NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC &
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

AN INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO HAB AND HYPOXIA CHALLENGES

NOAA and HABHRCA

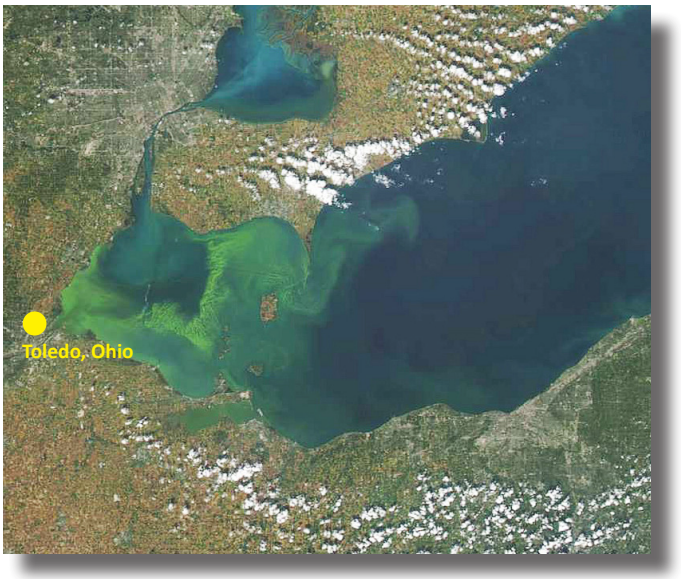
The Problem

Harmful algal bloom (HAB) and hypoxia (severe oxygen depletion) events are scientifically complex and economically damaging. They challenge our ability to safeguard the health of our nation's coastal, Great Lakes, and freshwater ecosystems. Nearly every state experiences some type of hypoxia or HAB event.

What We Are Doing

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is working with other federal agencies to advance the understanding of HAB and hypoxia events, and respond to, detect, predict, control, and mitigate these events to the greatest extent possible, as mandated by the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2014 (HABHRCA).

In addition to preparing a Comprehensive HAB and Hypoxia Research Plan and Action Strategy, NOAA is providing accurate, real-time forecasts to the public; and is transitioning these to mitigate the impacts of HABs and hypoxia. The agency's efforts are mitigating the impacts on the public.



MODIS-Aqua Satellite image of 2014 cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom in Lake Erie, with high concentration near Toledo, OH.

Severe hypoxia in Greenwich Bay, RI, killed more than one million fish in August 2003.

Engagement Opportunities

To advance these efforts, federal representatives will consult with stakeholders to identify regional and national needs for reducing and managing HAB and hypoxia events. They also wish to stimulate dialogue between these groups to develop an action strategy for addressing HABs and hypoxia in the future. Stakeholders will have opportunities to engage and comment via webinars, conferences, email, and other venues.

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Federal representatives seek input from a wide variety of stakeholders, including relevant management and planning bodies, resource officials, economists, tribal resource management officials, scientists and public health experts, industries affected by HABs and hypoxia, nonprofit groups, and the general public. They are interested in feedback on:

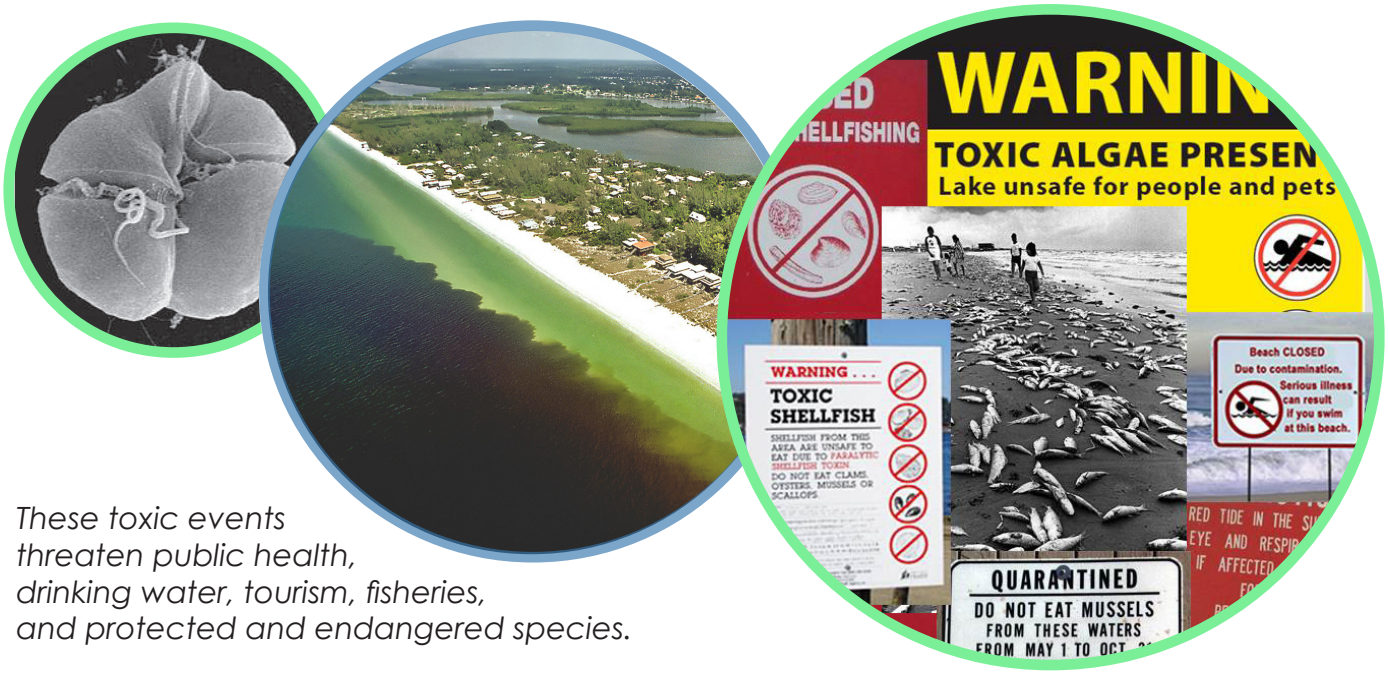
- Regional priorities for ecological, economic, and social research on the causes and impacts of HABs and hypoxia, needs for improved monitoring and early warning, and new approaches to prevention, control, and mitigation;
- Communication and information dissemination methods that state, tribal, and local governments may undertake to educate and inform the public concerning HABs and hypoxia; and
- Perceived needs for handling HAB and hypoxia events, as well as an action strategy for managing future situations.

Agricultural runoff contributes to HAB and hypoxic events.

For more information, or to submit comments and questions, contact:

IWG-HABHRCA@noaa.gov

Harmful algal blooms cost millions of dollars annually.



These toxic events threaten public health, drinking water, tourism, fisheries, and protected and endangered species.