

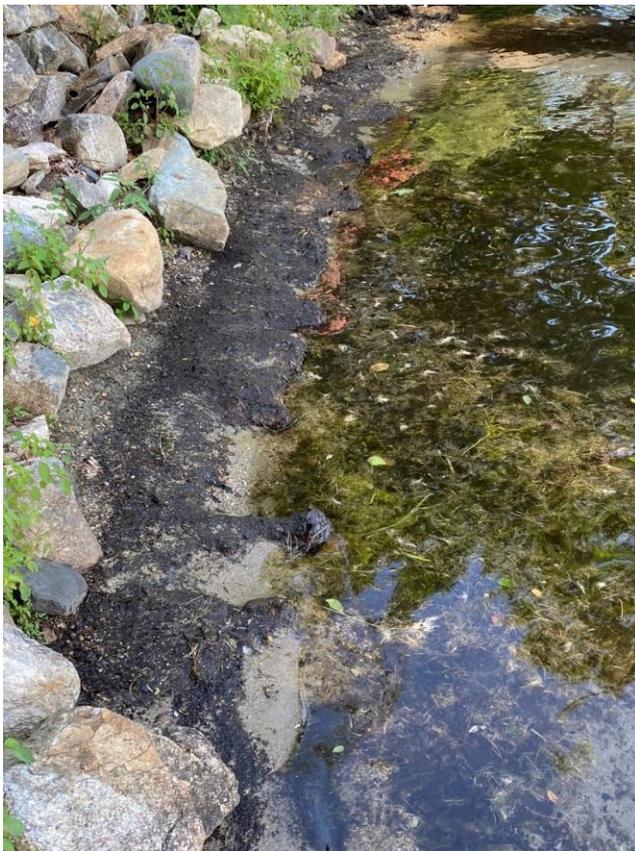
News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

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State Issues Cyanobacteria Bloom Alert for Spofford Lake in Chesterfield, NH

Concord, NH- Cyanobacteria activity has been observed on Spofford Lake. Accumulations are appearing along shorelines as dark or black mats and fluffy material on the west shoreline off Rt 63. This is similar to the event that occurred in 2020, similar cyanobacteria taxa have been observed (primarily *Tolypothrix*, with some *Stigonema* and *Oscillatoria*). The mats of cyanobacteria have come from the bottom of the lake and are washing along the shores, carried by winds and currents. As they are benthic mats and not planktonic within the water, the density is too numerous to count. This material can cause rashes and NHDES advises that lake goers avoid contact with these mats/accumulations of cyanobacteria. It is also important to keep pets from interacting with this material. This alert is not based on a toxin evaluation and is intended as a precautionary measure for short term exposure. Please continue to report changing cyanobacteria conditions to HAB@des.nh.gov, and we will coordinate resampling as needed. This message serves a local "Alert" for lake-goers to be on the lookout and avoid contact with accumulations of cyanobacteria, especially nearshore of the lake.



Surface blooms can rapidly change and accumulate in various locations around a waterbody. Please continue to monitor your individual shorelines for changing conditions. NHDES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing elevated cyanobacteria cell conditions, also known as a bloom. NHDES also advises pet owners to keep their pets out of any waters that have a cyanobacteria bloom.

Cyanobacteria are natural components of water bodies worldwide, though blooms and surface scums may form when excess nutrients are available to the water. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells and 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 may include liver and central nervous system damage. Be cautious of lake water that has a surface scum, changes colors, or appears to have green streaks or blue-green flecks aggregating along the shore.

Visit the NHDES Harmful Algal and Cyanobacteria Bloom Program website for photos and more information about cyanobacteria at: [Harmful Algal Blooms | NH Department of Environmental Services](#). Check out the [Beach Mapper](#) Website and follow the [Beaches Twitter](#) feed for updates on cyanobacteria advisories.

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 or email HAB@des.nh.gov.

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