

Port Orford Blue Water Task Force Summary and Highlights 2015-16 School Year

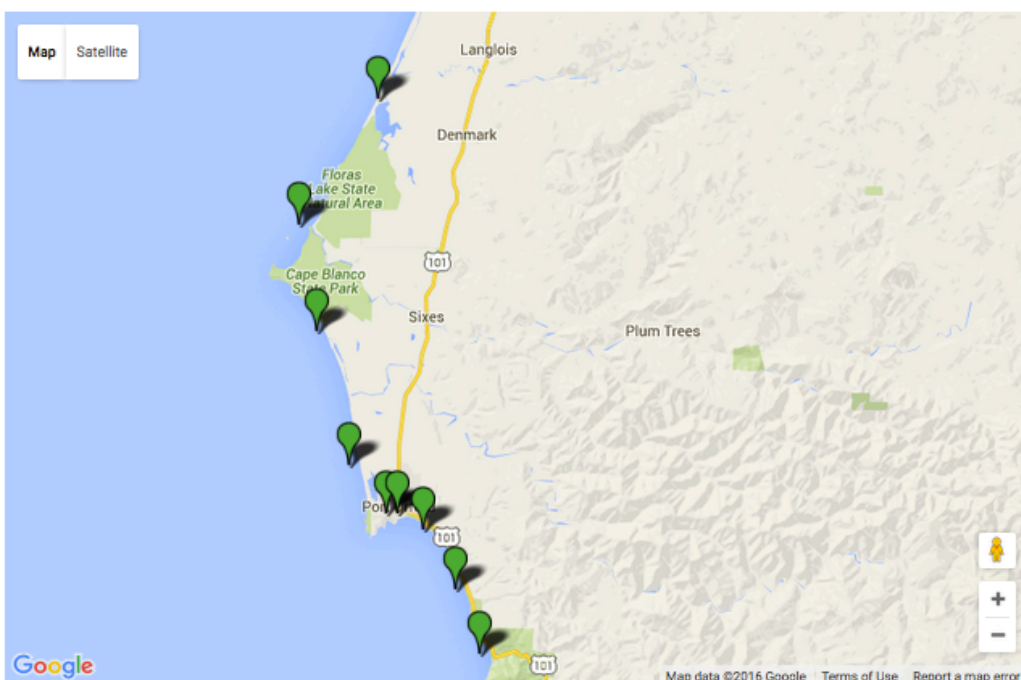
General Summary

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 2015 to June of 2016. 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 MPN/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>

Water Quality at Marine Reserve Site - Retz Creek

Port Orford

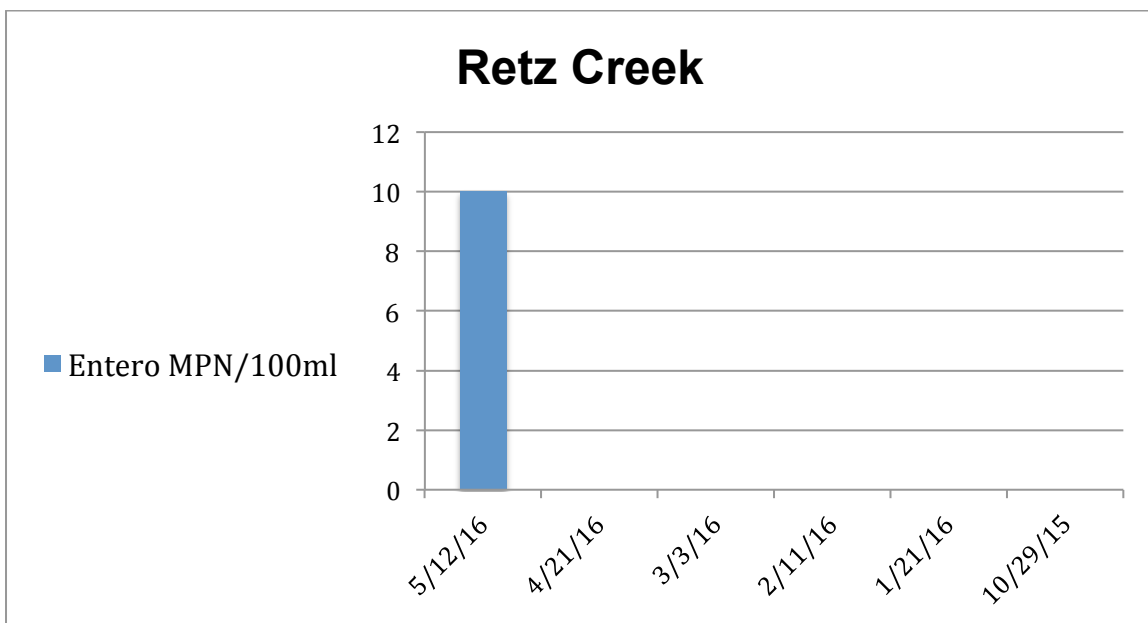
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PORT ORFORD BEACHES

