Confirmed HAB 8-24-18

Below is a copy of the results of the localized algae bloom observed last Friday, August 24, 2018 at the south west bay of the lake. The results indicate it was indeed blue/green algae and should be avoided. It appeared that it had dissipated early in the week. And then yesterday, August 29 across the whole dam was like green pea soup. Samples were taken but the results won’t be back for a few days. The wind most of the week was out of the south west so it would to push abloom to the dam where it would concentrate.

Then last night, Thursday the 29th, we had a good storm go through and the wind has been out of the north. As expected, the bloom was pushed or at least one occurring along the west side would accumulate in Snug Harbor Bay, and that’s what has happened. As of Thursday afternoon, August 29, 2018 the Snug Harbor bay is all green. Therefore only time will tell if this will be a full lake bloom that has started. In the meantime, the only thing we can do is recommend you follow NYS DEC guidelines that appear in their letter copied below. Of course any further changes we’ll notify you through the web site.

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From The DEC-

The results from your shoreline bloom sample on 8/24 confirm the presence of a cyanobacteria HAB in De Ruyter Reservoir (Madison, Onondaga Co.) based on blue-green chlorophyll a levels of 60.26 µg/L (above the DEC Confirmed Bloom threshold of 25 µg/L) and a microscopic analysis of *Anabaena, Dolichospermum*.

Exposure to any cyanobacteria HABs can cause health effects in people and animals when water with blooms is touched, swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled. This is true regardless of toxin levels; some blue-green algae produce toxins, while others do not. Exposure to blooms and toxins can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea or vomiting; skin, eye or throat irritation and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties. For more information go to [www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae](http://www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae).

Because blue-green algal bloom conditions change rapidly over time, the best prevention is to take steps to avoid waters with visible blooms:

•People, pets, and livestock should avoid areas with blooms or surface scums, or water that is noticeably discolored.

•Avoid blooms when swimming, boating, fishing, and don’t eat fish caught from areas of water with blooms.

•If you or your pets are exposed to blue-green algal blooms, stop using the water and rinse off with clean water.

•Consider medical attention for people and animals if symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting; skin, eye, or throat irritation; and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur after contact with surface waters with blooms.

•Never drink untreated surface water. Even if you treat it in your home with water filtration, chlorine, ultraviolet (UV) light, or other treatment; it’s still not protected from blue-green algae and toxins. For more information see: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/6629.pdf>

•Provide information about bloom-related health symptoms to your local health department, or harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov.

The above sampling information will be provided to regional DEC and DOH staff to make them aware of conditions on the lake. We’d appreciate an update on the bloom to HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov by 9/7/2018 (beyond the routine CSLAP sampling), particularly if the bloom dissipates, changes significantly, or is observed in other locations.