Lake Hopatcong Harmful Algal Bloom: Field Sampling Locations, Results and Aircraft Remote Sensing Information

9/13/19

The DEP's advisory remains in effect for all areas of the lake except Indian Harbor, Henderson Cove, Byram Cove, Byrum Bay to Halsey Island, and, as of 9/6, the area surrounding ST-14 (S.E. of State Park beach) in the southern part of the lake (see map).

On 8/8, 8/12 and 8/15, beaches in this area of the lake were sampled and results are included in the tables below. As per the DEP/DOH Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Freshwater Recreational Response Strategy, two subsequent samples below the health advisory guidance thresholds are required for reopening of a regulated Public Recreational Bathing facility. Based on the data, DEP/DOH has approved the local health department to re-open the following beaches: as of 8/13 Pebble Beach, Sand Harbor, Bass Rock Beach, Sperry Springs Beach, Beck Lane Beach and CAPP Beach, and as of 8/16, Byram Bay Community Club Beach and Clearwater Beach.

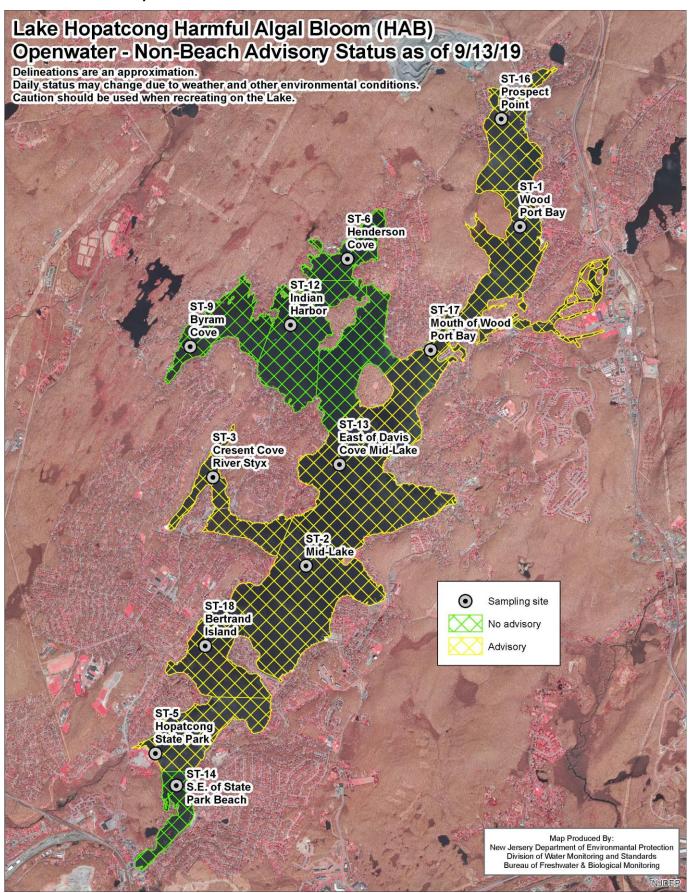
The DEP urges the public to avoid swimming or water sports that may result in contact with the water, such as water-skiing, tubing, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking. There is no recommended limitation on fishing or passive recreational boating that does not have the potential for splashing. However, fish caught should not be eaten. The public is further advised that pets should not be allowed in the water or to drink it.

Since the initial report of an algal bloom on 6/17/19, the DEP Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring has been sampling and analyzing the waters in Lake Hopatcong to identify the algal species and to determine whether cell count levels or cyanotoxins are present above NJ Health Advisory Guidance Levels. HAB response has been conducted in accordance with NJ's Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Freshwater Recreational Response Strategy, which is a unified interagency approach for responding to HABs Sampling will be conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays with results posted on the following days. Flights will continue once a week.

