

# OHA'S CYANOHAB PROGRAM



Picture of a CHAB on Siltcoos Lake on the Oregon Coast

## 2023 CYANOHABs REVIEW, PROGRAM and PILOT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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## CyanoHAB Highlights 2023

- **Twelve advisories in 2023**
  - Klamath area x3 (UKL, Agency Lake, Lake Ewauna)
  - Brownlee and Hells Canyon Reservoirs x2 (issued by Idaho)
  - Cullaby Lake
  - Galesville Reservoir
  - Willowcreek Reservoir
  - Lower Willamette (inc. Ross Island Lagoon)
  - Sauvie Island x 3 (Aarons Lake, Pete's Slough and Sturgeon Lake)
- New highest anatoxin result for Oregon (369 ppb) in Pete's Slough
- First advisories ever on Sauvie Island

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## CyanoHAB Highlights 2023

- **CHABs legislation passed in 2023 (HB 3409)**
  - Gave OHA position authority and general funds for a new natural resource specialist 3 (NRS3) focused on CHABs
  - Gave permanent general funds for natural resource specialist 4 (NRS4) position (Rebecca and Curtis's position)
- **Staffing**
  - Curtis Cude retired
  - David Farrer is backfilling temporarily
  - New Health Water Unit and Unit Manager (Rob Smith) hired (CHABs program is in this unit)

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## CyanoHAB Looking to 2024 Season

- **Staffing**
  - Hiring for Curtis's position and new NRS3 position has been a struggle
  - Hope to at least have NRS4 (Curtis's position) filled by summer
  - Rachel Saltzman GIS Analyst hired – 50% on CHABs
- **Projects**
  - Rachel is revamping webpage
    - Adding interactive CHAB reporting component
    - Generating map for current advisory page
  - Collaboration with Multnomah County on detailed map for Lower Willamette advisory communication

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# CyanoHAB Looking to 2024 Season

## • Current Discussions

- Benthic CHABs - collaboration with DEQ
- Ways to better use satellite data
- Potential intermediate advisory category – (e.g. “potential toxins,” “caution,” “watch” etc.)

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## Examples of Educational Materials

### Protect your livestock

Cyanobacteria are naturally occurring bacteria found in fresh water everywhere. They can multiply into blooms and produce toxins harmful to livestock and wildlife. Blooms can be green, blue-green or reddish-brown.

If animals get into a bloom, don't let them lick their hide and if possible, wash them with clean water after being in the water.

Like the you're headed down to play at the lake. Do you know about CHABs?

In Oregon waters, different living things are hard at work all year round, like cyanobacteria, which help create the oxygen we breathe.

But in the summer, when the water becomes warmer and more food is available, if tiny cyanobacteria babies get too much to eat they can become...

As CHABs die they may ooze toxins that can be harmful to people and pets if water is swallowed.

Always be on the lookout for scummy CHABs and don't take the plunge if you see one!

CHABs can be blue-green, pea-green or reddish brown. Sometimes they look like paint.

**IF IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!**

### Safe Fishing and Recreation in Oregon Waters

#### What to Know About CHABs

**CHABs** - Cyanobacteria Harmful Algae Blooms

Cyanobacteria are beneficial organisms that are natural and important for our environment. However, when conditions are right, such as excess nutrients, sunlight, and warm, still water, cyanobacteria can grow into blooms that can produce toxins. These toxins can harm you and your animals.

**5 Things to Know to Play Safe in Oregon Waters**

1. Very few Oregon waters are monitored for CHABs.
2. Know the signs: Blooms are often pea green or blue-green. They can be small clumps or look scummy or paint-like. Less often you may see red-brown mats.

### Cyanobacteria Harmful Algae Bloom (CHABs)

**What are cyanobacteria blooms?**

Cyanobacteria are naturally occurring beneficial bacteria that are found in fresh waters around the world. Cyanobacteria are often confused with green algae. Both can produce large blooms that cover the water surface near the shoreline. Unlike green algae, these blooms look scummy or thick like bright green or blue-green paint on the water. Many cyanobacteria can produce toxins within their cells called cyanotoxins that can be harmful to people, pets, livestock and wildlife.

**Why are cyanobacteria blooms and cyanotoxins a health hazard?**

Under certain environmental conditions cyanobacteria can produce cyanobacteria within their cells. As these little toxins die they will ooze toxins into the water. There are different kinds of...

### Be Aware of Cyanobacteria Harmful Algae Blooms (CHABs) in Oregon Waters

**Who is most at risk?**

Infants and young children, Hoops, dogs or with pre-existing conditions, Dogs & livestock, Drinking water, Boating water, Water activities.

**CHAB toxins can often cause these symptoms:**

Headache, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Itching, Rash, Swelling, Stomach pain, Irritation of the eyes, throat & skin.

**What causes CHABs?**

Excessive sunlight, Warmer water temperatures, Increased precipitation, Calm or stagnant water.

**Many sources add nutrients to the water increasing CHABs growth:**

URBAN RUNOFF, AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF, SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, WASTEWATER, RESIDENTIAL RUNOFF, SEPTIC TANK LEAKAGE.

**ACTIVE BLOOM**

Visit [www.jrcdill.org/oregon/hab](http://www.jrcdill.org/oregon/hab) or call 1-877-290-6767 to learn what you can do to reduce the occurrence of CHABs in Oregon waters.

### 5 Things to Know About Cyanobacteria Harmful Algae Blooms

1. Blooms in Oregon waters can produce toxins that when present can be harmful to people, pets and wildlife.
2. Stay out of water with blooms and don't drink, cook with or try to filter the water.
3. MOST AT RISK!
  - Infants, Children & Hoops
  - Dogs, Pets, Livestock & other animals with pre-existing conditions
4. Symptoms often mimic food poisoning.
5. Wash pets immediately if they go into water with a bloom. Seek veterinary help at first sign of distress. If symptoms last longer than 72 hrs seek medical help.

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Additional information

[www.healthoregon.org/hab](http://www.healthoregon.org/hab)

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