

## **Port Orford Blue Water Task Force Summary** **and Highlights 2014--15 School Year**

### **General Summary**

Community volunteers, students, teachers and staff from participating organizations sampled water quality at popular recreational beaches and important ecological areas within the Port Orford Stewardship Area from November 2014 to June of 2015. Community volunteers collected samples that were transported to Pacific High School, where students ran samples for *Enterococcus* bacteria levels, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) primary indicator for public health advisories for recreational water contact of ocean waters. Samples are analyzed through IDEXX 2000 methodology, consistent with standard methods for both EPA and DEQ water quality analysis and results are recorded as cfu/100ml.

**An interactive map of all sites and all historical data is available for download in CSV and JSON data formats at:**

**<http://www.surfrider.org/blue--water--task--force/chapter/12>**

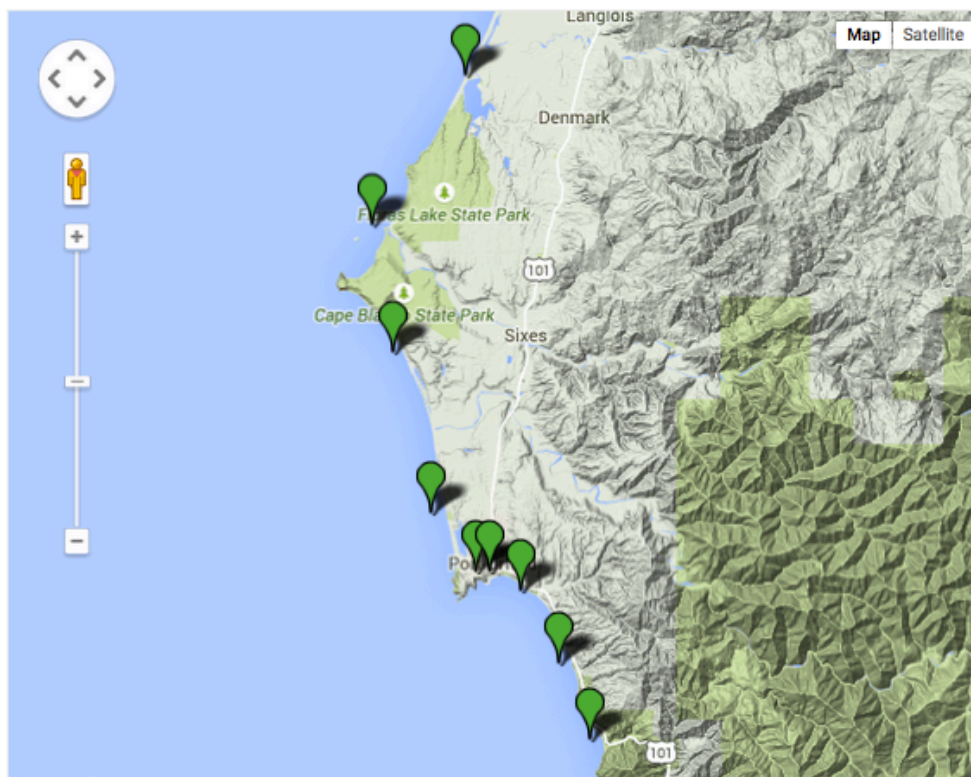