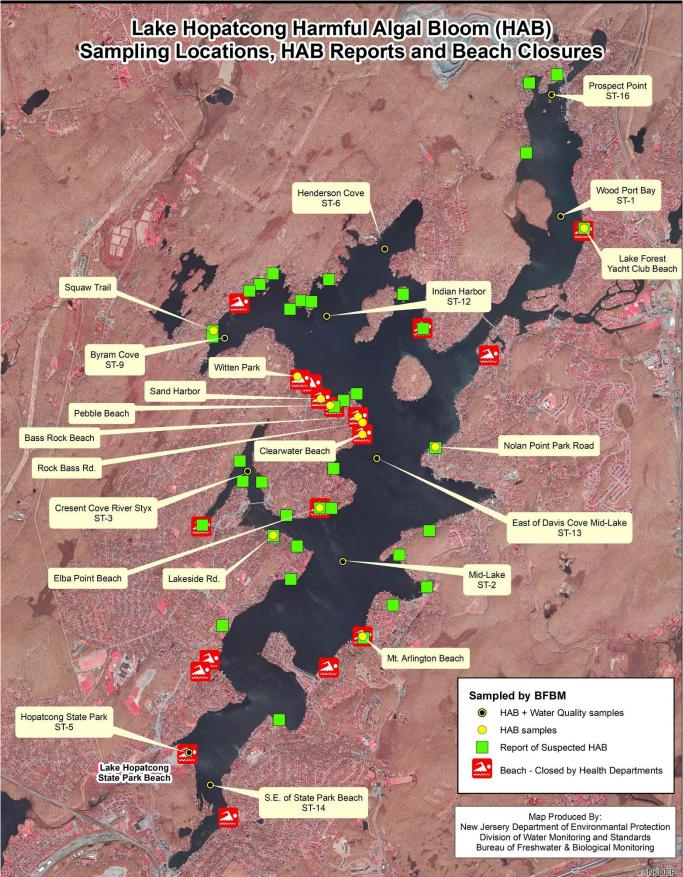
Due to the widespread nature of this bloom, based on field sampling, laboratory results and aircraft remote sensing, on 6/27, 7/3 and 7/12 DEP issued press releases advising the public to avoid swimming in or contact with Lake Hopatcong water. In addition to some beaches already being closed due to visual, field or lab results, as a precaution, DEP recommended that local health authorities close all public swimming beaches along the lake. On 7/26, DEP issued a press release lifting the advisory in the Indian Harbor area of the lake. On 8/1, DEP lifted the advisory in Henderson Cove, on 8/9 the advisory was lifted in Byram Cove, and as of 8/13 and 8/16 the advisory in Pebble Beach, Sand Harbor, Bass Rock Beach. Sperry Springs Beach, Beck Lane Beach and CAPP Beach was lifted – see advisory status map below. Other swimming beaches remain closed.

Bloom reports and sampling locations, as well as the results from sampling events can be found in the sampling locations map and results table below. NJ Health Advisory Guidance Levels include cell counts \geq 20,000 cells/ml and microcystin levels \geq 3µg/L. While many HAB cell counts in Lake Hopatcong have been above NJ Health Advisory Guidance Levels, measurable microcystin levels have been below the guidance. DEP will continue to monitor the lake until the HAB subsides to levels below all NJ Health Advisory Guidance triggers.

Non-Beach Advisory Status



Sampling Locations, HAB Reports and Beach Locations



Potential Health Effects and Results

Exposure to cyanobacteria can cause a range of health effects, including rashes, allergy-like reactions, flu-like symptoms, gastroenteritis, respiratory irritation and eye irritation. Exposure to a HAB which is actively producing cyanotoxins may result in more serious health effects including liver toxicity and neurological effects. HABs may begin to produce cyanotoxins at any time.

In order to be classified as a harmful algal bloom, NJ first identifies the presence of cyanobacterial species and then performs analyses for cell counts and/or toxins. The chart below details the sampling that has occurred since 6/18/2019, as well as the results to date. Due to the characteristics of the lake, as the bloom progresses, some areas may test higher on some days than previous days. This variability is expected due to the shift in cyanobacteria populations, wind or water currents moving the blooms around the lake.

Results from sampling conducted on 9/12/19 show continued cell counts above advisory levels for locations as highlighted in the first table below. Toxin levels are shown in the second table.

