



Blue Water Task Force water testing program

- 50 sites monitored from Hampton Bays to Montauk, year-round.
- Local partners: Concerned Citizens of Montauk, the Peconic Baykeeper & Dr. Chris Gobler's lab at Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.
- Sampling plan designed to fill in gaps of the Suffolk County Department of Health's beach monitoring program which only tests lifeguarded beaches approx. 2 times per summer.
- Sampling sites on bays, estuaries, ponds, and ocean beaches are tested for enterococcus, a coliform bacteria that indicates fecal pollution from human or animal sources.
- Results compared to U.S. EPA recreational water quality health standard.
- Data shared on go.surfrider.org/BWTF, social media, water quality alert email subscription, and via community presentations and talks. A mobile app. is also in progress with Swim Guide.

Blue Water Task Force's [What's in Your Water](#) water quality report, released July 2017, evaluated data from 2013-2016 and presented these three trends:

1. Bacteria levels tend to be higher in creeks and closed, still bodies of water than at open ocean and bay beaches.
2. Bacteria levels are higher during summer months (June - October).
3. Higher bacteria levels are measured after rain events.

Data from summer of 2017 seems to show an uptick of high bacteria levels measured in ocean beach sites. This is a disturbing trend, as it shows worsening problems.

Georgica Pond

Surfrider testing began July of 2015 at 3 sites: Route 27 Kayak Launch, the Pond's Beach-side location, and the Third Jetty. Per request of a local business, a fourth site, Cove Hollow Access, was added during the summer of 2016 in hopes of finding a cleaner launch site for recreation. All sites are tested weekly during the summer months, bi-weekly during fall and spring, and monthly during the winter. To date, the Blue Water Task Force has collected over 200 data points for Georgica Pond over the past three years.



	Georgica Beach Association: Third Jetty	Georgica Pond Beach-side	Georgica Pond Cove Hollow Access	Georgica Pond Route 27 Kayak Launch
Sample Count	59	61	32	59
% of samples failing to meet health standard	3.39%	19.67%	25%	42.37%

Community Outreach

The Eastern Long Island Chapter reaches local beach-goers and surfers, community and environmental organizations, and schools and summer camps with multiple workshops and tabling events throughout the year. The goal of our educational program is to ‘immerse’ adults and children alike into the science of water quality testing and engage them in participatory discussions on the sources of water pollution and steps we can all take to protect clean water.

We are working with the State and county to develop better signage for Blue-Green Algae Blooms to be posted more consistently by Towns.

Solutions to Pollution

Surfrider has been collaborating with a coalition of NGOs to support funding sources and revised county and local policies to encourage and mandate the replacement of old, failing septic technologies for new, alternative systems that will function better in our local environment.

We are also promoting sustainable landscaping practices through our Ocean Friendly Gardens (OFG) program. A large demo OFG was planted in the East Hampton Village Green with native plants that is soaking up the road runoff from main street, helping to filter out pollutants, before the water reaches Town Pond, Hook Pond and ultimately out to the ocean at Main Beach.

Eastern Long Island 2018 Plans

- Expand outreach program to include more school groups: East Hampton High & Elementary students and parents, EH LVIS and Hamlet Community Advisory Committees (CACs)
- Use mobile app to reach more beach goers with current water quality information
- Work with EH Town & Trustees to source and fix pollution problems at Fresh Pond in Amagansett
- Augment EH Village OFG planting
- Promote EH Town septic rebate and advocate for businesses to install new advanced technology systems, especially when asking for site improvements and expansion.

Surfrider Foundation's Clean Water Initiative

Bringing together communities across the country to understand where their pollution problems are and to implement solutions.

- Nationwide, 35 chapter-run Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) programs process over 5000 water samples collected from 350 beaches every year.
- 25 Ocean Friendly Garden (OFG) programs are teaching home-owners and residents on sustainable landscaping practices that help prevent stormwater runoff and protect clean water
- 25 active local, state & national campaigns to protect clean water

2018 Plans

- Rebuild national BWTF database and website for improved stability and ease of data sharing
- Develop new resources and training opportunities to help chapter volunteers run their BWTF & OFG programs.
- Provide scientific advice and grass-roots advocacy training and leadership to chapters running water quality campaigns.

Georgica Water Quality

