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For Immediate Release: Thursday, August 5, 2021

Harmful Algal Blooms Reported on Owasco Lake

The Cayuga County Health Department would like to inform the public that Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) have been observed on Owasco Lake. The occurrence was reported at the Owasco Yacht Club bathing beach today, August 5, 2021 and the beach is now closed. The Health Department monitors the water quality at public beaches routinely and closes swimming areas when a potential hazard is identified. When the HABs abate at these beaches, water samples from the swimming area will be collected and sent for analysis. If the results are satisfactory, the beaches will be re-opened. We do encourage the public who are heading out to a public bathing beach to contact the beach operator prior to arriving to determine if it is open for swimming.

HABs tend to occur in lakes on warm days when the water is calm. Bodies of water that are discolored with a paint-like or filmy appearance or floating scum should always be avoided, as they are potentially harmful. Images of these types of blooms as well as non-harmful blooms can be viewed by visiting: [Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)

Since HABs are quite prevalent on bodies of water during the warmer weather, we will not be issuing a press release on each occasion that HABs are present on bathing beaches. We do ask the public to be alert and report harmful algal blooms to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at HABsinfo@dec.ny.gov . For more information regarding HABs please visit: www.cayugacounty.us/health.
