Bacteriological Study of the Annapolis Basin (Nova Scotia Shellfish Growing Area No. 18)

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BACTERIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE ANNAPOLIS BASIN (Nova Scotia Shellfish Growing Area No. 18)

by

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ABSTRACT

A bacteriological survey of the shellfish growing waters of the Annapolis Basin was conducted from June 6 to December 3, 1973. A total of 1,547 water samples were collected from 150 stations and 10 brooks and analyzed for total and fecal coliform densities using the standard 5-tube MPN method. An additional 253 isolates were collected from EC-and BGB-positive confirmed tests for coliform typing.

Results of the study indicate that the Annapolis River was highly polluted and had deteriorated considerably since the previous studies. An extension of the present closure (PC 1970-2189, Item 18-1) is required. Sewage pollution in the Basin was confined within the immediate areas of the Digby waterfront and Clementsport-Deep Brook closures. Tourist activities at the Smith Cove Trailer Park contributed a considerable amount of pollution to the Basin at the inlet. A new closure is recommended for this inlet.

Coliform isolates studies indicate that the fecal coliform test is a more specific indicator of fecal pollution than the total coliform test. Ninety-one point six per cent (91.6%) of the coliforms isolated from the fecal coliform test were identified as *E. coli* whereas the majority of the coliforms isolated from the total coliform test were *Klebsiella* and *Enterobacter* strains. Calculations indicate that a fecal coliform MPN value of 23 is equivalent to the total coliform MPN value of 70 for the waters of the Annapolis Basin.

- i -

RESUME

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Une étude bactériologique des eaux des zones de pêche de coquillages du Bassin d'Annapolis à été conduite du 6 juin au 3 décembre, 1973. Un total de 1,547 échantillons d'eau a été ramassé à 150 postes et dans 10 ruisseaux. Ceuxci ont été analysés pour les densités de colibacilles totales et de colibacilles fécaux en utilisant la méthode étendard de NPP avec cinq éprouvettes. Deux cent-cinquante-trois isolés additionnelles ont été ramassées des épreuves positives dans le bouillon EC et BGB pour caractériser des colibacilles.

Les résultats de l'étude indique que le Bassin d'Annapolis est très pollué et qu'il a détérioré sérieusement depuis les dernières études. Une extension de la présente fermeture (PC-1970-2189 Article 18-1) est requise. La pollution par les eaux d'égout est limité à la région immédiate des quais de Digby et aux fermetures de Clementsport-Deep Brook. Les activités tousistiques du Smith Cove Trailer Park ont contribué considérablement à la pollution du Bassin à l'embouchûre. Une nouvelle fermeture est recommendée pour cet embouchûre.

Les études de colibacilles isolés indique que la méthode pour déterminer les coliformes fécaux est un indicateur plus précis de la pollution fécale que l'épreuve de coliformes totales. Quatre-vingt-onze point six pourcent (91.6%) des colibacilles isolés des éprouvettes pour les coliformes fécaux ont été identifiés comme <u>E. coli</u> tandis que la plupart des colibacilles isolés des éprouvettes pour les coliformes totales était des races <u>Klebsiella</u> et <u>Enterobacter</u>. Le calcul indique que la nombre de 23 coliformes fécaux NPP est équivalent à 70 coliformes totales NPP dans les eaux du Bassin d'Annapolis.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Annapolis Basin, in southwestern Nova Scotia, is one of the most productive shellfish growing areas in The soft shell clam (Mya arenaria) industry Nova Scotia. of the Annapolis Basin has been reported to approximate one half million dollars (6) in value. The fishery industry is concerned about the decrease in clam stocks in recent years as indicated by the decline in landings from 519800 pounds in 1969 to 503196 pounds in 1972. The decrease in clam stocks could be attributed to the closing of several areas to shellfish harvesting which resulted in the steady exhaustion of clam stocks in the open area. The sections of the Annapolis Basin which are presently closed to shellfish harvesting due to sewage pollution are the Raquette, Joggins, Cornwallis, and the Annapolis River (P.C. 1970-2189-Item 18). According to the MacLeod and Hill report (6), these closures covered 1023 acres with a total clam population of 112846 bushels. The clam resource breakdown in each closure area is listed in Table 1.

