



Project Briefing

www.stmarysriverkeeper.org

Harriett's Bluff

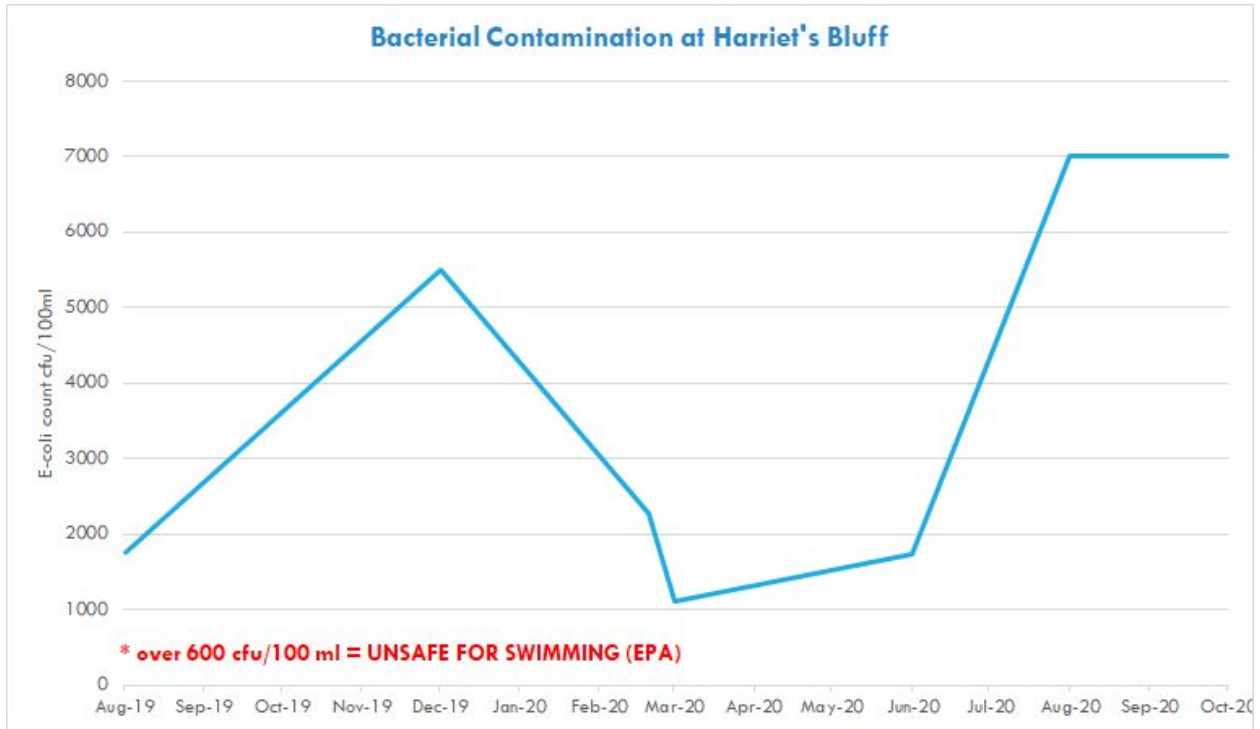


- High bacterial readings in the Harriett's Bluff community indicate both point source and non-point source sources of contamination.
- Receiving stream for a NPDES permit holder has frequent effluent discharge
- After communicating our results and concerns to GAEPD, the new permit in place is much stricter
- [E-DNA test results](#)
- SMRK Project Briefing pdf

Summary

Among monthly testing sites for the St. Marys Riverkeeper is the receiving stream for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit holder in Harrietts Bluff.

We have monitored this site for three years: [view our monthly sampling results](#). These results indicate effluent discharge from the water pollution control plant occurs with some frequency, particularly during wetter seasons and years.



Project Details:

The St. Marys Riverkeeper is focused on identifying sources of pollution in our watershed through a dedicated citizen science water quality monitoring effort. We use Georgia Adopt-a-Stream monitoring protocols and share our data with their network and openly on our website to ensure transparency.

A new draft NPDES permit is currently under review for this site. Following review of our monthly results, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) revised compliance officer visit frequency from quarterly to monthly in this permit. [View new draft permit.](#)

Additionally at the Riverkeepers' recommendation, the GAEPD Watershed Protection Branch is working to determine if a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for ammonia needs to be established for the Crooked River.

We now further recommend that this permit issuance be reduced from five years to three years to allow for revision following increased water quality monitoring by regulatory agencies.

More Resources

About "Point" vs "Non-Point" Sources

Most pollution in our watershed is considered 'non-point', meaning that it comes from many sources, like runoff or septic systems.

Point source pollution comes from one identifiable location, and is regulated by federal and state environmental protection agencies. All point source pollution requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act.

About the [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#)

The Clean Water Act prohibits anybody from discharging "pollutants" through a "point source" into a "water of the United States" unless they have an NPDES permit. The permit will contain limits on what you can discharge, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not hurt water quality or people's health.

About [Total Maximum Daily Loads \(TMDL\)](#)

A TMDL is the calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody will meet and continue to meet water quality standards for that particular pollutant. A TMDL determines a pollutant reduction target and allocates load reductions necessary to the source(s) of the pollutant.