

## Confirmed HAB: Big Bowman Pond (Rensselaer Co.) 6/17

The results from your shoreline bloom sample on 6/17 confirm the presence of a cyanobacteria HAB in Big Bowman Pond (Rensselaer Co.) based on blue-green chlorophyll a levels of 34.98 µg/L (above the DEC Confirmed Bloom threshold of 25 µg/L) and a microscopic analysis of *Planktothrix*, *Tabellaria*, *Fragilaria*, *Microspora*, *Synedra*, *Asterionella*, *Staurastrum*, *Spirogyra*, *Mougeotia*.

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov) by 7/1/2018 (beyond the routine CSLAP sampling), particularly if the bloom dissipates, changes significantly, or is observed in other locations.

Toxin data are not yet available, but will be forwarded upon receipt if they indicate an elevated risk.

Any questions or comments may be sent to [HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov).