

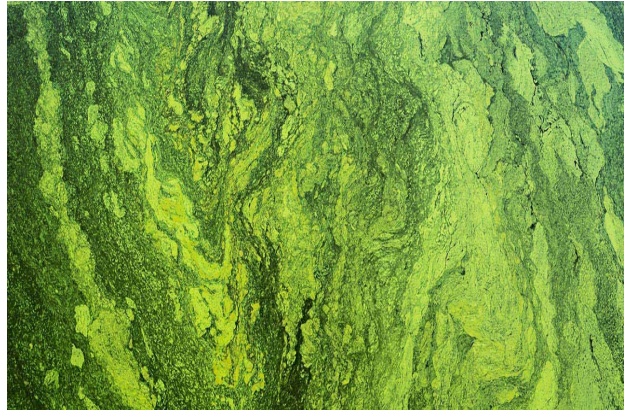


Aquatic Invasive Species found in Schroon Lake:
Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) (CyanoHABs)

Impact- Some species can produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals. These are referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms. HABs release can release dangerous toxins that are public health concerns. Avoid swimming, boating, otherwise recreating in or drinking water with a bloom. In Sept. 2020, Schroon had a bloom that was confirmed as a HAB by NYS. In NY, HABs are increasing in frequency.

What are HABs? - Most algae are harmless and are an important part of the food web. However, some can produce dangerous toxins. Algal blooms occur when algae grow rapidly and can cover large portions of bodies of water. They can be triggered by a combination of water and environmental conditions such as excess nutrients (P & N), lots of sunlight, low water conditions and warm temperatures. They can be short lived disappearing in hours or long-lived persisting for weeks. HABs are not algae but are a photosynthesizing bacteria called cyanobacteria. They can float up and down in the water column. While critical to aquatic ecosystems, rapid, excessive cyanobacteria growth is commonly called a bloom that can be of ecological significance. They are sometimes called blue-green algae.

How to identify - Cyanobacteria blooms often look like thick scum or paint-like substances in differing colors on the surface of the water that can sink to the bottom overnight, only to reappear during the day. They can be found along shore lines or in open water. Can be difficult to confirm as they may only last for hours. See more pictures; <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html>



Action - Avoid contact with any floating mats, scums or discolored water. If contact occurs thoroughly rinse / wash with clean water to remove algae. If severe symptoms such as skin, eye, throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur or individuals who are concerned that they may be experiencing HABs illness symptoms after exposure to contaminated water should contact their healthcare provider.

If you suspect a HAB, report it to DEC. On their website there is a form- “Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form” that you can submit. Attach close up photos, if possible, along with location. If you are not able to complete this form, email HABsinfo@DEC.ny.gov.

More info; <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>

ESSLA and SLA as part of their participation in the CSLAP program test for HABs.