Lake Hopatcong Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Samples and Results as of 9/12/2019

Cell Counts

Site name	Station# (where applicable)														Cyanoba	cteria Co	unts cell	s/mL*											
		Date Sampled																											
Bathing Beach Sites		6/18/2019	6/21/2019	6/26/2019	6/27/201	6/28/2019	9 7/1/2019	7/2/2019	7/5/2019	7/9/2019	7/11/2019	7/16/2019	7/19/2019	7/23/2019	7/25/2019	7/30/2019	8/1/2019	8/6/2019	B/8/2019	8/12/2019	8/15/2019	8/20/2019	8/22/2019	8/27/2019	8/29/2019	9/3/2019	9/5/2019	9/10/2019	9/12/2019
Pebble Beach		57000		***			95000	16850		19300				24750					15250	18625	***						+==		
Sand Harbor		51375			***		9250	27800		17750				24500		***			12750	13500			***	-		-		***	
Clearwater Beach			8750	***			21000	13000	-	33375				13000					21000	16250	18500								
Bass Rock Beach			35812				33030	53450		24125				26750					12000	17250									
ake Forest Yacht Club Beach			++++	9750			115000	4400		21250				45000															
Elba Point Beach		***		37125			18500	29090	***	12875				24000						***	***								***
vit. Arlington Beach					179000		12750	14125		25875				30500															
Hopatcong State Park	ST-5					24250	7750	0	17125	32000	46750	35000	48000	47250	71000	35000	63000	57250	27250	18250	18375	45000	46000	31250	31375	15625	35000	16500	24000
perry Springs Beach														32500					6500	9750									
Syram Bay Community Club Beach														38250					21250	16750	17250								
Beck Lane Beach	1								***	***	***			55500	144	***	***		13750	17000				-			-		
CAPP B each			644	***					***		***			42750		***			5250	4500									
East Shore Beach														15625															
Hopatcong Homestead Beach														29250															
ngram Cove														18500															
Crescent Cove Beach														45750	198000		160000												
Shore Hills Beach														43130	20000		100000											20250	32500
Other Lake Sites						-	and the second se	100					10000				100					1000		1.000	222/2			20250	02500
Nolan Point Park Road		12500					12500	11900						***			***												
Rock Bass Rd.	-		9750				12500	11500				1000															1		
Squaw Trail	-		11875																2.000					-					
akeside Rd.			10281																										
Witten Park	-		10201		14500																								
Wood Port Bay	ST-1				24500	34000		8000	20475	30500	9525	15000	18000	78000	19750	59500	96750	54750	40000	55750	17250	60250	42125	53000	44750	87500	95250	91375	136375
Mid-Lake	51-3					54000	-		20475	29875	9323	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	10000	18000	and a second second second	39300	for an and the second				27230	1 Contractor States	42125		44750			51515	100075
collected at surface. 0.5.1.0. and 2	ST-2					36000		65750	22750	at 0.1	31500 at 3.02	19000 at 0.1	21,000 at 0.1	60750 at 0.5	33250 at 0.1	35000 at 1	47500 at 0.1	56125 at 0.1	37750 at 1	53000 at 1	67000 at 1	30875 at 1	44125 at 1	26375 at 1	34250 at 0.1	23750 at 0.1	27500 at 1	25500 at 1	22375at 0.
meters. Highest results listed)	51.2		2223	10526	100000	at 1 meter	s	at 2 meters	22750	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meter	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters
Cresent Cove River Stys	ST-3			-		34500		2000	35500	79000	37000	52000	43000	46500	205500	65250	84000	80750	50625	148000	62875	60625	40750	22750	29750	28250	31000	19125	32625
Henderson Cove	ST-6					28280		19000	13000	18500	15000	32000	26000	40000	17250	11250	19750	15000	17375	12250	02875	00025	40750	22/30	29130	28230	51000	19125	32025
Svram Cove	ST-9					10250		28000	37000	29000	47500	28000	22000	43250	50050	25500	18000	13750	17500	14500									
ndian Harbor	ST-12					22000		39750	10000	8000	16000	8000	9000	43250	18500	17750	14250	11750	17500	14500									
East of Davis Cove Mid-Lake	ST-12		-			18500	-	19000	7000		60000	13000				31500	44000				48250		-	24500	35125	250.00			23250
E. of State Park Beach	51-13 ST-14					34000		21100	17500	18500	10000	6000	18000	49000	38750	49500	44000	38250	22500 24250	42750 59125	48250	26500 27000	26750	30500	26500	9500	18750	30500	23250
rospect Point	ST-14 ST-16		2000												53825			41500									17750		
Prospect Point Mouth of Wood Port Bay				***	***	***	-	5150	37000	6000	10000	10000	14000	18750		41750	63000		28000	73000	42250	25250	35500	30750	56500	55250	49750	72500	53500
	ST-17 ST-18																				43000	27000	29000	28250	49125	29750	45500	35000 19000	24750 29250
Sertrand Island	51-18		Health Adviso cell Count 2 2 Microcysti	0,000 œlls/	ral;																55125	39250	36750	29500	22000	21750	22375	19000	29250

