

## News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

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### Cyanobacteria Alert in Moultonborough Bay, NH

Concord, NH- Cyanobacteria activity has been observed in Moultonborough Bay, northwest of Spectacle Island, appearing as thick masses of black almost plant like material along some shorelines. This material is the benthic cyanobacteria *Stigonema*. *Stigonema* is associated with dark benthic mats that can grow deeper in the lake and be washed up along shorelines. It is rarely found in typical plankton samples (not in or growing in the water column) and does not form more traditional cyanobacteria surface blooms. *Stigonema* do have the ability to produce toxins, so interacting with the concentrated material, or concentrating it further by removing it is not advised. Please keep pets and children away from this material. As it is benthic and does not stay suspended in the water column, swimming beyond the visual accumulations should be low risk. Please continue to report changing cyanobacteria conditions to [HAB@des.nh.gov](mailto:HAB@des.nh.gov), and we will coordinate resampling as needed.



**This message serves a local “Alert” for lake-goers to be on the lookout for accumulations of cyanobacteria, especially nearshore of the lake. This is not a formal cyanobacteria Advisory.**

NHDES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing elevated cyanobacteria cell conditions. NHDES also advises pet owners to keep their pets away from cyanobacteria blooms.

Cyanobacteria are natural components of water bodies worldwide, though blooms and surface scums may form when excess nutrients are available to the water. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells and may be released upon cell death. Toxins can cause both acute and chronic health effects that range in severity. Acute health effects include irritation of skin and mucous membranes, tingling, numbness, nausea, vomiting, seizures and diarrhea. Chronic effects may include liver and central nervous system damage. Be cautious of lake water that

has a surface scum, changes colors, or appears to have green streaks or blue-green flecks aggregating along the shore.

Visit the NHDES Harmful Algal and Cyanobacteria Bloom Program website for photos and more information about cyanobacteria at: [Harmful Algal Blooms | NH Department of Environmental Services](#). Check out the [Beach Mapper](#) Website and follow the [Beaches Twitter](#) feed for updates on cyanobacteria advisories.

*If you notice anything resembling cyanobacteria, please refrain from wading, swimming, or drinking the water. Keep all pets out of the water and contact NHDES immediately. Please call NHDES to report a cyanobacteria bloom at (603) 848-8094 or email [HAB@des.nh.gov](mailto:HAB@des.nh.gov).*

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