

HABS

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

For information and updates on HABS
and potential advisories in SC lakes,
please visit our website at:

scdhec.gov/harmful-algal-blooms





What are harmful algal blooms (HABS)?

Harmful algal blooms are when microscopic organisms, called phytoplankton, overgrow under the right conditions in water bodies. Not all algal blooms are harmful, but some blooms can produce toxins that affect humans, animals, and the environment.

What do HABS look like?

Algal blooms can be associated with thick scums, mats, or layers on the surface of the water. Algal blooms can also be blue, green, blue-green, brown, and/or red in color. They can also be associated with a musty smell. However, not all algal blooms can be seen.

What should I do if I see an algal bloom?

You cannot tell from just looking at an algal bloom if it's toxic or not. If the water is discolored or looks abnormal, it's best to avoid swimming, boating, fishing, etc. in the area. Remember:

“WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT”

If you think you see a potential harmful algal bloom on your lake please contact DHEC to report it:

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