

**\*\*Press Release \*\*** For Immediate Use August 7th, 2018 **\*\*Press Release\*\***

## **Harmful Algal Blooms on Cayuga Lake: Information**

*Blooms reported, sampled, tested & mapped, from July 2 - present*

Pasted below and attached is HABs Update - "Harmful Algal Bloom Update" issue 6, newsletter for the week of August 6th, 2018.

### **New in this issue:**

- **Summary of HABs across NY State to date during 2018**
- **We are not alone: Harmful Algal Blooms and Lake Erie**
- **Sign up today for the Thursday August 9 HABs symposium in Geneva!**

**Attention: DO NOT ENTER THE WATER IF HABs ARE PRESENT!**

If you see a bloom, don't touch it. Keep your children and dogs away. Report the bloom to [habs hotline@gmail.com](mailto:habs hotline@gmail.com) with the location, time, date and two photos.

Link to the map of reported HABs locations around Cayuga Lake with test results, and shoreline zones regularly patrolled by HABs Harriers:

<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

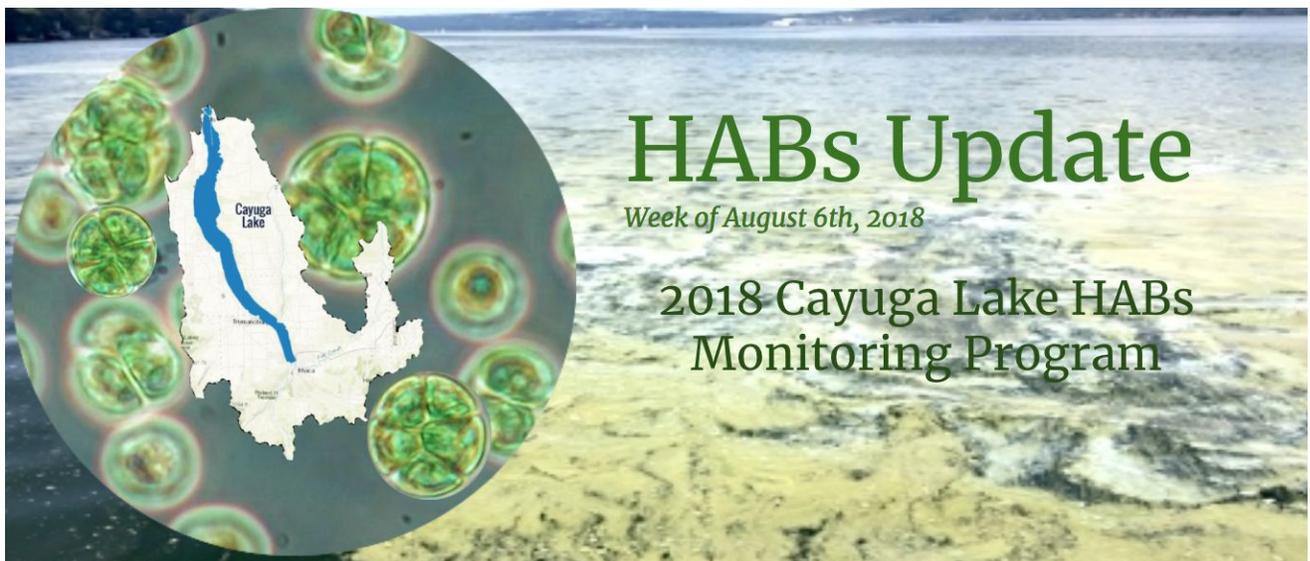
Please read more in the August 7th *HABs Update* below, share widely with friends and the public, and keep an eye out for updates throughout the summer.

