



2020 Water Quality Updates Maine Healthy Beaches

Casco Bay Monitoring Network

Meagan Sims

Maine Healthy Beaches Program

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water

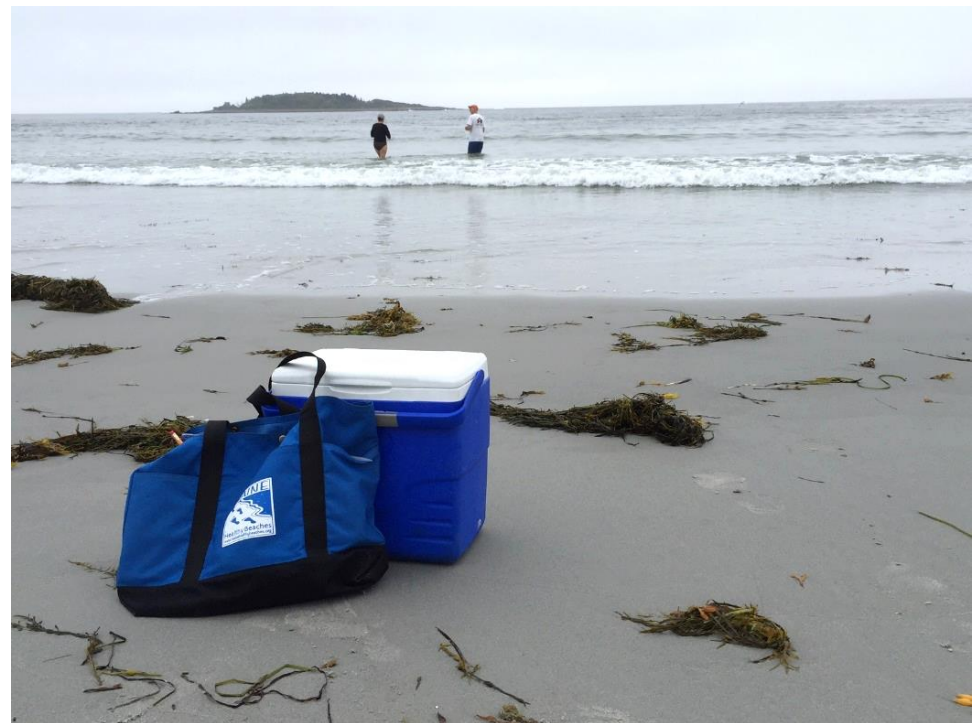
Monitoring, Assessment & Notification

