



Save the Sound®

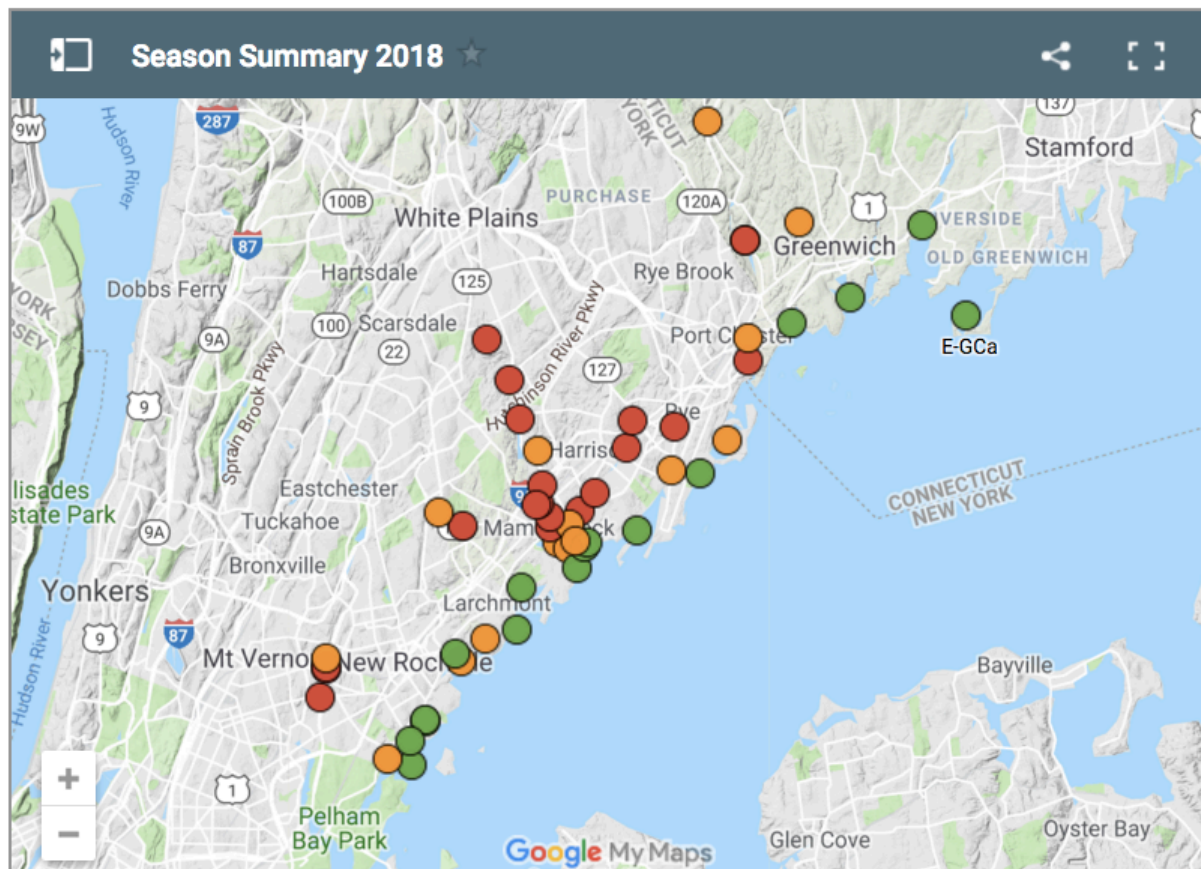
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEAVY RAINS PROMPT INCREASED FECAL POLLUTION, SAVE THE SOUND FINDS

MAMARONECK, New York— Save the Sound has released latest [results of its bacteria water quality monitoring from 63 sites](#) in Westchester County and Greenwich, CT. Thirty trained volunteers collected 660 samples that were analyzed in Save the Sound's lab for the fecal indicator bacteria *Enterococcus*, which can sicken people who come into contact with it.



