



News Advisory

Recreational advisory issued at Lake Isabella due to harmful algal bloom

Visitors should avoid water contact at many locations on lake

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Contact: Marisa Van Dyke (916) 322-8431
Keith Bouma-Gregson (916) 322-8430

SACRAMENTO – Recreational water users and dog owners should avoid swimming or engaging in other activities where water contact is likely while visiting numerous sites around Lake Isabella due to a harmful algal bloom (see [incident map](#) for more information). The advisory will remain in place until further notice.

A popular outdoor recreation destination, Lake Isabella is in Kern County, approximately 40 miles northeast of Bakersfield and surrounded by the Sequoia National Forest.

Toxins that can cause illness in people and animals were detected near the shoreline at all 13 routine sampling locations around the lake. Most of the sampled sites are posted with an advisory against swimming and urging people and animals to avoid contact with discolored water and algal material. An elevated advisory of “danger” recommending that people and animals stay out of the water was posted on the eastern end of the lake at Stine Cove and Kissack Bay. The lowest advisory of “caution” was posted at the south western Auxiliary Dam Boat Launch.

Fish caught near Stine Cove and Kissack Bay on the eastern end of the lake should not be consumed until this advisory is lifted. Fillets from fish caught at other locations can be consumed if the guts are thrown away and the fillets are cleaned with tap or bottled water before cooking. This recommendation is based on the potential health risks posed by the algal organisms called cyanobacteria and the level of toxins measured in water samples collected in early August.

HABs appear as bright or dull green material near the water surface, floating, sometimes resembling spilled paint (See [quick visual guide](#) for more information). As the bloom continues to change, it may form thick algal mats or scum on the water and accumulate on the shore.

The situation is being monitored by the [Kern County Public Health Department](#) to inform users when the bloom dissipates. To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the [CA HABs Portal](#).

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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 • www.waterboards.ca.gov

