

# The Bulletin Newspapers

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Jeff Sullivan | June 1, 2016

### South Boston area of Boston Harbor clean, but more work needed for area beaches



*South Boston got an A-plus on its beaches for water quality, while some other beaches in the Boston Harbor and Bay did not fare so well in 2015. Courtesy Photo*

The environmental group Save the Harbor Save the Bay (SHSB) announced last week the completion of its 2015 report card on the beaches in the Boston Harbor, and while South Boston beaches tested very positive, more work is needed in the whole harbor itself.

Overall water quality of all the beaches in the harbor has actually gone down, from 96 percent in 2014 to 29 percent in 2015. SHSB stated that the results were due to frequent summer storms, which reduced the overall water quality.

“Though the overall numbers are down a bit this year, the report card still contains good news for many of our beaches, including those in South Boston which are still the cleanest urban beaches in the country,” said SHSB spokesman Bruce Berman.

The South Boston Beaches at City Point, M Street and Pleasure Bay all came back with perfect scores during bouts of weekly testing in 2015. Tenean Beach in Dorchester, however,

fares worst with a 71 percent rating. “Persistent pollution problems at King’s Beach on the Lynn-Swampscott line and at Tenean Beach in Dorchester and other area beaches continue to jeopardize the public’s health and prevent residents from enjoying the benefits of our \$5 billion investment in clean water,” Berman said. “While we are pleased that Boston Water and Sewer has identified several significant sources of bacterial contamination in Dorchester, we look forward to working with local state and local government to finish the job we began together 30 years ago.”

Officials from SHSB said it was unacceptable for a 71 percent rating at the Tenean Beach in Dorchester, as the rating failed to meet the state swimming standard more than once every five days in 2015.

“Scores like this are simply unacceptable to the people who rely on these beaches for recreation, especially given the public’s \$5 billion investment in clean water. We hope

this report will provide decision makers the information they need to begin the next round of investments in improved water quality on beaches that consistently lag behind,” said Patricia A. Foley, President of SHSB.

State officials agreed with the group, saying they will continue to do what they can to keep the beaches clean.

“The Baker-Polito Administration remains committed to ensuring the state’s beaches remain not only accessible for all to use, but also safe for public enjoyment,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton. “The Water Quality Report Card serves as a good barometer of the excellent results the state and its partners are achieving to ensure the Commonwealth’s beaches remain among the cleanest and most beautiful in the nation, and we remain committed to work with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and other stakeholders to protect and improve these spectacular natural resources for generations to come.”