



# 2022 Coastal Beach Water Quality Monitoring Efforts in Casco Bay

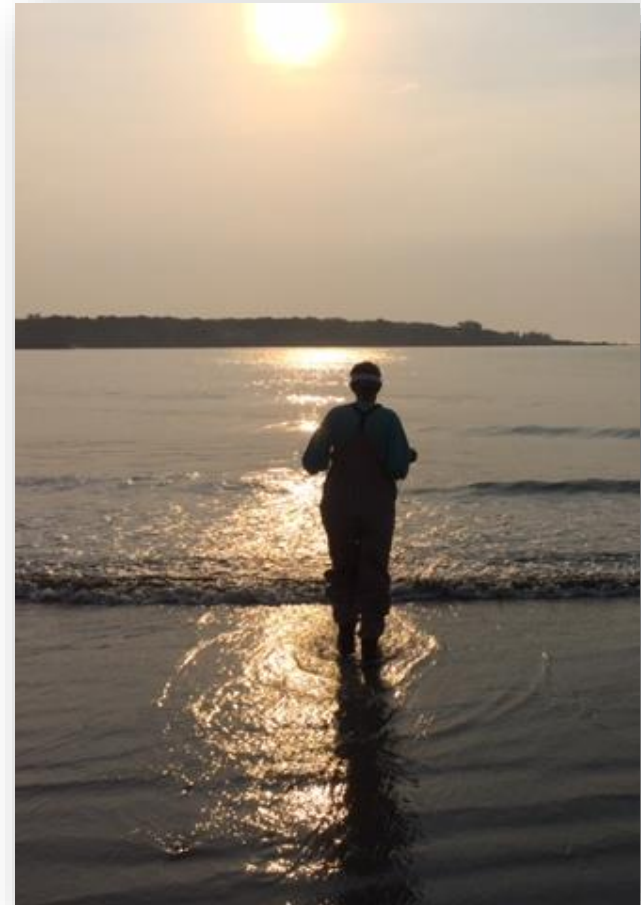
Meagan Sims  
Program Coordinator  
Maine Healthy Beaches Program

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water*

# Coastal Water Quality Monitoring

- **Area of focus:** Coastal, saltwater beaches; intersection of freshwater and marine environments
- **Participants:** municipalities, state parks, volunteers
- **Partners:** state and federal agencies, universities, conservation districts, consultants, conservation commissions, etc.



# MHB Purpose

Implement a coastal, marine beach monitoring and public notification program.

