Otsego County HAB Safety website

https://otsegocountyhabs.com/
Site development and informational sources

- One of the main takeaways from the May HABs meeting was the need for a centralized source of information for people living in and visiting Otsego County
- Emphasis placed on reliable and accessible sources, such as DEC, CDC, and NOAA
- Contributions from local experts provide useful information specific to our lakes
● Sections with resources for each of the large lakes
● Links to NYHABs mapping tool, reporting pages, etc
● FAQ
● Images of what HABs can look like and things commonly mistaken for HABs
● Quick link to reporting to both DEC and NYS Department of Health
Who
Harmful Algal Blooms can affect both humans and pets

What
What is a Harmful Algal Bloom and how to spot them.

Where
What Otsego County Watersheds have been affected?
Science and resources

Dig into the science behind HABs and what local, state, and federal organizations are working on

How to Help

How can you help get the word out about HABs and what to do about them

SEE DATA

LEARN MORE
HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS CAN LOOK LIKE (FROM DEC HABS PHOTO GALLERY, AND CANADARAGO LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION)

Springfield Landing, September 2022
Credit: Holly Waterfield

Bloom conditions at Biological Field Station
Thayer Boathouse, September 2022.
Credit: Holly Waterfield

Thayer Boathouse South, September 2022
Credit: Holly Waterfield
Green algae can look like bubbling scum on the water and may be entangled with other plant material, but do not produce harmful toxins.

Green algae can look silky, hairy or like wet fabric on the rocks, plants or water surface, but do not produce harmful toxins.
Report Harmful Algal Blooms to DEC

If you suspect that you have seen a HAB, please report the HAB to DEC. Fill out and submit a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form. If possible, attach digital photos (close-up and landscape to show extent and location) of the suspected HAB in the web form. Email HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov if you are not able to complete the form.

DEC REPORTING FORM

Report suspected exposures to NYS Department of Health

If you suspect someone has been exposed to toxins from a harmful algal bloom, please notify the NYS Department of Health using the email below.

This email is not immediate help. If you are experiencing symptoms of exposure, talk to your healthcare provider or contact a poison control center right away. Let them know that you might have recently come in contact with cyanobacteria or its toxins. Information about the suspected cause of your illness might help your healthcare provider manage your symptoms.

HARMFULALGAE@HEALTH.NY.GOV
Can I kayak when there is a harmful algal bloom?

What should I do when I see a harmful algal bloom?

Harmful algal blooms should be reported to DEC via the Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form. If possible, attach digital photos (close-up and landscape to show extent and location) of the suspected HAB in the web form. Email HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov if you are not able to complete the form.

What should a person do if they came in contact with a lake with a harmful algal bloom?

What should I do if my pet was exposed to a lake with a harmful algal bloom?

Where can I find out more about harmful algal bloom research?

Why are HABs occurring more frequently in lakes?
Limitations of the site

1. Cannot provide real-time information about the safety of our lakes

2. Not accessible to those without internet access

3. Requires promotion as a resource
Benefits of otsegocountyhabs.com

1. Synthesizes content from state and federal agencies as well as local experts

2. Contains many example photos of local HABs, which vary in appearance from location to location

3. Links to reporting forms and resources that many people would be unaware of

4. Demonstrates the collaborative approach to addressing HABs in Otsego County
Thanks to our partners! Please visit and share our site: https://otsegocountyhabs.com/