



6th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Summit

# Welcome!

Please mute your line to avoid feedback and background noise

• Use the "hand raise" function to ask a question. Unmute your line when called and re-mute when done.

## • You can also ask a question in the chat.

## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM SUMMARY; 2024

DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING, STANDARDS AND PESTICIDE CONTROL BUREAU OF FRESHWATER AND BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

EMILY MAYER, MS

**RESEARCH SCIENTIST** 

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM STATUS UPDATE



HAB Alert Level	Criteria	Recommendations
HAB Not Present	HAB reported and investigated. No HAB present.	None
<b>WATCH</b> Suspected or confirmed HAB with potential for allergenic or irritative health effects	Suspected HAB based on field survey <u>OR</u>	Waterbody Accessible: Use caution during <b>primary contact (e.g. swimming)</b> <b>and secondary (e.g. non-contact boating)</b> activities Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock)
<b>ADVISORY</b> Confirmed HAB with moderate risk of adverse health effects and increased potential for toxins above public health thresholds	Lab testing for toxins Microcystins: ≥2 µg/L Cylindrospermopsin: ≥5 µg/L Anatoxin-a: ≥15 µg/L Saxitoxin: ≥0.6 µg/L <u>OR</u> Confirmed cell counts ≥80K cells/mL	Public Bathing Beaches Closed Waterbody Remains Accessible: Avoid primary contact recreation Use caution for secondary contact recreation Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock) Do not consume fish
<b>WARNING</b> Confirmed HAB with high risk of adverse health effects due to high toxin levels	Toxin (microcystins) ≥20 - <2000 μg/L	Public Bathing Beaches Closed Cautions as above May recommend against secondary contact recreation.
DANGER onfirmed HAB with very high risk of adverse health effects due to very high toxin levels	Toxin (microcystins) ≥2000 μg/L	Public Bathing Beaches Closed Cautions as above. Possible closure of all or portions of waterbody and possible restrictions access to shoreline.

 $\bigcirc$ 











### HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB)

No Swimming • No Wading FLORACIONES DE ALGAS NOCIVAS No nadar • No vadear

Contact can make people and animals sick. El contacto puede enfermar a personas y animales.

POSTED BY



\*Public Bathing Beaches are closed under the authority of NJDOH regulation, New Jersey State Sanitary Code Chapter IX Public Recreational Bathing N.J.A.C.8:26.



## HAB DASHBOARD

WATERBODY SELECTOR:

#### NJDEP Algal Bloom Sampling Status



### 2017-2024 HAB Event Summary



**2024 CONFIRMED HAB SUMMARY** 



70 water bodies have confirmed HABs (Watch, Advisory or Warning)

2 Water Bodies with Highest HAB Alert Tier of Warning

36 Water Bodies with Highest HAB Alert Tier of Advisory

32 Water Bodies with Highest HAB Alert Tier of Watch

First confirmed HAB on 3/26 at Sunset Lake

## MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES







## METER LOAN PROGRAM

- LEND OUT METERS TO HELP SCREEN FOR HABS
- LAKE ASSOCIATIONS, WATER SUPPLIES, ETC.
- REMINDER TO PLEASE SEND YOUR DATA IN
- LIMITED NUMBER OF METERS
- IF NOT AVAILABLE, PLACED ON WAITING LIST
   UNTIL MORE METERS ARRIVE
- FUNDED BY EPA
- \*\*TURNER DESIGNS HAS DISCONTINUED THE PRODUCT\*\*
- PROGRAM ON HOLD



Number of Volunteer and Public HAB Reports (2024)



FLUOROSENSE GUIDANCE

FluoroSense Readings And Cell Counts 400000 2024 Regression o 2024 2023 Regression ▽ 2023 0 2022 2022 Regression  $\nabla$ 2021 2021 Regression O 2020 2020 Regression  $\nabla$ 300000 0 ٥  $\nabla$ V  $\nabla$ Cell Counts 200000 Possible **Advisory Alert** 0 ^\_ 0 Possible ⊽⊘ Watch Alert 100000 0 0 0 60 70 10 20 50 30 40

FluoroSense Readings (µg/L)

 
 Cell Count Ranges (Cells/ml)
 Median FluoroSense Reading (µg/L)

 20,000 to 39,999
 20

 40,000 to 79,999
 29

 80,000 to 99,999
 43

 >100,000
 72

\*Note: Estimated readings based on data collected from 2019-2023, generalized to the state of New Jersey. Individual water bodies may have different readings due to their unique characteristics..\*









Compiled by Len Melisurgo | Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

## Water Supply Status and Actions



### Normal 🗹

Routine monitoring of water supply and meteorological indicators. All conditions normal.

### Watch 🕗

Focus placed on voluntary reductions in demand through increased public awareness.



\*As of 4/7/25\*

DEP Commissioner issues order urging public to voluntarily use water sparingly; DEP may issue orders to purveyors to manage supplies in most affected regions.

### Emergency 🚈

Governor orders mandatory restrictions on certain uses of water, usually phased in as conditions deteriorate.

## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM STATUS UPDATE 2024



### Most Common Dominant Cyanobacteria Taxa Found

Aphanizomenon	
Dolichospermum	
Microcystis	
Aphanizomenon/ Cuspidothrix	Montclar State University Ministration Control of Cont
Highest Cell Count	Lake Papaianni (9,400,000) cells/ml

Highest Toxin Concentrations				
<u>Toxin</u>	<u>Lake</u>	<u>Toxin Level</u> <u>(µg/L)</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Microcystins	Lake Papaianni	1,943.6	9/5/24	
Cylindro- spermopsin	Mountain Lake (Liberty)	2.21	12/4/24	
Anatoxin	Weequahic Lake	1.31	10/15/24	
Saxitoxin	Parvin Lake	14.40	8/21/24	

## PARVIN LAKE: BENTHIC HABS

- LYNGBYA BENTHIC MATS
  - CAUSE ODOR ISSUES, DERMATOXINS, SAXITOXINS, ETC.
- WAVE, WIND ACTION TO UPROOT MATS
- HIGHEST SAXITOXIN FOR 2024 (8/21/24): 14.40 UG/L
- CHALLENGING TO SAMPLE, NOT YOUR TYPICAL
   UNICELLULAR BLOOM
- PARTNERED WITH STATE PARKS



## HOPEWELL QUARRY

- ENCLOSED QUARRY
- USED RECREATIONALLY FOR SWIMMING
- GROUP USES A LAKE MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM, AND IS PART OF THE HAB LAB WITH MSU
- PROLONGED MCT SURFACE READINGS
- RE-TESTED FOR MCT AND METHOD 544 (PESTICIDE STANDARDS GROUP – THANK YOU!)
- NEEDED TO DETERMINE WHERE TOXIN WAS COMING FROM
  - BENTHIC HAB?
  - COMING FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE IN QUARRY?
  - RESIDUAL FROM RECENT ALGICIDE APPLICATIONS?
- LIKELY RESIDUAL FROM RECENT APPLICATION





## MANASQUAN RESERVOIR

- PROLONGED DRY SPELL AND DROUGHT WATCH = WARNING CONDITIONS
- LED TO A LATE SEASON CYANO HAB
- PARTNERSHIP WITH NJWSA TO GET SAMPLES COLLECTED
- NJWSA USED CONTRACT WITH CONSULTANT TO PERFORM
   TREATMENT
- CONTINUED MONITORING AND COMMUNICATION
   AMONG PARTNERS