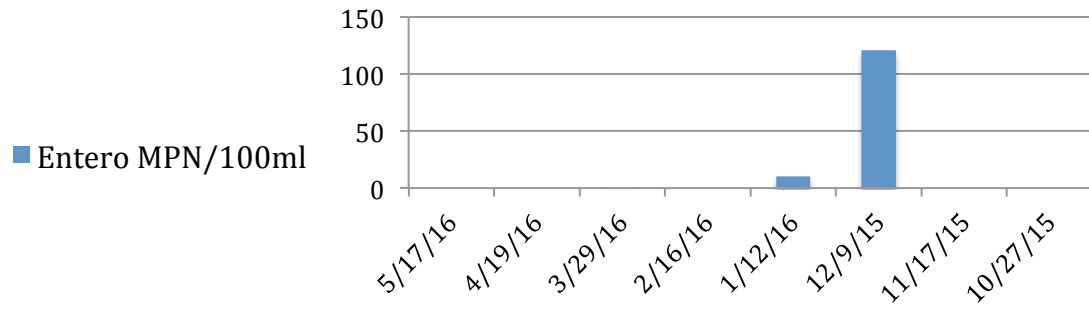
- **Flores Lake Outlet**
Tested on: 6-26-2016
- **Battle Rock**
Tested on: 5-17-2016
- **Brush Creek - Humbug**
Tested on: 5-17-2016
- **Dog Beach**
Tested on: 5-17-2016
- **Elk River Mouth**
Tested on: 5-12-2016
- **Retz Creek**
Tested on: 5-12-2016
- **Sixes River Mouth**
Tested on: 5-12-2016
- **Garrison Beach**
Tested on: 4-12-2016
- **Hubbards Creek**
Tested on: 2-24-2016

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.

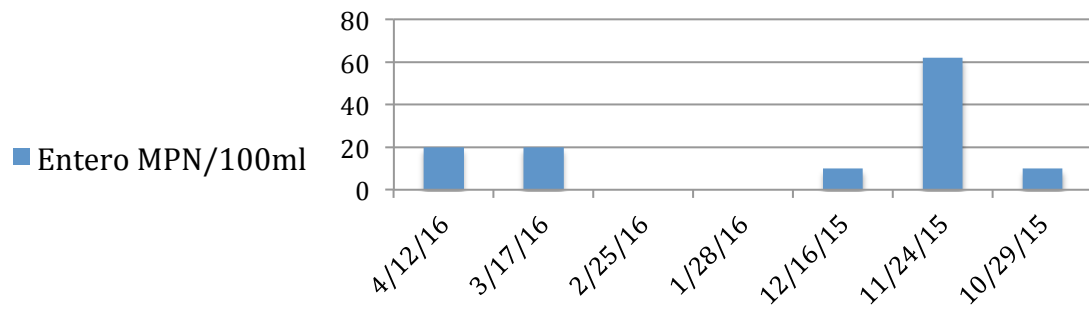
While almost four years of clean readings such as this is a positive indicator, longer-term data and resulting trends tell a better and more accurate story. Bacteria can fluctuate heavily in the environment and tracking bacteria over long periods of time is critical in understanding its sources of origin 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.**



