

Water Quality in the Majuro Lagoon

Maati Anterea

Moriana Phillip MS, Republic of the Marshall Islands Coordinating Center: University of Hawaii at Manoa

ABSTRACT

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Agency (RMI EPA) measures enterococci concentration in Majuro Lagoon, which is a commonly used approach in water quality monitoring. Enterococci are a group of bacteria used as indicators of water quality because of their prevalence in human and animal waste. If a location has high concentration of enterococci from sewage or untreated wastewater inputs, it likely has other pathogenic microorganisms. Water samples were obtained from Alwal, R.E.S, Marshall Islands High School (MIHS), Jenrok Park, Uliga Dock, Delap Park, and Delap Dock. Enterococci concentration was high at Alwal, R.E.S., MIHS, Jenrok Park and Delap Dock and low at Uliga and Delap docks. The purpose of this report is to inform community members of high Enterococci levels. Community members are advised to avoid swimming, especially for children. To improve the levels of Enterococci in water sources, community efforts can be made to improve sanitation services such as trash collection and recycling. Increasing awareness of this problem will not only keep residents healthy, but improve the environment for future generations.

KEY WORDS: Water quality, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Majuro Lagoon, Enterococci

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The STEP-UP High School program is supported by the Nation Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, Grant Number: R25DK78386-15.