## Maximum Cell Count Per Confirmed Waterbody



### % Of Waterbodies with Microcystins Above Reporting Limit (2024)





## WATER BODIES WITH PERSISTENT O HABS 2024

Lake	<u>Alert</u>	<u>Date</u>
Budd Lake	Watch	11/19/24
Greenwood Lake	Advisory	10/2/24
Mountain Lake (Liberty)	Advisory	12/4/24
Delaware Lake	Advisory	12/4/24
Sunset Lake (Asbury Park)	Advisory	12/17/24
Silver Lake Belmar	Watch	12/17/24
Lake Hopatcong – Crescent Cove*	Watch	11/13/2024
Parvin Lake – Dam*	Watch	11/19/2024
McCormack Lake*	Watch	10/31/2024





# **CONTACT INFO:**

BUREAU CHIEF + HAB RESPONSE COORDINATOR: CHRIS.KUNZ@DEP.NJ.GOV

RESEARCH SCIENTIST: EMILY.MAYER@DEP.NJ.GOV



# ONE HEALTH IN NEW JERSEY

Andrea Egizi, PhD One Health Coordinator, NJDA HAB Summit - April 9, 2025









# What is "One Health"?



- Communication
- Coordination
- Collaboration
- Disciplines
- Sectors
- Communities

# **One Health History**



*"Everything Depends on Everything Else"* Haida matriarchs of the land, air, and water Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya Seattle, WA (2021)

- Theory and approach existed long before the term "One Health" came into use in early 2000s
- It is central to Indigenous values, worldviews, and practices
- "My Ancestors, on the other hand, saw themselves and nature as being linked, much like the strands of a spider's web. Animals, plants, and people each represented an integral part of the whole system. Animals and plants were seen as social beings, and were not to be separated from people. This was the natural order."

- Muin'iskw, of the Mi'kmaq people



# **One Health History**

## • In Western medicine:

"Between animal and human medicine there are no dividing lines—nor should there be. The object is different but the experience obtained constitutes the basis of all medicine."

> -Dr. Rudolf Virchow, 1858 "Father of modern pathology"



- Credit for first use of term granted to William Karesh in 2003
   Washington Post interview about Ebola
- 2004: WCS symposium "One World, One Health" established 12 recommendations known as the "Manhattan Principles" to prevent outbreaks and maintain ecosystem integrity



# **US Federal Definition (2017)**

**One Health** is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach

working locally, nationally, regionally, and globally

with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and our shared environment.

(US Government Definition, 2017; www.cdc.gov/onehealth)

# **Examples of issues requiring One Health coordination**

- Vector-borne and zoonotic diseases
- Antimicrobial-resistant germs
- Mental health benefits of animals and nature
- Food safety and security
- Environmental contamination
- Harmful algal blooms



# **One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization Workshop (2017)**

- Participants:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Department of the Interior (DOI)
  - Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Voted on 8 priority zoonotic diseases in US
- Recommendations include formalization of federal One Health coordination



Prioritizing Zoonotic Diseases for Multisectoral, One Health Collaboration in the United States

**Workshop Summary** 





# **US One Health Coordination**

Your health is connected to other people, animals, plants, and nature.



This is called One Health!

**One Health Coordination Unit or OHCU (Jan 2024)** 

- Core Leadership Team: CDC, DOI, USDA
- Working Groups: Interagency Communication, Global One Health Coordination, NOHF-Zoonoses Implementation Plan
- 23 federal agencies represented including EPA and Depts of Energy, Defense, Homeland Security, and Commerce

### ZOHU (Zoonoses & One Health) Update Calls

• Next one May 7

cdc.gov/onehealth

Graphics and literature on CDC One Health website

National One Health Framework released Jan 2025



# **National One Health Framework**

- 1. Establish a standing formal One Health coordination mechanism (OHCU)
- **2. Prevention:** Information exchange (surveillance, research); joint messaging; identify and mitigate risk of zoonosis emergence (ecosystem health, animal management practices, etc.)
- **3. Preparedness:** Integrate One Health into preparedness and response plans, trainings, exercises; develop modeling and risk-prediction tools; evaluate research, development & supply chain needs; foster community & environmental resilience
- **4. Outbreak:** best practices for coordinated outbreak investigation and response; integration of One Health into after-action review & revision of response and recovery plans; SOPs for interagency collaboration during outbreak
- **5. Surveillance:** strengthen coordinated surveillance efforts and information sharing across sectors
- **6. Laboratory:** formalize laboratory partnerships to share protocols, samples, assay development; strengthen laboratory capacity, reporting processes, & timely data sharing; advanced pathogen detection technologies; biosafety and biosecurity innovation
- **7. Workforce:** collaborative development of trainings; integrate One Health into sector-specific trainings; enhance recruitment and retention of qualified staff; integrate One Health into curriculums across all relevant disciplines



# **NJ One Health Task Force**

• **NJ Rev Stat § 4:1-50 (2024):** There is established the "New Jersey One Health Task Force" in the Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the task force shall be to develop a strategic plan to promote inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration between physicians, veterinarians, and other scientific professionals and State agencies, with the goal of promoting the health and well-being of the State's residents, animals, and environment.



Inaugural meeting – February 21, 2025

1<sup>st</sup> legislatively established One Health Task Force in USA!!



# **NJ OHTF: Members**

	Task Force position	Member name
Agency Designees	NJ Dept of Agriculture	Dr. Amar Patil
	NJ Dept of Environmental Protection	Christine Schell
	NJ Dept of Health	Dr. Darby McDermott
Public Appointees	1 licensed physician	Dr. Gloria Bachmann
	2 licensed veterinarians, one with	Dr. Matthew Edson
	expertise in farm animals	Dr. Heather Fowler
	1 medical research expert	Dr. Vincent Silenzio
	1 zoonotic disease expert	Dr. Alison Stout
	2 experts in epidemiology or	Dr. Ashley DeNegre
	biomedical science	Dr. Michael Zwick
	3 professors with expertise in public health, ecology, natural resources, environmental or biological science	Dr. Michael Taylor
		Dr. Nicole Fahrenfeld
	environmental or biological science	Vacant- appointment pending



# **NJ OHTF: Goals**

- 1. Develop a plan to promote inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration
- 2. Protocols for response and recovery from zoonotic disease outbreaks
- 3. Better diagnostic tests for zoonotic, vector-borne, and environmental diseases
- 4. Xenosurveillance to identify genetic signatures of pathogens in vertebrates
- 5. Educate about judicious antibiotic use
- 6. Investigate antibiotic alternatives
- 7. Develop new approaches to reduce hazards to human and animal health
- 8. Promote the One Health approach across NJ government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and private entities



# **NJ OHTF: Current Status**

Inaugural meeting February 21st 2025

- Elected officers
  - Chair: Dr. Amar Patil, NJDA
  - <u>Vice-Chair</u>: Dr. Gloria Bachmann, RWJMS
  - <u>Secretary</u>: Dr. Andrea Egizi, NJDA (\*not appointed member)
- Passed by-laws & set meeting dates for the next year
- Established 3 subcommittees





# **NJ OHTF: Committees**

## **Strategic Planning**

• Draft a Strategic Plan to satisfy requirements of legislation, including promoting inter-disciplinary communication and collaboration between human, animal, and environmental health professionals

### **Education, Training, & Workforce Development**

• Work with NJ educators and universities to promote interdisciplinary training and develop a future generation of One Health mindful professionals; promote One Health awareness in NJ

### **Research & Innovation**

 Facilitate research into better diagnostic tests, pathogen surveillance, antibiotic alternatives; Seek and apply for funding; Improve data accessibility


## Watch this space...

- ✓ <u>Next public meeting May 23, 2025</u> (Teams link on NJDA website)
- ✓ Committees developing surveys of target groups
- ✓ Report to Governor and Legislature due Feb 2026
  - Recommendations for legislative or regulatory action
- ✓ NJDA creating OneHealthConnect, an email listserv for individuals interested in connecting across disciplines
  - Find research collaborators
  - Ask questions and locate data
  - Share One Health related news, events, webinars, etc.



