

NEWS | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | July 16, 2026

NDDEQ updates harmful algal bloom advisories and warnings

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has issued harmful algal bloom advisories for Devils Lake in Ramsey and Benson counties and Lake Brekken in McLean County.

Harmful algal blooms, also known as HABs or blue-green algae, can develop quickly during warm, sunny weather. Some blooms produce cyanotoxins, which may affect people, pets and livestock if the water is swallowed or contacted.

As of July 16, 2026, the following North Dakota waterbodies have active HAB advisories or warnings:

Advisories:

Devils Lake, Ramsey and Benson counties – Posted July 16

Lake Brekken, McLean County – Posted July 16

Lake Darling, Renville County – Posted June 29

Warnings:

Bowman-Haley Dam, Bowman County – Posted June 29

South Golden Lake, Steele County – Posted June 29

Warsing Dam, Eddy County – Posted July 1

The Department of Environmental Quality will continue monitoring these waterbodies and update their status based on observations and sampling results.

Avoid it. Report It.

- Before heading out, check current water conditions at tinyurl.com/WMP-HABS. DEQ posts updates from May 1 to December 31.
- Water suspected of containing blue-green algae should be avoided.
- Bring plenty of water for people and pets. If contact occurs, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Report suspected blooms at 701-328-5210, tinyurl.com/WMP-HABS or DEQ-HAB@nd.gov.

For more information contact:

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