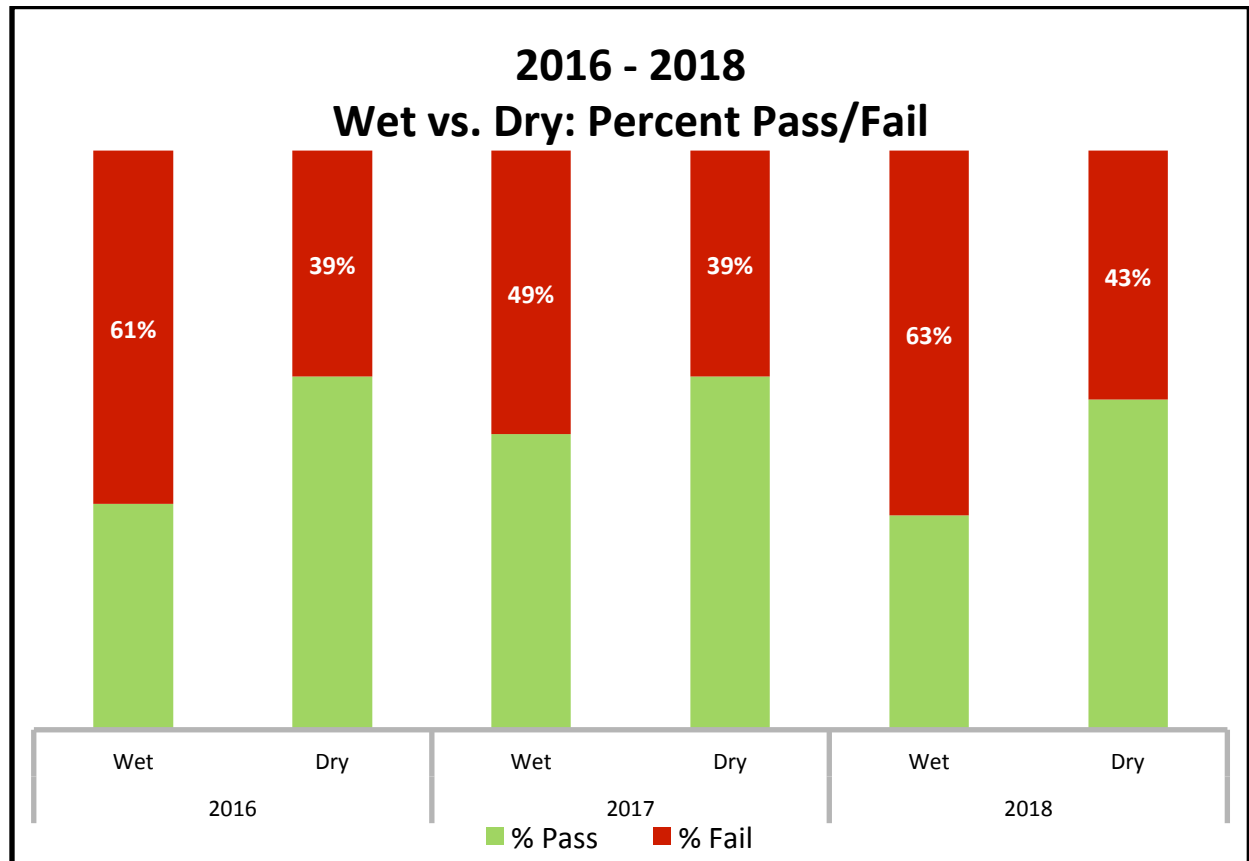
Green = Passes EPA safe swim criteria, Orange = Fails safe swim criteria, Red = Fails safe swim criteria by 10 times or more

Overall increase in fecal bacteria in summer of 2018

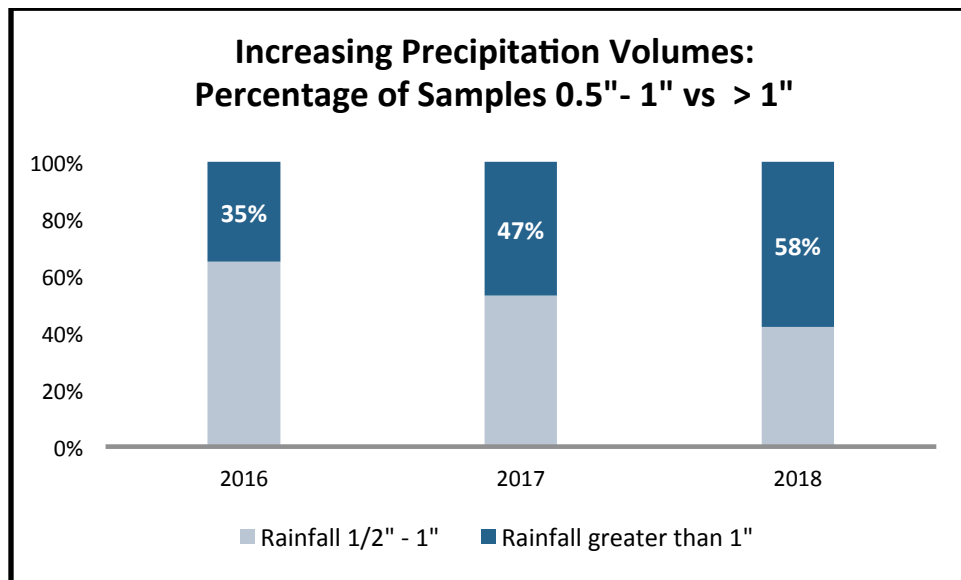
Tracy Brown, Director of Save the Sound said, “We are seeing an overall increase of pollution this year from 2017. Fecal contamination rates overall raised from 43% contaminated in 2017 to 51% contaminated in 2018.”