**Monitoring  
Assessment  
Public Notification**

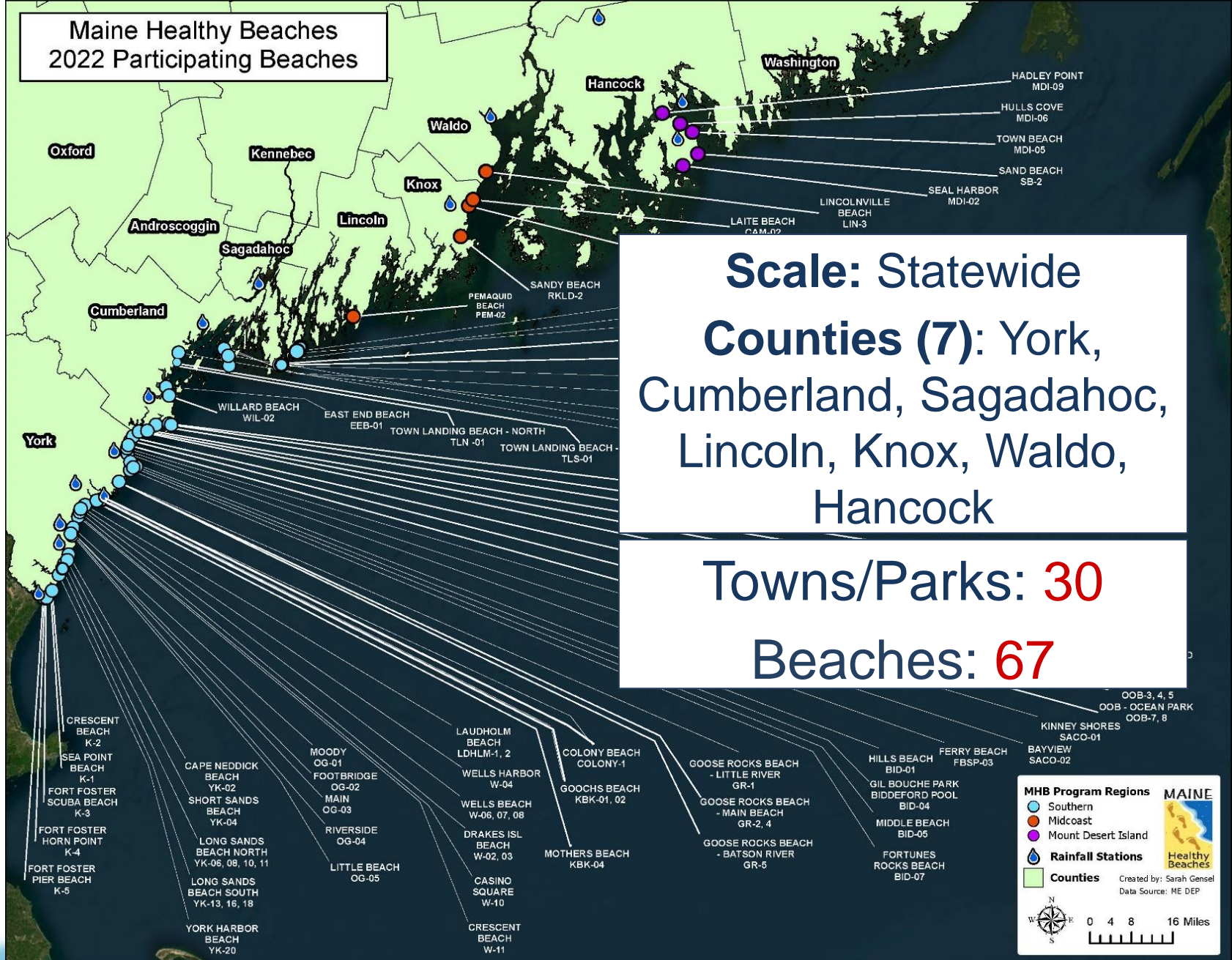


