

## Cyanobacteria Plan Needs Assessment: Education and Outreach

*Includes educating stakeholders and members of the public about status, impacts, and risks associated with cyanobacteria blooms. Outreach includes how advisories are communicated to water users.*

### **NHDES Current Activities:**

- Advisories posted through signage at public access points, [Beach map](#) for current advisories, lake-specific emails to those requesting inclusion, press releases, and social media posts.
- [Lake Information Mapper](#) provides history of cyanobacteria advisories and is updated annually.
- Presentations and technical assistance provided to lake associations and other stakeholders upon request.
- Various factsheets about cyanobacteria, lake ecology, watershed management.
- Existing cyanobacteria website.
- Status and trend reports summarize statewide general water quality conditions.

### **Key Needs:**

- Build capacity and responsibility for public bloom awareness (“When in doubt, stay out”).
  - Signage at public access points – reminders to do visual assessments, risk assessment responsibility on individuals when NHDES is unavailable
  - What is/is not safe by activity (swimming, boating, fishing, drinking water)
- Develop new and refine current online resources and website.
- Provide targeted opportunities for learning (workshops, trainings, webinars).
- Annual statewide cyanobacteria status report.
- Increase availability of materials such as factsheets and training videos.
  - What causes blooms, how to prevent blooms, water quality protection
  - Targeted information for pet owners, veterinarians, medical professionals

### ***For each recommendation:***

- *Can an immediate change be made to the current NHDES program?*
- *Are additional resources needed to implement the recommendation?*
- *Is legislative action or formal policy change required?*
- *What role(s), if any, would external partners play?*