Social, Cultural, and Economic Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms (SEAHAB)

The NCCOS Social, Cultural, and Economic Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms (SEAHAB) Program funds research to increase our understanding of the social, cultural and economic impacts of HABs at both the individual and community levels to facilitate the development and implementation of strategies that prevent or mitigate such impacts.

Contact:
Brittany King,
SEAHAB Program Manager
Brittany.King@noaa.gov

Priorities

- Social and/or cultural impacts of HAB events at local, state and/or regional scales
- Economic impacts of HAB events at local, state and/or regional scales
- Impacts of HAB events on subsistence at local, state and/or regional scales

Funding Details

Type of Work Supported: Research

Award Format:
Cooperative Agreement

Frequency of Availability:
Periodic, typically every 2-3 years

Award Size: $200K - $1M/year

Duration of Award: 2-5 years

Eligible Groups:
State, Local, Tribal, Private, Non-profit, Academic, Federal

Is match required? No

Is the funding competitive? Yes

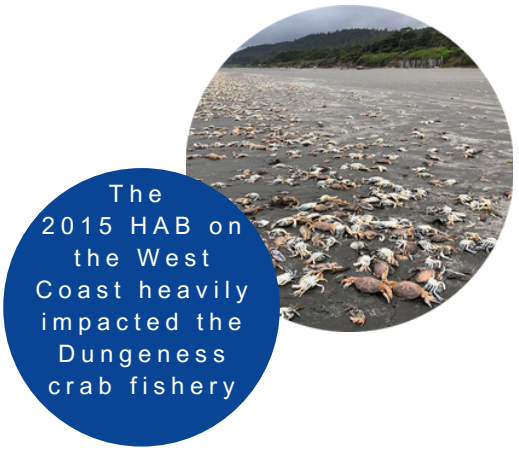
Program Details

SEAHAB is a national, peer-reviewed, competitive research funding program authorized by Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA). Research funded through the SEAHAB program may guide future research on the social, cultural and economic impacts of HAB events at a local, state, and regional, and national level, and inform the selection of management strategies and methods most appropriate to a specific HAB event and ongoing issues. Resulting research will also provide the necessary building blocks that can lead to a better national assessment of the social, cultural, and economic impacts from HAB events.

EXAMPLE SEAHAB PROJECTS

Evaluation of Mitigation Strategies for Harmful Algal Blooms in the West Coast Dungeness Crab Fishery

In 2015, the West Coast California Current marine ecosystem experienced a marine heatwave (nicknamed “the blob”) that caused major shifts in the phytoplankton and zooplankton communities at the base of the food web. The blob is believed to have triggered a coast-wide bloom of the diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia australis* that contaminated shellfish with high concentrations of the toxin domoic acid, forcing closures or delays of shellfish fisheries up and down the West Coast. This project will assess the potential economic benefits of mitigation strategies for harmful algal blooms in the Dungeness crab fishery along the U.S. West Coast.



The 2015 HAB on the West Coast heavily impacted the Dungeness crab fishery

Assessing Societal Impacts on Harmful Macroalgae Blooms in the Caribbean

Large ammounts of *Sargassum* beaching can have devastating impacts on coastal ecosystems and economies.

In the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico regions, *Sargassum* Inundation Events (SIEs) have become an increasingly persistent and severe nuisance since first appearing in 2011. This project will examine how SIEs and their mitigation in the Caribbean affect multiple dimensions of social resilience, including economic impacts, human well-being, local ecological knowledge, and individual attitudes, values, and behaviors.

Value of the Pacific Northwest Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Bulletin is a forecasting tool that provides information to managers in both states to facilitate their decisions to open and close shellfisheries, including implementing delayed openings, selective harvests at “safe” beaches, and increasing harvest limits. Once operational, the most current PNW HAB Bulletin will be distributed to managers and other partners on the NANOOS website. This project will estimate the economic benefits of the Pacific Northwest Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin, using a methodology that quantifies the value of information.

The PNW HAB Bulletin helps identify harvest-save beaches

Scan the QR codes

Current and past project details

New funding announcements

NCCOS