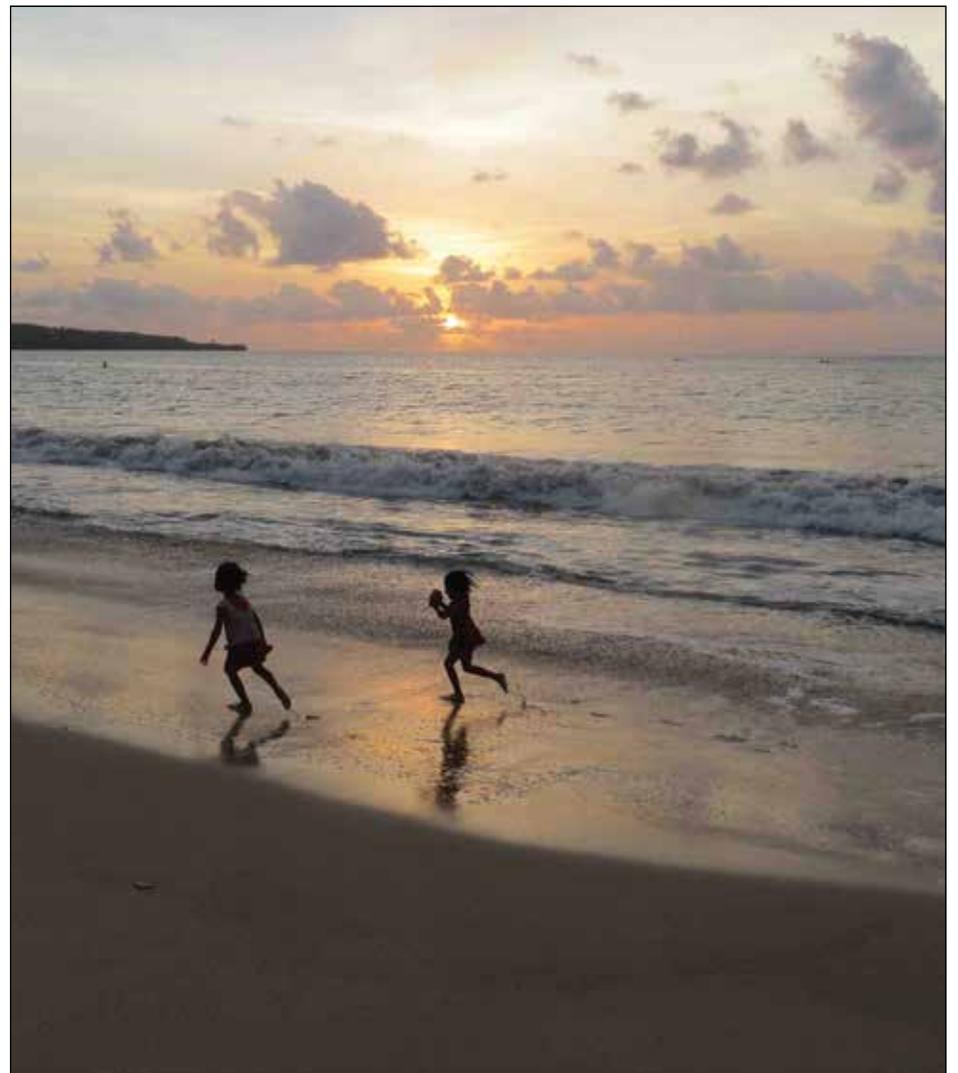
According to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Director of Strategy, Communications and Programs Bruce Berman, even small summer storms can cause pollution events that force officials to close a beach. "Though the total rainfall amount

so far this season is similar to 2014, there were more frequent small storms during the study period, which has had a dramatic impact on water quality on some of our beaches this year."

According to Berman, the results of this study underscore the need for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Commonwealth to help local officials identify and address the water quality problems that prevent the public from using their beaches.

"When a beach is closed for swimming 25% of the time as King's and Tenean have been this year, there are real problems which we have to address," said Berman. "The big takeaway is that most of our beaches are doing great, but there is still more work to do - and we intend to do it."

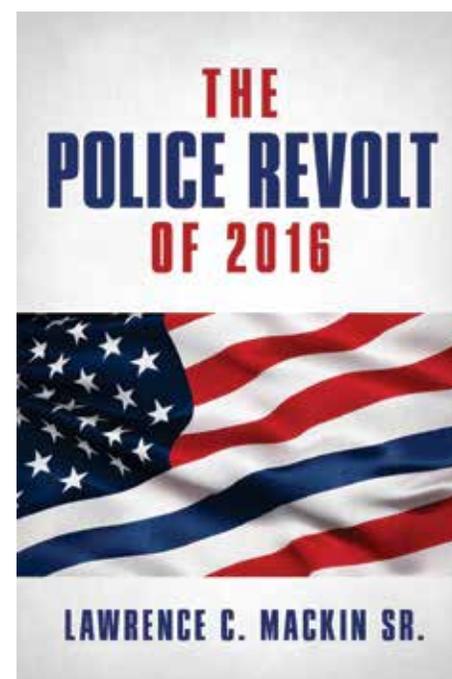
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