

# SURFRIDER FOUNDATION SAN MATEO COUNTY CHAPTER

## BLUE WATER TASK FORCE

### Water Quality Monitoring 2021 Annual Report

#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) is the Surfrider Foundation's volunteer water quality monitoring program that provides critical water quality information to protect public health at the beach. Water quality samples are tested for the presence of enterococcus, a fecal bacteria that indicates the presence of human or animal waste in the water. Elevated levels of enterococcus increase the likelihood that other pathogens that can make people sick may be present.

#### WHERE WE SAMPLE

In 2021, the San Mateo County chapter volunteers sampled at 6 locations once per week. Samples were processed at the Surfrider lab near Pillar Point Harbor. Sample sites and testing schedules augment routine monitoring conducted by San Mateo County Health Department. BWTF sites are chosen based on popularity with our membership and the public, as well as historical water quality conditions.

#### 2021 RESULTS

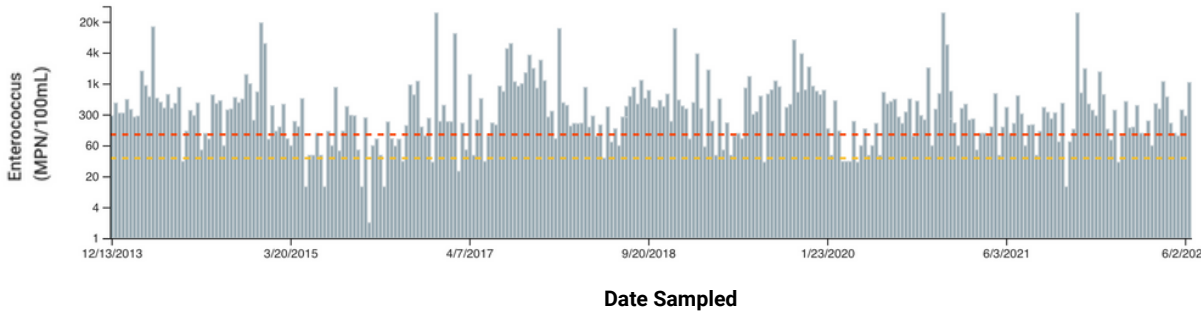
High bacterial counts indicate the presence of human or animal waste in these waters, which may threaten public health. The data are also important in identifying chronically polluted sites that should continue to be prioritized for public health and safety. Families, ocean users, and the public should be aware of areas with poor water quality conditions and seek to avoid them.



| SITE NAME                                   | 2021 SAMPLE COUNT | % HIGH BACTERIA |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Surfer's Beach/Princeton Jetty              | 45                | 4%              |
| HMB Yacht Club                              | 46                | 20%             |
| Fitzgerald Marine Reserve/San Vicente Creek | 50                | 46%             |
| Capistrano Beach                            | 45                | 49%             |
| Linda Mar Beach/San Pedro Creek             | 48                | 81%             |
| Capistrano Outfall                          | 46                | 98%             |

**Table 1.** Percent of samples at each site that exceeded state health standards of 104 CFU/100 mL in 2021. Note BWTF results are recorded as Most Probable Number (MPN/100 mL) due to our testing methods.

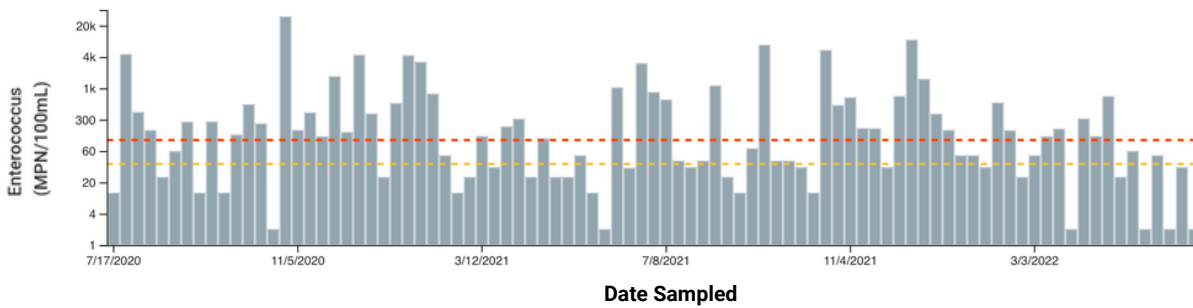
## PRIORITY SAMPLE SITE RESULTS: LINDA MAR/SAN PEDRO CREEK



**81%**

OF SAMPLES EXCEEDED HEALTH STANDARDS FOR BACTERIAL COUNTS IN 2021

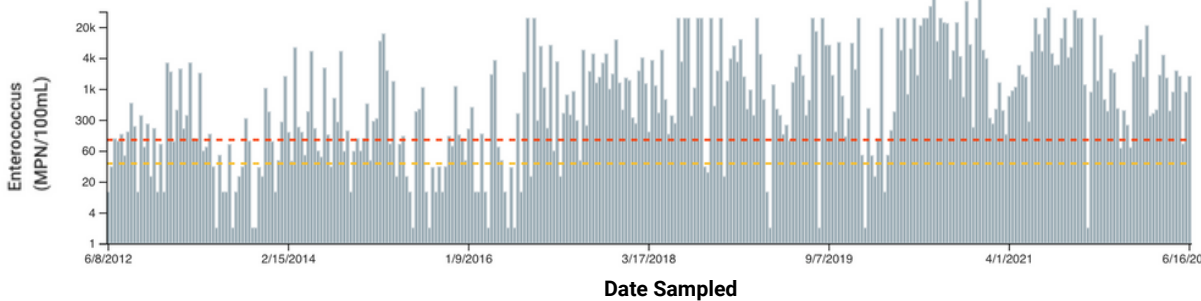
## PRIORITY SAMPLE SITE RESULTS: CAPISTRANO BEACH



**49%**

OF SAMPLES EXCEEDED HEALTH STANDARDS FOR BACTERIAL COUNTS IN 2021

## PRIORITY SAMPLE SITE RESULTS: CAPISTRANO OUTFALL



**98%**

OF SAMPLES EXCEEDED HEALTH STANDARDS FOR BACTERIAL COUNTS IN 2021

**\*BEACHGOERS SHOULD AVOID SWIMMING, SURFING, OR RECREATING FOR 72 HOURS AFTER A RAIN. DO NOT ENTER WHERE THERE IS A WARNING SIGN FOR HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS. WATER QUALITY DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT [BUTF.SURFRIDER.ORG](http://BUTF.SURFRIDER.ORG).**