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New Grand Lake St. Marys Data: Algal Toxin Advisories Continue

Due to the presence of algal toxins found within the water of a number of inland lakes across Ohio and Lake Erie, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are releasing a comprehensive list of updated sampling results for algal toxins including microcystin, anatoxin-a, cylindrospermopsin and saxitoxin. All state parks remain open.

REMAINING

Grand Lake St. Marys:

Microcystin levels at Grand Lake St. Marys (Auglaize and Mercer counties) continue to be low. Samples taken this week at Campground, West and East beaches had levels ranging from 3.8 to 5.6 ppb, with Campground Beach being the highest. Anatoxin-a continues to be detected at trace levels, 0.1 ppb at all three beaches. Saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin were not detected. The toxin advisory remains in place.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORIES:

No Contact Advisory: Avoid any and all contact with and ingestion of the lake water. This includes launching watercraft on the lakes.

Toxin Advisory: Avoid contact with any algae and direct contact with water.

Blue Rock State Park
Grand Lake St. Marys
LaDue Reservoir
East Branch Reservoir
Lake Alma State Park
Maumee Bay State Park (Lake Erie bloom)
Wingfoot Lake State Park

Bloom Advisory: Cautionary advisory to avoid contact with any algae.

East Harbor State Park (Lake Erie bloom)

The information in this news release is current as of 1 p.m. today. More information about what each advisory means can be found on ODNR's website at:

ohiodnr.com/tabid/22957/Default.aspx.

Because toxin levels can fluctuate, the State will continue sampling from the lakes. Advisories will remain in effect until there have been two consecutive weeks of non-detection for anatoxin-a, saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin and two consecutive weeks of microcystin below 20 ppb

(set by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the upper end of the moderate-risk range for contact with microcystin). There are no WHO standards for the other toxins.

Additional information and data on Harmful Algal Blooms is online at:

Ohio EPA www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/HAB.aspx

ODH www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/algalblooms.aspx

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www.epa.ohio.gov