## **PORT ORFORD**

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### **PORT ORFORD BEACHES**

Retz Creek  
Tested on: 05/28/2015

Sixes River Mouth  
Tested on: 05/28/2015

Flores Lake Outlet  
Tested on: 05/18/2015

Battle Rock  
Tested on: 05/14/2015

Dog Beach  
Tested on: 05/14/2015

Garrison Beach  
Tested on: 05/14/2015

Hubbards Creek  
Tested on: 05/14/2015

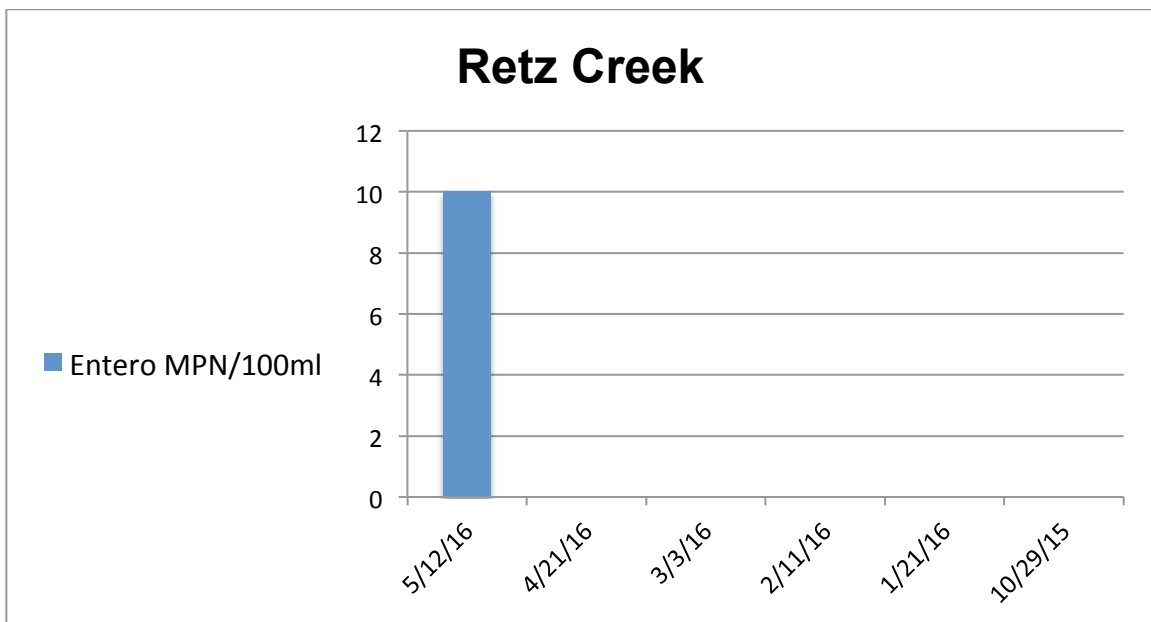
Elk River Mouth  
Tested on: 05/04/2015

Brush Creek - Humbug  
Tested on: 04/30/2015

### *Water Quality at Marine Reserve Site - Retz Creek*

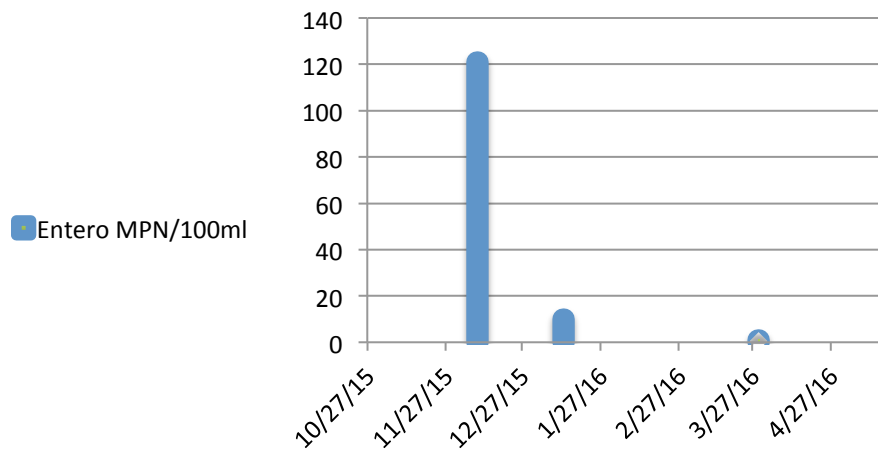
Shoreside samples from the marine reserve site were collected 6 times between November 2015 and June 2016. Not one sample exceeded the state's (DEQ) recreational advisory limit (158 cfu/100ml), and hasn't since December of 2012, a positive indicator for the water quality in the area.

