

**NEWS** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 17, 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 Blacktail Dam in Williams County, Horsehead Lake in Kidder County and Larimore Dam in Grand Forks County, bringing the number of state waterbodies under an active advisory or warning to 20.

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 Sept. 16, 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 Ilo               | Dunn          | 08/04/2026  |
| Lake Ashtabula         | Barnes        | 08/11/2026  |
| Sykeston Dam           | Wells         | 08/13/2026  |
| Lake Isabel            | Kidder        | 08/19/2026  |
| West Lake Napoleon     | Logan         | 08/19/2026  |
| Clear Lake             | Pierce        | 08/26/2026  |
| Patterson Lake         | Stark         | 08/26/2026  |
| Antelope Lake          | Pierce        | 08/26/2026  |
| Epping-Springbrook Dam | Williams      | 09/02/2026  |
| Blacktail Dam          | Williams      | 09/08/2026  |
| Horsehead Lake         | Kidder        | 09/11/2026  |
| Larimore Dam           | Grand Forks   | 09/15/2026  |
| 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  |
| Lake Tschida           | Grant         | 08/26/2026  |
| Lake Darling           | Renville      | 09/02/2026  |
| Buffalo Lodge Lake     | McHenry       | 09/02/2026  |

### Avoid it. Report It.

- Before heading out, check current water conditions at [tinyurl.com/WMP-HABS](https://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](https://tinyurl.com/WMP-HABS) or [DEQ-HAB@nd.gov](mailto:DEQ-HAB@nd.gov).
- 

**For more information contact:**

Brian Houle, Division of Water Quality

4201 Normandy Street | Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

PHONE: (701) 328-5193 | EMAIL: [bhoule@nd.gov](mailto:bhoule@nd.gov) | [www.deq.nd.gov](http://www.deq.nd.gov)