

# Enterococci Bacteria Study on Six Harbors for Summer 2024

By East Norwalk Blue (ENB) a 501 c 3 nonprofit

By Richard Harris and Peter Fraboni

East Norwalk Blue monitored 6 harbors for Enterococci bacteria from May through September 2024. Results were improved over previous years in part due to a dry summer which reduced storm water runoff and in part due to the continued efforts by ENB and Harbor Watch (HW) to continue in a joint mission to track down sources of Enterococci bacteria. The monitoring effort in rivers associated with these harbors was conducted by HW and results were posted recently in *Fairfield County Water Quality Report*. Progress in water quality improvements would have been slower without the continuing effort by local municipalities to make needed repairs in support of ENB, HW and other environmental groups. Recently observed physical data by ENB in all six harbors was recently released in a combined report with HW, *Harbor Health Study 2024*. This report also contains a seasonal study of benthic, juvenile marine fish observed by HW in Norwalk and Saugatuck harbors.

## **Harbors Included in this report:**

Five Mile River  
Wilson Cove  
Norwalk Harbor  
Saugatuck Harbor  
The Housatonic Estuary  
The Quinnipiac Estuary

ENB Volunteers were extremely helpful in the ENB monitoring effort, spending many hours on the water and in the ENB lab processing results. Over 30 boat trips were successfully completed during the summer months by ENB. The participating volunteers were:

Bill Wright, Joe Racz, Cosmo Randazzo, Rachel Precious, Alicia Mozian, Gabriella de Brito, Alex Berkley, Grayson Schottmuller, and Danielle Buttermore.

Note: The ENB laboratory at 3 Edgewater, Norwalk, CT is not certified by the CT Dept. of Public Health, CT DPH. All bacteria samples are processed in accord with protocols established by IDEXX and with standard operating procedures (SOPs) observed in the field by ENB.

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