

**Division of Water Monitoring and Standards
Bureau of Freshwater & Biological Monitoring (BFBM)
Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) Situational Status Report**

**June 20, 2019
Status Report # 2**

Incident Description

- **Lake Hopatcong (Byram Bay), Hopatcong Boro, Sussex County**
 - Date of Incident: 06/17/2019 – 6/19/2019
 - Date Reported to BFBM: 06/18/2019
 - DEP Hotline Case # 19-06-18-0921-51; 19-06-19-1146-46

- **Reported Information:**
6/17/19 CALLER REPORTING AN ALGAE LIKE SUBSTANCE IN THE WATER NEAR A SWIMMING AREA.
6/19/19 REPORT OF A HAB AROUND CALLERS DOCK AND NEIGHBORS DOCK. NOT A PUBLIC SWIMMING AREA OR BEACH.

- **Waterbody Ownership:** Sussex and Morris Counties with numerous municipalities. Ownership of beaches where HAB reported: Wildwood Shores Property Owners Association, Inc. (WSPOA)

- **Partner Agency (s):** Sussex County Health Dept

- **External Notifications:** Lake Hopatcong Commission.

Current Assessment

- **Drinking Water Source:** No

- **Recreational Exposure:** Swimming, boating, fishing.

- **Upstream/ Downstream Impacts:** None.

Investigation Status

Response

6/20/19

Additional reports of HABs at private docks in the Byram Bay Area. This information was sent to the Lake Hopatcong Commission.

The Lake Hopatcong Commission informed local municipalities of the advisory and included the advisories on the Commission webpage and Facebook page. The Lake Hopatcong Foundation also shared the link on their pages.

The Wildwood Shores Property Owners Association, Inc. (WSPOA) owns Pebble Beach and Sand Harbor Beach and contacted BFBM of a visual HAB at two other beaches owned by WSPOA in the Byram Bay area (Clearwater Beach and Bass Rock Beach). Because the HAB at these new beaches resembled the HAB at the other beaches, WSPOA closed the beaches and Sussex Co Health Dept posted advisory signs. BFBM will sample these new beaches to confirm the HAB.

6/18/19

BFBM sampled the Byram Bay area at Pebble Bay Beach and Sand Harbor Beach where the suspected HAB were reported. Dead fish were subsequently reported at private dock locations.

Results

6/18/2019 Samples

Water Body	Location	Dominant Cyanobacteria	Total Cyanobacteria Cell Count	Microcystins Concentration (µg/l)
Lake Hopatcong	Pebble Beach	<i>Dolichospermum</i> ,	57,000 cells/ml	0.833
Lake Hopatcong	Sand Harbor Beach	<i>Dolichospermum</i>	51,375 cells/ml	1.347

*NJ Health Advisory Guidance Levels
Cell Count > 20,000 cells/ml;
Microcystins 3µg/L

Advisory

Sussex County Health Dept. has closed **Pebble Bay Beach, Sand Harbor Beach**, and WSPOA has voluntarily closed Clearwater Beach and Bass Rock Beach. Sussex County Health Dept. posted the following advisory at public access points at all beaches:

Danger/ High Risk - No Contact and Ingestion (Humans and Animals)

A confirmed Harmful Algal Bloom is present with levels quantified at or above the NJ Health Advisory Guidance. Do not drink or have contact with the water including, but not limited to, swimming, wading, and watersports. Fish caught in this waterbody should not be eaten. Pets and livestock should not contact or drink the water.

Continued Actions

BFBM will analyze and report results of samples collected at Clearwater Beach and Bass Rock Beach.

Bathing beaches will remain closed until bloom subsides and two subsequent sample results are below action levels. Sussex County Health Dept. will notify BFBM when bloom has visually subsided and BFBM will coordinate sampling and analysis.

Joshua L. Osowski, NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry Regional Superintendent/ Northern and a Lake Hopatcong Commissioner will continue to be notified of status updates. The Lake Hopatcong Commission will continue to notify municipalities in the affected area regarding the HAB concerns.

Next Updates

Upon analysis of Clearwater Beach and Bass Rock Beach samples or any other change in status as reported by partners.