



News Advisory

Caution urged for visitors to Discovery Bay after harmful algal blooms spotted in several areas

HABs pose health risks, especially to children, pets

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SACRAMENTO – The presence of harmful algal blooms in and around Discovery Bay has prompted the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Contra Costa Environmental Health (CCEH) to urge caution for recreational water users, as the blooms have been spotted in several locations and can present serious health risks to humans and their pets.

State Water Board staff recently responded to reports of suspected HABs in Discovery Bay in Contra Costa County and collected water samples for testing. Lab results confirmed HABs throughout Discovery Bay consists of potentially dangerous cyanobacteria.

It is recommended that children avoid contact with floating algal material in the water or with algal material accumulated near the shore, and for dogs to stay out of the water as they tend to swallow water while swimming and lick their wet coats when they leave the water. This recommendation is based on the health risks posed by the toxins that can be produced by algal organisms called cyanobacteria.

It is important for recreational water users to be able to identify a harmful algal bloom, which appears as bright to dull-green material near the water surface or floating, sometimes looking like spilled paint in the water. As the bloom continues to grow, cyanobacteria may form thick algal mats or scum on the water surface and accumulate on the shore. Bloom conditions can change rapidly, as the flow of surface water and wind may mix, move, or concentrate the bloom into different areas of the lagoon.

CCEH has provided advisory signs to the harbor master and Discovery Bay Community Services District. Everyone should follow the instructions on the signs and stay out of the water. CCEH and the Water Boards will provide regular updates and when advisories are removed on the [California HAB Reports Web Map](#).

The State Water Board recommends that people practice [healthy water habits](#) while enjoying the outdoors this summer at local lakes, rivers or streams:

- Heed all instructions on posted advisories if present



- Avoid algae and scum in the water and on the shore
- Keep an eye on children and pets
- If you think a harmful algal bloom is present, do not let pets and other animals go into or drink the water or eat scum/algal accumulations on the shore
- Don't drink the water or use it for cooking
- Wash yourself, your family and your pets with clean water after water play. If you catch fish, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking
- Avoid eating shellfish if you think a harmful algal bloom is present

Get medical treatment immediately if you think any person, pet or livestock has gotten sick after going in the water. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible contact with cyanobacteria. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

To report a bloom, do one of the following:

- Fill out the [Bloom Report](#) form on the portal
- Email: CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov
- Call the HABs hotline: 1-844-729-6466 (toll free)
- Contact Contra Costa Environmental Health: 925-608-5500

For more information about HABs, please visit:

[California HAB Reports Web Map](#)
[Contra Costa Health Services HAB Page](#)

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