# Monitoring

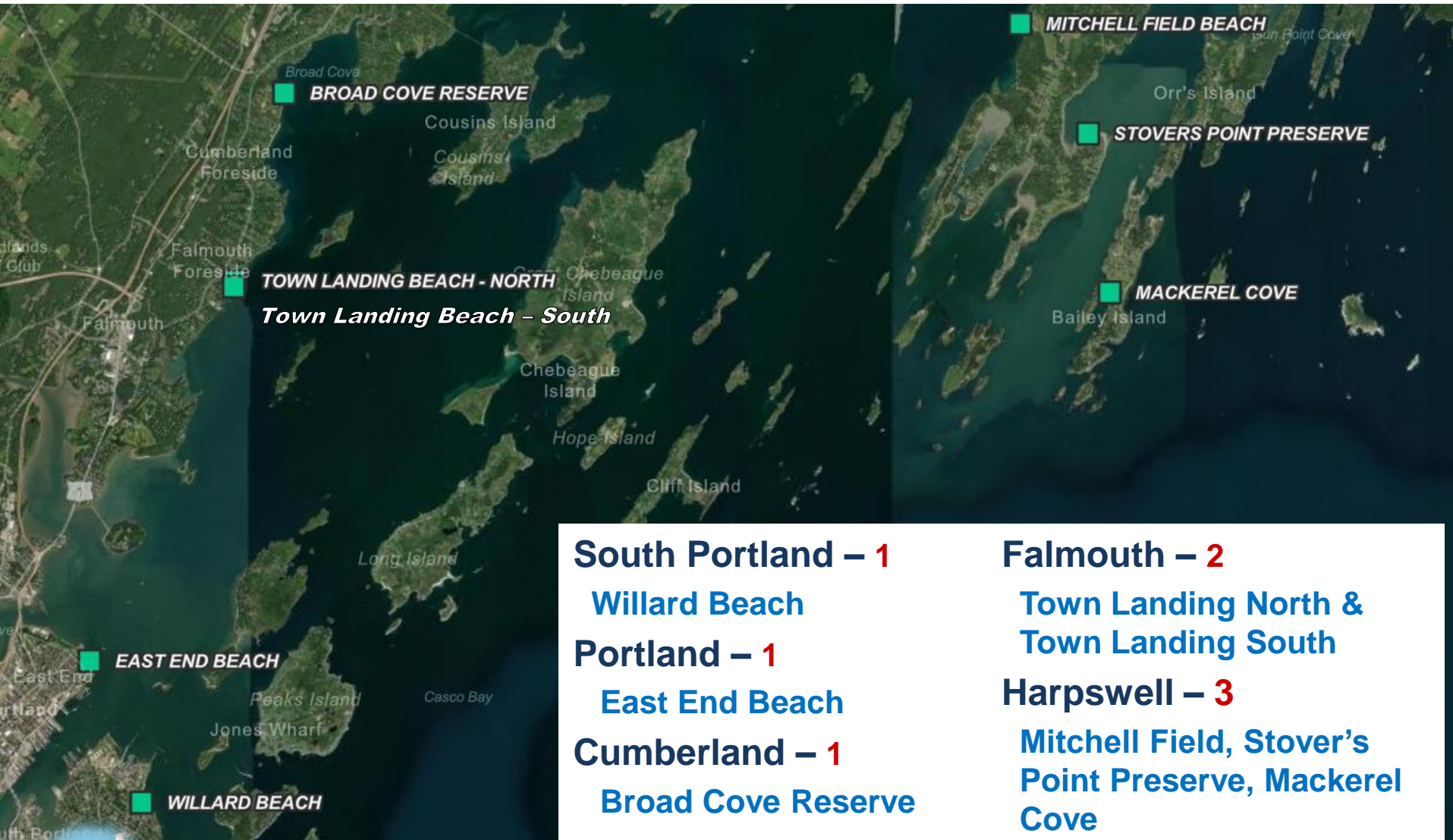




# Maine Healthy Beaches 2022 Participating Beaches



# Casco