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Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on Owasco Lake

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) were reported on Owasco Lake on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 by the Owasco Lake Watershed Association to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). According to NYSDEC, the algal bloom was relatively small and localized near the Owasco Country Club. This is the first report of HABs on Owasco Lake this summer.

Owasco Lake is the source of public drinking water for the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco. Public water supplies that draw water from surface water are treated, disinfected, and monitored. The public would be notified by the Cayuga County Health Department if public water supplies are adversely impacted by HABs.

The Cayuga County Health Department is reminding the public to **KNOW IT, AVOID IT, REPORT IT:**

- HABs look like discolored water with a paint-like or filmy appearance or floating scum
- Always stay away from blooms in lakes or streams
- Never swim, fish, boat, wade or eat fish caught in areas with blooms
- Never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with a private water supply drawn directly from a lake that is untreated or improperly treated
- If you see a harmful algal bloom, you can report it to the NYSDEC at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>



More information regarding HABs can be found at www.cayugacounty.us/health. Any questions or to report any symptoms you think may be related to exposure to HABs, contact the Cayuga County Health Department at (315) 253-1560.
