

****Press Release **** For Immediate Use July 24, 2018 ****Press Release****

Harmful Algal Blooms on Cayuga Lake: Information

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

Pasted below and attached is HABs Update - "Harmful Algal Bloom Update" issue 4, newsletter for the week of July 24, 2018.

New in this issue:

- Examples of HABs
- Examples of non-HABs
- HABs exposure instructions

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.

Link to the map of reported HABs locations around Cayuga Lake with test results, and shoreline zones regularly patrolled by HABs Harriers: <http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

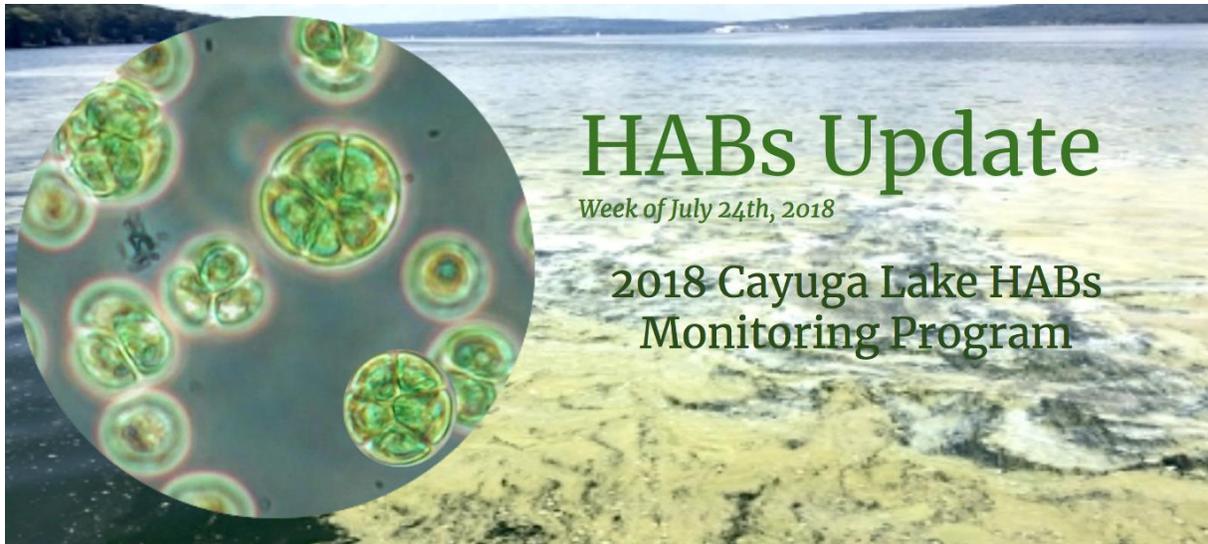
Please read more in the July 24 *HABs Update* below, share widely with friends and the public, and keep an eye out for updates throughout the summer.

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HABs Update

Week of July 24th, 2018

2018 Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program

Harmful Algal Bloom Update 4

After these long, hot summer weeks, we thought we would go over how to identify a Harmful Algal Bloom! Using pictures sent in by our HABs Harriers and by the general public, we review what is and what isn't a HAB.

Examples of HABs on Cayuga Lake

Confirmed Bloom north of Long Point State Park, 7/4/18

This observation shows how HABs look like streaks or spots on the surface of the water, with colors varying from light green to white.



Confirmed Bloom at Dean's Cove, 7/3/18

These pictures show how HABs can look like spilled pea soup on the surface of the lake. It can be bright green and murky, just like in these photos.



Confirmed Bloom south of Maplewood Point, 7/12/18

This shows HABs as little dots, congealed into streaks on the surface of the lake.



Examples of NOT HABs on Cayuga Lake

HABs can take on many shapes and forms, but there are many similar things on the lake that ARE NOT HABs. Here are some pictures sent to the HABs Hotline (habshotline@gmail.com) that turned out not to be HABs.

Found by Michael Cizenski, 7/9/18

Observations: thick, green mats

This is green algae growing on the floating tips of macrophytes, not a HAB.



Found by GERALYN VAN GORDER, 7/13/18

Observations: These were taken at various depths of water, mistaken for HABs. There is no surface muck or oily, or paint like residue.

This is a form of green algae, not cyanobacteria, not a HAB.

above dock into 4ft water



6" above surface, 3ft depth



6" water, near shore



The Cayuga Lake Watershed community has been incredibly responsive to this program, and we at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network are so appreciative of everyone's hard work.

HABs exposure instructions

While you're having fun this summer, don't forget to keep yourself safe!

If you get into contact with a HAB, immediately follow these [instructions](#) provided by the NYS DEC:

1. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove algae.
2. Stop using water and seek medical attention immediately if symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur after drinking or having contact with blooms or untreated surface water.

Additionally, these are [instructions](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about what to do if you've been exposed to HABs:

1. Contact your [local or state health department](#) if you suspect there is a HAB or if you think you may be experiencing a HAB-associated illness. Some local and state health departments have web forms or hotlines for reporting suspected HAB-associated illnesses directly to the health department.
2. If you have any questions about symptoms that you are experiencing, call your [local or state poison information center](#). The specialists might be able to provide information about HAB-associated illnesses.
3. Consult a healthcare provider for advice about how to relieve your symptoms. If you do consult a healthcare provider, please let them know that you might have been exposed to a HAB or may have been recently exposed to HAB toxins when consuming fish or shellfish. There are currently no available tests or special treatments for HAB-associated illnesses, but information about the suspected cause of your illness might help your healthcare provider to manage symptoms.
4. If you have a question about the health of your pets, consult your veterinarian.

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/>

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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