Bay



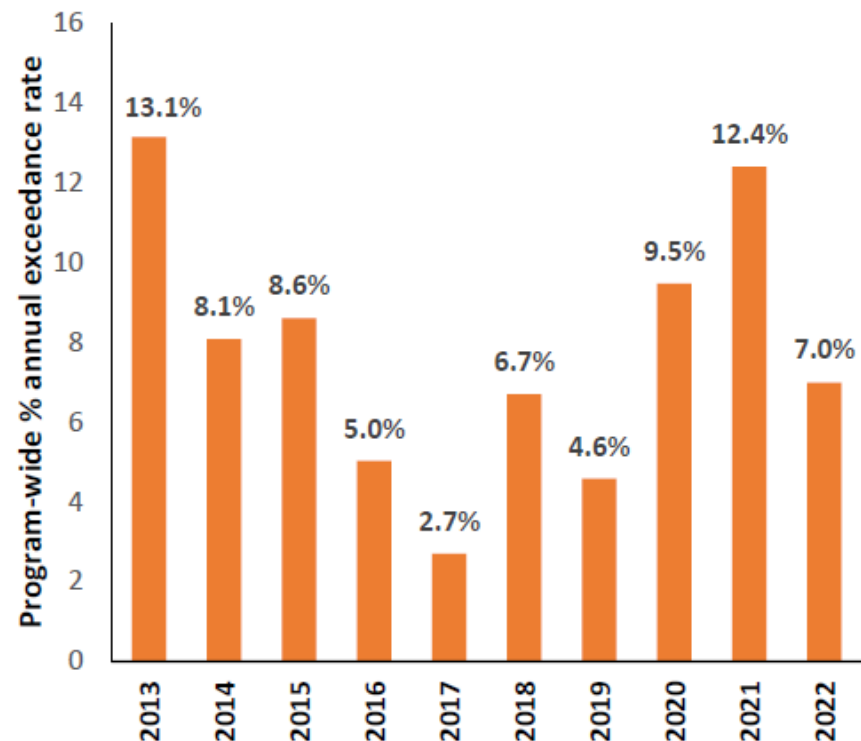
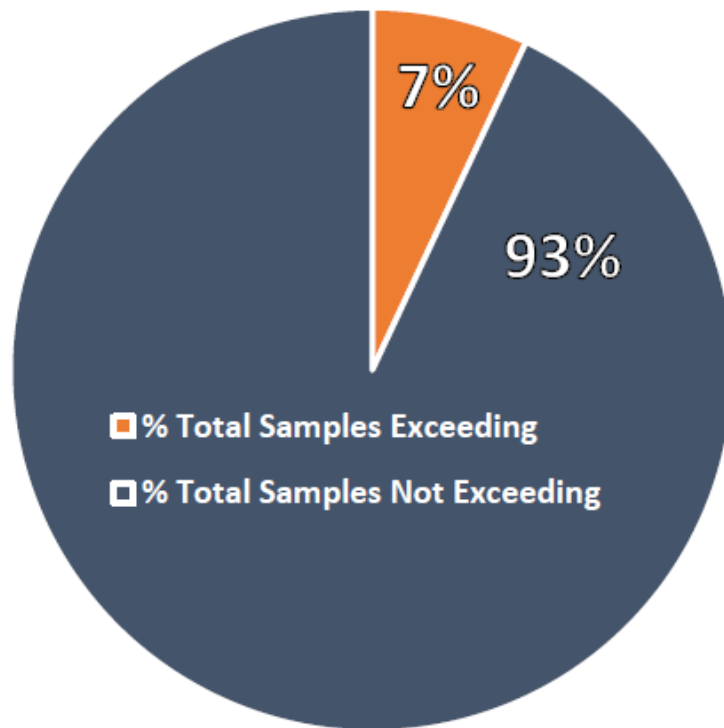
# Assessment





