

NEWS | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 13, 2026

Environmental Quality updates harmful algal bloom advisories and warnings

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has issued harmful algal bloom advisories for Lake Ashtabula in Barnes County and Sykeston Dam in Wells County, bringing the number of state waterbodies under an active advisory or warning to 10.

Harmful algal blooms, also called HABs or blue-green algae, can develop quickly in warm, sunny weather. Some blooms produce cyanotoxins that can make people, pets and livestock sick if the water is swallowed or touched.

An advisory means a bloom is present in portions of the waterbody. A warning means a bloom covers a significant portion of the waterbody and toxin levels exceed the recreational threshold.

As of Aug. 13, 2026, the following North Dakota waterbodies have active HAB advisories or warnings:

Advisories		
Lake Name	County	Date Posted
Devils Lake	Ramsey/Benson	07/16/2026
Lake Brekken	McLean	07/16/2026
Lake Darling	Renville	06/29/2026
Lake Tschida	Grant	07/28/2026
Lake Ilo	Dunn	08/04/2026
Lake Ashtabula	Barnes	08/11/2026
Sykeston Dam	Wells	08/13/2026
Warning		
Lake Name	County	Date Posted
Bowman-Haley Dam	Bowman	06/29/2026
South Golden Lake	Steele	06/29/2026
Warsing Dam	Eddy	07/01/2026

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.
- Do not swim in or drink from water suspected of containing blue-green algae and keep pets away from affected water. Bring plenty of fresh 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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