Thank You!

#### **Contact info:**

Andrea Egizi, PhD One Health Coordinator, NJDA Andrea.Egizi@ag.nj.gov

https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/one-health/



## Do's & Don'ts of Risk Communication

Risk Communication Lessons from the Frontlines: What Local Health Departments Wish Everyone Knew

April 9, 2025





Devangi Patel, MPH, MCHES, HO Health Officer Montgomery Township Health Department



### Basics of Risk Communication





The first source of communication often becomes the source against which all others are measured.

## 2 오

1

### Be Right

Accuracy is critical to credibillity.

## 3 🗘

#### **Be Credible**

Honesty is fundamental to building trust.



#### **Express Empathy**

People must know that their leaders care.



6

#### **Promote Action**

Provide a call to action.

#### Show Respect Lack of respect undermines trust.





**Communicate Early & Often** 



Involve the Local Health Department ASAP



Provide Clear, Consistent, and Actionable Messaging



**Address Misinformation Proactively** 



Have a Pre-Planned Communication Strategy and Updated Contact Lists





**Communicate Early & Often** 



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Provide Clear, Consistent, and Actionable Messaging



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Have a Pre-Planned Communication Strategy and Updated Contact Lists



S Don't Withhold Information

S Don't Rely Solely on State or Federal Agencies

S Don't Assume One-Size-Fits-All Messaging Works

S Don't Forget Two-Way Communication



## Keep Local Health Departments In the Loop

- Keep updated contact lists of local health departments in every jurisdiction you cover
- Loop LHDs in early even if the situation is evolving
- Share draft messaging before if goes out publicly

# Thank You

Devangi Patel, MPH, MCHES, HO Health Officer Montgomery Township Health Department dpatel@montgomerynj.gov (908)533-9331



# Break

See you @ 11am for our Keynote Speaker.

## **A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON HABS**

### **Moving from Monitoring and Mitigation to**

### **Prevention and Remediation**

## Wayne Carmichael Prof. Emeritus Wright State University Dayton, OH wayne.carmichael@wright.edu



## **CyanoHABs**

It is just over 50 years since the term eutrophication, linked to cyanobacteria blooms entered the common language.

- 1974 Cyanobacteria identified as producers the neurotoxin Anatoxin-a
- 1988 Naming and general structure of the peptide liver toxins, the Microcystins
- 1990s ELISA test for Microcystins first developed
- 1998 Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act led to the establishment of a federal interagency working group led by NOAA and the EPA.
- 2005 75 different cyanotoxins identified
- 2015 300 different cyanotoxins identified
- 2014 Toledo, OH, Microcystins in drinking water no supply to 500,000 for 5 days
- 2020 US Government Accountability Office (GAO) tasked to investigate and report
- 2022 GAO Report GAO-22-104449

## 700 square mile toxic algae bloom on Lake Erie



Who We Are 🗸 Areas of Focus 🗸 Consumer Guides Research News & Insights 🗸

# Hundreds of potentially toxic algae outbreaks have plagued water in 2021



Fall typically marks the end of the algae outbreak season for most of the U.S. This year, news reports of the potentially toxic blooms in bodies of water have soared to at least 476, an eight percent increase over the 439 outbreaks reported last year.

EWG tracks news reports of <u>algae</u> <u>outbreaks</u> annually with our <u>interactive</u> <u>map</u>, which includes reports reaching back to 2010. As of October 14, this year has already seen the second highest number of outbreaks since we started tracking them



In The News Oregon unemployment Portland poli

Oregon unemployment Portland police body cams Hemp as feed Oregon Democrats Food bank challenges

SCIENCE ENVIRONMENT

#### Oregon Governor Deploys National Guard, Declares Salem Water Situation Emergency

By Dirk VanderHart (OPB) June 29, 2018 5:50 p.m.

UPDATE (May 31, 2:00 p.m. PT) — Gov. Kate Brown is declaring an emergency and mobilizing Oregon National Guard soldiers in response to an ongoing water quality situation in and around Salem.

Brown's office said Thursday the troops would bring large portable water tanks — known as water buffaloes — to the Salem area to ease a shortage of bottled water. On Tuesday evening, the city of Salem announced officials had detected low levels of cyanotoxins in the city's drinking water supply. **Related:** Agencies Taking 'Abundance Of Caution' After Toxins Found In Salem Water

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION CORONAVIRUS RECODE

CORONAVIRUS RECODE THE GOODS FUTURE PERFECT THE HIGHLIGHT M

#### A toxic algae scare has left 500,000 people in Ohio without drinking water

By Brad Plumer | @bradplumer | brad@vox.com | Aug 3, 2014, 11:10am EDT

Nearly 500,000 people in northwestern Ohio have been warned not to drink or boil their tap water since Saturday..

The reason for the ban? Water officials in Toledo found evidence of <u>microcystin</u> — a toxin created by blue-green algae that can cause nausea and liver damage.

A LARGE ALGAE BLOOM IS PLANTED ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF LAKE ERIE

Officials <u>are still conducting tests</u> to figure out what happened, but the most likely source of the toxin would be the large algae bloom that's parked itself on the western edge of Lake Erie — where Toledo gets its drinking water.



Central PBC North PBC South PBC Martin St. Lucie The Glades Indian River Okeechobee Broward

NEWS > REGION C PALM BEACH COUNTY > WEST PALM BEACH

f 🔰 🖂

#### West Palm Beach begins water distribution

Toxin produced by blue-green algae detected in drinking water

WPTV NewsChannel 5 reporter Todd Wilson said that the distribution center has run out of water twice but the city was bringing more. One resident complained, "So they was not expecting a crowd when they put the advisory out?"

The City of West Palm Beach information line spokesperson told WPTV NewsChannel 5, "If you pay your water bill to the City of West Palm Beach you are affected."

"If you pay your water bill to the City of West Palm Beach you are affected."

also data a males march



## **Toledo's 2014 Drinking Water Crisis: What Has Changed and What Hasn't**

Published on August 1st, 2024 by FLOW Editor - Blog Posts







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Latest Earthquakes

OREGON WATER SCIENCE CENTER SCIENCE



### Harmful Algal Blooms and Drinking Water in Oregon ACTIVE

By Oregon Water Science Center February 2, 2018





Ireland



### Public health risks of foul-smelling algal blooms on Lough Neagh detailed in new study

Algal mats banked up around shore of lake consist of bacteria associated with livestock faeces or human effluent, Queens University Belfast research finds





England



green algae as 'toxic as cobra venom'







Pakistan

PAKISTAN OPINION BUSINESS IMAGES PRISM WORLD SPORT MAGAZINES TECH VIDEOS POPULAR ARCHIVE FLOO

### Slowly dying dams supply unsafe water

Published September 17, 2005

#### f 🖸 🖯 🗠 🗠





**Brasil** 



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### Brazil: Pollution stain in São Paulo's Tietê River increased 40%, extends for 122 kilometers







# Australia Can Lake Burley Griffin's blue-green algae problem be fixed with ultrasound? Um, not really



A blue-green algae warning on Lake Burley Griffin – that's how you know it's summer in Canberra.