### **For more information contact:**

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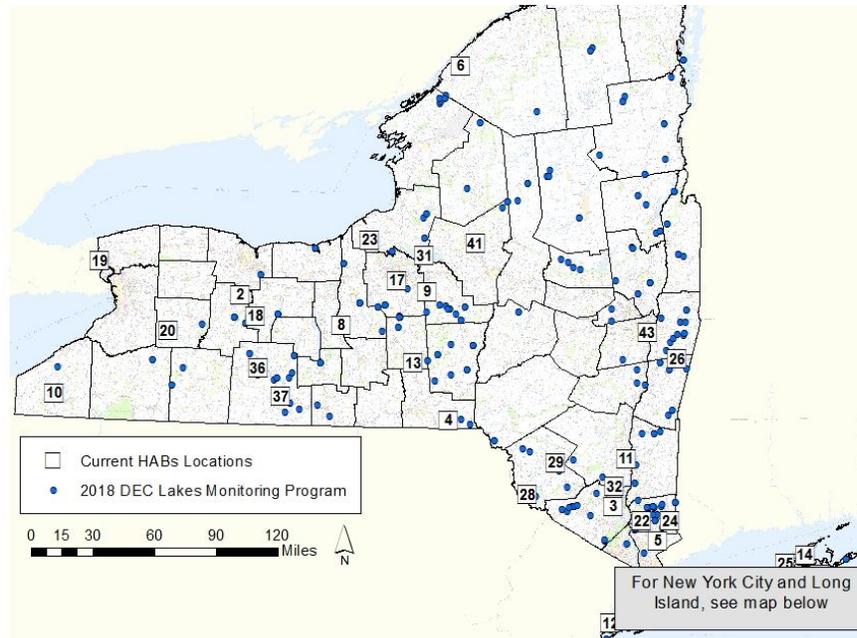


### **Harmful Algal Blooms Update 6**

### **HABs across NY State during 2018**

**A lot has happened this summer!** We've been hit with increasing temperatures, high humidity and lots of rain, all of which contribute to the HABs we have seen on Cayuga Lake. According to

[upstatenewyork.com](http://upstatenewyork.com), the number of toxic algae blooms in New York jumped by 20 percent during the month of July. The NYSDEC reported that at the beginning of July, 36 New York State water bodies had confirmed blooms. On July 13th, 42 water bodies had blooms. Below is the DEC's map of confirmed blooms in New York State as of 7/27/18:



### We are not alone: HABs on Lake Erie

The widespread nature of increasing HABs means that we, here on Cayuga Lake, are not alone. In a lecture for the Lake Erie Foundation, [Timothy W. Davis](#), a national expert on harmful algal blooms, reminded the audience of the global nature of HABs. According to Davis, “Nationally, in the 1950s and 1960s, harmful algal blooms were considered regional problems, not global... But today, there are a lot more harmful algal blooms than even before and they are occurring all around the world.”

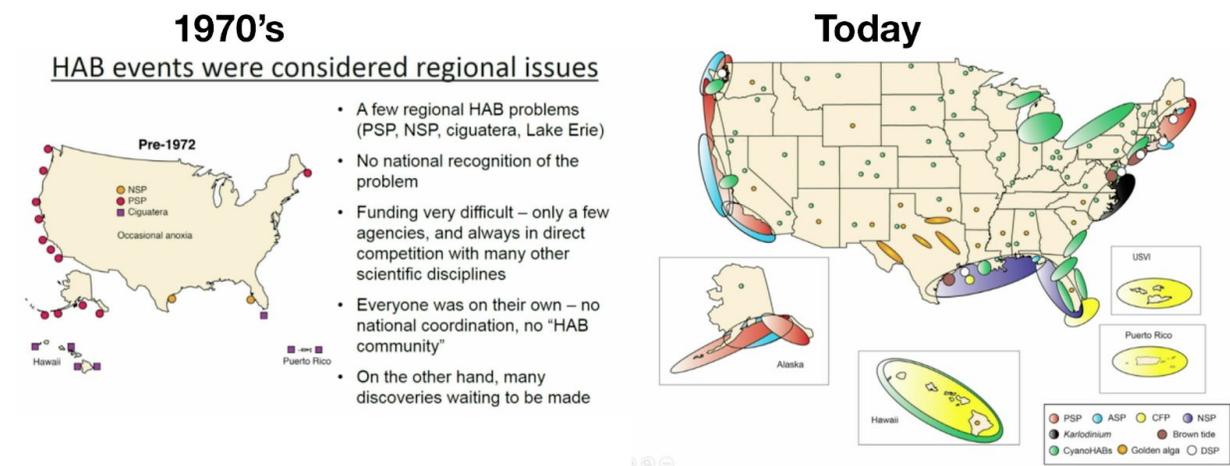
So even though it seems as if we are being swarmed by HABs, we are not alone! There are scientists working across the nation and around the world to study these blooms and to figure out how to best manage HABs. “In the 1960s and 1970s, there were far fewer scientists focusing on this issue,” Davis said, “but now there are thousands.”

