

**\*\*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](mailto: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:

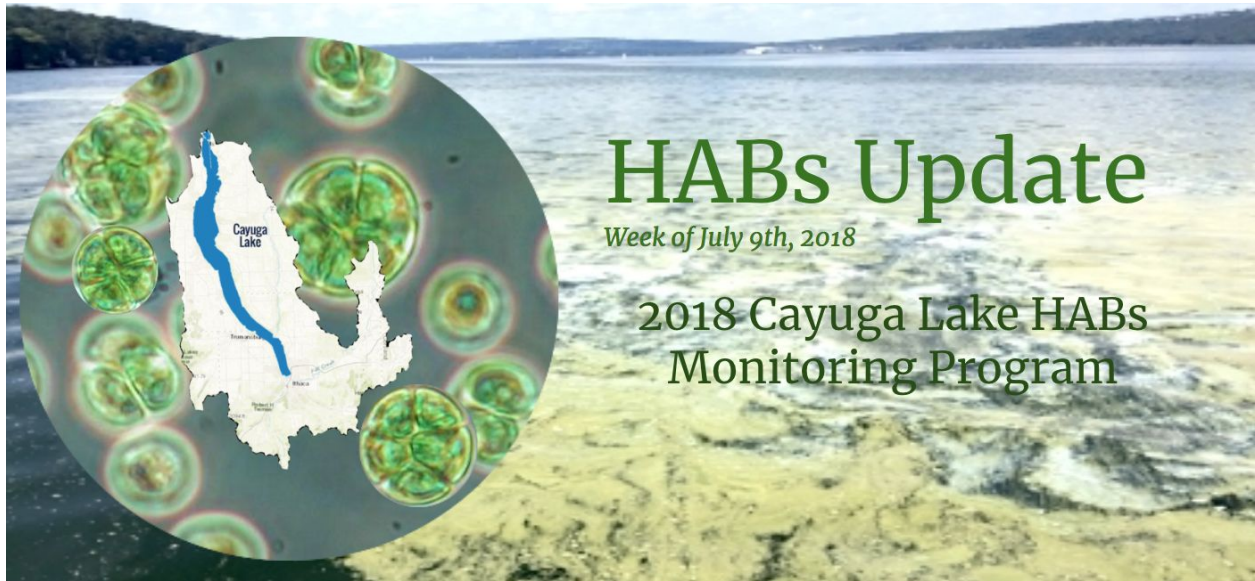
<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

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:

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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.

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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](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.

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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