### **South Africa**



OUR BURNING PLANET

Harties vs the hyacinth (Part 1) – The toxic dangers lurking under cover of an invasive weed





- The Florida Department of Health has estimated yearly HAB associated costs
  of around \$60 million -- \$33 million in medical costs and \$27 million lost in commercial fishing
- The 2015 West Coast bloom of Pseudo-nitzschia algae (diatom) was estimated to cost the Dungeness Crab industry \$48 million for the year.
  - The recent HABs occurring in the southwest corner of Lake Erie are estimated to exact an annual economic cost of around \$70 million related to tourism and fishing.



Source: EPA, Environmental Working Group, Bluefield Research

Global Water Works



300

200

### **Current Approaches Involve the 3-M's**

<u>Monitoring</u> = Remote Observation, Sampling, Taxonomy, Cyanotoxin Detection - All Inform the Process of Setting HAB:

- 1. Advisory Guidance
- 2. Management
- 3. Mitigation

#### <u>Management / Mitigation = Attempt to reduce/control existing cyanoHAB effects:</u>

These approaches serve mainly, to minimize bloom effects.

\*\*True prevention involves maintaining high water quality, failing that, prevention involves remediation.

### Lake/Reservoir Management/Mitigation Tools

- 1. Physical controls
  - manipulation of the intake location or depth, aerators (destratification), mechanical mixers (long distance circulation) and barriers (sand, carbon).
- 2. Biological controls
  - manipulation of the lake ecology to favor cyanobacteria grazers (top-down) and increased competition for nutrients (bottom-up)
- 3. Chemical controls
  - phosphorus treatments (e.g. lime, aluminum sulfate, ferric chloride, lanthanum and clay particles) Used to both bind nutrients and flocculate cells, algaecides (e.g., copper-sulfate, hydrogen peroxide, potassium permanganate, herbicides)

Ref: Solutions for Managing Cyanobacterial Blooms: A scientific summary for policy makers. 2019. M.A. Burford et al. IOC/UNESCO, Paris (IOC/INF-1382).

The Working Group Has Not Implemented a **National HAB and Hypoxia Program** 

The Working Group Has **Not Developed Performance Measures** to Assess Results

Federal Agencies Help State, Local, and Tribal Governments Respond to HAB and Hypoxia Events but **Lack a Prevention Goal** 

Federal Agencies and State Officials Have Identified a **Need for More Actions to Prevent HABs and Hypoxia** 

Federal Agencies Have Developed Limited Cost and Benefit Information to Help Select Among Mitigation, Control, and **Prevention Actions** 

GAO	United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Requesters
June 2022	WATER QUALITY Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia

GAO-22-104449



Source: GAO analysis of information from the Interagency Working Group on the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and the Lake Champlain Basin Program. | GAO-22-104449

Figure 3: Some Factors That Contribute to Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia

#### **Factors Contributing to HABs and Hypoxia**





#### **Complex Adaptive System – Systems Theory**

- Ecosystem habitat change
- Biological not physical water chemistry
- Feedback Loops & Tipping Points

Source: GAO analysis of information from the Interagency Working Group on the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and the Lake Champlain Basin Program. | GAO-22-104449

### Systems Theory can help explain the process

In Systems Theory "attractors" describe the main determinants of system behavior.

In a healthy lake, the main attractors are:

- an oxygen-rich environment,
- a *productive biodiverse food web*,
- achieving *nutrient clearance* from the aquatic ecosystem.

For cyanobacteria to dominate attractors must be changed to:

- an *anoxic benthic environment*,
- a constrained food web,
- *nutrient recycling* to fuel blooms.

Feedback, Tipping Points etc

Cottingham et al. (2015) used the Systems Theory paradigm to describe and model cyanobacteria's ability to single-handedly transform an ostensibly low-nutrient lake into a eutrophic state within which they can bloom and dominate. This process is far too complex to be countered with chemical treatments or single management methods that only lower nutrient levels in the water or kill off phytoplankton.

### **Factors Contributing to HABs and Hypoxia**

- Hypoxia: The critical factor in Ecosystem Habitat Change
- Decomposing Organic Sediments cause Hypoxia
- Hypoxia constrains aquatic Food Webs and drives Nutrient Cycling
- Feedback Loops: Algal blooms → Decompose → Hypoxia → Nutrient Recycling → Algae blooms
- The Progression to Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) "Ecosystem Habitat Change"
- <u>The Need for Proactive, Prevention-Oriented Approaches</u>

WATER QUALITY Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia	GAO	United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Requesters
Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms	June 2022	
		Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms

### **GAO Recommendations**

- Document and define a national HAB and hypoxia program
- Develop performance measures for the working group
- Develop an interagency framework to expand <u>monitoring</u> and <u>forecasting</u> of freshwater HABs and hypoxia to <u>prioritize</u> water bodies for <u>prevention and remediation</u>
- Develop a national goal focused on preventing HABs and hypoxia.
- Development of a more comprehensive body of information on the costs and benefits of mitigation, control, and prevention actions for use by state, local, and tribal governments.

GAO	United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Requesters
June 2022	WATER QUALITY Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia
GAD 22-104440	

### **GAO Recommendations**

- Develop a national HAB and hypoxia program
- Develop performance measures
- Develop ways to monitor, forecast and prioritize freshwater HABs and hypoxia
- Focus on costs and benefits of **preventing HABs and hypoxia**.

GAO	United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Requesters
June 2022	WATER QUALITY
	Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia
GAD 22-104649	

## **Prevention & Remediation of HABs**



Food Web Disruption

Nutrient Recycling

### Cyanobacteria's Competitive Advantages

Cyanobacteria - one of first lifeforms to photosynthesize – are highly adaptable & agile.

They retain these abilities, which they use to exploit nutrient availability in eutrophic environments at the benthic margin to outcompete and dominate other phytoplankton:

- 1. Nitrogen assimilation: Dissolved gas & ammonia supply in hypoxic benthic margin.
- **2. Buoyancy control**: Control their buoyancy to dive to the bottom and to load up on nutrients and rise to the top of the water column to bloom.
- **3. Mobilization of sediment nutrient stockpiles**: Cyanobacteria can actively mobilize nutrients in the sediment and extracellular microbiome aids nutrient uptake.
- **4. Toxin production**: Cyanobacteria species can produce toxins that make them unpalatable and may also be used as a defense mechanism.

Cyanobacteria utilize these tactics to exploit eutrophic conditions ("Ecosystem Habitat Change") and dominate.

