

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State Posts Cyanobacteria Advisory for Granite Lake, Nelson

Concord, NH- The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has issued a cyanobacteria advisory for Granite Lake, Nelson. The advisory was issued on July 25, 2007 and will remain in effect until additional samples reveal that cyanobacteria levels have diminished. DES advises lake users to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing cyanobacteria bloom conditions. DES also advises all pet owners to keep their pets out of any waters that have a surface scum.

DES routinely monitors public beaches and lakes for cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are natural components of many water bodies in New Hampshire. Cyanobacteria may bloom and form surface scum conditions when excess phosphorus and ample sunlight are available for growth. These blooms may travel to different areas of a lake from wind and wave action and may migrate to different lake depths. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that are stored within the cells that are released upon cell death. Toxins can cause both acute and chronic health effects ranging in severity from skin and mucous membrane irritations, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea to liver and central nervous system damage.

DES monitors and inspects Designated Public Beaches throughout the state to better protect the public health of those who recreate in New Hampshire waters. Beach and lake users should be on the lookout for cyanobacteria scums. Often they form dense surface scums blue-green in color; or blooms may cause entire lakes to take on a blue-green hue. Sometimes they resemble paint chips or bright green balls floating in the water.

If you notice anything resembling cyanobacteria please refrain from wading, swimming, or drinking the water. Keep all pets out of the water and contact DES immediately.

For additional information about this advisory contact the DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, please call the Program Coordinator, Sara Sumner, at (603) 271-2658, or Jody Connor, Limnology Center Director, at (603) 271-3414 or the Cyanobacteria Hotline at 419-9229.

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