While almost a four years of clean readings such as this is a positive indicator, longer-term data and resulting trends tell a better and more accurate story. Bacteria can fluctuate heavily in the environment and tracking bacteria over long periods of time is critical in understanding its sources of origin and applications for best management and water quality solutions. **Future testing and trends over time at this site will prove valuable for better understanding these events and necessary best management.**

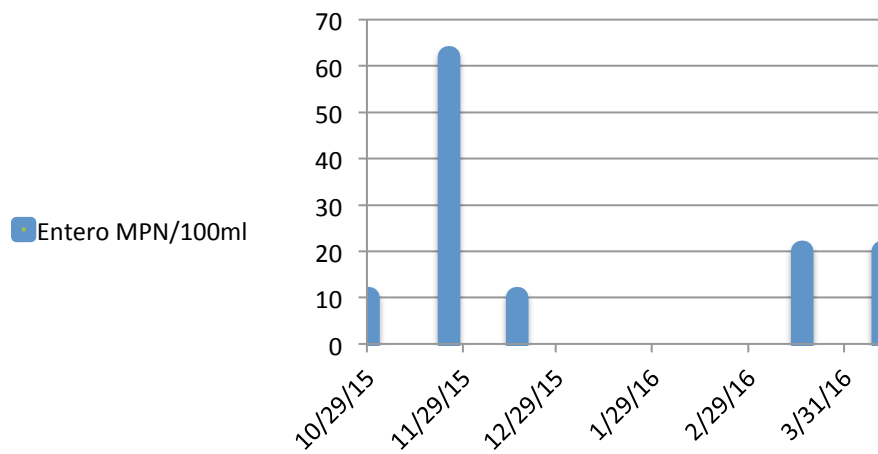


### *2015-2016 Port Orford Water Quality Monitoring Results*

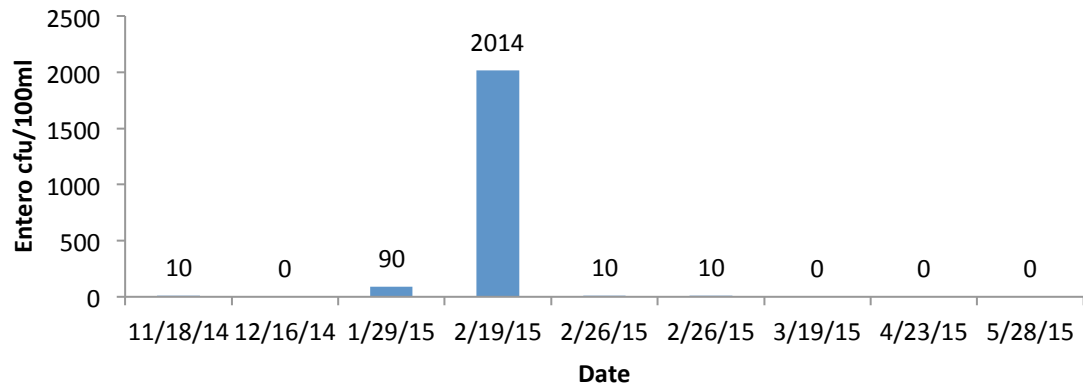
