



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Division of Shellfish Safety

109 Governor Street, 6th Floor
P O BOX 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner

Ph: 804-864-7487
Fax: 804-864-7481

PIANKATANK RIVER, UPPER Growing Area # 035 Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex Counties Shoreline Sanitary Survey

Date: 26 August 2019

Survey Period: January 29, 2019 – July 30, 2019

Total number of properties surveyed and samples analyzed: 538

Surveyed By: R.M. Thomas, W.A. McCarty III, & W.I. Barrack III

SECTION A: GENERAL

This survey area extends from Reference Point 35 at the Middlesex and Mathews County lines on the Piankatank River Bridge (Twiggs Ferry Road, Route 3) and inland to Rt. 610 and the mouth of Meggs Bay, including both sides of the Piankatank River between these two landmarks. Scoggins Creek, My Lady's Swamp, portions of Carvers Creek and Harper Creek (North of Rt. 198), French Creek, Ferry Creek, Dancing Creek, Wadinger Creek and all of their tributaries are also included within the designated boundary line drawn by the Division of Shellfish Safety. Refer to map for boundary revisions.

The topography of the area varies from 5' or less along the shoreline to a maximum of 90' inland. The economy is based on retail trade, construction, food and accommodations services as well as seasonal recreational activity. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population for Gloucester County increased by 1.3%, decreased in Mathews County by 1.9% and decreased in Middlesex County by 1.7% from 2010 to 2018.

Meteorological data indicated that the area received a total rainfall of 26.22" for the survey period. A monthly breakdown is as follows:

January 29-31	0.32"	February	4.23"	March	3.51"	April	3.93"
May	2.84"	June	5.35"	July 1-30	6.04"		

At the beginning of the survey, inspectors reviewed the available literature from prior reports, public works and online resources to characterize land use, drainage patterns, and to establish nearshore seawater stations. Properties identified in the previous survey as having sanitary deficiencies or other environmental significance were revisited to evaluate their current status. All roadways and navigable shoreline within the survey boundary were visually inspected to identify potential pollution sources requiring further investigation.

Nearshore seawater stations were established to survey the full extent of waters beyond routine classification stations. Stations were created in closer proximity to the shoreline and farther upstream than routine stations and are intended to evaluate drainage entry points of

potential pollution sources. Station data were analyzed and used to compare relative concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria within the waterway to identify potential onshore sources of contamination. Areas with elevated concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria were surveyed onshore using a property-by-property investigation. Surveyors interviewed occupants and examined properties for evidence of these potential pollution sources within the immediate watershed.

Hydrographic data and ebb current windows are shown in the table below. Maps of the Enterococcus sampling are shown at the conclusion of this report.

Area 35 Nearshore Sampling					Rainfall in Inches		
Sample dates	High Tide	Ebb Current	Sampling time	Enterococcus range (MPN/100ml)	Day of	Previous 48 hours	Previous 72 hours
1/30/19	4:48 am	7:42-2:50	9:05-11:21	10-528	0.09	0.32	0.32
2/6/19	9:36 am	12:20-7:16	11:10-1:14	<10-73	0.00	0.00	0.00
2/14/19	3:05 am	6:28-1:36	9:18-12:38	<10-132	0.00	0.12	0.49
3/14/19	2:28 am	5:45-1:09	9:02-11:46	<10-52	0.00	0.00	0.00
3/18/19	6:48 am	9:55-4:40	10:23-1:38	<10-122	0.07	0.07	0.08
4/18/19	8:13 am	11:01-5:43	9:42-12:28	<10-20	0.00	0.00	0.00
5/6/19	10:27 am	12:36-7:28	11:35-2:09	<10-173	0.00	0.88	0.88
5/8/19	11:54 am	2:01-9:01	11:30-1:58	<10-41	0.00	0.00	0.00
5/9/19	12:47 pm	2:50-9:55	11:42-1:37	<10-86	0.03	0.03	0.03
6/7/19	12:32 pm	2:51-9:43	11:18-1:11	<10-109	0.67	0.69	0.93
7/29/19	6:40 am	8:39-4:00	10:28-12:43	<10-195	0.00	0.00	0.00

The Commonwealth of Virginia, under Code Section 9VAC 10-20-120.7, specifies that on-site sewage treatment systems not requiring a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit shall:

- a. Have pump-out accomplished for all such systems at least once every five years.
 - (1) If deemed appropriate by the local health department and subject to conditions the local health department may set, local governments may offer to the owners of such system, as an alternative to the mandatory pump-out, the option of having a plastic filter installed and maintained in the outflow pipe from the septic tank to filter solid material from the effluent while sustaining adequate flow to the drain field to permit normal use of the septic system. Such a filter should satisfy standards established in the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations (12VAC5-610) administered by the Virginia Department of Health.
 - (2) Furthermore, in lieu of requiring proof of septic tank pump-out every five years, local governments may allow owners of on-site sewage treatment systems to submit documentation every five years, certified by a sewage handler permitted by the Virginia Department of Health, that the septic system has been inspected, is functioning properly, and the tank does not need to have the effluent pumped out of it.