# Assessment – Program Wide

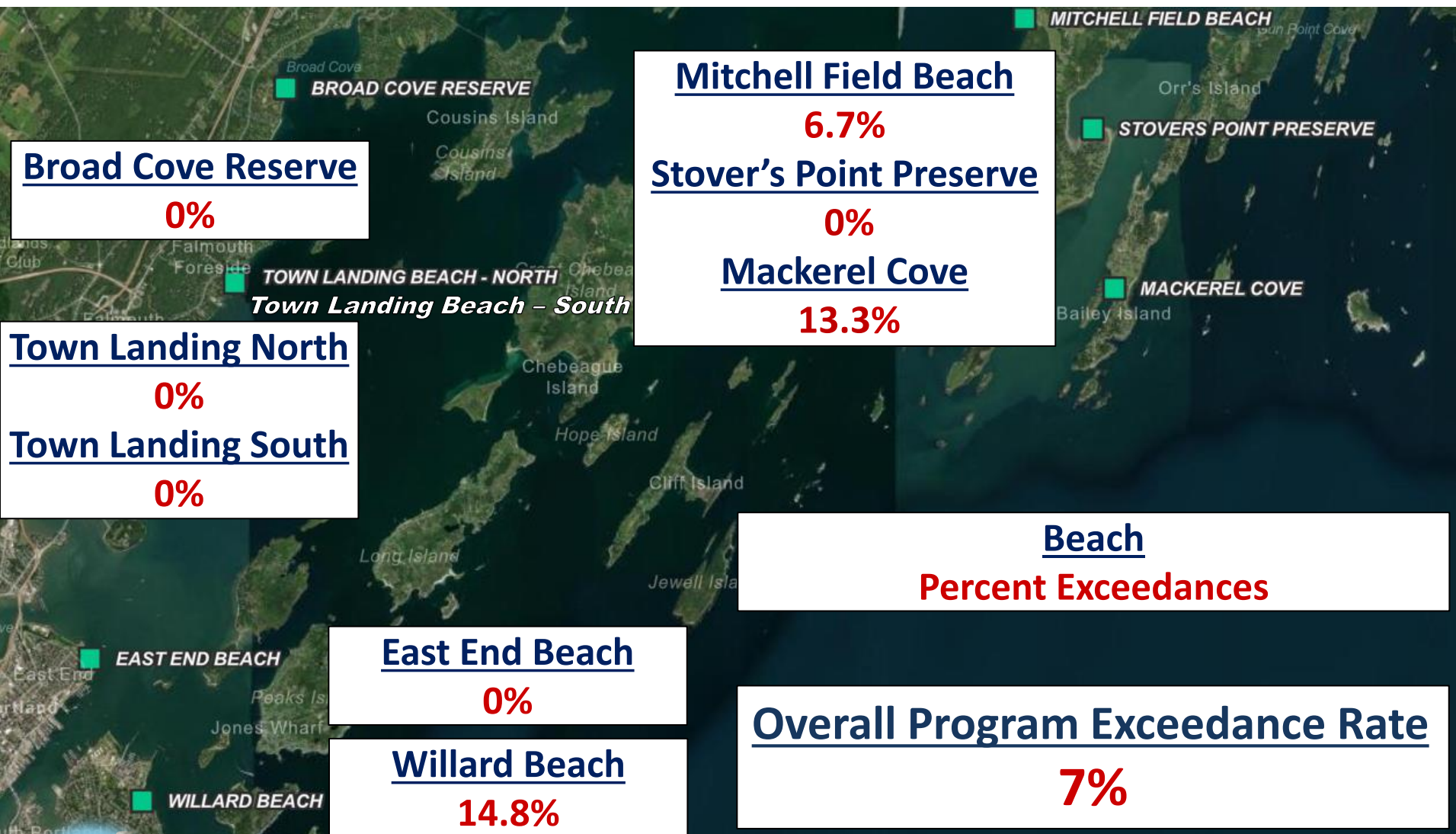
Maine's Single Sample Safety Threshold  
for Enterococci = **104 MPN/100ML**



