

HAB ALERT LEVEL	CRITERIA	RECOMMENDATIONS
NONE	No HAB present or reported.	None
WATCH <i>Suspected or confirmed HAB with potential for allergenic and irritative health effects</i>	Suspected HAB based on visual assessment or screening test OR Lab confirmed cell counts between 20k – 40k cells/mL AND No known toxins above public health thresholds	Public Bathing Beaches Open (dependent upon local health authority evaluation and assessment)
		Waterbody Accessible: ➤ Use caution during primary contact (e.g. swimming) and secondary (e.g. non-contact boating) recreational activities
		Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock)
		Do not consume fish
ALERT <i>Confirmed HAB that requires greater observation due to increasing potential for toxin production</i> PUBLIC BATHING BEACHES INCREASE MONITORING	Lab confirmed cell counts between 40k – 80k cells/mL AND No known toxins above public health threshold	WATCH remains in effect.
		Public Bathing Beaches Open (dependent upon local health authority evaluation and assessment) and should observe and report changing bloom conditions
		Waterbody Accessible: ➤ Use caution during primary contact (e.g. swimming) and secondary (e.g. non-contact boating) recreational activities
		Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock)
ADVISORY <i>Confirmed HAB with moderate risk of adverse health effects and increased potential for toxins above public health thresholds</i>	Lab testing for toxins exceeds public health thresholds OR Lab confirmed cell counts above 80K cells/mL OR Field measurement evidence indicating HAB present and above guidance thresholds (e.g. phycocyanin readings)	Do not consume fish
		Public Bathing Beaches Closed
		Waterbody Remains Accessible: ➤ Avoid primary contact recreation (e.g. swimming) ➤ Use caution for secondary contact recreation (e.g. boating without water contact)
		Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock)
WARNING <i>Confirmed HAB with high risk of adverse health effects due to high toxin levels</i>	Toxin (microcystin) 20 - 2000 µg/l AND/OR Additional evidence, including, expanding bloom, increasing toxin levels (i.e. duration, spatial extent or negative human or animal health impacts) indicates that additional recommendations are warranted	Do not consume fish
		Public Bathing Beaches Closed
		Waterbody Remains Accessible: ➤ Avoid primary contact recreation (e.g. swimming) ➤ May recommend against secondary contact recreation (e.g. boating without water contact) with additional evidence
		Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock)
DANGER <i>Confirmed HAB with very high risk of adverse health effects due to very high toxin levels</i>	Toxin (microcystin) > 2000 µg/l AND/OR Additional evidence, including, expanding bloom, increasing toxin levels (i.e. duration, spatial extent or negative human or animal health impacts) indicates that additional recommendations are warranted	Do not consume fish
		Closure of Public Bathing Beaches
		Possible closure of all or portions of waterbody and possible restrictions access to shoreline.
		Avoid primary contact recreation (e.g. swimming)
		May recommend against secondary contact recreation with additional evidence
		Do not ingest water (people/pets/livestock)
		Do not consume fish

