


Beach Sanitary Survey Form

Complete this form by typing responses in the fields provided and clicking in applicable boxes. Click  to see additional information, including sample photos. Save the form, adding the name of the beach in the filename.

Alternatively: Print out pages 1-5 of the form and complete it manually, referencing additional information and sample photos on pages 6-14. Then, scan the form and save it, including the name of the beach in the filename.

Map

1. Please send a topographic map of the beach and its surrounding area with this application.

Click on the icon for a sample. 

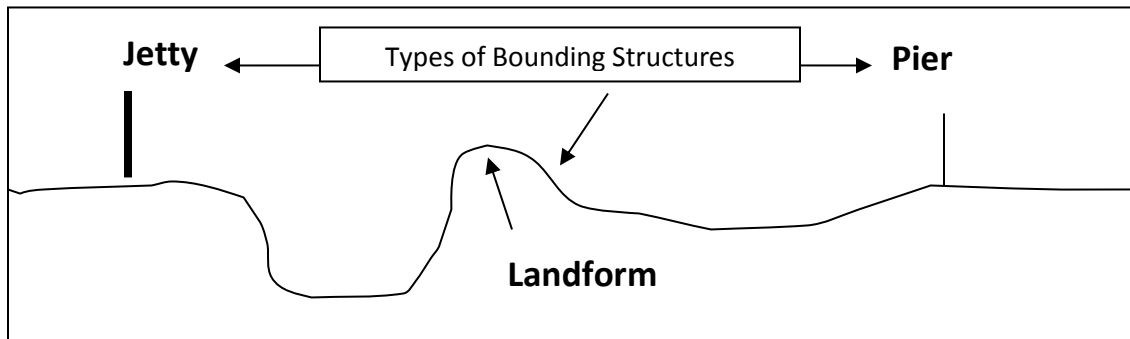
2. What is the approximate length of the beach? (specify feet or miles)

Water Circulation

3. Water currents: ☐ Weak ☐ Medium ☐ Strong

4. Prevailing Winds:
A wind that consistently blows from one direction more than from any other. ☐ N ☐ E ☐ S ☐ W

5. Bounding structures (see diagram):
Landforms or structures that impact the flow and movement of water.  ☐ None ☐ 1 side ☐ 2 sides



6. Horizontal distance between high and low tide (ft):
7. Water depth: ☐ Shallow ☐ Medium ☐ Deep
8. Beach slope: ☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ Steep

Additional comments:

Beach Sanitary Survey Form, *continued*

Natural or Artificial Physical Hazards

9. Natural or artificial physical hazards present?



☐ Yes

☐ No

10. If yes, please specify hazard(s):

Additional comments:

Potential Wastewater and Stormwater Impacts

11. Does all of the watershed have municipal sewer?

☐ Yes

☐ No

12. Prevalence of subsurface sewage disposal within watershed:

Title 5:



☐ 0

☐ 1-5

☐ 6-20

☐ >20

Non-Title 5:



☐ 0

☐ 1-5

☐ 6-20

☐ >20

13. Combined sewer overflow discharge location potentially impacting beach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Some older sewer systems carry both sewage and stormwater in the same pipe. After heavy rainfall, the amount of stormwater in these pipes can increase significantly, overload the system, and lead to discharges directly into waterways. These discharges occur at specific pipes in the system and are called combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

14. Sanitary sewer overflow discharge location potentially impacting beach?
Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are discharges of untreated sewage from sewer systems. These can occur after water infiltrates the sewer pipes after heavy rainfall or periods of high groundwater. SSOs can release sewage directly into waterways.

☐ Yes

☐ No

15. Industrial wastewater discharge location potentially impacting beach?
Wastewater from a commercial or industrial facility.

☐ Yes

☐ No

16. Stormwater pipe/runoff discharge potentially impacting beach?



☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional comments:

Beach Sanitary Survey Form, *continued*

Potential Animal Waste Impacts

17. Are birds or other wild animals commonly seen on or near to the beach?



☐ Yes

☐ No

18. Are dogs allowed on the beach during the bathing season?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. Even if not allowed, are dogs on the beach during the bathing season?