Wet weather fueled higher failure rates

This year's wet weather sampling events were similar to 2016 in frequency and failure rate; however, the total volume of precipitation was very different. 58% of wet weather sampling events in 2018 had over 1 inch of precipitation where only 35% of wet weather sampling events in 2016 were over 1 inch of cumulative precipitation.



Percentages of wet and dry weather passes and fails from 2016 – 2018 monitoring seasons.



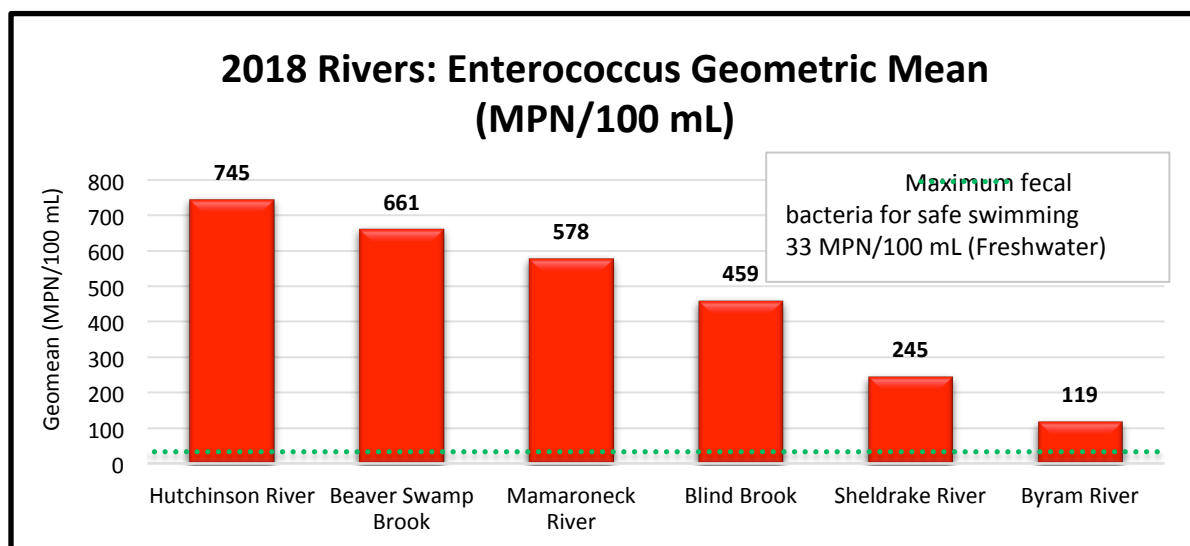
Percentages of wet weather samples with rainfall 1/2" - 1" and over 1"

Stormwater is a conduit for pollution, especially when it falls on impervious surfaces like pavement. It can also increase the underground flow and subsequent discharge of groundwater contaminated with untreated sewage leaking from sewer lines and septic systems. Large storms can overburden compromised sewer lines, causing sewage to erupt from manholes and pump stations before the wastewater has a chance to make it to treatment facilities.

Rivers remain the most polluted waterways in the study

Area streams, creeks, and rivers are still polluted and continue to carry that pollution to Long Island Sound. The fecal bacteria levels in these tributaries went up this year, from a 63% failure rate in 2017 to a 74% failure rate in 2018. "These streams often run through residential areas and can pose a health hazard to communities. It is clear that this remains an area in need of attention," said Peter Linderoth, Water Quality Program Manager of Save the Sound.

Hutchinson River and Beaver Swamp Brook still alarmingly polluted



2018 Best & Worst

Only 3 sites had no failing samples this season, compared with 10 in 2017:

- Larchmont Harbor at Park Ave, Larchmont, NY
- Town Dock Road, New Rochelle, NY
- Greenwich Cove, Greenwich, CT

5 sites failed every sampling event, compared with 7 in 2017:

- Farrell and Beechwood, Mount Vernon, NY
- Memorial Park, Queens, NY
- Mamaroneck River at Reynal Rd, White Plains, NY
- Beaver Swamp Brook at Rye Neck HS, Mamaroneck Village, NY
- Beaver Swamp Brook at Boston Post Rd, Mamaroneck Village, NY

[View the data](#) >

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