<u>Toxins</u>

Site name	(where applicable)										Mi	crocyst	ins μg,	/I (low	est Re	portin	g Level	0.15	1g/l)*										
														Dat	e Sam	pled													
Bathing Beach Sites		6/18/19	6/21/19	6/26/19	6/27/19	6/28/19	7/1/19	7/2/19	7/5/19	7/9/19	7/11/19	7/16/19	7/19/19	7/23/19	7/25/19	7/25/19	8/1/19	8/6/19	8/8/19	8/12/19	8/15/19	8/20/19	8/22/19	8/27/19	8/29/19	9/3/19	9/5/19	9/10/19	9/12/19
Pebble Beach		0.83					0.15	0.16		0.17				0.25					0.29	0.23									
								Construction of																			î		
		1.35					0.17	< Reporting		0.21				0.22					0.26	0.15								(
Sand Harbor								Level					-																
			·	1			< Reporting																						
Cleanwater Beach			0.16				Level	0.18		0.24				0.23					0.23	0.29	0.12			1222			1000		
Bass Rock Beach							0.08			0.23		-		0.00					0.00	8.4.0					-				
Bass Rook Beach Lake Forest Yacht Club Beach			0.21	0.38			0.08	0.16		0.23				0.25					0.30	0.18									
Lake Forest facilit club beach				0.38			0.24	0.35		0.23				0.42					-										
Elba Point Beach				< Reporting Level			0.19	< Reporting Level		0.19	1		<u></u>	0.34				1	-			1			-	1			
					0.15		< Reporting	0.16		0.32	<u></u>	-	100	0.18					1441	1222								1	
Mt. Arlington Beach					0.13		Level	0.10		0.52				0.16								-			-				
	ST-5			-		< Reporting	< Reporting	0.15	<reporting< td=""><td>0.24</td><td>0.24</td><td>0.24</td><td>0.39</td><td>0.42</td><td>0.36</td><td>0.61</td><td>0.375</td><td>0.30</td><td>0.36</td><td>0.60</td><td>0.22</td><td>0.47</td><td>0.26</td><td>0.6</td><td>0.6</td><td>0.4</td><td>0.35</td><td>0.36</td><td>0.41</td></reporting<>	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.39	0.42	0.36	0.61	0.375	0.30	0.36	0.60	0.22	0.47	0.26	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.35	0.36	0.41
Hopatcong State Park	515			2		Level	Level	0.000	Level	1000000			Sec. 1			00000			1.0010201	2 CON 22		115915		10120					
Sperry Springs Beach								(0.16	0.17									
Byram Bay Community Club Bear	n		-									-							0.26	0.19	0.17		-						+
Beck Lane Beach CAPP Beach			-																0.17	0.16									
CAPP Beach East Shore Beach																			0.27	0.19									
Hopatcong Homestead Beach								a star							100											and an			-
Ingram Cove																													
Crescent Cove Beach		1000												0.62	1.29		1.947							1000					
Shore Hills Beach														0.02			1.547									1000		0.47	-
Other Lake Sites				6																				20100				0147	
Nolan Point Park Road		< Reporting Level		-	-		< Reporting Level	< Reporting Level		-	-		-				-		÷.	-	Ĩ.			-	-	-	-	.820	
Rock Bass Rd.			0.23						-								-	-											<u> </u>
Squaw Trail			0.23	1000	100						1000							1											
Lakeside Rd.			0.10																										
		1000	0.17	0.0000					2.0000			1000			-				is may						1.000		-		
			-		< Reporting													-											
Witten Park					Level														-										