For Lake Erie, HABs have been a focus of Ohio Sea Grant's work since 1971. This prolonged exposure to HABs has allowed the scientists of the Ohio Sea Grant Program to locate solutions. While we on Cayuga Lake do not yet have measures in place to remove toxicity from the water once a bloom has been located, water treatment methods have been studied and perfected in Lake Erie. Water treatment plants use activated charcoal, UV rays and other techniques, to remove toxic substances from the water. According to the [Ohio Sea Grant website](#), “The toxins, such as microcystin, bind to the charcoal particles, which are then filtered out of the water again.” This

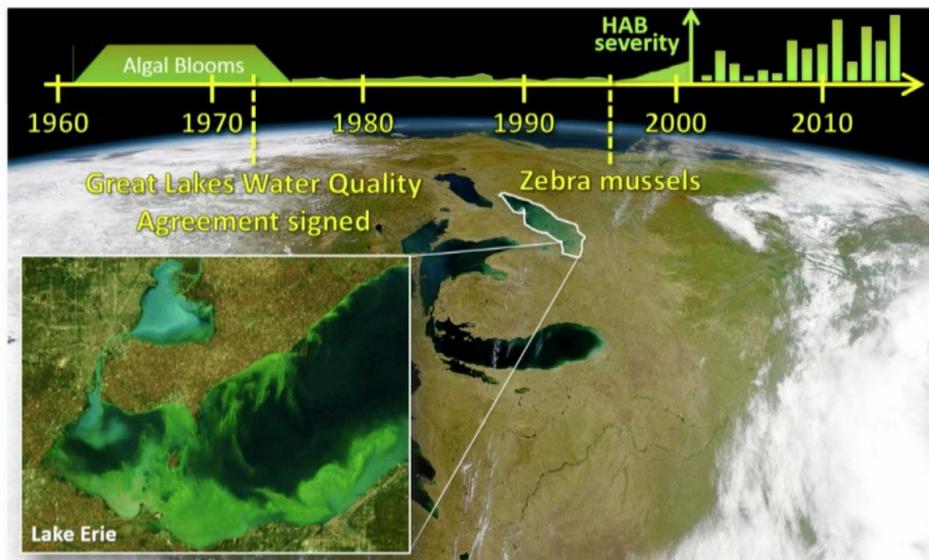
shows that with more time and energy focused onto the issue of HABs, solutions can be found and dispersed to other communities and regions dealing with HABs.

Dr. Davis also mentioned that in the 1970's, when HABs had not yet reached the public agenda, it was very difficult to acquire funding for HABs research and collaborative projects like the 2018 HABs Program in the Finger Lakes. Today, there are millions of dollars in government and private grants to apply for to fund various HABs related research and action projects.

The following images were taken from Dr. Davis' presentation at the 2018 New York State Harmful Algal Blooms Regional Summit. They illustrate how the presence of HABs can change over time, based on a variety of factors including the level of monitoring and mitigation efforts.



## Maintaining water quality takes vigilance!



According to Dr. Davis, vigilance and effective treatments led to a big drop in HABs in Lake Erie by the mid 1970s (see timeline in the figure above). However, by the early 2000s, this work had stopped - and HABs are back. The history of HABs in Lake Erie serves as lesson for us to remain vigilant through the winter, through hot summer days filled with blooms and through days when all is calm and still.

### **2018 HABs Symposium, August 9 Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva**

Information sharing is key to mitigating HABs. Fortunately, the upcoming [2018 Finger Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) Symposium](#) will be an amazing platform to present and disseminate research to scientists and HABs-focused organizations. The 5th annual symposium will be held on **August 9th from noon to 6 pm at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva**. Included are presentations by some of the area's top professionals in the fields of water quality, invasive species management, and HABs identification. **To attend, register at the link above.**

### **Thank you and farewell from HABs Update editor**

This is the final issue I will write and edit as Communications Intern for the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. It has been an absolute pleasure and I hope that the information reached as many people as possible. Being a member of the HABs Harriers Team has been truly rewarding. I was able to meet people around the watershed area that I never would have met, and for that, I'm so grateful.

-- Carly Siege

### **To see where HABs have been reported on Cayuga Lake:**

Check out the following map provided by the Community Science Institute:

<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

Check out the DEC HABs Notification Page:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

To learn more about HABs with links to research, the global scope of this problem, and information about possible causes and solutions, check out our HABs page at

[www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html](http://www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html)

The Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program is a collaborative effort led by a local consortium of three nonprofits: The Community Science Institute (CSI), the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN), and Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL), working in collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the State University of New York Environmental School of Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