## Dog Beach



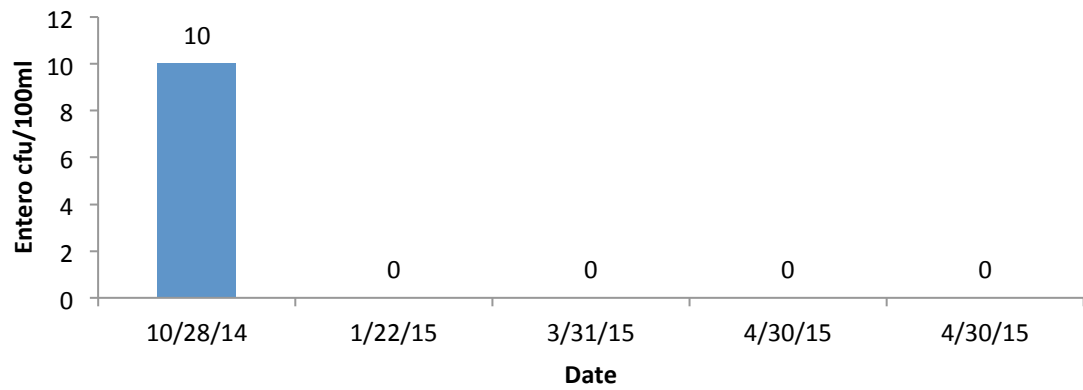
## Garrison Beach



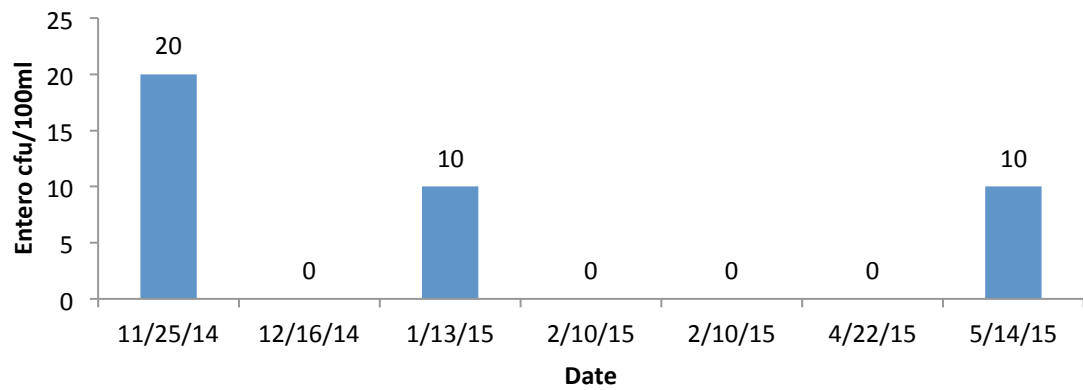
### Sixes River Mouth



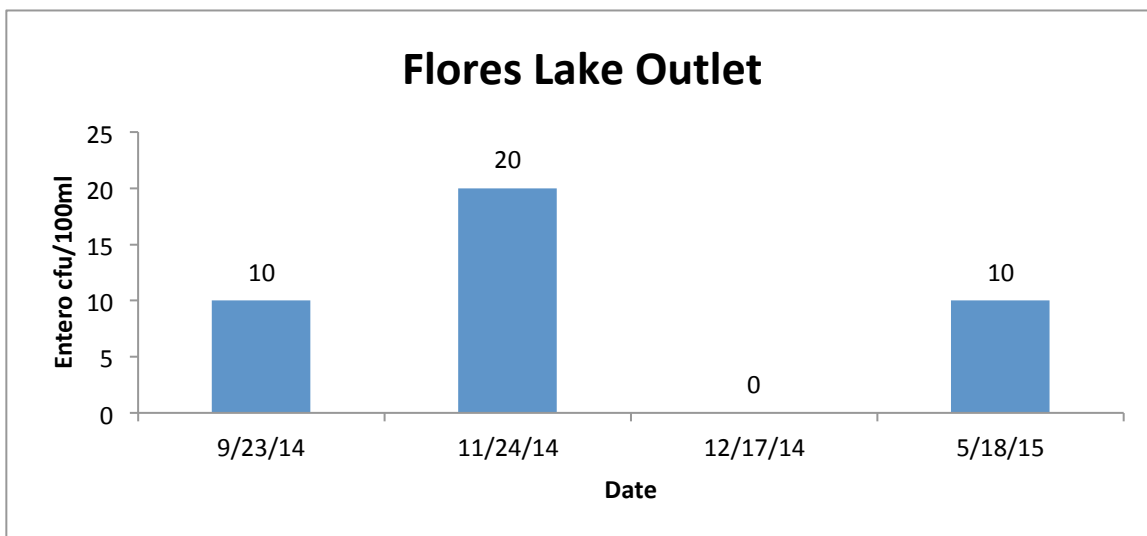
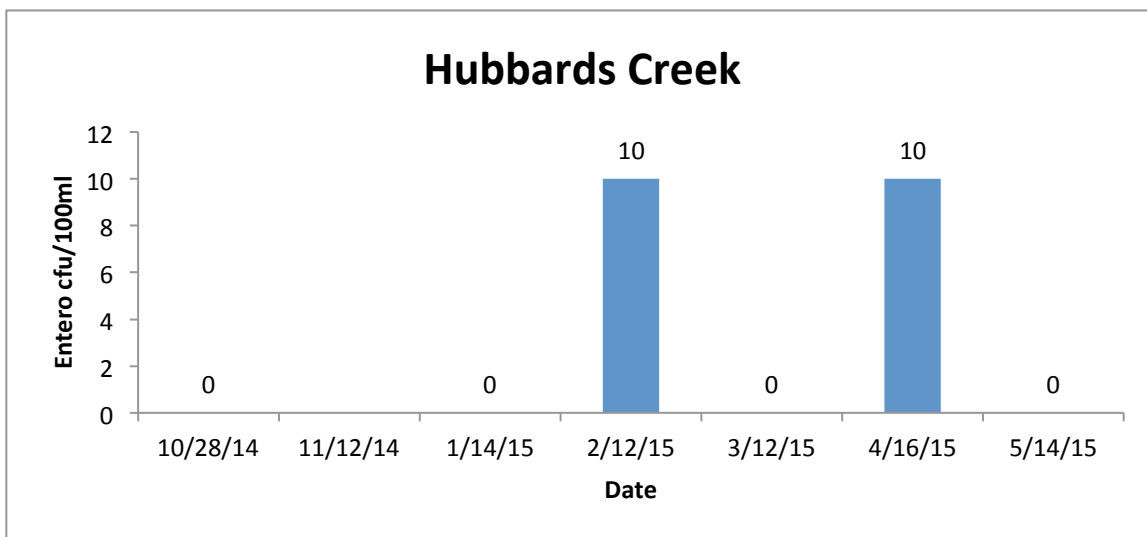
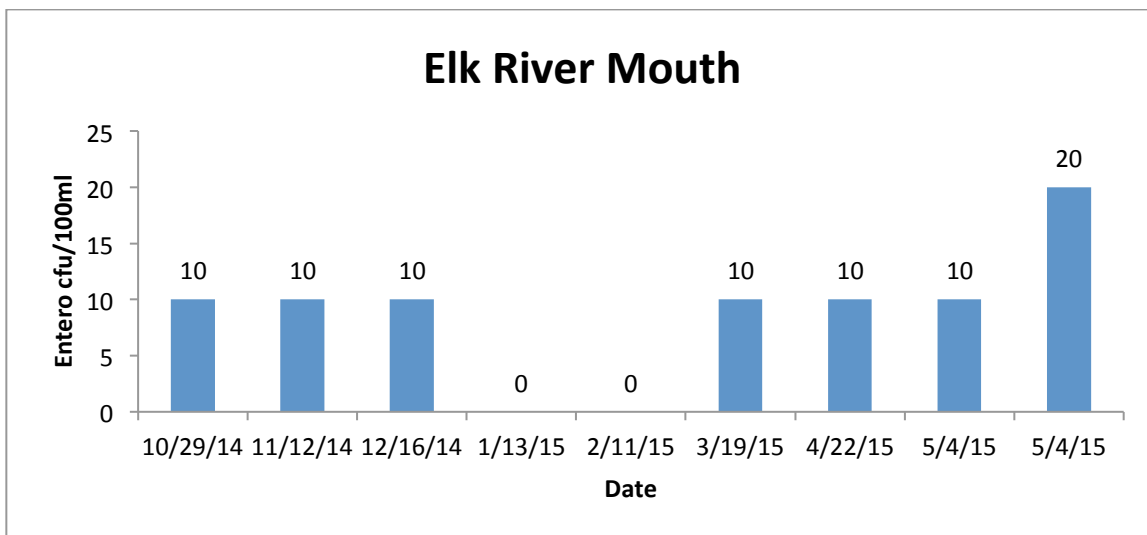
### Brush Creek - Humbug