### To summarize:

Root causes that drive the process:

- Organic sediment accumulation
- Organic sediment decomposition causes
- Hypoxia
- Anaerobic benthic margin recycles nutrients
- Cyanobacteria dive to dominate nutrient uptake
- Hypoxia wipes out food web (from benthic zooplankton upwards)
- Nutrient clearance capacity of food web is constrained
- Nutrient recycling replaces nutrient clearance
- Internal nutrient recycling becomes self-sustaining
- Cyanobacteria exploit the Ecosystem Habitat Change



### **To Prevent HABs:**

- 1. Eliminate Hypoxia
- 2. Deplete sediment nutrient stockpiles
- 3. Restore phytoplankton balance "beneficial algae"
- 4. Restore food web to restore nutrient clearance channels


### SIS.BIO -

- 1. RADOR sy
  - Differe

## State to remove Lake Carmi aeration system after determining it made cyanobacteria blooms worse

By Corey McDonald

May 15, 2024, 5:30 pm

The aeration system was installed to try and mitigate cyanobacteria blooms, which is sometimes called blue-green algae. Officials found it had "unintended consequences" of mixing phosphorus-rich bottom water with the rest of the lake, according to <u>minutes from an April 16 meeting</u> of the state's Lake Carmi Coordination Team. That led to higher levels of phosphorus in the Franklin County lake's surface water and "stronger, more protracted cyanobacteria blooms."

"We have seen high levels of bloom reports every year since the original system has been on now," Peter Isles, an environmental scientist with the Vermont

### **SIS.BIO - 2017**

- 1. RADOR systems oxygenate the whole water column
  - Different to "aeration"
- 2. Enzymatic "Bio-Dredging" of organic sediments\*
- 3. Micronutrient supplementation\* as bioaugmentation/biostimulation to boost base levels of the foodweb ("beneficial algae" and zooplankton)

\*enzyme mix = Clean and Clear (mercaptases, amylases, proteases, lipases and water) and micronutrient mix = Bio Booster LQ (Fe, Mn, Co, Mo, Ca, Mg, Zn, Si, B, Cu).

1. Eliminate Hypoxia



### Indian Lake, MO

- 320 acres
- average depth of 15 feet
- maximum depth of 43 feet.

For many years the Indian Lake has been threatened by the effects of eutrophication on recreational enjoyment, esthetics, property values and the environment in general.

Although the lake's deterioration had taken place over many years, a tipping point was reached with the first confirmation of HABs in summer 2020 (although HABs had likely been present for many years prior), escalating the need for responsible decision making to save the Indian Lake lifestyle.

The situation worsened rapidly and by 2021 the lake experienced high levels of toxic cyanobacteria all summer.

The remediation program was started in late April 2022.











- 1. Eliminate Hypoxia
- 2. Deplete sediment nutrient stockpiles



### **Roland Lake, VA**

- 30 acres
- average depth of 5.1 feet
- maximum depth of 17 feet.

Irrigation reservoir for a farm.

Storage capacity lost due to sediment accumulation.

Invasive weed growth made lake inaccessible for recreational purposes .

The remediation program was started in late April 2018.



























# 

### 5 foot contour

## 2022

# 5 foot contour 2022

ROLAND LAKE VA 2017 - 2022							
	October 2017	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	October 2021	October 2022	Overall Change
DEPTH							
Average (ft)	5.1	6.1	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.9	2.8
Maximum (ft)	17.0	16.7	18.0	18.0	19.1	20.5	3,5

- 1. Eliminate Hypoxia
- 2. Deplete sediment nutrient stockpiles
- 3. Restore phytoplankton balance "beneficial algae"



### Indian Lake, MO

- 320 acres
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Ammonia (maroon)

2023

Ammonia, mg/L

2021





















- 1. Eliminate Hypoxia
- 2. Deplete sediment nutrient stockpiles
- 3. Restore phytoplankton balance "beneficial algae"
- 4. Restore food web to restore nutrient clearance channels



## **Toa Vaca Reservoir – Puerto Rico**

A STATE CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACT

### **Toa Vaca Reservoir – Puerto Rico**



Fish kills stopped

#### **Fish populations restored**

Pelicans were 5, now 28

Fish Eagles were 2, now 10

### "Restore food web to restore nutrient clearance channels"
## **Bowling Green Reservoir, OH**

### Week 31: 2016 v 2017 (HAB Program commenced April 2017)

#### River 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2016

Total Phycological Count	150,840		Total Phycological Co
Diatoms	3,555	2%	Diatoms
Algae	44,538	30%	Algae
Cyanobacteria	102,747	68%	Cyanobacteria
River 31 <sup>st</sup> Jul 2017	-		Reservoir 31st Jul 2017
Total Phycological Count	159,065		Total Phycological Cou
Diatoms	46,000	29%	Diatoms
Algae	45,745	29%	Algae
Cyanobacteria	(7.220	420/	Cyanobacteria
Cyunobuotona	67,320	42%	Cyanobacteria

Reservoir 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2016

Total Phycological Count	123,950	
Diatoms	6,636	5%
Algae	32,102	26%
Cyanobacteria	85,212	69%
		100

41,645

21,800

19,545

300

52%

47%

<1%

## Summary:

- 1. Understand cyanobacteria's competitive advantages & adopt Systems Theory approach to managing biological ecosystems
- 2. Study the individual water body and design custom prevention & remediation program:
  - 1. Eliminate Hypoxia
  - 2. Deplete sediment nutrient stockpiles
  - 3. Restore phytoplankton balance "beneficial algae"
  - 4. Restore food web to restore nutrient clearance channels
- 3. Biodegradable organic sediments are mostly generated within a lake and have increased over the last 100 years due to eutrophication. These sediments are susceptible to aerobic digestion. This is the principal method in thousands of activated sludge waste treatment plants which oxidize the mass of human organic waste to  $CO_2$ .
- 4. These multilevel methods have been successful in lakes nationally Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, NJ, Colorado, Virginia, Utah - and can be applied worldwide.

Acknowledgement: Lake case study data - Dave Shackleton. www.SIS.BIO

## **Key References**

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- Managing Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water: A Technical Guidance Manual for Drinking Water Professionals. 2016. American Water Works Association; Water Research Foundation. Sept.
- Recommendations for Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxin Monitoring in Recreational Waters. 2017. US-EPA Office of Water. EPA 820-R-17-001
- Toxic Cyanobacteria in Water: A Guide To Their Public Health Consequences, Monitoring and Management. 2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Edition. 2020 in press. World Health Organization
- US National Office for Harmful Algal Blooms, "Harmful Algal Research & Response: A National Environmental Science Strategy (HARRNESS), 2024- 2034," Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, 2024, DOI 10.1575/1912/69773
- US Government Accountability Office, GAO-22-104449, "Water Quality: Agencies Should Take More Actions to Manage Risks from Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia"
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### Wayne Carmichael Prof. Emeritus Wright State University Dayton, OH wayne.carmichael@wright.edu



Located just across the river from New Jersey in PA !



# Lunch Break

## Please be back by 1pm

## Panelists

## 6th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Summit



Trish Ingelido

Director

Division of Water Supply & Geoscience



Gabe Mahon

Manager Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting



### Debra Millikin

Business Administrator Jefferson Township



**Susan Bristol** 

Municipal Policy Specialist The Watershed Institue



## Water Resource Management







#### Ensuring the Provision of Safe Drinking Water

- 2024 NJ Statewide Water Supply Plan outlines policy, regulatory, and statutory updates
- Addresses risk posed by climate change, and potential mitigation options
- Addresses emerging (PFAS, HABs) and legacy contaminants, and incorporates environmental justice considerations

#### Protecting and Enhancing NJ's Watersheds

- Clean Water Act Safe Drinking Water Act Harmonization
- Revitalizing Source Water Protection Program
- Enhance funding opportunities for watershed restoration

## The Watershed Institute



### Mission

- Keeping water clean, safe and healthy
- We work to protect and restore our water and natural environment in central New Jersey through conservation, advocacy, science and education.

