

## **May 15 DES/UNH Workshop: Cyanotoxins in New Hampshire's Lakes – [Overview](#)**

On Friday, May 15, 2009, DES and the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology co-hosted a workshop, "Cyanotoxins in New Hampshire: Harmful Algal Blooms in Our Lakes – What You Need to Know." The workshop covered: what cyanotoxins are; where and why they exist in our lakes and ponds; the public health impacts, and potential dangers to pets and wildlife; what the state is doing to monitor the cyanotoxins; and what you need to know and do if you or your pet is exposed to a bloom.

Cyanotoxins are produced by some cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae). Cyanobacteria naturally occur in lakes across New Hampshire, the United States and the world. Cyanotoxins can adversely affect livestock, domestic animals, and humans when present in large amounts. A cyanobacteria bloom may turn the water a bright green (pea-soup) or bluish-green color and/or produce septic or grassy odor. During the summer of 1999, several dogs died after ingesting toxic cyanobacteria from a bloom in Lake Champlain in Vermont. Generally, the water quality of New Hampshire's lakes is very good; however cyanobacteria can even be found in New Hampshire's low nutrients waters. Exposure to toxic cyanobacteria scums may cause various symptoms, including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mild fever, skin rashes, eye and nose irritations, and general malaise.

## **May 15 DES/UNH Workshop: Cyanotoxins in New Hampshire's Lakes – [Presentations](#)**

- Workshop Session Summaries
- The Sampling Process and Keeping You Informed: Warnings and Advisories – Sonya Carlson, NHDES
- How to Respond to a Bloom Sighting; to a Bloom Exposure – NHDES
- What You Should Know About ... Cyanobacteria – Jody Connor, NHDES (1MB)
- What You Should Know About ... Cyanobacteria – Jody Connor, NHDES (3.5MB)
- Cyanotoxins and the Health of Domestic Animals and Humans – Dr. Jim Haney, UNH