



## **Blue Water Task Force Water Testing Program**

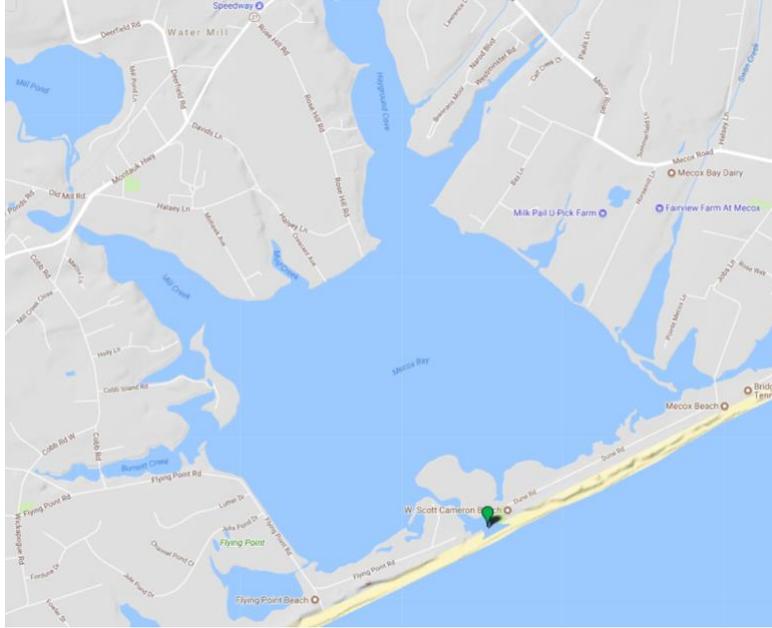
Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of oceans, waves, and beaches. Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force provides critical water quality information to protect public health, raise awareness of local water pollution problems, and bring together communities to implement solutions.

The Eastern Long Island Chapter's Blue Water Task Force monitors water quality year-round at 50 locations in Eastern Long Island, including oceans, bays, creeks, lakes and outfall pipes. Waters are sampled for enterococcus, a coliform bacteria that indicates fecal pollution from human or animal sources. Our results are compared to the US EPA health standard for coastal recreational waters. Our local partners are the Concerned Citizens of Montauk, The Peconic Baykeeper, and Dr. Chris Gobler's Lab at Stony Brook Southampton. Our sampling plan is designed to fill in the gaps of the Suffolk County Department of health's beach monitoring program, which only tests lifeguarded beaches approximately 2x per summer. All 50 locations are tested weekly during the summer months, bi-weekly during the fall, and monthly during the winter. Data is shared online at [go.surfrider.org/BWTF](http://go.surfrider.org/BWTF), through social media, in water quality alert email subscription, and via community presentations and talks.