Wood Port Bay	ST-1			-		0.34		0.38	0.42	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.59	0.65	0.41	0.33	0.366	0.30	0.30	0.37	0.34	0.36	0.38	0.38	0.48	0.23	0.26	0.27	0.23
Mid-Lake										0/202011							10.000000000000000000000000000000000000	214 OLIVOUR 101							100000000000000000000000000000000000000		weeks and the state		
(collected at surface, 0.5, 1.0,	ST-2		10000	-12	100	0.15	122	0.16	0.15	0.22	0.19 at 0.1	0.23 at 4	0.36 at 0.1	0.30 at 1	0.32 at 1	0.24 at 1	0.168 at 1		0.23 at 1	0.36 at 0.1		0.32 at 0.1	< Reporting	0.19 at 1	0.26 at 1	< Reporting	0.17 at 13	0.18 at 1	0.19 AT 1
and 2 meters. Highest results listed)	1000							07798683	1000000	at 0.1 meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	meter	meters	meters	meters	meters	meters	Level	meters	meters	Level	meters	meters	meters
iisced)				-						<u> </u>				_															<u> </u>
Cresent Cove River Styx	ST-3	1.000	10000			0.18		< Reporting Level	< Reporting Level	0.26	0.29	0.32	0.48	0.25	0.39	0.42	0.28	0.30	0.49	0.54	0.43	0.41	1.24	0.63	0.60	0.55	0.51	0.18	0.4
	(2).41			-		< Reporting	-	1. Const. 150-		< Reporting	< Reporting	15.255	10.00	1225.5		12000	1000000	100075											<u> </u>
Henderson Cove	ST-6	1.000	1.000	1.000	555	Level		0.15	0.18	Level	Level	0.18	0.25	0.25	0.35	0.22	0.185	0.22	0.25	0.25	000			***	1000			100000	
Byram Cove	ST-9	1,000	1000	-		0.2	1000	< Reporting Level	0.16	0.18	< Reporting Level	0.18	0.18	0.37	0.24	0.19	0.244	0.44	0.22	0.15		-			0775			a na n	
	ST-12		002202			< Reporting	-	0.32	100000	2200	In the second	1227		0.29	0.23	0.21	0.253	0.16	0.29	0.17	-		122		100	10000		0000	0000
Indian Harbor	31-12				1000	Level		0.52	0.16	0.19	0.15	0.26	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.235	0.10	0.25	0.17	652		172	1000	1000	12224	1	13772	
East of Davis Cove Mid-Lake	ST-13		-	-		< Reporting Level		< Reporting Level	0.28	0.45	0.17	0.18	0.32	0.18	0.13	0.23	0.162	0.16	0.23	0.42	0.31	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.16	< Reporting Level	< Reporting Level	< Reporting Level	0.34
S.E. of State Park Beach	ST-14				22	0.16		< Reporting Level	< Reporting Level	(interest)	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.34	0.24	0.32	0.476	0.53	0.41	0.44	0.44	0.23	0.54	0.53	0.57	0.41	0.35	(.	
Prospect Point	ST-16	100000	10000	1022	120	10.50	1000	0.35	0.31	0.28	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.61	0.43	0.3	0.192	0.37	0.40	0.39	0.31	0.23	0.31	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.20	0.23	0.34
Crospecer Point	51-10							0.30	0.51	0.20	0.40	0.07	0.43	0.01	0.43	0.3	0.192	U.37	0,40	0.39	U.31	U.23		0.20	0.20				0.34
Mouth of Wood Port Bay	ST-17	()		-	-				1000								-				0.20	0.21	< Reporting Level	0.24	0.24	< Reporting Level	< Reporting Level	<reporting Level</reporting 	0.17
	ST-18										122	1000					-		1000		0.21	0.26	< Reporting	0.19	0.24	< Reporting	0.21	0.18	< Reportir Level