Beach Management
Areas: **61**

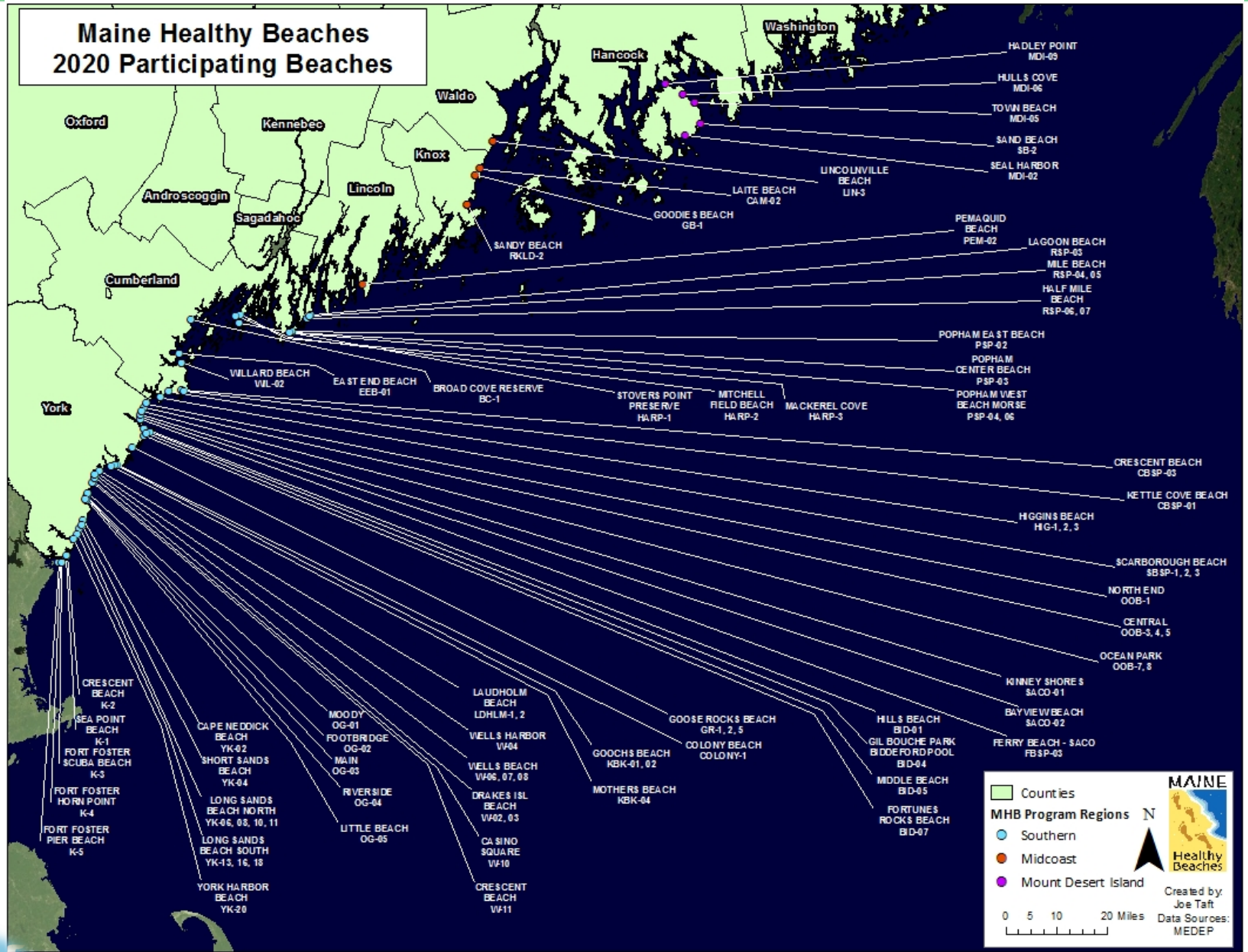
Towns/Parks: **28**

Casco Bay

- South Portland – **1 (Willard)**
- Portland – **1 (East End)**
- Cumberland – **1 (Broad Cove)**
- Harpswell – **3 (Mitchell Field, Stover's Point, Mackerel Cove)**