☐ Yes

☐ No

20. Is wrack (seaweed) commonly seen on the beach?



☐ Yes

☐ No

21. Is any of the land adjacent to the beach used for agriculture?
Potential runoff from agricultural areas.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional comments:

Potential Bather Impacts

22. Are there sanitary facilities at the beach during the swimming season?



☐ Yes

☐ No

23. What is the average number of people in the water during the swimming season?

☐ 1-20

☐ 21-50

☐ 51-100

☐ >100

24. What is the maximum number of people in the water during the swimming season?

☐ 1-20

☐ 21-50

☐ 51-100

☐ >100

Additional comments:

Water Quality

25. Please supply the information below for the three most recent (full) beach seasons' bacterial test results.

Year	Number of Samples	Number of Exceedances (both single sample and geometric mean)*	Exceedance Levels

**Beaches are ineligible for a variance if they have had an exceedance or lack weekly sample results from the most recent two bathing seasons.*

Beach Sanitary Survey Form, *continued*

26. Please list any other bathing beaches (public or semi-public) within half a mile of the beach being inspected and provide the number of samples that exceeded from each within the past three years.

Beach Name	Number of Exceeding Samples within previous 3 years	Exceedance Levels

27. Are there tributaries discharging onto or near the beach?



☐ Yes

☐ No

28. If yes, please specify distance from beach (feet):

☐ 0

☐ 1-100

☐ 101-500

☐ >500

29. Does the tributary water quality negatively impact the beach water quality?

☐ Always

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

30. Please specify any other potential sources of water quality contamination:

Additional comments:

Beach Sanitary Survey Form, *continued*

Summary of Potential Pollution Sources

The purpose of this section is to highlight potential pollution sources identified in the sanitary survey. This summary can be used as a guide to assist the LBOH in determining 1) whether to grant a variance and 2) if granted, the new sampling frequency. This summary is not intended to capture all of the information contained in the survey.

Potential Pollution Sources Present

Type of Source	Yes or No	
Subsurface Sewage Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Combined Sewer Overflow	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sanitary Sewer Overflow	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Industrial Wastewater	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stormwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Animal/Pet Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Lack of Sanitary Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
High Average Number of Swimmers	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Exceedances at Nearby Beaches	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Water Quality Concerns in Nearby Tributaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Additional comments:

Appendix

Question 1: Please send a topographic map of the beach and its surrounding area.



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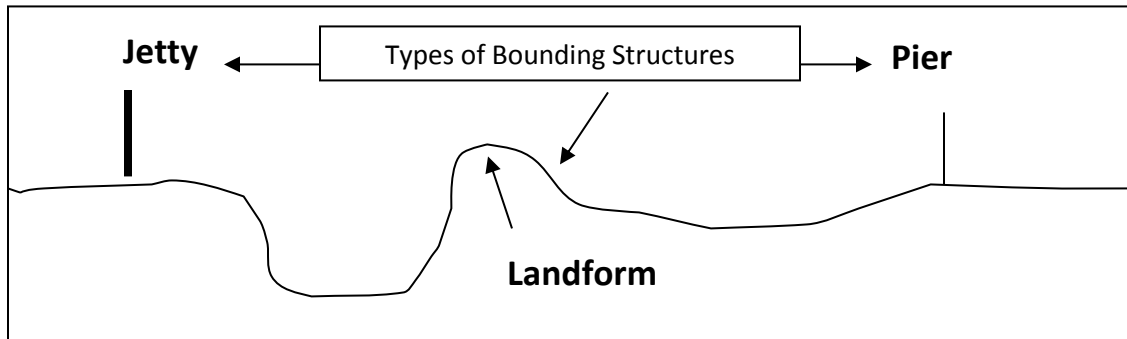
Appendix

Question 5: Bounding structures

Landforms or structures that impact the flow and movement of water.



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Jetty: A structure extending into a sea, lake, or river to influence the current or tide or to protect a harbor.

Sandy Point Beach, Beverly



Pier: A structure built on posts extending from land out over water, used as a landing place for ships, an entertainment area, a strolling place, etc.

Spectacle Island, Boston



Appendix

Question 9: Natural or artificial physical hazards present?