Cell Count ≥ 20,000 cells/ml; Microcystins ≥ 3µg/L

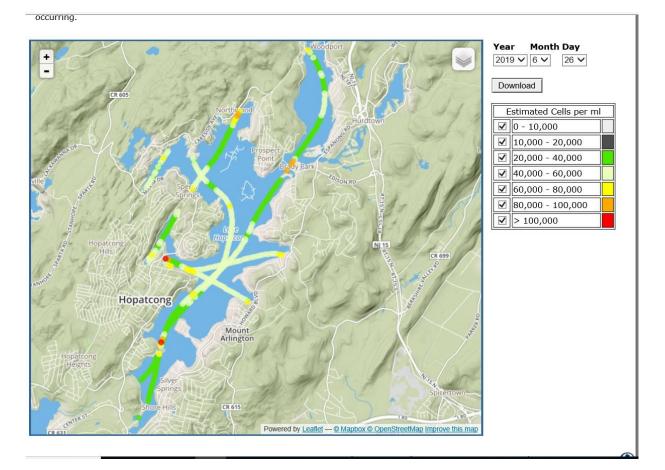
Indicates > than advisory levels

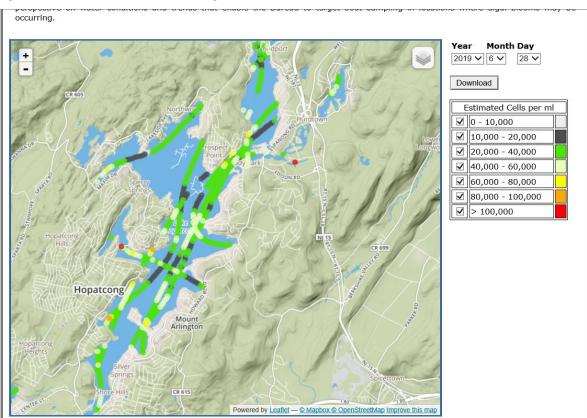
Aircraft Remote Sensing Information and Results

In addition to the response to Harmful Algal Bloom visual reports, field sampling and laboratory analyses described above, the DEP has developed aircraft remote sensing capabilities for general cyanobacteria detection and tracking. A sensor is used to pick up wavelengths of light specific to the cyanobacteria pigment phycocyanin in a waterbody. This advanced monitoring method provides immediate feedback on the presence and relative cyanobacteria cell counts, and can serve as a screening method to target waters for sample collection. While laboratory analyses serve as the definitive determination of whether results exceed NJ Health Advisory Guidance levels, remote sensing data provides useful information on the general extent and trends of a bloom.

Remote sensing flights were conducted over Lake Hopatcong on 6/26, 6/28, 6/30, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/30, 8/9, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3 and 9/11. The scale below estimates the pigment concentrations and cell counts; the bright yellow to red is estimated to be over 20,000 cells/ml or higher, light green denotes an area of concern where cell counts may be near 20,000 cells/ml and dark gray denotes low levels or non-detect. Images are available below for six of the flights. Samples results are needed to confirm sensor estimates.

On 6/26/2019, the flight data shows elevated levels of the phycocyanin pigment covering almost the entire lake.

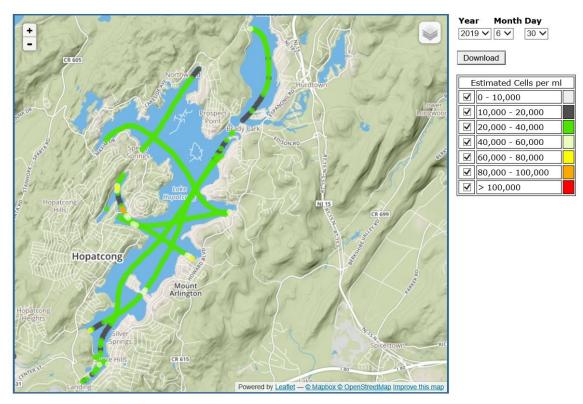


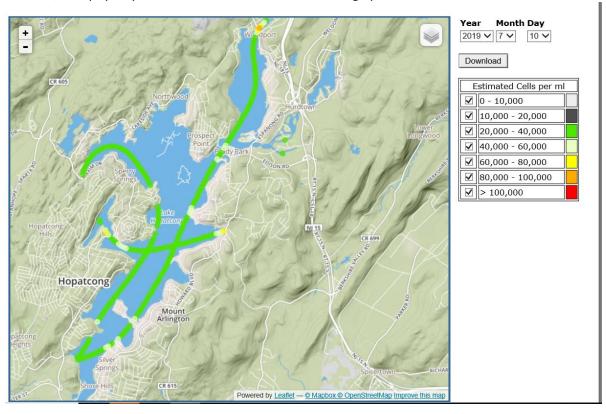


On 6/28/2019, the bloom still covers a large section of the lake, with the coves to the north showing signs that the bloom was diminishing.