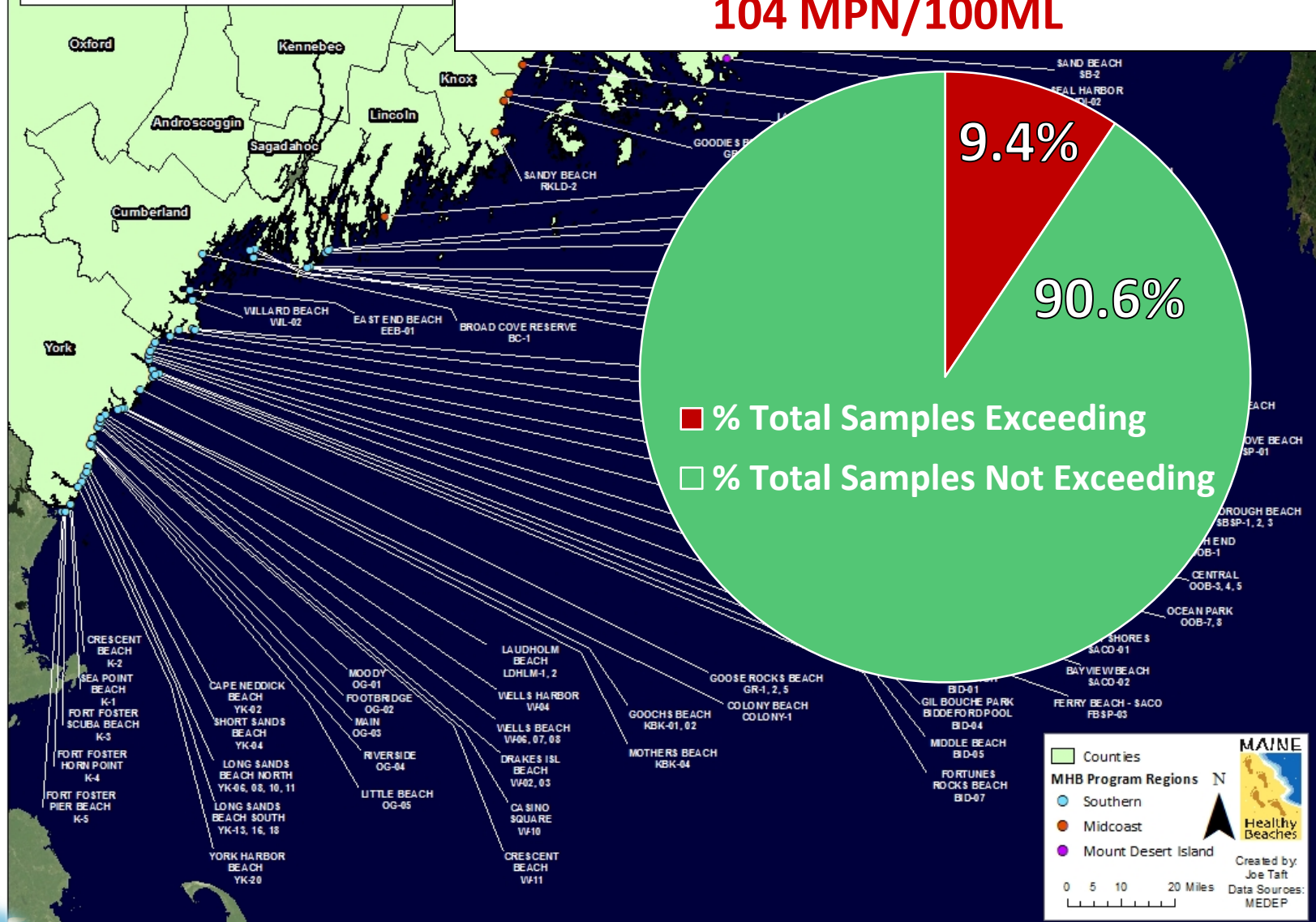


Maine Healthy Beaches 2020 Participating Beaches



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Maine's Single Sample Safety Threshold 104 MPN/100ML



Casco Bay – 6 Participating Beaches

Broad Cove Reserve = 14.3%

2 exceedances/14 events

BC-1 (Broad Cove Reserve)

Falmouth

Harpswell
HARP-2 (Mitchell Field Beach)

HARP-1 (Stover's Point Preserve)

HARP-3 (Mackerel Cove)

East End Beach = 13.6%

3 exceedances/22 events

EEB-01 (East End Beach)

Portland

WIL-02 (Willard Beach)