### **Regional Watershed Planning**

- Identify issues across municipal boundaries
- More efficient to study entire watershed (less \$, less time, better solutions)
- Identify regional solutions
- More effectively address EJ issues
- Coordinated efforts = less repeated work
- Avoid inconsistent plans among municipalities

## **Rules and Permits**



### https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/



https://dep.nj.gov/njpdes-stormwater/municipalstormwater-regulation-program/watershedimprovement-plan-resource-page/

# Resilient Environment and Landscapes (REAL)

- Accounting for Climate Change
- Water Quality for Redevelopment
- Volume Reduction

## Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permitting (MS4)

- MS4 Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plans
- Funding SW Utilities and Grants

## Jefferson Township





### Lake Hopatcong 2019 Harmful Algal Bloom

- Spring was very wet in 2019, and the summer was dry and very hot
- HAB started right before July 4th weekend, the closing of swimming had a major economic impact on Lake Hopatcong

### Sewers Around Lake Hopatcong

 Roxbury, Mount Arlington, and Hopatcong have sewer systems in place, while Jefferson has no sewers

### Funding of Jefferson Sewer Project

- In 2023, Congress appropriated \$750,000 to design this sewer project
- Jefferson has partnered with the Army Corp of Engineers for the design work

## Panelists

## 6th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Summit



Trish Ingelido

Director

Division of Water Supply & Geoscience



Gabe Mahon

Manager Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting



### Debra Millikin

Business Administrator Jefferson Township



**Susan Bristol** 

Municipal Policy Specialist The Watershed Institue









Chief Strategy Officer Kati Angarone

HAB Threats to Drinking Water - Two Case Studies How emergent threats led to proactive and collaborative response



April 9, 2025

## **Agenda**

#### **Event Overview**

- Millstone River 2022
  - Significance
  - Risk Evaluation
  - Emergent Actions
- Cozy Lake 2023
  - Significance
  - Risk Evaluation
  - Emergent Actions

#### **Event Comparison**

**After Actions** 



## Millstone River HAB 2022

08:21

Photo Credit: New Jersey American Water Company

ALC: NOT

A CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR OF

## The 2022 Millstone HAB

9 miles long





.1

 $\bigcirc$ 

12<sup>th</sup> Highest Level of Microcystin Toxin

8<sup>th</sup> Highest Cell Count



Upstream of a drinking water intake for a system that serves approximately 800,000 people.



#### **Initial Source Water Data From the River** Manville (flows south to north) Intake Microcystins Site Location $(\mu g/l)$ **Blackwell Mills** 32.98 D&R Canal Flow e Park ndall Griggstown 417.00 Rt 518 50.20 Monmou Carnegie **I**unction Millstone Faculty dock 6.64 Princeton River

EPA's Health Advisory (based on short term – 10-day ingestion) for Microcystin for finished drinking water - for children under 6



## **HIGH RISK SITUATION**

## **Emergent Actions**

### New Jersey Water Supply Authority Releases Water Upstream

- Increase Flow and Velocity
- They Released 5 Billion Gallons of Water

### New Jersey American Installs Engineering Controls

- Increase Velocity of River Weir wall extension
- Physical Barrier Turbidity Curtain

### NJDEP Contracted Pilot - Toxin/Cell Destruction/Treatment

• Eget Liber – remotely operated vehicle deployment







## 2023 Cozy Lake HAB

### What DEP Knew After Initial Response



All Four Cyantoxins Measured Were Present



Highest Level of Microcystin Ever Recorded <u>1266.80  $\mu$ g/L</u>



Potential Drinking Water Risk

### **After Well Records Review**



Unknown Number of Wells



Improperly Constructed Wells Along the Lake



Limited Regulatory Authority for Drinking Water







#### **Private Well Sampling Data – Wells With Detections**

Home	Location	Level of Microcystin Detected (µg/L)
1	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.03
	Well (post treatment)	No sample taken
2	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.03
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
3	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	Non-detect
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
4	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.1
	Well (post treatment)	0.05
5	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.02
	Well (post treatment)	No Sample
6	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	Non-Detect
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
7	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	Non-detect
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
8	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	Non-Detect
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
9	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.02
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
10	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	Non-detect
	Well (post treatment)	0.02
11	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.04
	Well (post treatment)	Non-Detect
12	Well (pre-treatment or no treatment)	0.02
	Well (post treatment)	Non-Detect

EPA's Health Advisory (based on short term – 10-day ingestion) for Microcystin for finished drinking water - for children under 6





HIGH RISK SITUATION

## **Emergent Actions**

### Homeowner Result Notification

### General Community Notification

#### **Source Water Treatment**



#### Findings Based on Sampling:

NEW JERSEY

Your well had a detection of cyanotoxins, but the level was below EPA's Health Advisory. Because cyanotoxins are present in your well water, it is likely that your well is under the direct influence of lake water (i.e., pulling water from the lake) and is at risk. Although samples were only collected for cyanotoxin analysis, if your well is pulling lake water, it is also susceptible to other contaminants in the lake that were not specifically investigated during this sampling event. Septic fields or cesspools on your property may also pose a risk of contamination to private wells. Microorganisms (e.g., bacteria and viruses) may exist naturally or be introduced to the lake by stormwater runoff or failing septic and/or cesspool systems. These sources of contamination can also contribute to the growth of cyanobacteria and algae in the lake.









## Contact

## Chelsea Brook

Executive Assistant for Policy Water Resource Management



Chelsea.Brook@dep.nj.gov



**Additional Resources** 

HABs in Drinking Water





Water Quality Concerns for Lakefront Communities

CyanoHABs & Drinking Water Fact Sheet





Drinking Water Quality Institute

Like & follow us!



@njwatermonitoringandstandards



Lake Ketchum Restoration: 10 Years of Success Preventing HABs & Restoring Lake Health

> Shannon Brattebo, PE Marisa Burghdoff Jen Oden





Surface Water Management

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 NJDEP's 2025 Virtual HAB Summit

Kicking the HAB-it Together: Collaborating to Get Ahead of HABs



## **A Restoration Story...**











- Small, 26 acres, lake in northwest Snohomish County
- Relatively shallow, max depth = 6.4 m, mean depth = 3.7 m
- Strongly stratified in the summer, May to September/October
- Low DO Anoxic Hypolimnion
- Most eutrophic lake in Snohomish County, most likely in the region
- Plagued by toxic blooms of cyanobacteria
  - **2000, 2005, 2006, 2008-2013**















#### **Total Phosphorus: Inlet 1 -- stream as it enters the lake**



#### Lake Ketchum Phosphorus Levels

October 2010 - October 2011



## **Ketchum Algae Control Plan Goals**





Reduce total phosphorus (TP) by 85%



Decrease epilimnetic TP to 40  $\mu$ g/L (summer average)