Copies of Bacteriological and Shellfish Closure data are available at the area office for review. This report lists only those properties that have a sanitary deficiency or other environmental significance. "**DIRECT**" indicates that the significant activity or deficiency has a direct impact on shellfish waters. Data reports are made available to local health departments and other agencies to address items that may be out of compliance with their

regulatory programs. Copies of VPDES Permits and inspections are available at the Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office (DEQ/TRO).

Copies of the current condemnation notices and maps are available via the Internet at www.vdh.virginia.gov/shellfish/.

SECTION B: SEWAGE POLLUTION SOURCES

[illegible]

SECTION C: NONSEWAGE WASTE SITES

[illegible]

SECTION D: BOATING ACTIVITY

[illegible]

[illegible]

SUMMARY

Growing Area # 035
Piankatank River, Upper
26 August 2019

SECTION B: SEWAGE POLLUTION SOURCES

1. SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

1 – DIRECT – # W1

1 – INDIRECT – # W2

2 – B.1. TOTAL

2. ON-SITE SEWAGE DEFICIENCIES – Correction of the deficiencies in this section is the responsibility of the local health department.

0 – CONTRIBUTES POLLUTION, DIRECT – None.

1 – CONTRIBUTES POLLUTION, INDIRECT – # W12

0 – CP (Kitchen or Laundry Wastes), DIRECT – None.

0 – CP (Kitchen or Laundry Wastes), INDIRECT – None.

0 – NO FACILITIES, DIRECT – None.

1 – NO FACILITIES, INDIRECT – # W5

2 – B.2 TOTAL

3. POTENTIAL POLLUTION – Periodic surveillance of these properties will be maintained to determine any status change.

0 – POTENTIAL POLLUTION – None.

SECTION C: NON-SEWAGE WASTE SITES

1. INDUSTRIAL WASTE SITES

0 – DIRECT – None.

2 – INDIRECT – # W3, W29

2 – C.1. TOTAL

2. SOLID WASTE SITES

0 – DIRECT – None.

1 – INDIRECT – # W4

1 – C.2. TOTAL

3. STORMWATER OUTFALLS

0 – DIRECT – None.

0 – INDIRECT – None.

0 – E. TOTAL

SECTION D: BOATING ACTIVITY

0 – MARINAS – None.

6 – OTHER PLACES WHERE BOATS ARE MOORED – # W6, W7, W8, W9, W10, W11

9 – UNDER SURVEILLANCE – # W13, W14, W15, W16, W17, W18, W19, W20, W21

15 – D. TOTAL

SECTION E: CONTRIBUTES ANIMAL POLLUTION

1 – DIRECT – # W24

6 – INDIRECT – # W22, W23, W25, W26, W27, W28

7 – E. TOTAL

Virginia Department of Health
Division of Shellfish Sanitation

Piankatank River, Upper
035
Shoreline Sanitary Survey

Middlesex, Gloucester
and Mathews County

Date: 26 August 2019
Surveyed By: R.M. Thomas, W.A. McCarty III,
& W.I. Barrack III
Total number of properties surveyed
& samples analyzed: 538



Legend

Seawater Sampling Stations (History)

- Active
- Inactive
- Sewered Areas
- Boat Ramps (DGIF)

Shoreline Survey Deficiencies

- Sewage Treatment Facility - Direct
- Sewage Treatment Facility - Indirect
- Contributes Pollution - Direct
- Contributes Pollution - Indirect
- Contributes Pollution (Kitchen or Laundry wastes) - Direct
- Contributes Pollution (Kitchen or Laundry wastes) - Indirect
- No Facilities - Direct
- No Facilities - Indirect
- Potential Pollution
- Industrial Wastes, Direct
- Industrial Wastes, Indirect
- Solid Waste Dumpsite - Direct
- Solid Waste Dumpsite - Indirect
- Stormwater, Direct
- Stormwater, Indirect
- Boating Activity
- Contributes Animal Pollution - Direct
- Contributes Animal Pollution - Indirect

Near-Shore Enterococcus Sampling Growing Area # 035 - Piankatank River, Upper Middlesex, Gloucester & Mathews Counties

* Highest value was 528 on January 30, 2019.



0 1000 2000
Yards

Legend

Enterococcus spp. (MPN/100ml)

EnteroVal

- 0 - 10
- 11 - 100
- 101 - 1000
- 1001 - 10000
- > 10001