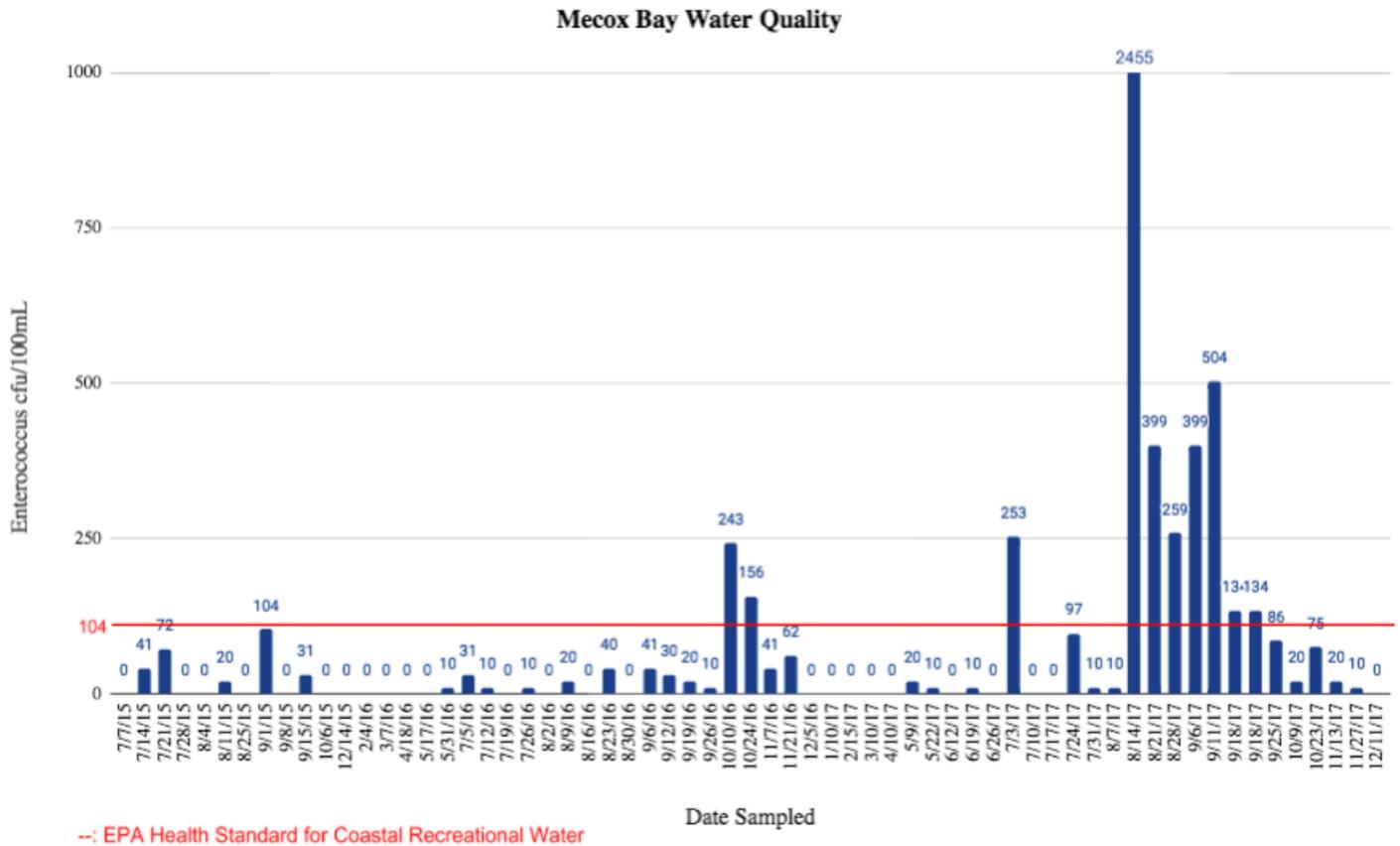
### **Results from Mecox Bay**

Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force began sampling Mecox Bay in July of 2015, and to date has pulled 63 samples at the southernmost part of Mecox Bay. 17% of the samples taken are above the EPA recommended health standard (portrayed as a the red line in the graph below). We are concerned about the water quality in Mecox Bay, as each summer seemingly brings in higher bacteria levels. During the summer of 2017, samples came back above the EPA standard for seven consecutive weeks. We hope that proper actions will be taken to reduce nutrient and bacteria pollution in the pond, like installing the best possible septic technologies at new developments, so the bay can be a recreational resource for generations to come. Please take a look at the graph of Mecox Bay's water quality over the past three years.

All data can be found online at [go.surfrider.org/BWTF](http://go.surfrider.org/BWTF). For any questions about the program or results presented, email Colleen Henn at [chenn@surfrider.org](mailto:chenn@surfrider.org).



*Surfrider's sampling location at Mecox Bay.*



All data can be found online at [go.surfrider.org/BWTF](http://go.surfrider.org/BWTF). For any questions about the program or results presented, email Colleen Henn at [chenn@surfrider.org](mailto:chenn@surfrider.org).