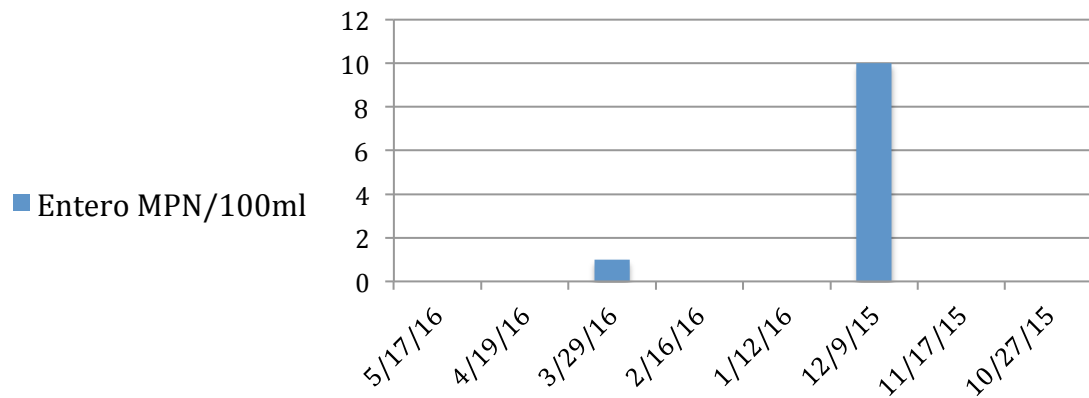
Dog Beach



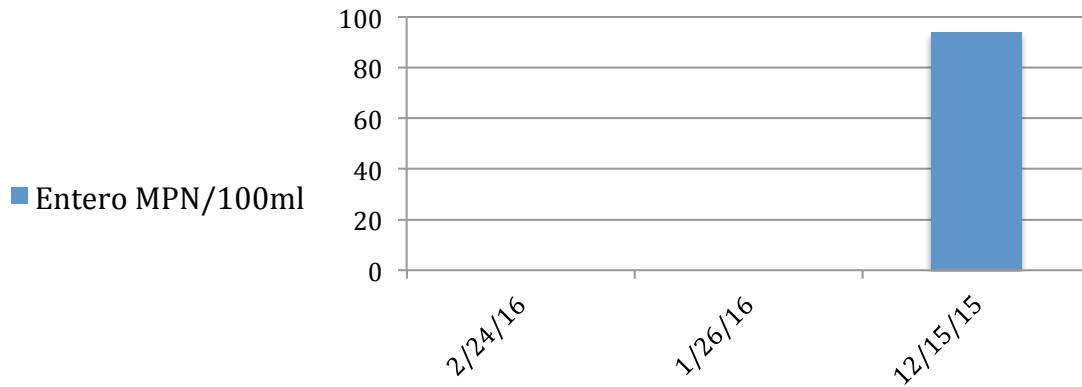
Garrison Beach



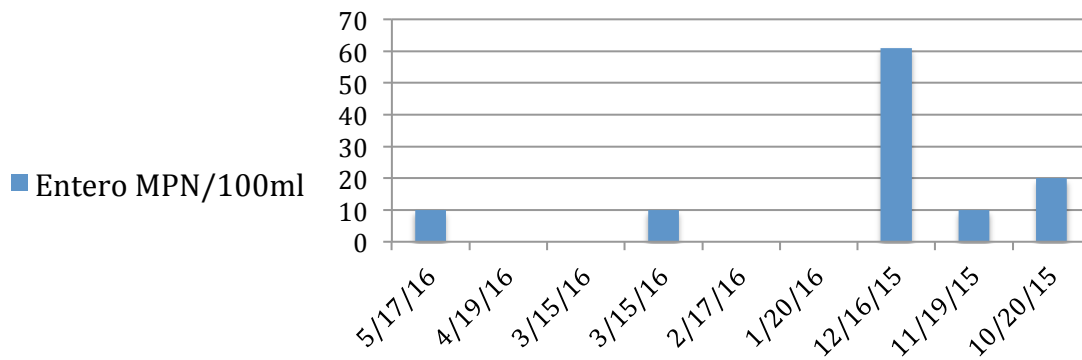
Battle Rock



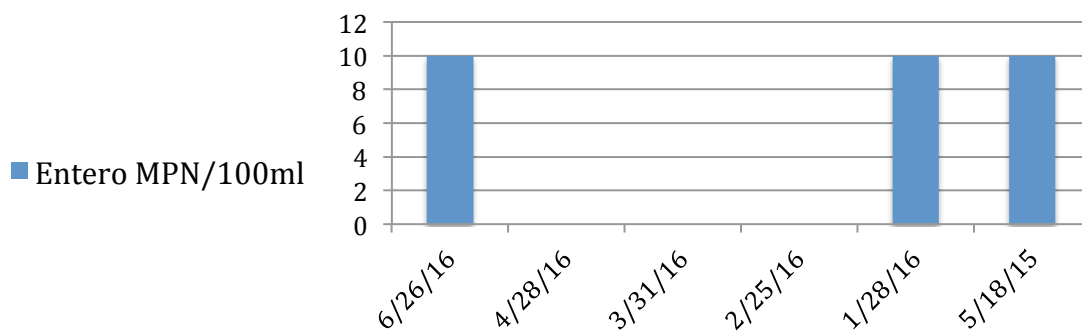
Hubbards Creek



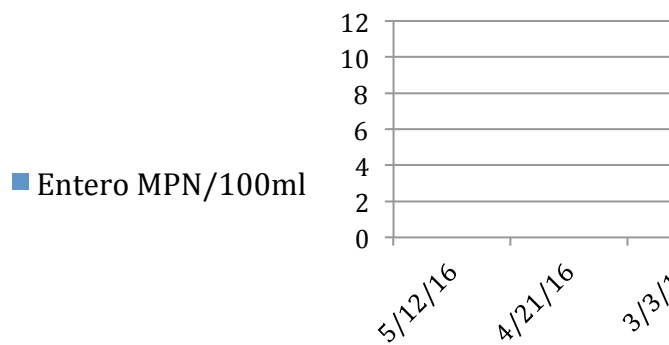
Brush Creek - Humbug



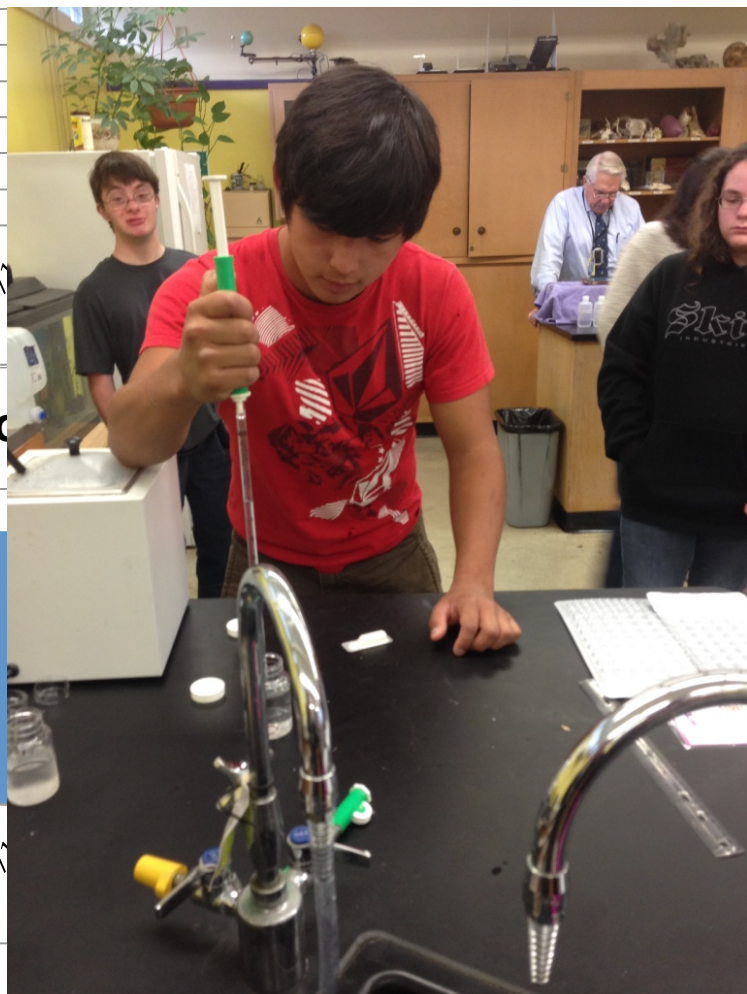
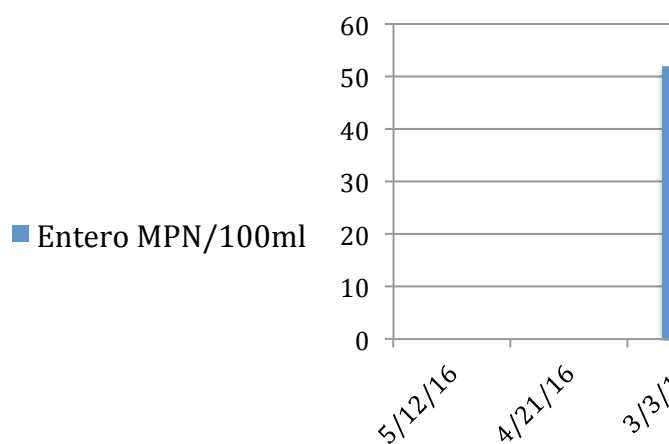
Flores Lake Outlet



Elk River Mon



Sixes River Mon



Educational Highlights

Over 20 students were engaged in Blue Water Task Force activities during the 2015-2016 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 and lab analysis training with real world applications