On 6/30/2019, the intensity of the bloom appears to be diminishing, but there are still areas of concern in many coves and by the State Park Beach.

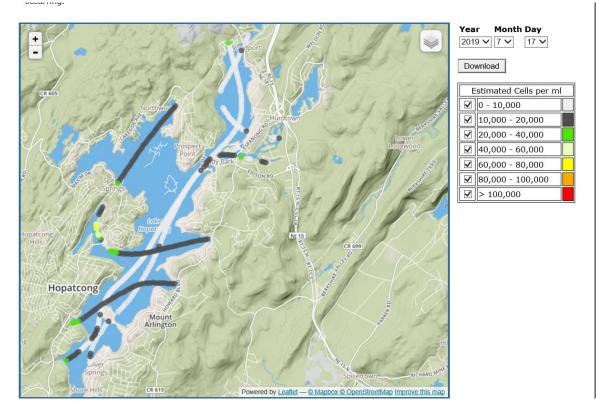




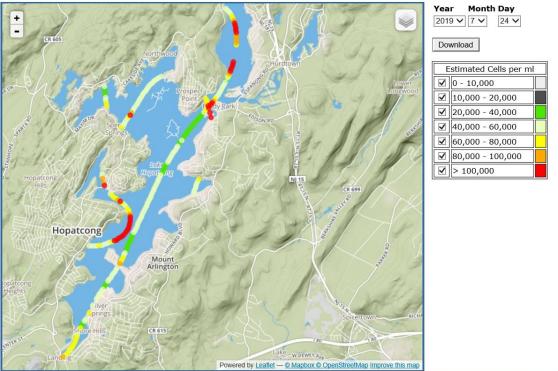


On 7/10/19, phycocyanin levels have increased over a large portion of the lake.

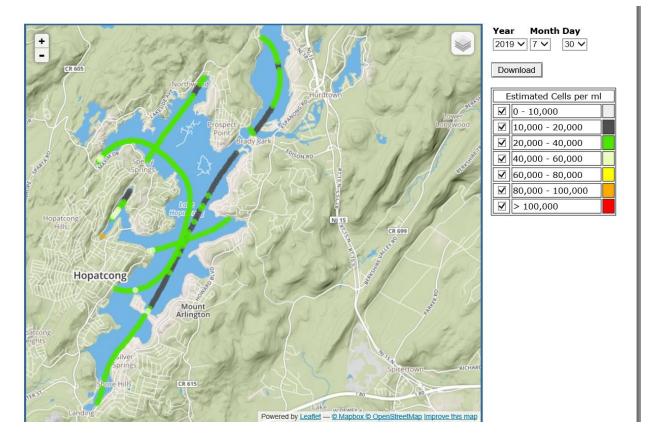
On 7/17/19, the flight shows the phycocyanin levels seem to have significantly decreased in spatial coverage. The highest levels are in River Styx.



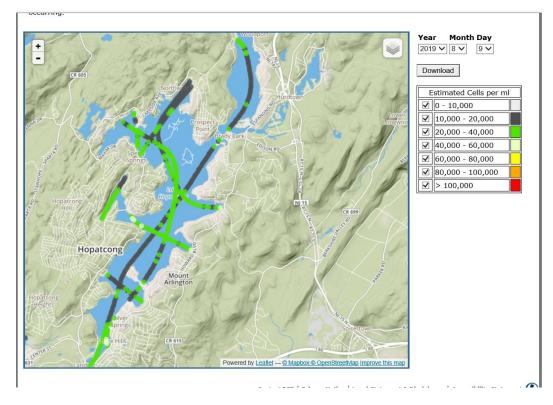
The 7/24 flight shows that the phycocyanin levels seem to have significantly increased in intensity and spatial coverage. The bloom appears to be lake wide.



