

## Water advisory issued for Lewes Beach



The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control issued a water quality advisory June 5 for Lewes Beach following bacterial results that were above the recreational water quality standard. NICK ROTH PHOTO

**June 5, 2018**

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control issued a water quality advisory June 5 for Lewes Beach following bacterial results that were above the recreational water quality standard.

The City of Lewes has closed Lewes Beach to swimming based on the advisory issued by DNREC. Increased rainfall and heavy surf can result in these indicator bacteria washing into the near shore waters.

In Delaware, increased levels of indicator bacteria primarily originate from wildlife sources such as migratory shore birds, particularly along the Delaware Bay. Additional water quality samples

have been taken at Lewes Beach and the advisory will be lifted once indicator bacteria levels are within the recreational water limits.

Shoreline surveys are conducted adjacent to guarded recreational beaches to identify all actual and potential sources of pollution. Water samples are collected at least weekly at all guarded beaches during the swimming season (mid-May through Labor Day). Water samples are analyzed to determine the levels of Enterococci bacteria in recreational waters. Enterococcus is one of several indicator organisms that signal the presence of potentially harmful bacteria and viruses.

For current information about swimming advisories, check the [DNREC website](#) or call 1-800-922-WAVE.

### **Bill Hurd**

We moved to DE beach instead of NJ to avoid this crap (so to speak). I sail in the BVI and the rule of thumb is 5 miles before the pipes can be open, 6000 feet is 4 miles too short. I figure another year or so and DE will be no better than NJ, nice job.

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### **Joey Jones**

You're right Bill. And only tertiary conditioning should be allowed & nothing less. But the Officials here seem to be as clueless as in NJ.

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### **Raymond Attenberger**

outfall opens and bacteria levels are up. Coincidence maybe? Six thousand feet out doesn't really look that far when you are standing on the beach. Time will tell if the right decision was made on the outfall.

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### **Amy J. Reed Parker**

Don't forget millions of gallons of "treated sewage" is now dumped off Rehoboth Beach via "the new Ocean outfall" which is coincidentally recently up & running.

But the state & DNREC want us to believe it's from wildlife, while it's declined & overdevelopment & Ocean outfall has increased!!!!

And the water advisories r from Slaughter Beach - Lewes; not just Lewes folks.

A great start to the summer season, huh!!!

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### **Lynch Kenneth Watts**

The beaches were closed last August due to high bacteria levels.

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**Michael Turner**

"bacteria levels" ..... usually indicates human waste. Too many houses ..... too much sewage ..... and heavy rains infiltrate the system. That "Heavy Surf" was a good one eh?

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**Bill Eckard**

Michael, The old saying was "dilution is the solution" Well, as several others have sighted, more sewage, more fresh water with rains and thus lower sodium levels which is bad because the sodium levels need to remain up to retard the growth of organic bacteria. So dillution of the salt water in this case is not the answer, the sewage isn't being diluted.

This winter with the irrigation fields being sprayed out by MOUNTAIRE Rt 24 plant, on several occassions I went by and literally thousands of sea gulls covered the fields feeding on the organics being sprayed on the fields. The birds were so heavy, looked like snow was covering the fields - we are being SNOWED folks - water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink!

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**Barbara Mock**

Great answers !!

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**Judy Brittingham Bye**

Migratory shore birds? Really? Rain? Heavy surf? Since when has Lewes Beach previously been closed for bacterial counts?

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**ED Martin**

when? since we've covered most of sussex county with houses and black top, and now it all runs off directly to the beach. if they'd only be honest with themselves and us to know how gross it really is

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