2 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The objectives of this study were:

- to re-evaluate the bacteriological water quality of the Annapolis Basin;
- to determine if sections of the closure areas could be opened for depuration;
- 3. to determine the influence of the Annapolis River on the bacteriological water quality of the Annapolis Basin;
- to determine the relationship between the coliform and fecal coliform densities in order to establish a fecal coliform standard in place of the coliform standard of 70 for the Annapolis Basin waters; and

THE SOFT SHELL CLAM (MYA ARENARIA) RESOURCE IN THE CLOSURE AREAS OF THE ANNAPOLIS BASIN. TABLE 1.

TOTAL CLAMS IN BUSHELS 36770 35362 112846 10273 11059 19382 CLAMS/ACRE MEAN NO. 209970 124582 331928 216427 127195 13.5 15.9 22.8 ± 15.2 40.9 ± 14.0 MEAN CLAM SIZE (mm) +1 +1 +1 45.1 47.5 45.4 51.9 311.43 90.75 134.47 91.13 395.20 1022.98 (ACRES) AREA Annapolis River Annapolis River (South Shore) (North Shore) LOCATION Cornwallis Raquette Joggins TOTAL

5. to provide background data for the evaluation of the effects of the installation of sewage treatment plants at Digby and CFB Cornwallis on the future water quality of the Annapolis Basin.

3 DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

The Annapolis Basin is situated in southwestern Nova Scotia, Canada. The Basin is about fifteen miles long and is connected to the Bay of Fundy by a deep, narrow channel called the Digby Gut. The Basin experiences an extremely high tidal amplitude of more than twenty-five feet. The Annapolis River, which is approximately forty-five miles long, flows into the northeastern part of the Basin at Annapolis Royal. The river drains a mixed farming-grazing-orchard watershed and carries treated and untreated sewage from a number of settlements along its banks.

The Annapolis Basin is situated in a fertile valley surrounded by forested hills 100 to 600 feet high. The northern shore of the Basin is composed mainly of farm, pasture and marsh lands. There are three small communities - Victoria Beach, Port Wade, and Port Royal - on this shore. None of these villages have water or sewage systems, and they generally discharge septic tank effluents into the Basin. The southern shore is a popular tourist area, possessing motels, restaurants, trailer camps, swimming pools, golf courses, and picnic ground facilities. The towns of Digby, CFB Cornwallis, Clementsport, Annapolis Royal, and a number of settlements along the shore discharge raw sewage directly to the Basin.

Extensive sand-mud tidal flats are found throughout the Basin. Goat Island, situated in the estuary of the Annapolis River at the northeastern end of the Basin is the most productive shellfish area in the Basin. It yields more than 70 percent of the annual clam harvest.

4 MATERIALS AND METHODS

4.1 Sampling Program. A total of 150 sampling stations were established in the three sectors of the Annapolis Basin. The locations of these sampling points are shown in Figure 1. The sampling program was carried out in three phases in order to give a better evaluation of climatic, ecological and seasonal effects on the bacteriological water quality in the Annapolis Phase I was carried out in early spring (June 6 to 27, Basin. 1973) during the period of rapid phytoplankton growth and before the influx of tourists. Phase II was carried out in late summer (August 6 to 17) at the peak of tourist activities and when there was high PSP (Paralytic Shellfish Poison) toxicity in the Basin. Phase III was carried out in November. In addition, water samples were also collected from ten brooks draining into the Basin, for the purpose of determining the influence of run-off from the adjacent water shed on the water quality of the Basin. All water samples were delivered immediately to the mobile laboratory at CFB Cornwallis at Deep Brook, and were subjected to bacteriological analysis within two to four hours of collection. A drift study was conducted in December near Digby.

4.2 Laboratory Procedures. All water samples were tested for total coliform and fecal coliform densities by multiple tube dilution technique (MPN) according to the A.P.H.A. "Recommended Procedure for the Bacteriological Examination of Sea Water and Shellfish" (1). Salinity was also determined on water samples collected from representative stations by the Knudsen Method. A total of 235 coliform isolates were isolated from positive EC and BGB confirmed tubes for coliform typing. The procedure for the biochemical identification of coliform isolates is presented in Figure 2.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 1547 water samples were collected from 150 stations in the Basin, as well as ten brooks and thirty-nine

- 4 -



FIGURE 1 SAMPLING STATIONS IN THE ANNAPOLIS BASIN



FIGURE 2 COLIFORM GROUP ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURE.