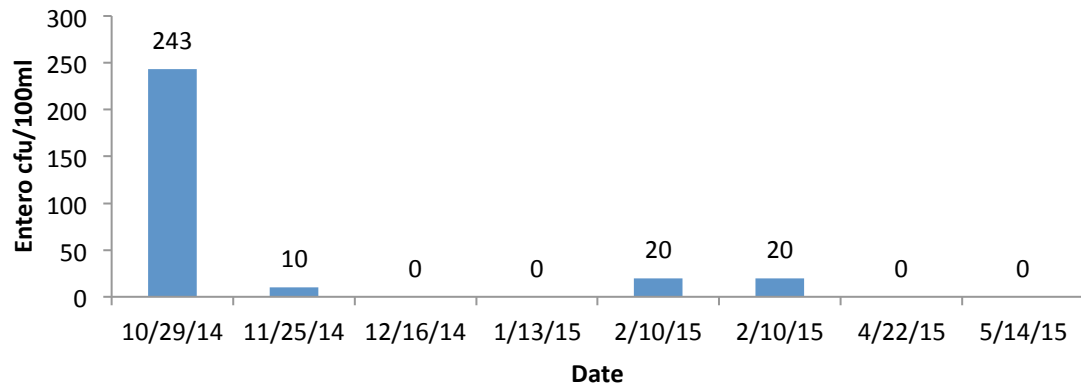
### Dog Beach



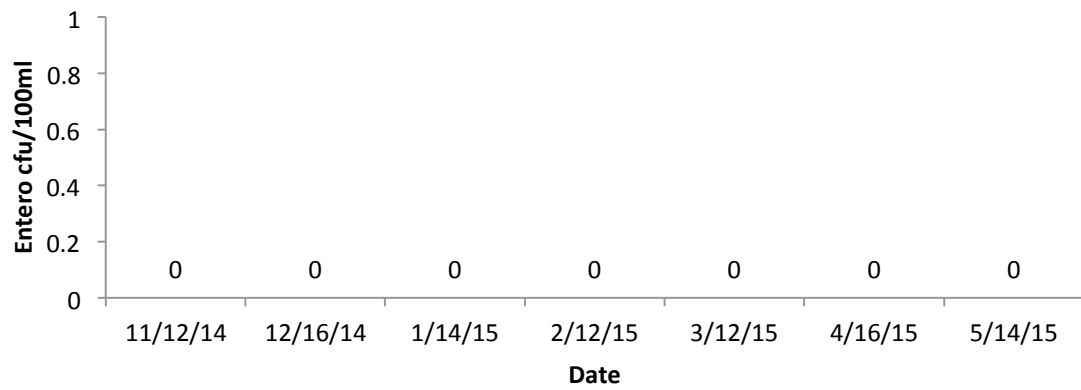




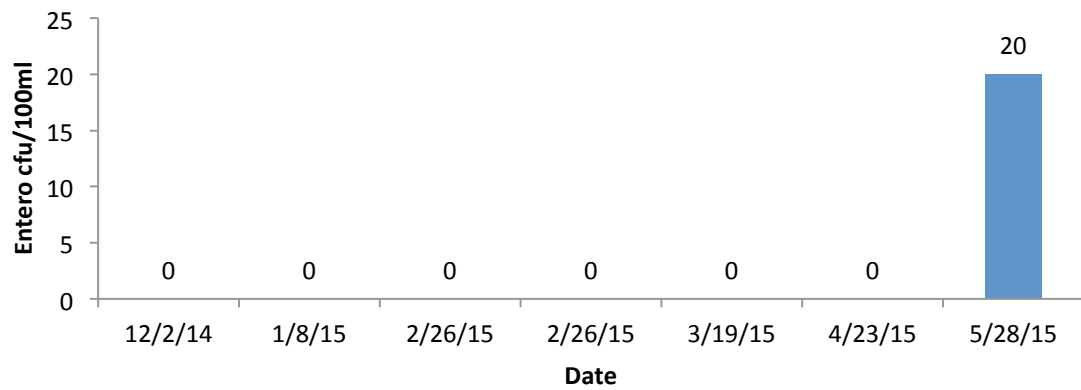
## Garrison Beach



## Battle Rock



## Retz Creek



## **Educational Highlights**

Over 30 students were engaged in Blue Water Task Force activities during the 2014---2015 school year in the greater Port Orford community. Students from Pacific High School were trained in water quality collection, analysis and educated on the importance of water quality for ecological and recreational health. Additionally, the classroom explored the various sources of point and non---point pollution and how their work sampling can help track those sources over time. Incorporating students into sampling and analysis creates a wonderful opportunity for hands---on science with real world applications. In addition to classroom exercises and lab analysis training, students participated in other field trips and monitoring activities such as marine debris and tidepool exploration and clam shell surveys in the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve.



