

CHARLESTON
WATERKEEPER®

2015 RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY SCORECARD



HOW'S THE WATER?

This map shows the sites we test. It identifies if a site is likely to meet the state standard for safe swimming based on our data from 2013-2015.



Help Protect Your Local Waterway

- Have your septic system inspected every 1-2 years and pumped every 3-5 years.
- Use Charleston Waterkeeper's mobile pumpout service.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet feces.
- Do not feed wildlife.
- Collect rain water in barrels.
- Divert stormwater into vegetated buffers or rain gardens.
- Minimize the impervious surface on your property.
- Report sanitary sewer overflows to treatment authorities.
- Support water and sewer infrastructure spending.

MAP LEGEND

- SAFE FOR SWIMMING
- PROCEED WITH CAUTION
- SWIMMING NOT RECOMMENDED

Our Data Supports:

Our Community

We produce data first and foremost for you—the Charlestonians who love our waterways! Use our weekly updates to help decide where it's safe to get in the water. Use this scorecard to empower yourself and your community to protect local waterways.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY WATER QUALITY UPDATES:

charlestonwaterkeeper.org/waterqualityupdates

Department of Health and Environmental Control

Our data helps DHEC determine if local waterways are healthy or unhealthy and guides their efforts to restore those that are unhealthy.

WRITE TO DHEC to tell them that you are concerned about the quality of your waterway for your favorite activity, such as swimming, SUPing, or kayaking: info@dhec.sc.gov

Charleston Waterkeeper

We use our data to identify areas of concern and then work with community partners to gather support and take action to improve our waters.

INVITE CHARLESTON WATERKEEPER out to talk to your community group about becoming stewards for your local waterway!

Potential Sources of Fecal Pollution

- Polluted Flood Water *
- Wild and Domestic Animal Waste
- Illicit Discharges to Stormwater Drains
- Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- Malfunctioning Sewage Treatment Plants
- Failing Septic Systems
- Boat and Vessel Discharges

* Record-setting annual precipitation of 74.89 in. observed in 2015.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank You To The Following Folks Who Helped Make This Work Possible

The College of Charleston: Dr. Vijay Vulava – Lab Director, Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Walker Brock, Jay Cabaniss, City Marina, Cobble Hill, Jay Fletcher, Mary Edna Fraser, Diane Gould, Kent Griffin, Alan Lang, Doug Logan, James McGavick, Bryan Rabon, Scout Boats, South Carolina Ports Authority, Lab Analysts –Kelsey Culbertson and George Hanna, Field Investigators – Carter Allen, Carl Cole, Skip Darley, Joy Krutek, and Linda Parlo, and all users of Charleston’s waters!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROGRAM!

What We Test

We monitor levels of enterococci: fecal bacteria that indicate disease-causing organisms may be present. Playing in water with high levels of these bacteria can make you sick!

When We Test

Our 15 sampling sites are popular recreational areas for swimming, SUPing, kayaking, and sailing, so our sites are tested in warmer months. From May through October, weekly results are published on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Swim Guide, charlestonwaterkeeper.org, and weekly water quality updates.

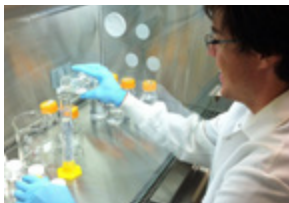


CURRENT WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

Results You Can Trust

All of our samples are analyzed by our professional staff at the College of Charleston’s Environmental Geochemistry Laboratory.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES



About Charleston Waterkeeper

Charleston Waterkeeper’s mission is to protect and restore Charleston’s waterways for our community and for future generations. We rely on your financial support to monitor the quality of our waterways. Please support this work by making a donation at charlestonwaterkeeper.org/donate.



CHARLESTON WATERKEEPER

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