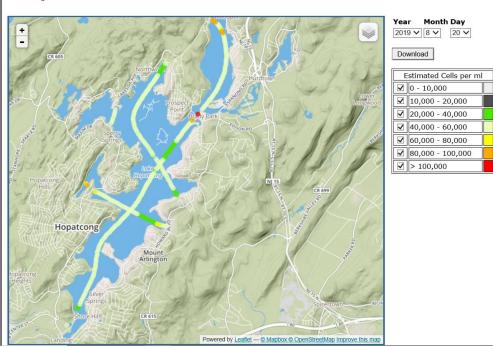
On 7/30 the phycocyanin levels seem to have decreased in intensity and spatial coverage. The bloom is still present in pockets with one near the buoy at ST-14.



On 8/9, the Lake Hopatcong the phycocyanin levels seem to have remained at the same intensity but the spatial coverage seems to be diminishing. The bloom is still present in pockets with higher levels in the south near the buoy at station ST-14.

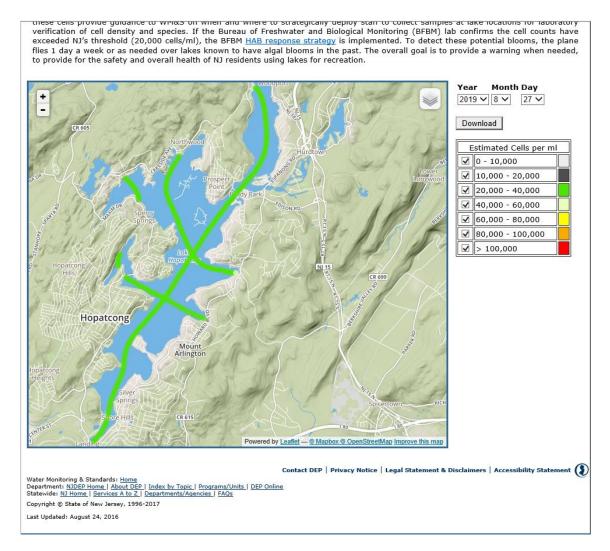


On 8/20, the phycocyanin levels were elevated lakewide, above 20,000 cells/ml. The flight confirmed the decrease in the bloom at the 2 buoy stations mid lake and in the south, but the bloom was still present lakewide with higher levels in the River Styx Crescent Cove area and in the extreme northern section. This flight shows an increase in intensity from the last flight on 8/9/2019.

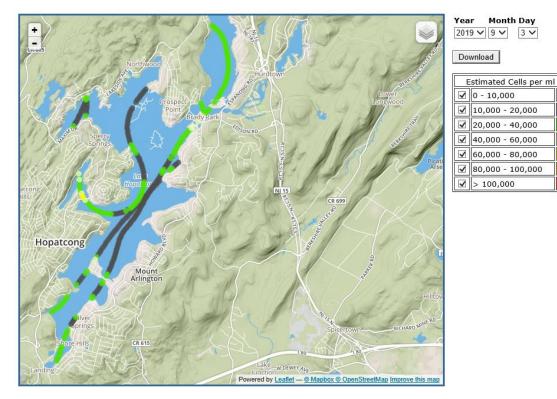


during the summer months, in ravorable weather conditions, over the coastal waters or New Jersey. These hights provide a valuable perspective on water conditions and trends that enable the Bureau to target boat sampling in locations where algal blooms may be occurring.

On 8/27, the phycocyanin levels were elevated lake wide, above 20,000 cells/ml. The flight data showed a general decrease in the intensity since last week, but the bloom was still present lake wide. Cloud cover may have been limiting the cyanobacteria to deeper depths and not at the surface where the aircraft sensor detects the reflectance.



On 9/3, the phycocyanin levels were elevated in the northern and southern sections and were the highest in River Styx - all of those areas were above 20,000 cells/ml. The flight data shows a general decrease in the intensity and spatial distribution since last week, but the bloom is still present in areas. However, large areas were estimated to be below 20,000 cells/ml.



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On 9/11, the phycocyanin levels have significantly declined. The flight data shows a general decrease in the intensity and spatial distribution since last week, with large areas estimated to be below 20,000 cells/ml. Confirmation will come from sample collection.

