



Quonochontaug Pond - Judge's Rock Buoy

Town: Charlestown

SiteNum: 9240

URI WW StationName: WW420

For each parameter listed below, click on the file name to access the PDF data report.

Parameter	Report File Name (PDF Format)
Chlorophyll a (digital)	http://www.wpwa.org/waterdata/SaltPonds/Chlor_Secchi/Chl_9240.PDF
Dissolved Oxygen	http://www.wpwa.org/waterdata/SaltPonds/Temp_DO_Sal/DO_9240.PDF
Secchi Depth	http://www.wpwa.org/waterdata/SaltPonds/Chlor_Secchi/Secchi_9240.PDF
Temperature	http://www.wpwa.org/waterdata/SaltPonds/Temp_DO_Sal/Temp_9240.PDF

Overall Aquatic Health Indices (AHI): Red background = "Poor" (AHI<35); Yellow background = "Fair -" (AHI 35-50); Green background = "Fair +" (AHI 50-65); White background = "Good" (AHI>65).

Year	Dissolved Oxygen	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	Total Organic Nitrogen	Chlorophyll	Secchi Depth	Overall
2007	60.5			78.8		69.7
2008				92.1		92.1

Quonochontaug Pond is connected directly to the sea by a breachway that was stabilized with rock jetties by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950s. And, as in the other ponds, sand eroding from the ocean side of the barrier beach is transported through the breachway into the pond where it settles and creates expanding shoals. In contrast to the other ponds, however, much of "Quonnie's" western barrier beach remains in a protected, undeveloped state even though it is privately owned.

The town boundary between Westerly and Charlestown cuts through the middle of the pond. Water quality in past years has been very good because the pond is relatively deep, well flushed by the tides, and development has been limited. Quonnie is the least intensely developed of any of the ponds (except Trustum & Cards). Most of the development is residential and much of it is occupied only seasonally. Like all of the ponds, Quonnie is an important nursery for a wide variety of finfish and shellfish species including blue fish, and tautog. The pond supports an active recreational fishery for soft shell clams & quahaugs.

In the past few years, development pressures have increased dramatically, even though the watershed area is relatively small and a large portion of it is comprised of wet, red maple swamps. Much of the available remaining land is being subdivided into building lots; however, large tracts have been protected by local land trusts and conservation groups. (This text is adapted from Salt Pond Watchers Summary Data Report 1985 – 1987, Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island Technical Report No. 10, October 1990, by P. Kullberg, V. Lee, and M. Platt).