Reduce algae blooms and toxic algae





#### ELEMENTS OF RECOMMENDED ALGAE CONTROL PLAN



## Alum Treatment History

ΤΥΡΕ	YEAR	DOSE (MG/L)	GALLONS OF ALUM	GALLONS OF BUFFER
Large	2014	19.5	13,484	7,415
Treatments	2015	20.4	13,000	8,118
	2016	4.4	2,900	1,705
	2017	6.1	4,050	2,380
	2018	4.4	3,000	1,764
	2019	4.4	3,000	1,764
Maintenance Treatments	2020	4.4	3,000	1,764
	2021	4.4	3,191	1,572
	2022	3.1	2,629	1,430
	2023	3.0	2,480	1,370
	2024	3.0	4,960	0

## Water Quality Impact – Goal #1 Reduce TP by 85%

## **1** Meter **TP** and **SRP**



## Water Quality Impact – Goal #1 Reduce TP by 85%

## 5 Meter TP and SRP




Goal #2 – Summer TP average of 40 µg/L





Goal #3 – Reduce algae blooms and toxic algae



### Winter Peaks in Chl – But not typically Cyanobacteria







Goal #3 – Reduce algae blooms and toxic algae

Year	Weeks Posted	# of Weeks Toxic	Microcystin (µg/L)	Anatoxin (µg/L)
2008	11	8	1.5 - 309	0.3 - 12.9
2009	21	0	0.06 – 0.29	-
2010	22	11	0.05 – 329	0.04
2011	25	8	0.06 – 551	0.02 - 0.03
2012	15	5	0.07 – 417	0.02 - 0.06
2013	19	12	0.06 – 539	0.66
2014	15	7	16.1 – 675	-
2020	4	0	0.44	-

#### Biovolume (µm³/mL)– June through Sept Average



#### Biovolume ( $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>/mL) – June to May 2009 to 2018



### **Biological Impact – Aquatic Plants**







### **Biological Impact: Lake Residents**









**Annual Lake Ketchum Restoration Costs by Type** 

## It takes a village!



#### **Snohomish County Tetra Tech Alum applicators** • Aquatechnex Gene Williams • Dr. Harry Gibbons • Jen Oden • Dr. Gene Welch • HAB Aquatic Solutions/SOLitude Lake • Katie Ruthenberg Management • Dominick Leskiw **State agencies** Lake Ketchum Volunteer Lake • WA Department of Ecology Shores • WDFW **Monitors Improvement Club** • WA Department of Health









Shannon.Brattebo@tetratech.com



# Break

## Please be back by 3pm

Evaluating the Cost Effectiveness of Various Innovative Treatment Strategies to Proactively or Reactively Control Near-Shore HABS

Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey

Funding Provided by the United States Army Corps of Engineers – Engineer Research and Development Center

#### 2025 Harmful Algal Bloom Summit April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Patrick Rose and Fred S. Lubnow, Ph.D.

### USACE ERDC HAB Demonstration Program

 "Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) represent a significant and costly threat to our Nation's economy and natural resources. The U.S. Army ERDC seeks innovative, costeffective, and scalable technologies for early detection, prevention, and management of HABs"



## **USACE ERDC HAB Demonstration Program**

#### ✓ Objectives

- Significantly reduce the frequency of HABs associated with water resources development projects
- Demonstrate innovative technologies or combinations of technologies for HAB prevention or management at large field scales
- Generate field-scale cost and technology performance data to guide informed technology use and support technology transfer



#### Lake Hopatcong, Sussex and Morris Counties, New Jersey

- Largest lake in NJ (2,686 acres)
- 16,215-acre watershed (6:1)
- Maximum depth: 16.7 meters
- Average depth: 5.6 meters
- Recent increase in HABs



## Factors That Lead to Cyanobacterial Blooms

- High seasonal temperatures
- Still water conditions / thermal stratification
- Elevated phosphorus concentrations
- Total phosphorus concentrations
   0.03 mg/L or greater can generate nuisance blooms / scums



## Annual Mean Surface Total Phosphorus

#### Annual Event Mean Surface TP (mg/L)





## Annual Mean Surface Chlorophyll a

- ✓ Increasing trend over the last 30 years
- ✓ 1991-2009: 9.74 µg/L
  ✓ 2010 2021: 11.55 µg/L
  - 18.5% increase
- ✓ Surface TP decreased
   26% from 1991 2021

#### Annual Event Mean Chl a (µg/L)





#### Lake Hopatcong July Surface Temperature, Station 2





## **Annual Mean Deep Total Phosphorus**

#### Mean hypolimnetic TP concentrations

- Annual variability but increasing trend
  - 1991 1995: < 0.10 mg/L
  - 1996 2021: > 0.10 mg/L (81%)
  - 2019 2021: 0.208 mg/L

#### Annual Event Mean Deep TP (mg/L)





## **Problem Statement**

Problem: External nutrient loading

- Solution: Watershed management
- Problem: Internal nutrient loading
  - Solution: Aeration, oxygenation, nutrient inactivation
- Problem: Shallow, nutrient-rich sediments
  - Solution: ???
  - This project will focus on addressing cyanobacteria that originate from the shallow sediments of a lake



# Objective

Evaluate if innovative treatments, using a combination of nonpesticidal products and early season benthic applications of algaecides, can proactively and reactively control near-shore HABs







# Locations

### Pre- and Post-Treatment Incubation Studies

- Spring 2025 and spring 2026
- Sediment and water samples collected from inside (treatment) and outside (control) each treatment area
- Water samples filtered in lab
- Incubate beakers with lake sediment and filtered water for 14 days
- Collect data after 7 and 14 days
- Does cyanobacteria bloom from sediment?





## Pre- and Post-Treatment Field Monitoring

- Pre-Treatment: One-week pre-treatment
- ✓ Immediate: One-week post-treatment
- ✓ Short Term: One-month post-treatment
- Long-Term: One-year post-treatment

#### ✓ Parameters:

- In-situ, water clarity, phycocyanin (blue-green pigment), phycoerythrin (reddish pigment), chl a
- Cyanobacteria, cyanotoxins (Abraxis and qPCR)
- Various lab parameters (TP, TSS, etc.)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) biomass



# **Spring Treatments**

Ashley Cove and Crescent Cove



PRINCETONHYDRO.COM

## Ashley Cove

- ✓ Size: 2 acres
- ✓ Product: Cutrine-Plus Granular Algaecide
- ✓ Rate: 60 lbs per acre
- Application: Directly over the sediments
- Applicator: Princeton Hydro
- ✓ When: April 2025





## **Crescent Cove**

- ✓ Size: 57 acres
- ✓ **Product:** PAK 27
- ✓ Rate: 100 lbs per acre
- Application: Directly over the sediments
- Applicator: Princeton Hydro
- ✓ When: April 2025





UD MORRIS COUNTY NEW JERSI

AD 1983 2011 StatePlane New Jersey FIPS 2900 Ft U

# **Early Summer Treatments**

Landing Channel and Northern Cove



PRINCETONHYDRO.COM

## Landing Channel: Floc and Lock

- ✓ Size: 50 acres
- Products: Chitosan (floc) and EutroSORB G (lock)

#### ✓ Rates:

- Chitosan: 0.5 mg/L
- EutroSORB G: 250 lbs per acre
- Applicator: Princeton Hydro
- ✓ When: June 2025







TREATMENT MAP



## Northern Cove: Floc and Sink

- ✓ Size: 47 acres
- Products: Alum (floc) and EutroSORB G (sink)
- ✓ Rates:
  - Alum: 100 gal per acre
  - EutroSORB G: 500 lbs per acre
- Applicator: Princeton Hydro
- ✓ When: June 2025





