



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

**FOR RELEASE:** July 16, 2010  
**MEDIA CONTACT:** Dina Pierce, (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

**State Issues Stronger Advisory for Grand Lake St. Marys;  
Advises Against Boating and Fishing**

Ohio EPA has received the latest lab reports for toxins produced by the blue-green algae species at Grand Lake St. Marys. As a result of extremely high levels of microcystin, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Department of Health are raising the advisory level at the lake to ensure public health. At this time, the state recommends people do not contact the water, do not allow pets to contact the water and do not take boats onto the lake.

In addition, due to the high levels of microcystin, coupled with the uncertainty of the buildup of microcystin toxins in fish tissue, people are advised to not consume fish caught in Grand Lake St. Marys.

Water samples were taken by Ohio EPA at the three state park beaches on Monday. Lab analysis by the Celina Water Department indicate microcystin levels have reached very high levels of at least 2,000 parts per billion at East Beach, West Beach and Campground Beach.

Ohio EPA has not received the lab analysis from Green Water Labs in Florida for three toxins produced by Aphanizomenon, one of the bluegreen algae species present in Grand Lake St. Marys. Ohio EPA will update the GLSM web page with lab results for anatoxin, saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin shortly after results are received.

It is important to continue noting that Celina's treated drinking water is tested regularly and remains free of algal toxins.

Complete data is available at:

[http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/inland\\_lakes/glsm\\_microcystin\\_data.pdf](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/inland_lakes/glsm_microcystin_data.pdf)

Additional information is available at:

[http://www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/glsm\\_algae.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/glsm_algae.aspx)

-30-

[www.epa.ohio.gov](http://www.epa.ohio.gov)