

Oregon Harmful Algae Bloom Program

2014 Bloom Season Recap

Although the Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) program is no longer funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OHA staff continue to implement key programmatic elements designed to protect public health. Since the cessation of funding, OHA staff has and will continue to rely on waterbody managers to perform duties once accomplished by OHA.

Highlights this year:

- Saxitoxin guideline values were decreased based on review of other states' practices. Recreational value: from 100 to 10 µg/L. Drinking water value: from 3 to 1 µg/L.
- The USACE opted for less HAB sampling and more education/outreach. Sampling moved to Water Quality Division who will identify and sample blooms on lakes currently monitored for other contaminants. Signs and educational materials developed and to be posted/disseminated in 2015. Advisories will be issued for monitored lakes, but Corps signs will be used on lakes no longer sampled (e.g.: Dorena, Dexter).
- OHA updated its advisory and sampling guidance documents to reflect new guideline values, and the programmatic changes brought about by loss of CDC funding. Guidance documents are available at www.healthoregon.org/hab.
- HABs data is published on OHA's EPHT System web portal. The portal provides detailed information about blooms over a five year period in three formats; map, table, and graph. See web portal here: <http://epht.oregon.gov/DisplayData.aspx>
- Continued TBM (specifically by the USFS) and the data it provides, has successfully averted lost revenue for vendors, by reassuring the public during blooms determined non-harmful due to low toxins.

Figure 1. 2014 Advisories, numbered chronologically

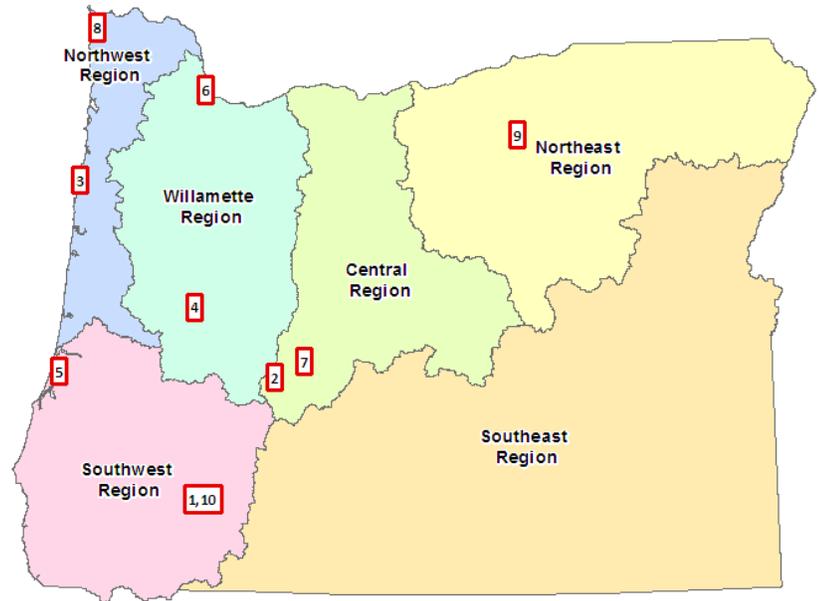


Table 1. 2014 Advisories by waterbody, region and date

#	Waterbody	Region	Start	End	Duration
1	Lost Creek Lake	Southwest	6/03	6/25	22
2	Odell Lake	Central	7/21	8/08	18
3	Deviils Lake	Northwest	8/01	11/25	116
4	Walterville Pond	Willamette	8/06	10/02	58
5	Tenmile Lake	Southwest	9/15	11/25	41
6	Willamette River (Portland)	Willamette	9/16	10/02	16
7	Wickiup Reservoir	Central	9/19	11/10	52
8	Cullaby Lake	Northwest	9/22	10/02	10
9	Willow Creek Reservoir	Northeast	10/10	11/18	39
10	Lost Creek Lake	Southwest	12/04	02/26	84
Total					456

Advisories were in effect from June 3, 2014 until February 26, 2015: 268 days of the year vs. 217 days in 2013, 196 days in 2012, 232 days in 2011 and 272 days in 2010

Ten advisories were issued in 2014, down from a total of twelve in 2013. However, the total number of lakes under advisory has stayed the same (nine) for the past three years. In 2014 one lake had a second bloom whereas in 2013, three lakes had a second bloom and therefore additional advisories. Toxin based monitoring continued on four lakes from 2012 with the addition of three lakes in 2013 and. No additional lakes were added in 2014.

Table 2. HAB Advisories, advisory-days and percent of days in which there was an advisory in effect, by year

Year	Number of Advisories	Advisory-days	Percent of days with an advisory
2005	6	162	25.8
2006	8	191	45.8
2007	8	311	49.9
2008	14	732	71.0
2009	21	727	52.9
2010	22	1,412	74.5
2011	18	1,175	63.6
2012	9	601	53.7
2013	12	730	59.5
2014	10	456	73.4

Figure 2. HAB Advisories & Advisory-days

