

Mike Jones

From: BOBFISH@aol.com
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2003 9:19 AM
To: Mike Jones
Cc: rondeaux@sptimes.com; Ray.Weiss@News-Jrnl.com; jlibby@orlandosentinel.com
Subject: Updated MRSA Information 10 31 03

Information indicates staphylococcus aureus has been recovered from ocean water in Hawaii and elsewhere. S. aureus can survive in salt water and if it can survive in saltwater I assume MRSA can survive as well.

Information further indicates that more than a decade ago infections were showing up in Hawaii in recreational ocean sports such as swimming and paddling. The microbiology department of the University of Hawaii took water samples at some of the most popular beaches in Hawaii and found up to 100 colonies of S. aureus at peak-use times. This number dropped off at night and was much lower at other places that were not high use areas. Evidently the University of Hawaii has been working on this for some time and might be a good source of additional information.

Another interesting point is S.aureus has been recovered from the seawater of a number of countries and might even be used as a water quality indicator by some of them. There was talk back in 1964 to use S. aureus in the United States as an indicator but it wasn't decided whether or not this would add anything to the established markers such as coliform counts.

Finally, S. aureus has been recovered from marine mammals unrelated to captivity and not related to hospital care.

I am not convinced that what is going in is standard and normal and will pursue this issue until I am convinced.

Bob Jones
www.southeasternfish.org