- 6 -

selected stations in the present CFB Cornwallis closure area and analysed for total and fecal coliform densities. A total of 235 coliforms were isolated from these sectors of the Basin and classified biochemically. Coliform and fecal coliform MPN's obtained from the Basin are tabulated in Appendix I, Tables 1, 2, and 3. Salinity data for selected stations, tidal stages at time of sampling and daily precipitation data for the towns of Digby and Annapolis Royal provided by the Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, are presented in Appendix I Tables 4, 5, and 6 respectively. For the purpose of discussion, the study area was subdivided into three sectors.

Sector 1 - Annapolis River. The Annapolis River enters 5.1 the Basin at Annapolis Royal. This river carries treated and untreated sewage from the upstream communities having a total population of about 10,000. These upstream communities include Aylesford (pop. 680), Kingston (pop. 1,500), CFB Greenwood (pop. 3,000), Middleton (pop. 1,800), Lawrencetown (pop. 500), Bridgetown (pop. 1,300), and Annapolis Royal (pop. 800). The effect of these wastes on the Basin is evident in the high level of coliform and fecal coliform MPN's in the river at the Annapolis Royal Causeway west to Goat Island as shown in Figure 3A & B. Very high coliform (median-920) and fecal coliform (median - 350) densities were found at stations 4, 8, 9, 10, and 13 immediately offshore from Annapolis Royal. These high coliform counts were caused by the direct influence of raw sewage discharged from the town since much lower counts were recorded in the upstream stations 1, 2, and 3 (median coliform - 240; fecal coliform - 79). The coliform counts decreased gradually downstream from Annapolis Royal and became bacteriologically acceptable for shellfish harvesting beyond station 41. In general, the water quality of the river has deteriorated considerably since the previous surveys (4 and 5) and a relocation of the present closure line (P.C. 1970-2189, Item 18-1)

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further west of the existing line is considered necessary. The installation of a new survey monument will be required and the approximate position of the proposed closure line is shown in Figure 3A.

Sector 2 - Eastern Annapolis Basin (Figure 4A & B) 5.2 Water samples collected from the Goat Island area and the northern shore from Port Royal to Thorne Cove were generally of excellent bacteriological quality, with the exception of samples collected on June 26th. The high total and fecal coliform counts recorded on June 26 were the result of surface runoff induced by heavy rainfall (over 2 inches) which fell on the preceeding day. In the southern section of the Basin from Clementsport to Deep Brook, the water was contaminated by sewage discharged from the town of Clementsport, CFB Cornwallis, and some homes along the shoreline from CFB Cornwallis to Deep Brook. The sewage wastes from CFB Cornwallis pass through two septic tanks before discharging to the Basin. In order to estimate the extent to which sewage discharged from CFB Cornwallis polluted the Basin, water samples were collected at 39 selected stations, 200 yards apart, in the area of the sewage outfalls during different tidal phases (Figure 5). Bacteriological results (Table 2) indicate that the sewage discharged from CFB Cornwallis contaminated an area of over 1,000 yards radius from the outfalls on low falling and high rising tides. On a high falling and low rising tide, however, the pollution was confined primarily within the immediate area of the outfalls. It would appear that effective secondary treatment with chlorination of the sewage effluent from CFB Cornwallis would significantly reduce the influence of a major source of pollution in this portion of the Basin.

5.3 <u>Sector 3 - Western Annapolis Basin (Figure 6A & B)</u> Bacteriological water quality in the north and northwestern shore of this sector from Thorne Cove to the Pine Motel (Stations 108)



FIGURE 4A SUMMARY OF COLIFORM DATA IN EASTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN.

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FIGURE 4B SUMMARY OF FECAL COLIFORM DATA IN EASTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN.

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FIGURE 5 SAMPLING STATIONS AT CFB CORNWALLIS.