Mitchell Field Beach = 6.7%

1 exceedance/15 events

Stover's Point Preserve = 0%

0 exceedances/14 events

Mackerel Cove = 20%

3 exceedances/15 events

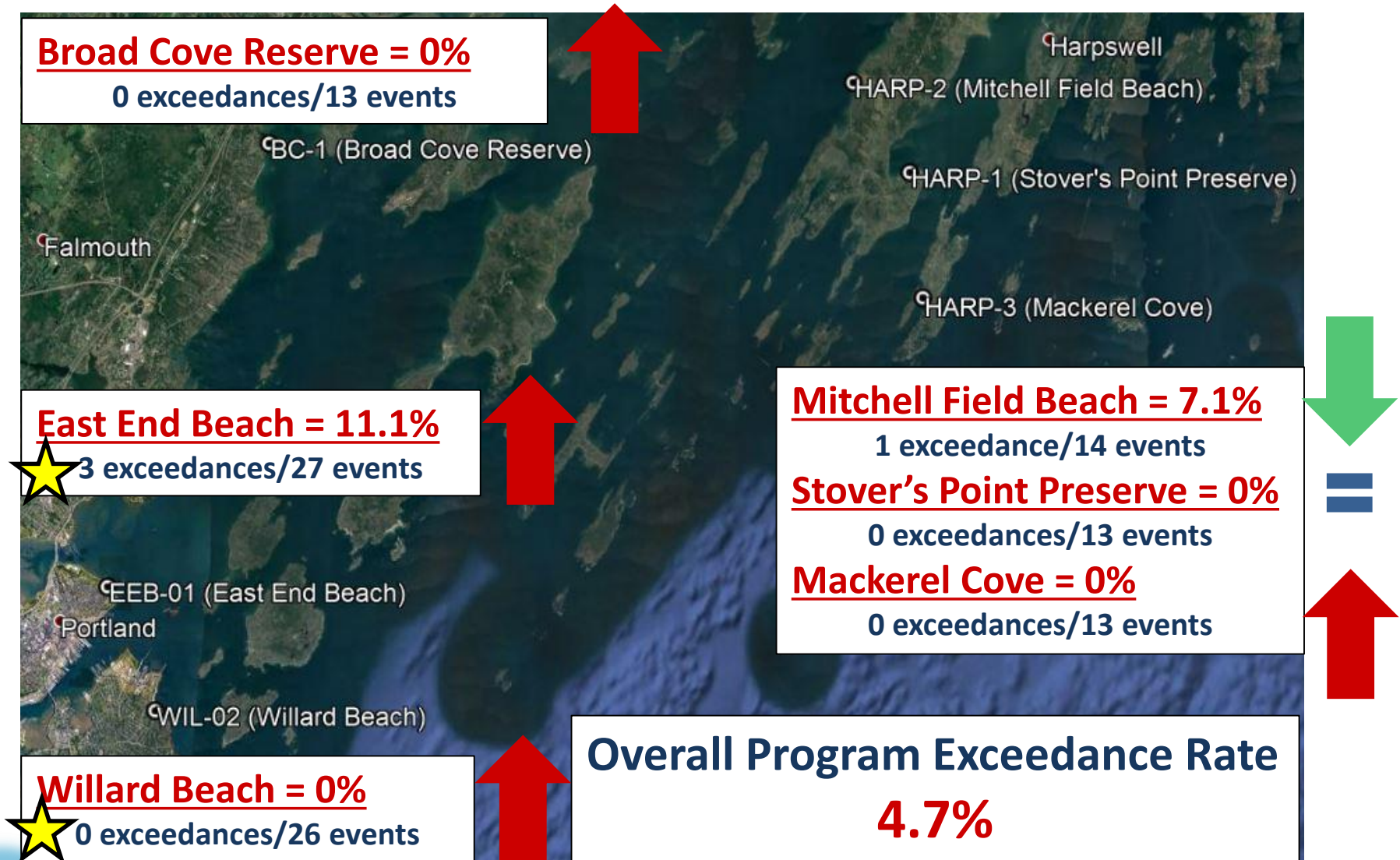
Willard Beach = 25%

6 exceedances/24 events

Overall Program Exceedance Rate

9.4%

2020 vs 2019 Exceedances



Enhanced Monitoring Activities

Willard Beach (South Portland)

Goose Rocks Beach (Kennebunkport)

Kennebunk River (Kennebunk, Lyman, Arundel)

Parameter	Method	Source Target	Cost/Expertise
Enterococci (ENT)	Grab sample, Enterolert	Warm blooded animals	Low/Low
Optical brighteners (OB)	Grab sample, Fluorometry	Human	Low/Low
Pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP)	Grab sample, metabolite analysis	Human	High/High
Canine detection	Grab sample in tandem with canines	Human	Low/Med
Microbial source tracking (MST)	Grab sample, DNA extraction	Variety of human and non-human sources	High/High

MST: Steve Jones, Jackson Estuarine Research Laboratory (UNH)



Program Updates & 2021 Plans

Updates

- **New program database** (*in development*)
 - Improved access for public and program partners
 - Advisory alerts available to the public/partners via public interface
- **New program staff**
 - Cat Orientale (Maine Conservation Corps - Environmental Steward)
- **Addition of Falmouth – Town Landing**

2021 Season Plans

- Continuing routine beach monitoring and special studies projects
- On the horizon: annual beach manager meetings and trainings





Contact:

Meagan Sims

meagan.sims@maine.gov

207-530-2518

www.maine.gov/dep

