# Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Initiative

*Harmful Algal Blooms are a global phenomenon and have impacted lakes and beaches nationwide. New Jersey is taking proactive approaches to prevent HABs, develop treatments, enhance science and communicate risks.*

## Take Action to Prevent and Mitigate HABs

### $2.5 M in HAB/Lakes Management Grants

As an element of its nonpoint pollution grant funding, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will issue a request for proposals for $2.5 million in Lakes/HAB management matching grants, including for treatment and prevention projects. Grantees will be asked to match the State's investment resulting in $5 million in new projects.

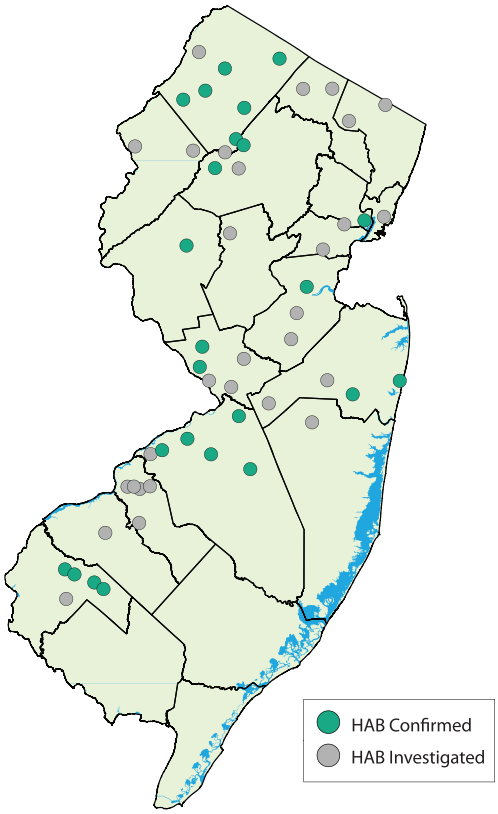
### $1 M in Watershed Planning Grants

The DEP will make up to $1 million of Watershed Nonpoint Source Grant funding available for planning and projects that reduce the nonpoint source pollution, including nutrients, that contribute to HABs in surface waters. A match will not be required but will improve the project ranking.

### $10 M in Principal Forgiveness

The DEP will offer $10 million in principal forgiveness grants from Clean Water State Revolving Fund for half of the cost (up to $2 million) per project of major infrastructure upgrades to reduce nutrient loading to waterbodies, including sewering and stormwater projects.

**2019 | Confirmed and Investigated HAB Events by Municipality**




## Enhance Science and Build Capacity to Respond

### Build an Expert Team

The DEP will establish an expert HAB and lakes management team to:

- Evaluate and address prevention and mitigation strategies;
- Develop New Jersey HABs and Lakes Management Guidance Materials; and
- Provide local partners with technical assistance for development of local HAB action plans.

### Science Agenda

- DEP will evaluate thresholds for different exposure pathways to cyanobacteria and toxins for humans and animals and establish guidance values for new toxins as needed.
- DEP will research HABs and prepare to use new monitoring and lab testing tools.
- DEP, in consultation with the expert panel, will build on existing efforts to develop a database of treatment technologies.

### Build Statewide HAB Monitoring Program Capacity

DEP will pursue additional monitoring, laboratory testing and data management capacity both internally and with external partners to assess water quality conditions and sources that contribute to HABs and to inform HAB event response, prevention and treatment.

## Improve Communication

### Regional HAB Summits

DEP will host two regional summits (north and central/south) for the purpose of sharing and gathering information where experts, governmental officials, businesses and members of the public will gather to share information and expertise on treatment and mitigation of HABs.

### Enhance Web Tools

- A new and improved HAB website, including updated scientific information.
- A new interactive HAB mapping app.

### Assist Local Governments

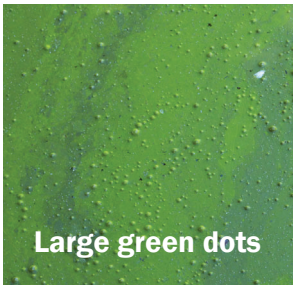
- Provide municipalities with compliance assistance to help with stormwater and septic discharges compliance.
- Investigate facilities surrounding waterbodies to ensure compliance with discharge permits and identify facilities that are not permitted.
- Work with local government to map and maintain essential stormwater infrastructure.
- Assist locals to develop and implement long-term capital improvement plans to upgrade storm and sewer infrastructure.
- Help municipalities and local health agencies regarding risk communication and protection of ground water sources of potable water supply.

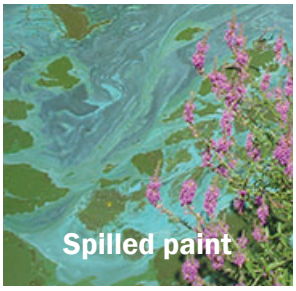
**While at Lake Hopatcong, the DEP's Johannus Franken (Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring) and Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe discuss HAB sampling procedures.**

**As part of the HAB monitoring process, microbiologist Robert Newby, Ph.D., (Division of Science and Research) counts cells at a DEP lab.**

## Report a HAB

**To report what could be a HAB in a lake, pond, river, or stream, call the NJDEP Hotline at 1-877-WARNDEP (927-6337) or download the free WARN NJDEP *mobile app* from iTunes, Google Play or Windows Phone.**





**For more information, please visit the NJDEP Harmful Algal Blooms website: www.nj.gov/dep/hab/**