

Water quality standards for Class B and Class SB waters¹

Designated Use/Standard	Parameter	Support
Inland waters, Class B, warm water fishery Massachusetts waters, MADEP	Dissolved Oxygen	≥ 5.0 mg/l ≥ 60% saturation unless background conditions lower
	Temperature	≤ 28.3°C (83°F)
	pH	6.0 to 8.3 S.U.
Coastal/marine waters, Class SB Massachusetts waters, MADEP	Dissolved Oxygen	≥ 5.0 mg/L ≥ 60% saturation unless background conditions lower
	Temperature	< 26.7°C (80°F)
	pH	6.5 to 8.5 S.U.
Primary contact recreation (designated swimming area), EPA and MADPH guidelines and, as of 2007, primary contact recreation, Massachusetts MADEP	<i>Enterococcus</i>	Single sample limit 61 colonies/100 ml (freshwater), 104 colonies/100 ml (marine); geometric mean 33 colonies/100 ml (freshwater), 35 colonies/100 ml (marine)
Freshwater primary contact recreation (designated swimming area), EPA and MADPH guidelines; and, as of 2007, primary contact recreation, Massachusetts MADEP	<i>E. coli</i>	Single sample limit 235 colonies/100 ml (freshwater only); geometric mean 126 colonies/100 ml (freshwater only)
Prior to 2007, primary contact recreation, Massachusetts MADEP	Fecal coliform	Geometric mean ≤ 200 colonies/100 ml, no more than 10% of samples above 400 colonies/100 ml
Restricted shellfishing, Massachusetts MADMF	Fecal coliform	Geometric mean ≤ 88 colonies/100 ml

¹ According to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) standards as of January 2007

From MADEP 1996:

Inland Water Class B: These waters are designated as a habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, and for primary and secondary contact recreation. Where designated they shall be suitable as a source of water supply with appropriate treatment. They shall be suitable for irrigation and other agricultural uses and for compatible industrial cooling and process uses. These waters shall have consistently good aesthetic value.

Coastal and Marine Class SB: These waters are designated as a habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, and for primary and secondary contact recreation. In approved areas they shall be suitable for shellfish harvesting with depuration (Restricted Shellfishing Areas). These waters shall have consistently good aesthetic value.