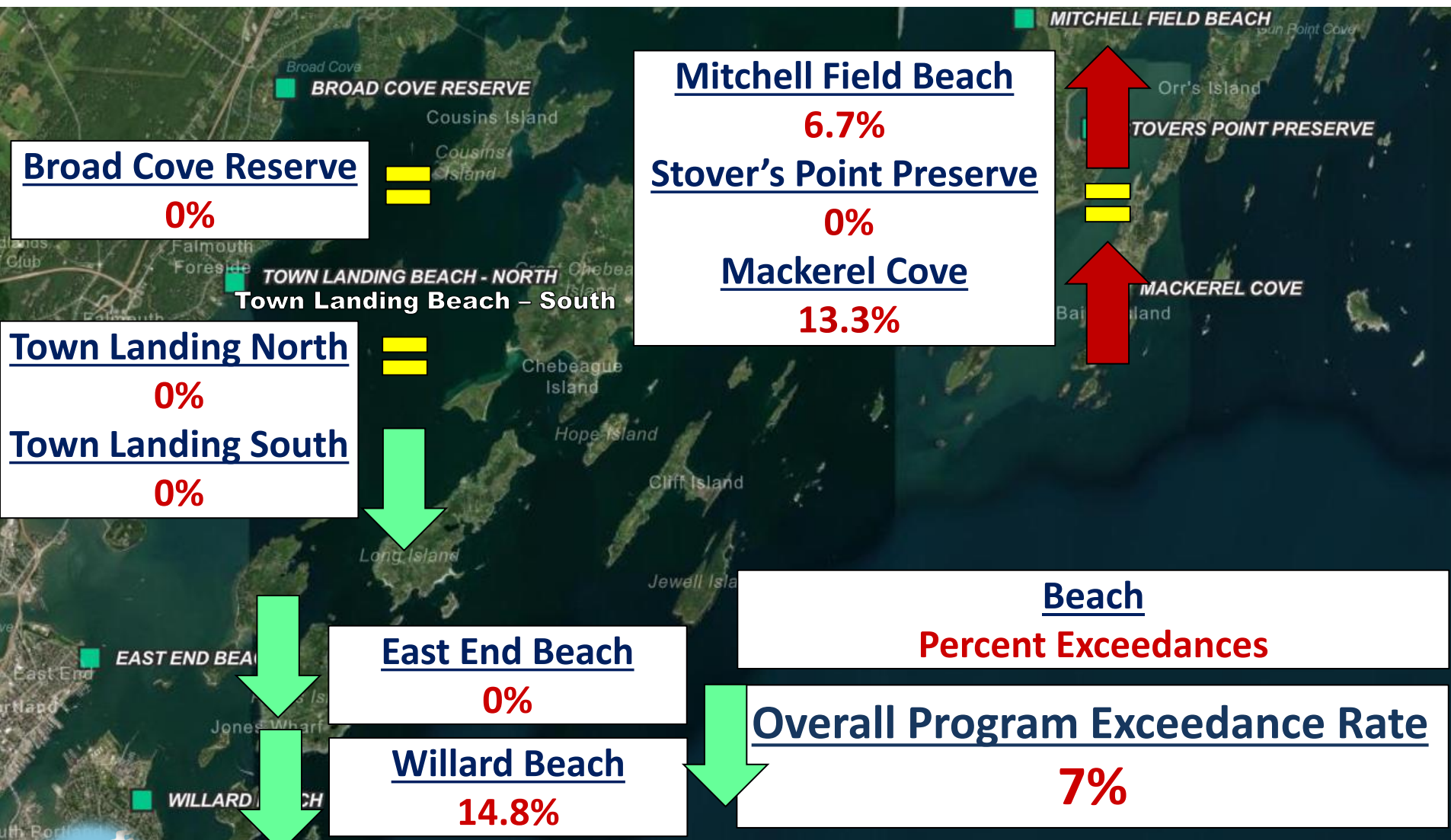
Figures 2-3. The 2022 total % annual exceedance rate of Maine's BAV (104 MPN/100mL) and MHB's program-wide annual exceedance rate for the past ten monitoring seasons (2013-2022).