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Natural Hazards: Naturally occurring physical phenomena that may pose a health and safety risk, such as steep grade and undertow. Shown below are cliff, rocky beach, and algae.

Cliff: Moshup Beach, Aquinnah



Rocky Beach: Lobsterville Beach



Algae: West Beach, Beverly



Artificial Hazards: Man-made physical phenomena that may pose a health and safety risk, such as broken glass and watercraft. Shown below are dam, oyster beds, and permanent structures.

Dam: Lake Gardner, Amesbury



Oyster Beds: Red Beach, Aquinnah



Permanent Structures: Spectacle Island, Boston



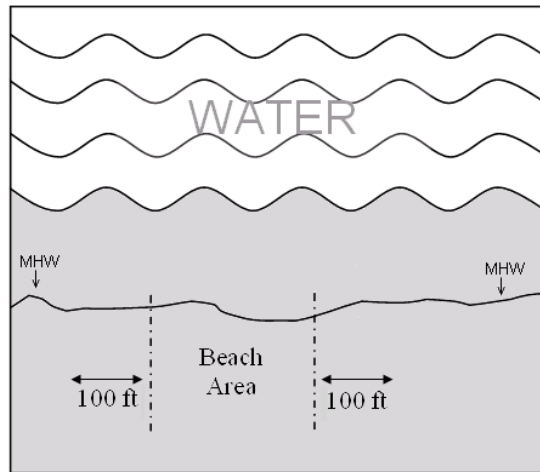
Appendix

Question 12: Prevalence of subsurface sewage disposal within watershed:

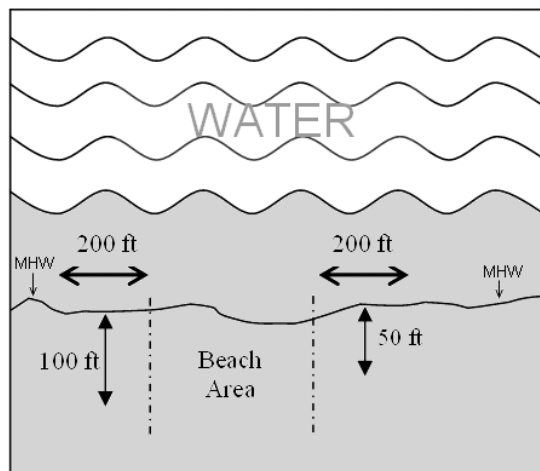


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Title 5 type: Title 5 = On-site sewage disposal systems governed by Title 5 of the Massachusetts State Environmental Code (310 CMR 15.000).



Non-title 5 type: AKA non conforming system. Any system which is not in full compliance with the standards and requirements of 310 CMR 15.000 and for which a variance or local upgrade approval has not been obtained. Nonconforming systems include, but are not limited to, cesspools, privies, failed systems, and systems with a design flow above 10,000 gpd.



Appendix

Question 16: Stormwater pipe/runoff discharge potentially impacting beach?

Stormwater is the water that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. It can also come from hard grassy surfaces like lawns, play fields, and from graveled roads and parking lots. Stormwater may discharge directly into area lakes, rivers, and streams without any (or limited) treatment.



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Pipe: Mingo Beach, Beverly



Pipe: Island Grove Beach, Abington



Drainage Holes: King's Beach, Lynn



Appendix

Question 17: Are birds or other wild animals commonly seen on or near to the beach?



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Seagulls: Spectacle Island, Boston



Geese: Woodbury Beach, Beverly



Appendix

Question 20: Is wrack (seaweed) commonly seen on the beach?

The wrack line or strand line is a line of debris that often runs parallel to the water's edge and marks the high tide line. This wrack line is made up of a mixture of manmade materials that have washed up onto the beach and decaying marsh grasses.



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Light Wrack Line: Smith Beach, Braintree



Heavy Wrack Line: Red River Beach, Harwich



Appendix

Question 22: Are there sanitary facilities at the beach during the swimming season?
Temporary or permanent facilities for sanitary use.



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Permanent Sanitary Facilities



Temporary Sanitary Facilities



Appendix

Question 27: Are there tributaries discharging onto or near the beach?

A stream that flows to a larger stream or other body of water.



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Tributary Discharge: Red Beach, Aquinnah