CORNWALLIS
CFB
DATA,
BACTERIOLOGICAL
TABLE 2

- 14 -

(CONTINUED)
CORNWALLIS
CFB
DATA,
BACTERIOLOGICAL
TABLE 2

	July	18	Jul	Y 19	Jul	y 19	Jul	y 20
Station	High Fall	ing Tide	High Ris.	ing Tide	Low Fall	ing Tide	Low Ris	ing Tide
:	Coliform	F. Coli	Coliform	F. Coli	Coliform	F. Coli	Coliform	F. Coli
14	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	240	130
15	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	95	20
16	540	540	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	540	130
17	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	920	540
18	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	140	110
19	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	220	130
20	2400+	2400+	540	170	2400+	2400+	180	011
21	280	280	2400+	1600	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+
22	011	52	350	220	2400+	2400+	130	49
23	920	540	540	540	2400+	2400+	240	79
24	170	170	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+
25	170	130	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+
26	130	130	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+

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BACTERIOLOGICAL DATA, CFB CORNWALLIS (CONTINUED) TABLE

Coli Low Rising Tide 2400+ S July 20 • ت-آ Coliform 2400+ Low Falling Tide F. Coli 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ July 19 Coliform 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ High Rising Tide F. Coli 2400+ 2400+ ω July 19 Coliform 2400+ 2400+ 2400+ e E High Falling Tide F. Coli 2400+ 5 Coliform 2400+ July 18 2 0 Station

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SUMMARY OF FECAL COLIFORM DATA, WESTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN.

to 125) was excellent. The median coliform and fecal coliform MPN's were 5 and 2 respectively. The only potential source of pollution noted in this section was a small fish plant which discharges some wastes to the Basin at Victoria Beach. Because of the high tidal current at the Digby Gut, these wastes were very much diluted as indicated in the low coliform and fecal coliform MPN (median = 2) at Station 118.

Water samples collected along the southeastern shore from Bear River to Smith Cove (Stations 94 to 105) were of satisfactory bacteriological quality. High bacterial counts were found at Station 134 which was situated at the inlet adjacent to the Smith Cove Trailer Park. The median coliform and fecal coliform densities at this station were 170 and 120 respectively. The maximum coliform and fecal coliform counts found at this station were observed during August, which coincided with the peak of tourist activities; that is, when the camp site was fully occupied with trailers. It was therefore concluded that the camping activities at the trailer park were the major source of pollution at Station 134. There are probably additional sources from the Rouch Brook which passes through Imbertville before entering the Basin at The coliform MPN's at the mouth of Rouch Brook the inlet. were 540 during dry periods and 2400+ after heavy precipi-It is therefore recommended that a new closure should tation. be established for this inlet and the approximate position of the proposed closure line is shown in Figure 6a.

Bacteriological water quality in the present Digby waterfront closure (from the Raquette to the Joggins) was poor, with the median coliform densities of most stations well above the 70 MPN limit. The poor water quality was attributed to sewage contamination from a number of sewage outfalls and fish plants at Digby. The scallop fleet at the Digby wharf also contributed a considerable amount of pollution to the

harbour. The Joggins itself is relatively free from any major source of sewage pollution. The only known sources of pollution in the Joggins are a sewage out-fall at the foot of King Street, a large sawmill, a gas service station, and a few houses along the western shore. There are no serious sources of pollution along the eastern shore. The few houses along the eastern shore are well back from the shoreline and do not appear to produce any serious sources of contamination. An incoming tide would sweep a good deal of sewage from Digby to the Joggins as indicated by the results of the drift study (Figure 7). It took approximately three hours for the drogues to move from Green Point at Digby to the Joggins on a rising tide. It appears that most of the sewage carried into the Joggins from the town of Digby will be confined along the western shore. This resulted in significantly higher coliform counts on the western shore (Stations 144 to 147) than on the eastern shore (Stations 138 to 141). Although the median coliform MPN's in the eastern Joggins were below 70, it is, however, recommended that it should remain closed for shellfish harvesting. Under adverse conditions, a considerable amount of pollution would enter this area by rainfall induced surface runoff and from sewage washed in from Digby or other parts of the Joggins. This is revealed in the periodically high coliform and fecal coliform counts in this area during the study.

Occasional high coliform densities were also recorded at sampling stations immediately outside the Digby waterfront closure line (Stations 129 to 133 and 137). The intrastation variation in the coliform densities were most probably due to a random distribution of pollutants or to intermittent contamination. In general the median coliform densities in these stations were within acceptable limits.



FIGURE 7 DRIFT STUDY AT DIGBY WATERFRONT.

Pollution from the town of Digby appears to be localized within the present closure area and does not produce any serious effects on the bacteriological quality of the open waters.