# Mid- to Late-Summer Treatments

Great Cove and Van Every Cove



PRINCETONHYDRO.COM

## Great Cove: Kill, Floc, and Sink

- ✓ Size: 44 acres
- Products: GreenClean (kill), Chitosan (floc), and EutroSORB G (sink)
- $\checkmark$  Rates:
  - GreenClean: 2.8 gal per acre-ft
  - Chitosan: 0.5 mg/L
  - EutroSORB G: 500 lbs per acre
- Applicator: Ready Scout (GreenClean) and Princeton Hydro (chitosan and EutroSORB)
  - Coordination between both parties
- When: July September (reactive treatments)




## Van Every Cove: Kill and Sink

- ✓ Size: 23 acres
- Products: GreenClean (kill)and EutroSORB G (sink)
- $\checkmark$  Rates:
  - GreenClean: 2.8 gal per acre-ft
  - EutroSORB G: 500 lbs per acre
- ✓ Applicator: Ready Scout (GreenClean) and Princeton Hydro (EutroSORB)
  - Coordination between both parties
- When: July September (reactive treatments)





## **Data Analysis and Cost Effectiveness**

- $\checkmark$  Incubation data will be analyzed temporally:
  - 2025 (pre-treatment) vs 2026 (post-treatment)
  - Do we see a reduction in cyanobacteria densities?
- $\checkmark$  Field data will be analyzed temporally:
  - Pre- and post-treatment at immediate, short-term, and long-term intervals
  - Do we see a reduction in relevant metrics?
- $\checkmark\,$  Field data will be analyzed spatially:
  - Treatment zones vs control zones
  - Do we see a reduction in treatment zones relative to control?
- Cost effectiveness study on a per-acre basis



#### **QUESTIONS?**



#### **Patrick Rose**

Environmental Scientist Princeton Hydro, LLC prose@princetonhydro.com THANK YOUI

#### PRINCETONHYDRO.COM

# Practical Approaches to HAB Solutions

"A How To" Guide Rob Newby, Ph.D. Research Scientist - Microbiology Division of Science and Research, NJDEP



# The "W"'s



#### The "What" - Crash Course in HABs

#### ITRC (Interstate Technology Regulatory Council) Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms – 1

#### EPA – Basic Info on HABs

NJDEP – Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring

## The "Where"





Swartswood Mt. Lake

Spruce Run Reservoir





- Blooms can be localized or they can be wide-spread across the entire waterbody.
- To make matters worse cyanobacteria move up and down the water column throughout the day.

#### The "Where"

Where starts usually with you

 Your eyes are the best on the ground tools to spot where HABs are

"Where" allows us to monitor blooms

#### <u>Field</u>



#### Resources



#### NJDEP BFBM

- Phycocyanin Loan Program
- HAB Dashboard

NJDEP

- Flyover Page
- Continuous Monitoring Buoy Network

#### EPA CyAN App



## **EPA CyAN**





#### Resources

dep.nj.gov/wms/bfbm/cyanohabs/

njdep.rutgers.edu/aircraft\_phyco/

• <a>njdep.rutgers.edu/continuous/</a>

qed.epa.gov/cyanweb/account





# (550) The Who Ş

#### The "Who"



When you suspect a bloom, alert NJDEP!

Report a HAB (Avoid It and Report It!)



NJDEP responds to all bloom reports where there is public access or drinking water concerns; and through upwards notification, alerts any additional parties (County Health, State Health, State Parks, etc.)

Link to NJDEP's Report a HAB



## The "Why"



Just like a fingerprint – each bloom is unique and what factors caused the bloom are complex. Some overlapping factors are well known:

- Nutrients (especially nitrogen and phosphorous)
- Still water
- Increased temperature



It's likely a combination of one or more of these things leading to a bloom in your waterbody.

Bloom science is complex, and there isn't a one size fits all approach for understanding the "why" just yet.



Waterbodies that experience a bloom are more likely to experience blooms again.

This can happen in the same season, or happen year after year.

#### The "What" pt. 2

Management of blooms boils down to 2 strategies

#### Prevention

 Prevention works when you want to stop a bloom from happening (or happening again).

#### Intervention

• Intervention work when you already have a bloom.

## **Strategies for HABs**



#### Strategies for HABs

#### Questions you should be asking before using any technique:



1) What is the end goal?

If you're using an algaecide, you'll need a permit and a licensed applicator to apply the algaecide.

•There is no "one size fits all" algaecide. Algaecides also only stop the problem now, what caused the problem to happen in the first place? You should try to have a long-term and short-term plan in place.

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<b>~</b> —
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2) What are my risks of deployment? What happens if what I am planning doesn't work? What is my plan B? Do I have a "circuit breaker" in place?



3) Where has this been done before?

Ask for examples of where this treatment or technique has been used before!

#### Strategies for HABs

#### Questions you should be asking before using any technique (continued):

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4) How long will the effect last (if using an intervention method) or what is the expected deployment life of the system (if using a prevention method)?

What are some site considerations you need to plan for? E.g., Aeration systems need compressors and electricity; Maintenance needs to be a factor for any "system"



5) What are some other changes that can be made locally?

Stormwater controls, septic management, impervious surface coverage, etc.

Some changes can be made in the immediate; like restoring water flow if there is a blockage; some might be long-term changes to nutrient control and management.

## **Resource Links**

• ITRC - hcb-1.itrcweb.org/



- EPA Cyanobacteria Hub <u>epa.gov/habs/basic-information-habs</u>
- EPA CyAN <u>qed.epa.gov/cyanweb/account</u>
- NJDEP BFBM <u>dep.nj.gov/wms/bfbm/cyanohabs/</u>
- NJDEP Flyover Portal <u>njdep.rutgers.edu/aircraft\_phyco/</u>
- NJDEP Continuous Monitoring Portal <u>njdep.rutgers.edu/continuous/</u>
- NJDEP HAB Dashboard njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/7b91233096fc4b9ea5ef2de1a2280359
- NJDEP Report A HAB survey123.arcgis.com/share/993bfe45dc494666af762b5397c12b9c













# Thank you!

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# Public Lakes Alliance of New Jersey





geology.com

#### Lakes Are One of NJ's Greatest Resources

- 1700+ Lakes in NJ
  - 400+ Are Publicly Accessible
  - Used By Millions Each Year
  - Driver of Tourism
  - Major Source of Drinking Water
    - Greenwood Lake Feeds Monksville & Wanaque Reservoirs 3.5M People & Thousands of Businesses
  - Marine Trades Association Estimates Boating in NJ Supports 12,000
    Jobs + \$2.B in Spending
    - American Sportsmen's Association Estimates Some 984,000 Anglers Spend Over \$800M in NJ

#### Our Lakes Are Challenged As Never Before

- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS)
- Road Salt
- Invasive Species

Delawy

- Stormwater
- Increased Water Temperatures

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Internal Phosphorous Loads



#### Public Lakes Alliance of NJ

- Public Lakes from Around NJ Have Organized to Share Information & Help Each Other
- Larger Lakes like Hopatcong, Greenwood, Deal, & Swartswood and smaller like Strawbridge, Mountain, & Cranberry
- Monthly Virtual Meetings With Lake Experts
- Yearly Meeting With the Commissioner
- Recent Discussions-Lake Oxygenation, HABs Treatments, Grant Administration Problems, Advocacy, Hydroraking & Dredging
- Welcome Additional Participants It Takes a Team!





# Thank you for coming!