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State Urges Caution for Water Activities at East Harbor State Park

Following reports of a blue-green algae on Lake Erie at and near East Harbor State Park, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health urge people and pets at the park's beach to limit their contact and avoid ingesting the water where algal blooms are present pending the State's investigation.

Water samples were collected by Ohio EPA staff on Tuesday and will be analyzed this week to identify the organism in the lake and determine if algal toxins are present. Results of the samples will be announced when they are available.

East Harbor State Park, located near Lakeside, remains open to visitors. ODNR will be posting water contact advisory signs at the beach. Water conditions in Lake Erie can cause a rapid change in where blooms appear. Blooms can easily appear in one location one day and in a different area miles away the next due to the lake's constant wave action. People can report algae blooms to Ohio EPA by using a form and e-mail address available at the Ohio EPA web link below.

People recreating in the lake should use similar precautions as they would in any non-chlorinated surface water. This includes avoiding swallowing water and washing off after being in the water.

Additional Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) information and data is available online at:

Ohio EPA www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/HAB.aspx

ODH www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/algalblossoms.aspx

Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/hab/cyanobacteria/facts.htm

Additional information about East Harbor State Park is available online at:

ODNR www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/eastharbor/tabid/733/Default.aspx

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www.epa.ohio.gov