5.4 <u>Environmental Factors</u>. Because there are so many variables associated with environmental factors, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to draw any significant conclusions about their effects on the bacteriological water quality based on the limited data from this study. For a more comprehensive evaluation of the influence of environmental conditions, a time series <u>in situ</u> study on a number of shellfish growing areas for a long period of time is required. Therefore, in this report, the discussion is limited to only one environmental factor - rainfall.

Rainfall and subsequent surface runoff is one of the most important factors influencing the bacteriological quality of a water body. An increase in coliform counts generally occurs following a heavy rainfall, and this situation persists for several days thereafter. A typical example of this is demonstrated in the abrupt increase in coliform and fecal coliform counts at most stations on June 26 and August 6.

To study the effect of surface runoff on the Basin, water samples were collected from ten brooks draining into the Basin during a dry period and following a period of rainfall. Very high coliform and fecal coliform densities were found in most brook samples (Table 3). A significant increase in coliform and fecal coliform densities (2400+) was observed after a heavy rainfall indicating that surface runoff might have a potential effect on the Basin during a heavy runoff. However, under normal conditions, the low-volume flow from these brooks would not be expected to have a marked effect on the Basin. The sanitary significance of the coliforms in the runoff on the shellfish growing area depends on their origins - fecal or vegetative. If it is proven that the coli-

SAMPLES
BROOK
FROM
DATA
BACTERIOLOGICAL
M
TABLE

Total	7+5 0		λτηρ	12×
	l Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform
Roach Brook	540	540	2400+	2400+
Boyce Brook	920	540	2400+	2400+
Purdy Brook	2400+	240	2400+	2400+
Deed Brook	1600	240	2400+	2400+
Potter Brook	110	64	2400+	2400+
Ryerson Brook	130	33	2400+	2400+
Woodland Brook	2400+	2400+	2400+	2400+
Balcolm Brook	240	23	2400+	2400+
Worcester Brook	220	79	2400+	2400+
Kennedy Brook	540	350	2400+	2400+
Median	540	240	2400+	2400+

* 1.3 inches of rainfall fell on the preceeding day, July 11.

forms are not of direct fecal origin and do not indicate a public health hazard (3), compliance with the set coliform limits becomes subject to interpretation based on environmental observation. In this regard, it is very useful to include supplementary biochemical tests to identify some of the coliform biotypes from the study areas to assess their origin and sanitary significance.

Identification of Coliform Isolates. During the study, 5.5 188 isolates were collected from EC positive confirmed tubes and 47 isolated from corresponding BGB positive confirmed tubes that were EC negative. The rationale behind this modified procedure in collecting isolates was due to the increasing reports of the incidence of atypical coliform biotypes in the total coliform test (7, 8, 9, 10). The purpose of picking the isolates from EC confirmed tubes was to verify the fidelity of the EC test as a means of estimating E. coli densities. E. coli is considered to be the major coliform biotype in the feces of human and warm-blooded animals, comprising approximately 90 per cent of the fecal coliform density. The purpose of collecting isolates from the BGB confirmed tubes which were EC negative was to test the validity of the total coliform test in defining fecal pollution. If a large percentage of the isolates identified from either test are made up of other coliform biotypes than E. coli, it may be concluded that the source of coliform is from natural runoff rather than feces and the coliforms are of limited sanitary significance.

The percentage occurrence of each coliform biotype identified from the three sectors of the Annapolis Basin was calculated and summarized in Table 4. A total of twenty cultures failed to grow on subsequent transfer. *E. coli* were the predominant (91.6%) coliform biotypes isolated from the EC test and *Klebsiella* and *Enterobacter* constituted 6.8% and 1.67% of the isolates. Coliform biotypes isolated from the BGB posiSUMMARY OF COLIFORM BIOTYPES ISOLATED FROM ANNAPOLIS BASIN. 4 TABLE

