

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State REMOVES Cyanobacteria Lake Warning for Province Lake in Effingham & Wakefield, NH

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has REMOVED a cyanobacteria lake warning issued on 8/6/2018. The advisory was issued based on visual evidence of accumulations of cyanobacteria throughout the lake. The bloom quickly dissipated and was reported to be clear the following few days. Samples were collected 8/15/2018 and contained few decaying colonies of *Anabaena/Dolichospermum*. Based on these most recent findings, NHDES has removed the warning at this time. Please continue to monitor your individual shoreline for changing conditions.

Cyanobacteria are natural components of water bodies worldwide, but blooms and surface scums may form when excess nutrients are available to the water. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells that can 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 include liver and central nervous system damage.

NHDES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing elevated cyanobacteria cell conditions typically where lake water has a surface scum, green streaks or blue-green flecks aggregating along the shore. NHDES also advises pet owners to keep their pets out of any waters that have a cyanobacteria bloom.

NHDES routinely monitors public beaches and public waters of the state for cyanobacteria. Once a cyanobacteria lake warning or beach advisory has been issued, NHDES returns to affected waterbodies on a weekly basis until the cyanobacteria standards are again met.

The warning went into effect on August 6, 2018, and was removed on August 16, 2018.

Visit the NHDES Beach Program website for photos and more information about cyanobacteria at

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/index.htm>

Updates on advisories and warnings may be obtained at

http://www4.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_BeachMaps/WaterShed_BeachMaps.aspx

Follow the Beaches twitter feed:

https://twitter.com/NHDES_Beaches

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.

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