# Assessment – Casco Bay



# 2022 vs 2021 - % Samples Elevated



# Prioritization of Resources

## Maine's Integrated Report

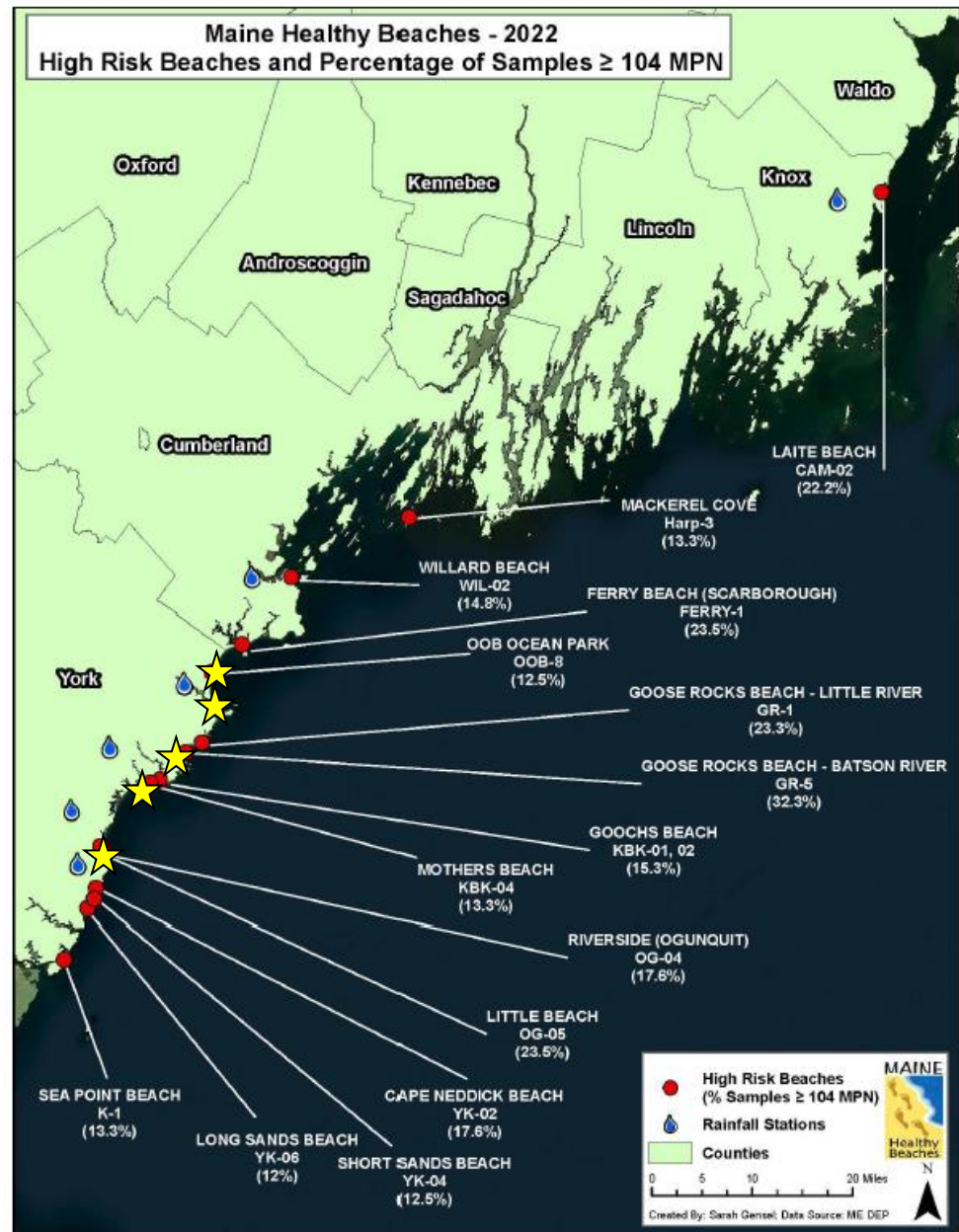
- Impaired beaches prioritized

## Environmental Justice

- Future considerations
- Monitoring & assessment for beaches serving disadvantaged communities

## Local Interest or Existing Project

- Need local support



# Notification





# Public Notification

**Welcome! This beach is  
part of the Maine Healthy  
Beaches Program.**



**Bacteria levels are  
routinely monitored for  
your safety and health**



**Think Healthy. Act Healthy.  
Swim Healthy.**

Symptoms of water-related illnesses can include stomachache, vomiting, diarrhea, and infections of ear, eye, and skin. If you have any of these symptoms within seven days of swimming and suspect they were due to water contact at a Maine Beach, notify your physician and contact the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (800) 821-5821. Risk of illness may be greater for people with compromised immune systems. Water quality can change unexpectedly. Swim at your own risk.

**MaineHealthyBeaches.org**



## **CONTAMINATION ADVISORY**



**Bacteria levels may  
be unsafe. Water  
contact is not advised.**



## **RAINFALL ADVISORY**



**Rainfall can increase  
bacteria levels. Water  
contact is not advised.**



## **CLOSED**



**No Swimming  
No Water Contact  
activities**



# Public Notification

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## Maine Healthy Beaches



- Contacts
- Permits, Licenses, Certifications
- Laws
- Monitoring and Reporting
- Programs
- Rules
- Publications and Resources

 Home

 Monitoring, Notifications and Illness

 Resources and Advice

 Check Beach Status



The Maine Healthy Beaches Program (MHB) is a partnership between the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and local municipalities/state parks. The program

**Contact Information:**

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<https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/beaches/index.html>

# New Program Database & Public Interface



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## Maine Healthy Beaches Portal

Water Quality Monitoring and Beach Status

Beach Monitoring Season is from Memorial Day to Labor Day

[Internal Site S](#)

Sign Up for Beach  
Advisory Alerts

## Welcome to the Maine Healthy Beaches Portal

This is a public resource provided by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for Maine's coastal beach monitoring results and advisories and closures. [Learn more about the MHB Program.](#)

Maine's Beach Action Value (BAV or safety threshold) for Enterococcus bacteria in marine waters is **104 MPN/100mL**. MHB recommends posting a Contamination Advisory when results are  $\geq$  BAV. Posting decisions are made by participating Management Entities, which are the towns, parks, or associations responsible for managing the beach.

### View Individual Beach Page:

Select a Beach

View



CONTAMINATION  
ADVISORIES

3



PRECAUTIONARY RAINFALL  
ADVISORIES

5



CLOSURES

0

SITES WITH  
ELEVATED BACTERIA

13

[View Beach  
Status Table](#)

[www.mainehealthybeaches.org](http://www.mainehealthybeaches.org)



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

# 2022 Final Report to EPA

Report to the Environmental Protection Agency

## Maine Healthy Beaches Program Annual Beach Grant Report 2022 Season March 2023

Contact: Meagan Sims, Maine Healthy Beaches Coordinator  
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[www.mainehealthybeaches.org](http://www.mainehealthybeaches.org)

## Maine Healthy Beaches



## Program Documents

- [EPA Grant Report](#)
- [Risk Assessment Matrix](#)
- [Program Brochure](#)
- [Boating Brochure](#)
- [MHB Program Advisory Fact Sheet](#)
- [MHB Program Quick Facts](#)
- [MHB Poster](#)
- [Think Healthy Swim Healthy Act Healthy Poster](#)





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***[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)***