BGB (+) 8 22.2 i 24 66.6 11.1 0 4 36 TOTAL 11 12 6.8 EC (+) 164 91.6 3. 1.6 0 179 თ W.ANNAPOLIS BASIN EC(+) BGB(+) 10 90.9 9.1 0 0 -11 0 51 92.7 4 7.3 0 0 55 2 E. ANNAPOLIS BASIN EC(+) BGB(+) BGB (+) 66.7 2 33.3 4 0 Ó ە 2 Source 56 93.3 4 6.7 60 0 0 -1 ANNAPOLIS RIVER EC(+) BGB(+) 21.1 л 5. Э 14 73.7 0 マ 19 თ 4 6.2 57 89.1 4.7 m 0 64 Q Enterobacter No ٥ Citrobacter No % Escherichia No % Klebsiella No 8 Failed to grow on transfer GENUS Total No

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tive confirmed tubes, where duplicate EC tubes were negative, were comprised mainly of Klebsiella (66.6%), Enterobacter (22.2%) and Citrobacter (11.1%). No E. coli were isolated. The isolation of a fair number of Klebsiella (16.7%) from both tests is not surprising in view of the increasing reports of the ubiquitous distribution of Klebsiella in a wide variety of environmental sources, including plants, soils, and industrial wastes (2, 7, 8, 9, 10). The high percentage of E. coli (91.6%) isolated from EC positive tubes compared with the absence of E. coli in the BGB tubes indicates that the fecal coliform test is a much better procedure than the total coliform test for determining fecal pollution in estuarine waters that are not influenced by industrial wastes. The increasing awareness of the inadequacy of the total coliform test in defining fecal pollution has provided the impetus for many control agencies in North America to shift to a more specific fecal coliform for evaluating water quality in rivers and lakes. Because the fecal coliform test is the most accurate bacteriological test now available for detecting warm-blooded animal feces in polluted water, it would seem logical that a change should be made from a total coliform standard to a fecal coliform standard for the surveillance of shellfish growing waters. No fecal coliform standard for the shellfish growing waters has been established but an approximation of the level that is equivalent to the 70 total coliform limit may be made by determining the correlation between the two indicator groups and calculating from the regression line. A very significant correlation between fecal coliform and total coliform was obtained for all the samples (r=0.75), closed area samples (r=0.72) and open area samples (r=0.82). Calculations from the regression lines (Figure 8) indicate that the fecal coliform value of 17 is equivalent to the total coliform MPN of 70 for all the samples in the Basin. When only samples from the open and closed areas are used separately to calculate the regression line,

.



FIGURE 8 COMPARISON OF COLIFORM AND FECAL COLIFORM MPN's

27

FECAL COLIFORM MPN

the fecal coliform MPN value of 23 and 12 respectively correspond to the total coliform MPN of 70 for open and closed areas in the Basin.

6. CONCLUSIONS

A bacteriological survey of the shellfish growing waters in the Annapolis Basin indicates that the Annapolis River is highly polluted by sewage from the upstream communities and Annapolis Royal. Data indicate that the present closure (PC 1970-2189 Item 18-1) should be extended further west of the existing closure line as shown in Figure 3A.

The waters in most areas of the Annapolis Basin were of satisfactory bacteriological quality, and should remain open for the harvest of shellfish. The sewage from Digby, CFB Cornwallis and Clementsport appears to be confined within the presently closed areas (PC 1970-2189 Item 18-2, 18-4), and does not influence the open waters. Tourist activities at the Smith Cove Trailer Park appear to contribute a considerable amount of sewage pollution to the Basin inlet adjacent to the Rouch Brook. This portion of the inlet (shown in Figure 6 A) should be closed for shellfish harvesting.

Occasional high coliform and fecal coliform counts recorded on some sampling stations were probably attributable to sporadic episodes of landwash pollution or to intermittent contamination from the immediate shore area. The high coliform and fecal coliform counts found in the brook samples and concurrent with dramatic increase in bacterial counts in most stations after an episode of heavy rainfall emphasized the urgent need for administrative mechanics for temporary closure of susceptible shellfish growing areas during the period of heavy runoff pollution.

