

Updates

After the past couple weeks of active HABs, the reports of suspicious blooms have finally slowed! Last week, the third week of the HABs monitoring program, no harmful algal blooms were found on Cayuga Lake! According to a briefing from Ilana Hill, Community Science Institute Public Science Intern, “This seems interestingly similar to the 2018 season, during which we observed a decrease in bloom occurrences in late July and early August.”

Stay up to date on HABs on Cayuga Lake! The 2019 Interactive HABs Reporting Map and HABs Master Results Table can be found on CSI’s website here:

<http://www.communityscience.org/volunteer/harmful-algal-bloom-monitoring/cayuga-lake-habs-reporting-page/>. When viewing the map, we recommend using full screen mode. To do so, click on the broken box in the upper right hand corner of the map. Once viewing in full screen, more information on reported HABs, including pictures and date observed, can be found by clicking on the raindrop-shaped icons.

How are you coping with HABs?

Have cyanoblooms disrupted a day of recreation in the lake? Have you had to have a difficult conversation with kids about why they can’t go swimming in HAB infested water? We’re interested in learning about how people are adapting to HABs! Send your HABs experiences and how you dealt with them to habsintern@gmail.com to potentially be included in next week’s newsletter, and to help others learn how to deal with these tricky situations.

A New Old Way to Combat Toxic Algae: Float It Up, Then Skim It Off

According to an NPR article published Monday morning, an old practice is being put into effect at Lake Okeechobee in Florida to remove harmful algal blooms. Through this process, called dissolved air flotation, billions of microscopic air bubbles are attached to solids in the water, including cyanobacteria, which causes them to float to the surface of the water where they are skimmed off. The Army Corps of Engineers are working on developing HABs removal practices that could be applied to bodies of water across the country, not

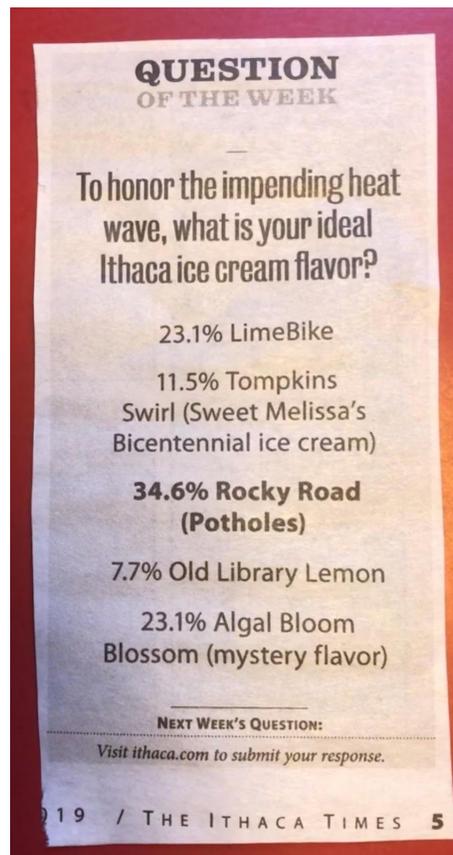
just Lake Okeechobee. Additionally, possible uses are being explored for the blue-green algae removed from the lake, such as converting to biofuel or using it to create consumer products such as yoga mats.

The full article can be found here:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/07/29/745666501/a-new-old-way-to-combat-toxic-algae-flo-at-them-up-then-skim-them-off>

HABs Ice Cream?

HABs were featured in Ithaca Time's Question of the Week last week! Here are the results:



Though Algal Bloom Blossom was not the winning flavor, we sure got a good laugh from it! Additionally, as enticing as it may sound, it is probably best that the ice cream flavor remains a mystery; **do not attempt to consume blue-green algae**, even if it is in the form of a cold summer treat!

Check the beach for HABs before you go! You can find the most up to date information on water quality by calling the park office ahead of your trip.

[Taughannock Falls State Park](#) (607) 387-6739

[Cayuga Lake State Park](#) (315) 568-5163

[Long Point State Park](#) (315) 364- 5637 or (315) 497-0130

[Lansing Myers Park](#) (607) 533-7388 ext. 17

[Village of Cayuga: Harris Park](#) (315) 252-1707

[Wells College Dock and Swimming Area, Village of Aurora](#) (315) 364-7293

For more information about HABs and what to do if you believe you have had contact with one, check out the DEC's HABs page here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>

Further readings

Still want to know more about HABs? Here are a few recommended reads.

[Explainer: What causes algal blooms and how we can stop them](#)

[What are algae blooms and why are they bad?](#)

[Cyanobacteria bloom biology: Nevertheless, they persisted](#)

[The Promise of Blue-green Algae: An Environmentally Friendly Source for Producing Biofuels and Other Products](#)

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The Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program is a collaborative effort led by a local consortium of three nonprofits: The Community Science Institute (CSI), the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN), and Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL), working in collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

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