

****Press Release **** For Immediate Use July 10, 2018 ****Press Release****

Harmful Algal Blooms Reported on Cayuga Lake

Blooms reported, sampled, tested & mapped, from July 2 - present

Pasted below and attached is *HABs Update* - “Harmful Algal Bloom Update” issue 2, newsletter for the week of July 9, 2018.

Attention: DO NOT ENTER THE WATER IF HABs ARE PRESENT!

If you see a bloom, don’t touch it. Keep your children and dogs away. Report the bloom to habshotline@gmail.com with the location, time, date and two photos. See photos in the July 9 *HABs Update* newsletter for examples of what HABs look like.

Link to the map of reported HABs locations around Cayuga Lake with test results, and of shoreline zones regularly patrolled by HABs Harriers:

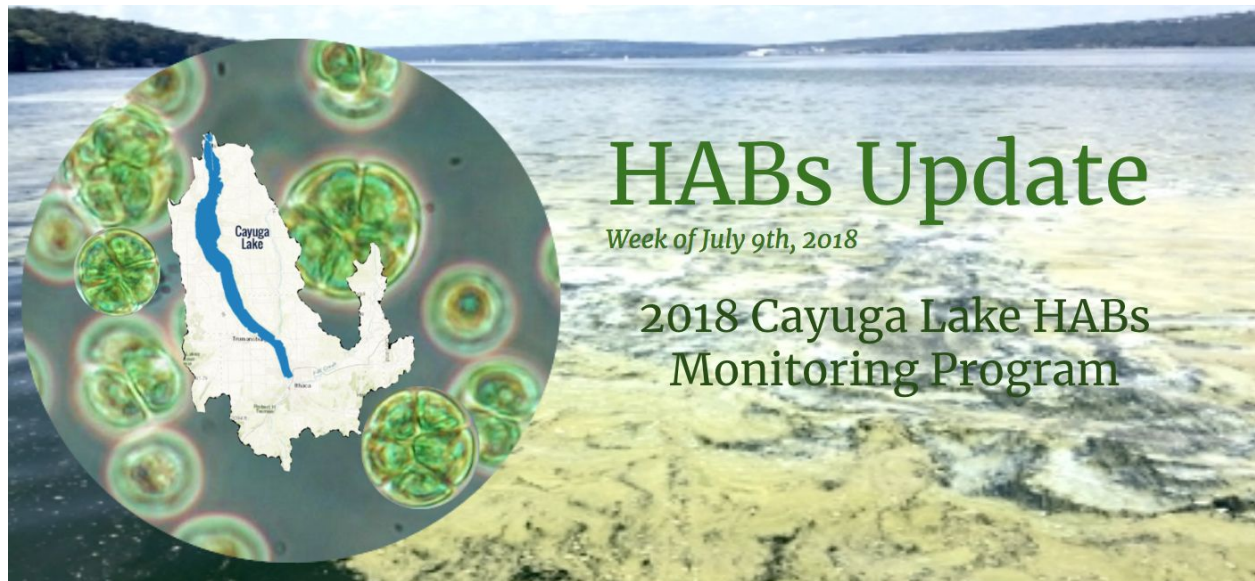
<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

Please read more in the July 9 *HABs Update*, share widely with friends and the public, and keep an eye out for updates throughout the summer.

For more information contact:

Claire Weston, Community Science Institute
info@communityscience.org ~ 607-257-6606

Jenn Grillo Tufano, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
programs@cayugalake.org ~ 607-319-0475



Harmful Algal Bloom Update 2

Updates

It's been a hot summer so far! The heat is perfect for lounging on a dock with a stimulating book, splashing in the lake with family and forgetting the chill of winter. Unfortunately, this beautiful summer heat may be contributing to the early emergence of HABs around Cayuga Lake.

According to the [Environmental Protection Agency's report on nutrient pollution](#), warmer water due to climate change might favor harmful algae in a number of ways:

- Warmer temperatures prevent water from mixing, allowing algae to grow thicker and faster.
- Warmer water is easier for small organisms to move through and allows algae to float to the surface faster.
- Algal blooms absorb sunlight, making water even warmer and promoting more blooms.

Overall, warming water temperature causes HABs to thrive. The heat we have experienced since early July may be a contributing factor to the number of HABs sightings that have been reported.

HABs Video PSA!

We would like to share with you the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's new HABs Video PSA. The 4-minute video was made by Carly Siege, our Communications Staff, to help inform the public of the threat of HABs, as well as how to spot them and how to report them.

<https://youtu.be/ITKrsj5PM8M>

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's HABs page has been updated to include new pages chock full of HABs information. We have added a page with regularly updated lake observations made by our amazing Harriers and a "HABs in the News" page with articles, both local and from around the world about HABs.

Please use our webpage as a resource for your HABs related questions, and feel free to email us with comments and questions:

<http://www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html>

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued the 2018 Cayuga Lake HABs Action Plan: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/cayugahabplan.pdf

HABS and drinking water fact sheet:

<http://www.ongov.net/health/documents/SurfaceWaterFactSheet.pdf>

We strongly reiterate that **you, your children and your pets should NOT enter the lake if HABs are seen**. Even if the blooms appears to have broken up as it approaches the shore, please do not swim until a HABs bloom has been ruled out.

Harrier Shout Out Section!

Following are some of the pictures of suspected HABs sent to the HABs Hotline. Even though HABs are a possible threat to our use and enjoyment of the lake, they make for some beautiful photos.



Where:

Dean's Cove boat launch on Cayuga shoreline at Romulus, across from Aurora

When:

July 3, 2018

Found By:

Mike Flood, Sheldrake Water to Wine Captain



Where:

5391 Route 89 Romulus

When:

July 3, 2018

Found By:

Jen Bennett



Where:

Route 89 in Romulus, NY

When:

July 3, 2018

Found By:

Mike Flood and Adriana Hirtler



Where:

Midlake off Bolton Point

When:

July 7, 2018

Found By:

Bill Foster, Floating Classroom



To see where HABs have been reported on Cayuga Lake:

Check out the following map provided by the Community Science Institute:

<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

This map is regularly updated, and includes bloom report locations, test results, and displays the zones that HABs Harriers (trained volunteers) are regularly checking for HABS.

Check out the DEC HABs Notification Page:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>



To learn more about HABs with links to research, the global scope of this problem, and information about possible causes and solutions, check out our HABs page at

www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html



The Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program is a collaborative effort led by a local consortium of three nonprofits: The Community Science Institute (CSI), the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN), and Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL), working in collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the State University of New York Environmental School of Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

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