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The traditional concept of using total coliforms as an index of pollution has been a subject of controversy in recent years due to its inability to distinguish coliforms of fecal origin from coliforms of nonfecal origin. Fecal coliforms are a more specific indicator of fecal pollution as indicated by the fact that 91.6% of the fecal coliforms isolated from this study were E. coli. It appears that a change from a coliform standard to a fecal coliform standard for use in the surveillance of shellfish growing waters is warranted. Regression analysis indicated a fecal coliform value of 23 is equivalent to the total coliform MPN of 70 for the open waters of Annapolis Basin. This fecal coliform value of 23 is much greater than the . value of 14 proposed in the Eighth National Shellfish Sanitation Workshop at New Orleans, 1974, but it is precisely the same value that Tennant et. al. (11, 12) recommended for Atlantic shellfish growing areas in their 1964 and 1968 reports. However, it should be kept in mind that the ratio between total coliform and fecal coliform varied greatly in different geographical locations and under different environmental conditions. Therefore, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to select a fecal coliform value which can be related in all shellfish growing areas to the degree of public health hazard expressed by the current coliform MPN It appears that before accepting any arbit-70 standard. rary fecal coliform value there should be a more accurate and critical evaluation of the potential health hazard of a water body containing a known level of fecal coliforms. At present, there is no epidemiological data available to show the threshold ______ concentration of fecal coliforms beyond which the health hazard increases. Therefore, research into the development of a more meaningful indicator and standard based on epidemiological data is needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. It is recommended that the present closure of the waters in the Annapolis River (P.C. 1970-2189, Item 18-1) be rescinded. A new closure line should be established by drawing a straight line across the river from Karsdale Road east of Port Royal to the unnamed point immediately southwest of station 41 at latitude 40°41'8" N and longitude 65°35'3" W. The exact position of the closure line must be defined by the installation of survey monuments. A portion of the closure area in the River downstream from the Allain River (Figure 3A) can be approved for the harvesting of shellfish for depuration.
- 2. The present closure of the waters along the south shore from Clementsport to Deep Brook (P.C. 1970-2189, Item 18-2) are subjected to direct fecal contamination from the town of Clementsport, CFB Cornwallis and settlements along the shore. It is thus recommended that this area remain closed for all purposes of shellfish harvesting.
- 3. The waters along the Digby waterfront are seriously contaminated by a number of sewage outfalls from Digby. The present closure (P.C. 1970-2189, Item 18-4) must be retained but a portion of the eastern Joggins as shown in Figure 6B be approved for the harvesting of shellfish for depuration. Because of the large resource of shellfish in this area, it is strongly recommended that the proposed treatment plant at Digby be constructed as soon as possible and the sewage outfall be diverted as far as possible from the Joggins.

- 4. The presence of a significant number of coliform and fecal coliform indices in the inlet of the Basin below the Smith Cove Trailer Park indicates that a closure is required for this area. The recommended closure area lies within a straight line drawn between the Smith's Cove Station and the tip of the Smith Cove Peninsula as shown in Figure 6A. The location of the closure should be defined later in terms of survey monuments. This closure can be approved for the harvesting of shellfish for depuration.
- 5. The remainder of the Annapolis Basin is of satisfactory bacteriological quality and should remain open for the harvesting of shellfish.
- Bacteriological quality of the Annapolis Basin would probably improve should sewage treatment facilities be constructed at the towns of Annapolis Royal, Digby, and CFB Cornwallis.

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APPENDIX

TABLES

COLIFORM MPN'S OF SEA WATER SAMPLES FOR ANNAPOLIS RIVER (SECTOR 1) TABLE 1-A

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SEA WATTER SAMPLES FOR ANNAPOLIS RIVER FECAL COLIFORM MPN'S OF (SECTOR 1) (CONTINUED) TABLE 1-B

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TABLE 2-B FECAL COLIFORM MPN'S OF SEA WATER SAMPLES FOR EASTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN (SECTOR 2) • . FECAL COLIFORM MPN'S OF SEA WATER SAMPLES FOR EASTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN (SECTOR 2) (CONTINUED) TABLE 2-B

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COLIFORM MPN'S OF SEAWATER SAMPLES FOR WESTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN (SECTOR 3) TABLE 3 A

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FECAL MPN'S OF SEAWATER SAMPLES FOR WESTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN (SECTOR 3) TABLE 3B

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TABLE 3B FECAL	M	
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FECAL MPN'S OF SEAWATER SAMPLES FOR WESTERN ANNAPOLIS BASIN (SECTOR 3) (CONTINUED)

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TABLE 4 SALINITY DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS AT ANNAPOLIS'BASIN, 1973

