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Water Contact Advisories to Remain at Grand Lake St. Marys

Ohio EPA has received the latest lab reports for toxins produced by the blue-green algae species at Grand Lake St. Marys.

The latest microcystin levels from samples collected on or near public beaches range from 0.8 parts per billion (ppb) to 416 ppb. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set 20 ppb as the upper end of the moderate-risk range for contact with microcystin. Anatoxin-a levels have dropped from last week's high of 4 ppb to 1.2 ppb at the East Beach; 4 ppb to 0.9 ppb at the West Beach and 3 ppb to 0.8 ppb at the Camp Beach. Anatoxin-a is a neurotoxin.

Because microcystin levels fluctuate, still exceed the WHO recommendations and anatoxin-a is above non-detect the State of Ohio is maintaining the advisory levels 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. Additionally, Ohio EPA still urges people not to eat fish caught in Grand Lake St. Marys.

Water samples were taken by the U.S. Geological Survey at the three state park beaches, East Beach, West Beach and Campground Beach, on Sunday, July 25, 2010. Ohio EPA sampled on July 26, 2010. The Celina Water Department analyzed the water for microcystin.

Green Water Labs in Florida analyzed the water for the three toxins produced by *Aphanizomenon*, one of the blue-green algae species present in Grand Lake St. Marys. Links below explain the results for anatoxin, saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin.

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

For additional information, go to www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/glsm_algae.aspx.

For information on algal toxins' danger to pets and livestock, go to www.epa.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=UFR5bxCasU=&tabid=4659.

For an updated fact sheet about the Grand Lake situation, go to <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/citizen/GLSMfactsheet.pdf>.