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12	18.8	29.5	24.2	16.9	22.2	10.2	15.3	27.2	
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	June 7	June 12	June 20	June 26	Aug 7	Aug 13	Aug 15	Nov 26	
54	26.8 29 5	29.5 20.5	29.5 20.5	27.4	22.2 24 8	16.9 30.2	28.5 20.6	28.5 28.5	
888	29.5	29.5 33.4	29.5	30.2	30.2 30.2	30.2 30.2	28.5 28.5 28.5	31.2 28.5	
			31	estern An	napolis	Basin			
	June 8	June 14	June 21	June 27	Aug 9	Aug 15	Aug 16	Nov 1	Nov 6
86 90	29.5 20.5	26.8 20 E	29.5 20.5	30.2	18.2 30.2	16.9 30.2	15.3 28 5		28.5 28.5
108	29.5	29.5	29.5	30.2	30.2	30.2	25.9	 	28.5
119	29.5	29.5	32.1	30.2	27.4	30.2	28.5		31.2
135	29.5	29 . 5	29 . 5	24.8	30.2	30.2	25.9 20.5	28.5	25.9
144 149	29.5	29.5 29.5	26.8 26.8	30.2 30.2	27.4	30.2	28.5 28.5	31.2	28.5

TIDAL PHASE AT TIME OF SAMPLING, ANNAPOLIS BASIN, 1973 TABLE 5

		1			س						
	Tiđe	Low Rising	High Rising	Ĩœw Falling	High Falling	High Falling	High Fallinc	High Rising	High Rising	Low Falling	High Falling
SECTOR 3	Time	13.30-17.00	8.15-11.15	10.00-13.30	8.00-11.00	8.30-12.00	13.30-14.30	11.00-13.30	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.30	15.00-17.00
	Date	Jun 8	Jun 14	Jun 21	Jun 27	Aug 9	Aug 15	Aug 16	Nov 1	Nov 21	Nov 26
SECTOR 2	Tide	Low Falling	Low Rising	High Rising	Low Rising	Low Falling	High Falling	Low Falling	Low Falling	High Falling	
	Time	8.30-12.15	15.00-17.00	13.00-15.00	15.15-17.00	12.00-13.30	10.30-13.00	15.30-17.30	11.30-13.00	13.30-15.00	
	Date	Jun 7	Jun 12	Jun 20	Jun 26	Aug 7	Aug 13	Aug 15	Nov 21	Nov 26	
SECTOR 1	Tiđe	Low Rising	Low Falling	High Rising	Low Falling	lligh Rising	High Falling	Low Falling	High Rising	Low Falling	High Rising
	Time	13.30-15.30	8.00-10.00	10.30-12.00	14.00-15.00	14.30-18.00	12.30-15.00	15.00-15.30	14.00-15.00	11.00-13.00	15.30-16.30
	Date	Jun 6	Jun 12	Jun 19	Jun 26	Aug 6	Aug 9	Aug 15	Nov 1	Nov 6	Dec 3

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	JUNE	AUG. 1.42 .02 .84 .13	NOV. .76 .41 .04 .01	<u>JUNE</u> TR	<u>AUG.</u> .27 .08	<u>NOV.</u> .95
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		1.42 .02 .84 .13	.76 .41 .04 .01	TR	.27 .08	.95
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		.02 .84 .13	.41 .04 .01		.08	20
3 4 5 6 7 8 9		.84 .13	.04 .01	1		• 20
4 5 6 7 8 9		.13	.01		.93	TR
5 6 7 8 9			.01		.08	
6 7 8 9						TR
7 8 9					TR	TR
9		.02	.25			.10
10 L		. 35			TR	TR
11		TR				
12	.41			.45	•	
13	.31		.06	1.04		.10
14	.29		.03			TR
15	.30	.14	.05		.18	.10
16	1.50 .35		.16	1.08		.20
18						TR
19					.09	
20 21						
22	.57	.46		.66	.50	
23	.39		.06	.18		TR
24	.41		.08	.70		.09
25	1.20		.03	.79		TR
26	.02			1		
27	.24		.09	.28	.80	.15
28	.01	.69	1.63	.23		1.80
29						TR
30 31						TR
Total	6.00	4.07	2.66			

TABLE 6	DAILY PRECIPITATION DIGBY, N. S.	(IN INCHES)	AT	ANNAPOLIS	ROYAL	AND
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TR = Trace

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Bacteriological study of the Annapolis Basin (Nova Scotia shellfish growing area no. 18)

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